

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Retracing 22 years of Exhibition-Making at the Singapore Art Museum

SAM Curve presentation - *Installation in Progress* – explores ideas of exhibition-making



Left to right: *Medium at Large* exhibition (2014); *After Utopia* exhibition (2015)

18 June 2018, Singapore – SAM opens a presentation titled ***Installation in Progress*** today, which explores ideas of exhibitions and exhibition-making through the lens of SAM’s own history. Using the development of the institution – from when it first opened its doors in 1996 as Singapore’s first fully dedicated art museum, to its transformation over the years in the Singapore art scene – *Installation in Progress* looks at why and how exhibitions are created. *Installation in Progress* is sited at SAM Curve at the Singapore Art Museum from 18 June to 26 August 2018.

SAM has, to date, produced over 300 exhibitions since the museum opened 22 years ago. Through a survey of these past exhibitions, the presentation reflects on exhibition-making through the eyes of the curator, the artist, and the audience. *Installation in Progress* features three components – a charting of the museum’s exhibition history, an interactive exhibition-planning component, and a new artwork by Singaporean artist Michael Lee specially commissioned for this presentation.

Visitors can access a reference library of SAM’s exhibition catalogues and past publications on-site, and conceptualise their own exhibitions on an interactive magnetic wall. The artwork will also be completed on-site by the artist over the span of a few weeks.

For members of the public who would like to explore further, there are workshops and specially organised talks featuring present and past SAM staff, which provides opportunities for a deeper engagement with the history of the institution.

Curated by John Tung, assistant curator at the Singapore Art Museum, *Installation in Progress* will run from 18 June to 26 August 2018 at SAM Curve in the Singapore Art Museum (71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 188555). For more information, please visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

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For more information, please read:

Annex A: About *Installation in Progress*

Annex B: Accompanying Programmes for *Installation in Progress*

Annex C: About the *Installation in Progress* Artwork Commission

For high-resolution images, please visit: <http://bit.ly/installationinprogress>

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum is a contemporary art museum which focuses on art-making and art-thinking in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, encompassing a worldwide perspective on contemporary art practice. SAM advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice. Since it 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, and to deepen every visitor's experience. These include outreach and education, research and publications, as well as cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges.

SAM occupies two buildings: the old St Joseph's Institution on Bras Basah Road, built in 1855 and now a National Monument; and SAM at 8Q, a conservation building across the road on Queen Street that was the old Catholic High School. The museum building along Bras Basah Road is currently closed in preparation for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at SAM at 8Q and partner venues such as the National Museum of Singapore.

SAM was the venue organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, becoming the main organiser in 2013 and 2016. SAM will continue to organise the next two editions in 2019 and 2022. SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013, operating under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

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Annex A: About “Installation in Progress”

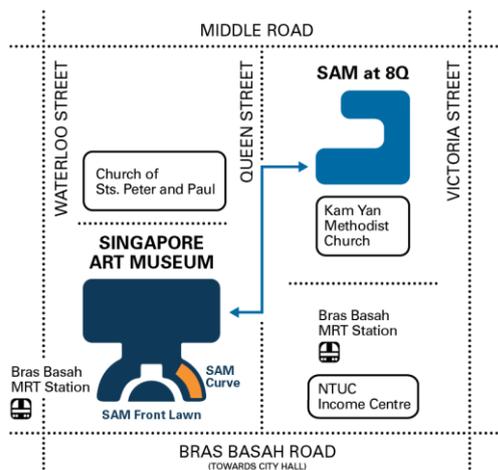


Dates: 18 June 2018 – 26 August 2018

Opening Hours: 10am to 7pm (Saturdays To Thursdays), 10am to 9pm (Fridays)

Admission is free to SAM Curve. *Standard charges apply for other Singapore Art Museum exhibitions*

Venue: SAM Curve, 71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 188555



Installation in Progress

What is an exhibition? How is an exhibition made? And why do we make exhibitions?

Exhibitions are core to the life of a museum. Here, ***Installation in Progress*** focuses on exhibition-making from the perspectives of three parties: the curator, the artist and the audience.

Installation in Progress charts Singapore Art Museum’s exhibition history, presents a new artwork commission from Singaporean artist Michael Lee, and an interactive component that lets visitors try out their own exhibition plans. In doing so, the presentation surveys the spectrum of SAM’s past exhibitions, the current day and speculates on future possibilities.

Through presentations and re-presentations of a museum’s collection, artwork commissions, adaptations and loans, each exhibition also brings together a kaleidoscope of artistic lenses through which the world can be viewed anew.

Every exhibition is also ultimately brought to life by a multitude of individuals; many work behind the scenes but each leaves a trace on what is finally seen. By reflecting on the multiple dimensions of what goes into creating an exhibition, ***Installation in Progress*** seeks to uncover the spirit of creating an exhibition.

Annex B

Accompanying programmes for *Installation in Progress*

A series of *Installation in Progress* programmes will take place through the exhibition period, where visitors can learn further about the elements involved in museum work, as well as have the opportunity to dig deeper into the history of SAM and its practices of exhibition making. These include specially organised talks and lectures, a talk by Singaporean artist Michael Lee and workshops on exhibition making. For updated programme details, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/programmes

Meet-the artist: Michael Lee

13 July | 7pm – 8pm | SAM Curve

Get up close and personal with artist Michael Lee in this meet-the-artist session. The artist will share interesting tidbits about his new artwork commission, *Museum on Air*, that is currently on show in the exhibition!

Artist talk with Michael Lee

25 August | 7pm – 8pm | SAM Curve

Free

At this artist talk, visitors may learn more about Singaporean artist Michael Lee's *Museum On Air*, an artwork which was specially commissioned for *Installation in Progress*, as well his own engagement with SAM's history.

Q&A Sessions | In Conversation

20 July | 7pm – 8pm | [Exploring Permanent Collections](#)

3 August | 7pm – 8pm | [The Artwork Commissioning Process](#)

10 August | 2pm – 3pm | *The Making of An Exhibition*

Free by registration

In Conversation brings museum professionals and artists together to talk on selected topics about various aspects of museum work. Framed in a question-and-answer format, this series of public talks offers museum-goers an opportunity to find out more about what a museum does, and to meet some of the people who make it happen.

Public lecture on the history of exhibition-making in Singapore

A public lecture exploring the history of exhibition making and its developments over the years in Singapore will be held in conjunction with *Installation in Progress*. Featuring a panel of artists, past and present museum staff and art professionals, topics include the rationale and work involved in developing permanent collections for the museum, artwork commissioning processes, and curatorial and museum programming processes.

Exhibitions Workshop

The *Exhibitions Workshop* series is a specially developed and tailor-made programme designed for students in art disciplines to get first-hand experience in conceptualising and developing their own exhibition plans and proposals, under the guidance of museum professionals.

Annex C
About the *Installation in Progress* Artwork Commission

Michael Lee (b. 1972, Singapore)

Museum On Air

2018

LED Rope, LED Tubes, Transformers, Stainless Steel, Acrylic

Collection of the Artist

Commissioned by the Singapore Art Museum

The title of Michael Lee's artwork draws from the common proverb, "building castles in the air". Taking the form of a giant cloud, the shape is a symbol of collective imagination and contemplation, while the objects enclosed within it are representative of museum operational processes, and texts that descend from it give more specificity to artists' desires. The schematic model composed of 'light rope' manifests itself as an idealised notion of what artists want from a contemporary art museum, and communicates the affinities and tensions between institution and artistic community.

Exhibited alongside the sculpture, a bound volume of mind maps stemming from a workshop conducted by the artist offers visitors an opportunity to peer into the psyche of the artistic community in Singapore. These artists' responses that were collated served as additional material for the conceptualisation of the final work presented.