

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**

### **Singapore Art Museum Celebrates Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

*Exhibitions and Programmes to Commemorate SG50*

**Singapore, 29 June 2015** – The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) celebrates Singapore's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a diverse line-up of exhibitions and programmes. These Jubilee Year exhibitions and programmes explore ideas of independence, nation-building, ideals and ideologies - critically reflecting upon and examining the past and present, but more importantly, envisaging the future. As the world's museum for Southeast Asian contemporary art, SAM looks within and beyond Singapore's borders to locate the discourse within a larger nexus where multiple countries, cultures and artistic practices intersect. We therefore present exhibitions and programmes that dialogue meaningfully with, and contemplate, the complexities of human relations and the human condition in our times, but from our very particular standpoint as a sovereign island nation in the midst of Southeast Asia.

From *Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas*, an exhibition that will quicken the imagination of the young and the young-at-heart; the *Southeast Asian Film Festival*, an event that celebrates the spirit of independent filmmaking in Southeast Asia; *After Utopia*, SAM's permanent collection exhibition examining humanity's eternal yearning for a better world; *President's Young Talents*, where Singapore's most promising emerging contemporary artists will shine; *5 Stars*, an important exhibition featuring established luminaires in the art scene, which takes a close look at Singapore's founding values and what they mean today, to *Time of Others*, a collaborative exhibition that engages with questions of identity in an interconnected world, SAM's exhibitions and programmes aim to creatively and imaginatively engage Singaporeans and all visitors in our Jubilee Year. Through these offerings, SAM creates diverse and exciting experiences for visitors to immerse themselves in the different worlds of contemporary art, where they can find sanctuary in the heart of town, to reflect upon the large and small questions of our lives amidst the ever-changing environment around us.

***Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas* – Contemporary art for the young and young at heart**

**15 March 2015 – 19 July 2015**

First to embark on SAM's Jubilee Year art experience in March is *Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas*, the new edition of SAM's much-loved annual contemporary art exhibition for

children, begun in 2010 and now in its fifth year. In the spirit of Singapore's 50th birthday, this year's exhibition is inspired by the crescent moon on the Singapore flag, a symbol of a young nation on the rise with the capacity to dream big and think large. What might we be able to envision and aspire to? What worlds could we imagine for ourselves and create for others? With interactive and immersive artworks and hands-on activities at every turn, *Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas* offers creative space where inspiration can roam freely, and joyfully.

Featuring artists from Singapore and the region, *Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas* beckons the adventurers, the dreamers, and the explorers of today to embark on a journey of discovery, and together, sail towards exciting new horizons...

***Southeast Asian Film Festival – Celebrating Southeast Asia's independent filmmakers***  
**10 April 2015 – 3 May 2015**

The *Southeast Asian Film Festival* will return for its fifth year with an exciting line-up of the newest and most compelling cinematic work emerging from the region. Along with the films will be a selection of post-screening discussions with emerging and veteran directors who will provide an inclusive and diverse view into the core issues and concerns of Southeast Asia. Celebrating the spirit of independent filmmaking in Southeast Asia, the festival will offer an intercultural and philosophical space where art and film enthusiasts can come together, to share their thoughts and experiences.

***After Utopia – Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art***  
**1 May 2015 – 18 October 2015**

*After Utopia: Revisiting The Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art* is SAM's latest permanent collection exhibition that examines humanity's eternal yearning for a better world. Pivoting on ideas about ideals and principles, *After Utopia* comprises iconic works of Southeast Asian and Asian contemporary art drawn from SAM's permanent collection, as well as private collections and new commissions.

In naming his fictional island 'Utopia', writer Thomas More conjoined the Greek words for 'good place' and 'no place' – a reminder that the idealised society he conjured was fundamentally phantasmal. And yet, the search and yearning for Utopia is a ceaseless humanist endeavor. Predicated on possibility and hope, utopian principles and models of worlds better than our own have been perpetually re-imagined, and through the centuries, continue to haunt our consciousness.

*After Utopia* seeks to ask where have we located our Utopias, and how we have tried to bring into being the utopias we have aspired to. By turns, these manifestations serve as mirrors to

both our innermost yearnings as well as to our contemporary realities – that gnawing sense that this world is not enough.

***President's Young Talents – Singapore's rising stars in contemporary art***

**21 August 2015 – 27 March 2016**

Another highlight of SAM's Jubilee Year calendar of events is the *President's Young Talents* exhibition. Singapore's premier exhibition, it recognizes, supports and awards promising artists below the age of 35 whose practices chart new dimensions in Singapore contemporary art today. Initiated in 2001 by SAM, its previous award recipients include Boo Junfeng, Heman Chong, Charles Lim, Donna Ong, Tan Pin Pin and Vertical Submarine who have gone on to establish themselves on both the local and international stage.

The 2015 *President's Young Talents* will mark its sixth edition of the award and will continue to celebrate the nation's ever evolving spirit of artistic creation and innovation.

***5 Stars – Re-visiting Singapore's founding values***

**2 October 2015 – 1 May 2016**

Inspired by the Singapore flag, in October, SAM will bring together five of Singapore's most celebrated visual artists and luminaries for a contemporary art project that re-visits Singapore's founding values of democracy, peace, justice, progress, and equality. This project will consist of two components – an exhibition exploring the core values as represented by the five stars on the Singapore flag and a contemporary outreach programme as represented by the crescent moon.

The *5 Stars* exhibition will lay the ground for ongoing and deep public engagement with the founding values of the nation through the aesthetic encounter and experience with the five presentations – four commissioned artworks, and one lifework presentation. The Crescent outreach programme will work with specific communities and target audiences over the year on the various values of the nation. It will consist of roundtable discussions with specially invited experts on the five values; a public lecture series featuring Artist and Curator Dialogues; and Artist-led Workshop Sessions tailored for target groups relating to each artwork.

***Time of Others – Exploring boundaries, differences, and Otherness***

**21 November 2015 – 28 February 2016**

Finally, SAM will wrap up its host of exhibitions in conjunction with the anniversary celebrations with *Time of Others*. A survey of contemporary art from the Asia Pacific region, *Time of Others* is a co-curated exhibition by Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Museum of

Contemporary Art Tokyo (MOT), National Museum of Art Osaka (NMAO) and Queensland Art Gallery (QAG) and will travel to the four museums from 2015 to 2016.

*Time of Others* will feature works of artists responding to social, historical and geopolitical concerns at this present juncture of living in a more interconnected world today, where notions of boundary, difference and Otherness have also become more complex. *Time of Others* seeks to question how we might authentically and meaningfully conceive, understand and engage with other cultural contexts of society, while residing within our own localities, yet continuing to be part of a globalised world today. The exhibition presents contemporary artists from diverse regions whose works reflect on both individual and shared histories, cultural specificities, colonial legacies, as well as particular subjectivities that shape our understanding of what culture and identity signify today.

#### **And to Celebrate Singapore...**

SAM's celebration of Singapore's 50 years of independence began on 15 March 2015 with *Imaginarium: A Voyage of Big Ideas* and continues through *After Utopia*, *President's Young Talents*, *5 Stars* and *Time of Others*. Beyond the diverse range of exhibitions, visitors can also look forward to a number of specially customised programmes, workshops and talks to further deepen and enrich their experiences with contemporary art at the museum.

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**About the Singapore Art Museum**

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) focuses on contemporary art practice in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia within the global context. It advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice. Opened in January 1996, SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region. It seeks to seed and nourish a stimulating and creative space in Singapore through exhibitions and public programmes. These encompass cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges, research and publications, as well as outreach and education. SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011 and 2013.

SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013 and has moved from the National Heritage Board to the Visual Arts Cluster (VAC) under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY). The other institutions under the VAC are the National Gallery Singapore and STPI.

**For more information, please contact:**

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**Exhibition Venue**

SAM is located at 71 Bras Basah Rd Singapore 189555  
 SAM at 8Q is located at 8 Queen Street Singapore 188535

**Opening Hours**

Mondays to Sundays | 10.00 am to 7.00 pm (Last admission at 6:15pm)  
 Fridays | 10.00 am to 9.00 pm

**Admission Fees** (Inclusive SAM and SAM at 8Q)

Singaporeans and Permanent Residents Free

**Non-Singaporean Visitors**

Adults	S\$10
Children under the age of six	Free
Students (with valid student ID)	S\$5
Seniors (60 years and above with valid ID)	S\$5
Groups of 20 or more	20% off adult admission tickets
Free admission to SAM every Friday from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Open House days	

**Special Exhibitions**

Free admission to the Singapore Art Museum will be granted to as many contemporary art exhibitions as possible. However, from time to time, our Museum brings in internationally renowned works and exhibitions from overseas. Entry charges may then apply to help cover costs and ensure sustainability.

**SAM Online**

- [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)
- [www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum)
- [www.twitter.com/sg\\_artmuseum](https://www.twitter.com/sg_artmuseum)
- [www.instagram.com/sg\\_artmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/sg_artmuseum)
- [www.youtube.com/samtelly](https://www.youtube.com/samtelly)

**Enquiries**

Call +65 65899 580 or email [enquiries@singaporeartmuseum.sg](mailto:enquiries@singaporeartmuseum.sg)

**How to get to SAM**

- By Bus: SBS: 7, 14, 16, 36, 111, 131, 162, 175, 508, 518  
 SMRT 77, 167, 171, 700
- By Train: 2-minute walk from Bras Basah MRT Station  
 10-minute walk from Dhoby Ghaut, Bugis or City Hall MRT stations
- By Car: Carpark spaces available at Waterloo Street, Queen Street, NTUC Income Centre, Plaza by the Park, Hotel Grand Pacific and Singapore Management University