

For Immediate Release

Statement by Singapore Art Museum

14 August 2019, Singapore – On 11 August 2019, the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) was alerted that a small fire had broken out in the basement of the museum, which is closed for renovations and is undergoing partial demolition works by contractor Neo & Goh Construction.

2 No one was injured, and the fire was confined to a small room approximately 6 sqm in the basement of the museum, with no damage done to the museum or its surrounding buildings.

3 Smoke was reported to the Singapore Civil Defence Force, which responded at approximately 3pm. The fire was put out quickly.

4 SAM will continue to work closely with its contractor to ensure that such incidents are prevented in the future.

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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 until the buildings re-open.

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.