

## MEDIA FACT SHEET

### SAM MINI MOBILE MUSEUM FEATURES SINGAPOREAN ARTIST EZZAM RAHMAN

*The travelling exhibition is on at Woodlands Regional Library from 14 August to 29 September 2019 before moving to Tampines and Jurong Regional Libraries*



Ezzam Rahman, *is there any way i can be in your arms tonight* (2019), in progress.  
Singapore Art Museum Commission. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

**Singapore, 14 August 2019** – The SAM Mini Mobile Museum, a travelling art exhibition held in partnership with the National Library Board’s Regional Libraries, launches its second exhibition. Singaporean artist Ezzam Rahman, a joint winner of the Grand Prize for the President’s Young Talents 2015, has produced a special commission titled *is there any way i can be in your arms tonight*. This opens at the Woodlands Regional Library from 14 August to 29 September 2019, before travelling to the Regional Libraries of Tampines and Jurong.

The new commission by Ezzam is a response to his existing work in the National Collection titled *Here’s who I am, I am what you see*. Beds, often symbolic of home and safety, are a central feature of *is there any way i can be in your arms tonight*.

Inspired by this common piece of furniture as a gateway to sleep and dreams, the work comprises three beds of different sizes – a queen, a single, and a baby cot. Illuminated

dioramas take the place of soft mattresses where Ezzam presents whimsical, make-believe landscapes of flora and fauna, creating sanctuaries inhabited by miniature creatures like insects and birds. While alluring on first sight, a closer look reveals that these objects have been sculpted from unconventional and yet not-unfamiliar materials: dead skin, nails, anti-inflammatory plasters, and depleted tubes of analgesic balm.

As with much of Ezzam's practice, a recurring theme in this work is the paradox of absence and presence: the absence of the artist's physical body is marked and even emphasised by the bodily remnants that make up the dioramas. *is there any way i can be in your arms tonight* speaks to memory and captures certain long-running themes of Ezzam's practice: of beauty and the abject, of vulnerability and impermanence, and of longing and desire. The installation invites audiences to enter an intimate viewing space, offering room for mental wanderings.

The exhibition will be accompanied by self-guided as well as interactive activities for families. Among the public programmes will be a talk by the artist on Saturday, 17 August at 2pm in Woodlands Regional Library. The exhibition will move to Jurong Regional Library from 4 December 2019 – 12 January 2020, and finally to Tampines Regional Library from 15 January – 23 February 2020.

The SAM Mini Mobile Museum introduces the multifaceted nature of contemporary art through a selection of SAM's National Collection artworks, adapted for non-museum spaces and created by Southeast Asian artists. It will take place throughout the period of SAM's building redevelopment.

Images are available for download at: <http://bit.ly/SAMMiniMobileMuseum2>

Image credits as per file names.

**For further information, please contact:**

**Seren Chen**

Singapore Art Museum

DID: +65 66979 780

Email: [seren.chen@singaporeartmuseum.sg](mailto:seren.chen@singaporeartmuseum.sg)

- END -

## **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 buildings are currently closed for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at partner venues.

SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 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](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)

## **ANNEX A**

### **ARTIST BIO**

Ezzam Rahman (b.1981, Singapore) is a visual artist who is known for his interest in the body and the use of common, easily accessible, yet unconventional media in his art practice. Working across sculpture, installation, and performance, many of his works are time-based ephemera that aim to pique viewers' thoughts on the themes of impermanence, traces, and abjection. As a performance artist, Ezzam has performed extensively both regionally and internationally. He was awarded a joint winner of the Grand Prize for the President's Young Talents 2015 and the People's Choice Award by the Singapore Art Museum. In 2016, Ezzam was awarded the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award by Yayasan Mendaki and the prestigious Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council, Singapore. Ezzam lives and works in Singapore.