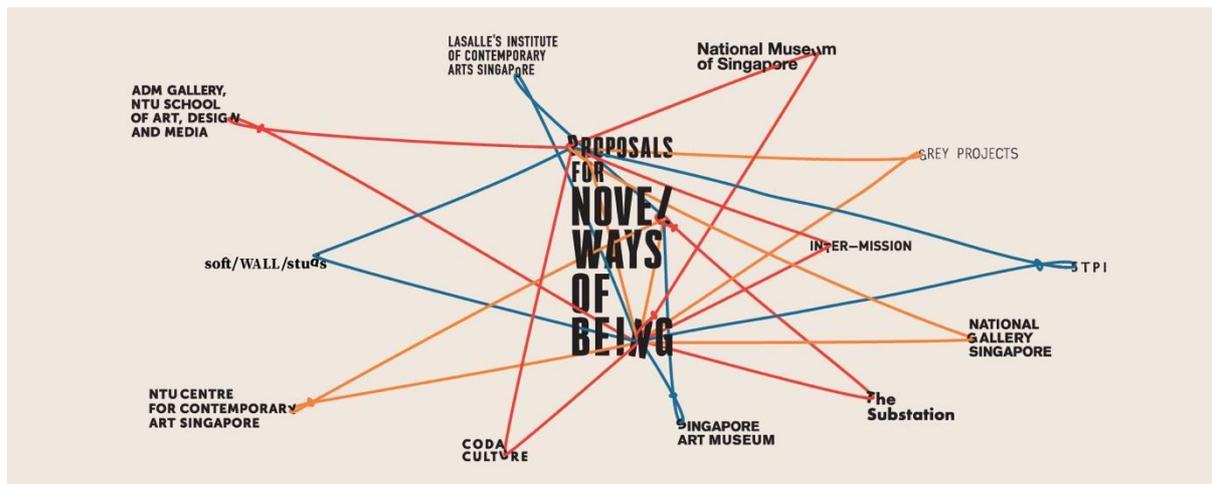


MEDIA RELEASE

ART EXPERIENCES BY 12 MUSEUMS, ART SPACES AND COLLECTIVES TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL ART COMMUNITY OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Unprecedented collaboration featuring over 170 local artists and cultural workers imagines new ways of living in a world changed by the COVID-19 pandemic



Singapore, 25 August 2020 – A series of exhibitions and programmes by 12 local art institutions and independent art spaces and collectives will open between now and February 2021 to support the local arts community and audiences as they move forward in the time of a pandemic. The initiative, titled *Proposals for Novel Ways of Being*, is of unprecedented scale and scope. It features the works of over 170 local artists and cultural workers, including independent curators and emerging and established artists in Singapore. Through a range of art programmes and offerings, Singaporeans can find new ways to process their experience of the pandemic and draw inspiration to imagine new possibilities for the future.

The partners for *Proposals for Novel Ways of Being* comprise seven institutions and five independent art spaces and collectives. They are: ADM Gallery, NTU School of Art, Design and Media; Coda Culture; Grey Projects; INTER-MISSION; LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore; National Gallery Singapore; National Museum of Singapore; NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA Singapore); Singapore Art Museum; soft/WALL/studs; STPI; and The Substation.

LASALLE College of the Arts President, Professor Steve Dixon, says, "When COVID-19 hit Singapore, the role of art in this pandemic became a question that was very much at the forefront of our minds as an institution. It was important to us that our students' work should engage with wider conversations about navigating uncertainty and our common humanity in a time of crisis. So, we are very pleased to be part of *Proposals for Novel Ways of Being*, which gathers such a dynamic, diverse range of artists and perspectives under a nationwide initiative. We hope audiences will find our exhibition compelling and thought-provoking, while also discovering new connections between the works at LASALLE and elsewhere."

On rallying the arts community together for *Proposals for Novel Ways of Being*, Dr. Eugene Tan, Director, National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum, says, "As national art institutions, we ask ourselves how we can show solidarity with the local network of independent art spaces, institutions and collectives to engage and support members of the art community, and how we can highlight the role that art can play in times of crises such as the current pandemic. We hope that through the exhibitions and programmes presented as part of *Proposals for Novel Ways of Being*, local audiences will be inspired to make meaning out of their own experiences of the pandemic and collectively imagine new possibilities for the future."

From now to February 2021, visitors can participate in a series of immersive programmes and exhibitions by the 12 programme partners:

- The Substation's *we are not going back, we are coming around* (from 12 Aug) engages practitioners from different fields in the arts (visual arts, performing arts and literary arts) and fosters inclusivity through talks, workshops and sharing sessions. The programme is curated by The Substation, and participating artists include Chu Hao Pei, Shaiful Risan and Stephanie Chan.
- Grey Project's *Stranger Still* (from 20 Aug), offers five programmes that consider our infrastructures of care in these times of estrangement; these include a penpal programme with elderly and schoolchildren in Tiong Bahru and Bukit Merah, a drawing exhibition of chimaera bodies, and a mutual assistance programme. Curated by Jason Wee, participating artists include Jerome Kugan, Yang Zhong Da and Daryl Yam.

- soft/WALL/studs's *Beyond Repair* (from 29 Aug), transforms the space into a site for mutual care through nine initiatives that span gardening projects, research and learning platforms, gaming sessions and more. The project is collectively curated by the 12 participating artists, including Luca Lum, Marcus Yee and Huiying Ng.
- National Gallery Singapore's *An Exercise of Meaning in a Glitch Season* (from 4 Sep) invites visitors to collectively reflect and imagine new ways of thinking and doing towards a more humane future through immersive mixed media installations, sound and movement performances, and site-specific artistic interventions. This exhibition sees guest curator Syaheedah Iskandar collaborating with ten artists, including Kin Chui, Priyageetha Dia, Aki Hassan, Ila and Norah Lea.
- Singapore Art Museum's *Time Passes* (from 4 Sep), features contemporary artworks which explore the passage of time, and ways of caretaking and living in a world changed by the pandemic. This exhibition, guest curated by Samantha Yap, features works from 13 artists such as Victor Paul Brang Tun, Diana Rahim, Divaagar and Fazleen Karlan.
- LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore's *The Fabric of Sympathy* (from 12 Sep), curated by Luke Heng, is an exhibition where featured artists such as Lee Pheng Guan, Nicholas Lim and Ong Sihui employ a wide range of art forms while sharing a keen devotion to materiality. Their artworks reveal how, amidst uncertainties, we can make sense of our lives, through a call to treat things with care and sympathy.
- National Museum of Singapore's #NEVERBEFORESG (from early Oct), showcases a series of digital artworks by multiple artists who explore states of mind during this pandemic. An online digital presentation, #NEVERBEFORESG is curated by Yang Derong and features works from an estimated total of 87 artists and creatives, which include the likes of Dick Lee, Lee Aik Soon and Brian Gothong Tan.
- Coda Culture's *Precious Things* (from 7 Nov), features newly commissioned works, bringing together 12 Singaporean artists who produce works with extant objects. The exhibition looks at how the "value" of art and artists has been called into question due to the ongoing pandemic, and how, for some artists, their methodologies and artworks have always existed at the margins of presumed "value". *Precious Things* is curated by Seelan Palay, and features 12 artists, including Maisarah Kamal, Genevieve Leong, Jeremy Hiah, Tang Da Wu, Tang Mun Kit and writer Syed Muhammad Hafiz.

- NTU CCA's *Under the Skin* (from 1 Dec), will treat audiences to a trio of new performative works by artists George Chua, Nina Djekić, and Noor Effendy Ibrahim. Curated by artist Cheong Kah Kit for NTU CCA Singapore's *Free Jazz III*, these artists will engage with sound, bodily movements and performance, with their performances translated to the medium of video and streamed online.
- INTER–MISSION's *Negentropic Fields* (from 4 Dec), co-curated by formAxioms, is a process-based platform created in a 3D virtual environment. It seeks to address what the digital turn means for art, and what the new considerations and possibilities are for artistic practice. Participating artists include Debbie Ding, Ong Kian Peng and Andreas Schlegel.
- STPI's *Strange Forms of Life* (from 5 Dec), a physical exhibition that comprises works by STPI artists and other prominent Singaporean artists such as Han Sai Por, Kim Lim and Suzann Victor. Curated by Guo-Liang Tan, the exhibition considers the natural, emotional, technological, and temporal facets of our existence through the language of abstraction, and looks to ignite conversations centred around moving forward from the ongoing crisis in new and generative ways.
- ADM Gallery's *In Our Best Interests: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War* (from 21 Jan 2021), which presents contemporary art works and archival material that nuance Afro-Asian legacies that grew out of the Cold War. This exhibition focuses on Southeast Asia as a geopoetic imagination alongside a post-WWII global anti-colonial resistance to racism. Curated by Kathleen Ditzig and Carlos Quijon, Jr, participating artists include Bani Haykal, Vuth Lyno and Fyerool Darma.

For more information, please visit www.novelwaysofbeing.sg or refer to the attached annex. Media assets can be accessed via this [link](#).

For further information, please contact:

National Gallery Singapore

Kelly Quek

9646 7926

kelly.quek@nationalgallery.sg

Singapore Art Museum

Gwyneth Liew

9826 1634

gwyneth.liew@singaporeartmuseum.sg

**Ogilvy on behalf of National Gallery
Singapore**

Liane Seow

9618 0893

liane.seow@ogilvy.com

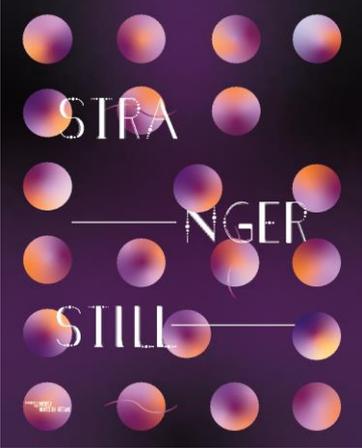
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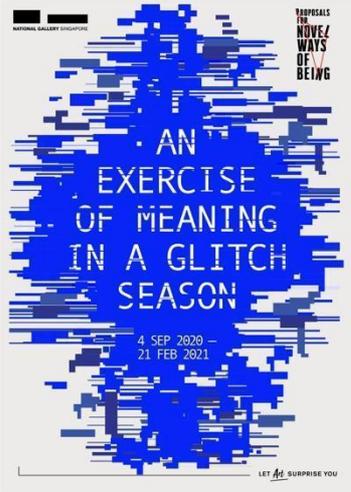
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Annex

Name of Exhibition & Programme Partner	Date & Venue	Description
<p>we are not going back, we are coming around The Substation</p> 	<p>12 Aug 2020 – 15 Jan 2021</p>	<p><i>we are not going back, we are coming around</i> presents a series of artistic endeavours which seek the kind of direction our society should be moving towards in the wake of this pandemic. The future appears bleak even as we start to open up the economy and segments of our society. Should the world go back to business as usual? How can the arts rethink their role in a world that is broken?</p> <p>These projects will activate the interdisciplinary in the arts community through engaging practitioners from different fields (visual art, performing arts, literary arts). About 5 of the projects will feature artists and their work with their respective communities.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Chu Hao Pei 2. Ground-Zero 3. Lee Sze-Chin 4. Mok Cui Yin 5. Straits Records 6. Shaiful Risan 7. Tan Wei Ying & Henrik Cheng 8. Wu Jun Han

<p>Stranger Still Grey Projects</p> 	<p>20 Aug '20 to 20 Jan '21 (Strange Bodies: opens 20 Aug)</p> <p>Grey Projects 6B Kim Tian Road Singapore 169246</p>	<p>'Strange Bodies' an exhibition by artists Jerome Kugan and Yang Zhong Da (opening 20 Aug, Thursday).</p> <p>'Journal of A Pandemic' a mail art project between 3 artists and writers, and the elderly residents and schoolchildren in Bukit Merah, Ghim Moh, Tanglin Halt and Tiong Bahru.</p> <p>'Care Package' is a digital project centred on the cultivation of a culture of care between artists during the pandemic. The project hopes to create a chain of trigger-responses between artists that are documents of the distance of travel for our friendships and other intimacies, a chain conversation as objects and as exhibition.</p> <p>Lastly, 'Enmoving' is a solo exhibition by artist Ng Hui Hsien, set to launch in Dec 2020.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jerome Kugan 2. Yang Zhong Da 3. Chen Rui Fan 4. Ang Kia Yee 5. Louise Marie Lee 6. Tristan Lee 7. Rizman Putra (artist-writer) 8. Daryl Yam (writer) 9. Lim Jia Ning Michelle (writer)Ng Hui Hsien
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<p>Beyond Repair soft/WALL/studs</p> 	<p>29 August 2020 – 31 January 2021</p> <p>soft/WALL/studs No. 11, Lorong 21A Geylang, Level 8, Singapore 388429</p>	<p>For <i>Beyond Repair</i>, soft/WALL/studs becomes a site for mutual care, thinking through wellness as a repertoire of gestures, existing along continua of repair within fractured worlds. What might it mean to live “well”, given our imbrication within structures of harm, extraction, and precarity? What portals can be accessed to form new relations?</p> <p>A tangle of 9 collectively organised initiatives will be presented, spanning gardening, research platforms, cinematic remedies, complaints resolution systems, gaming, remote listening scores, nap-times, publications, and collective aid.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luca Lum (as artist-curator) 2. Kenneth Loe (as artist-curator) 3. Weixin Quek Chong (as artist-curator) 4. Kin Chui (as artist-curator) 5. Godwin Koay (as artist-curator) 6. Shawn Chua (as artist-curator) 7. Marcus Yee (as artist-curator) 8. Moses Tan (as artist-curator) 9. Huiying Ng (as artist-curator) 10. Yeo Siew Hua (as artist-curator) 11. Kamillah Bahdar (as curator-researcher)

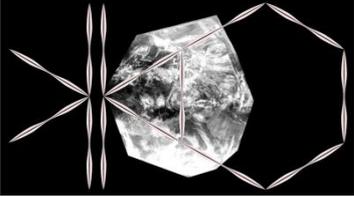
		<p>12. Johann Yamin (as artist-curator)</p> <p>More information can be found at: https://softwallstuds.space.</p>
<p>An Exercise of Meaning in a Glitch Season National Gallery Singapore</p> 	<p>4 September 2020 – 21 February 2021</p> <p>National Gallery Singapore</p>	<p>Art for a long time has participated in building muscle memory of trusting bodily intuitions through introspections. Building into collective sentiments, many of these contemplations unveil extraordinary truths. <i>An exercise of meaning in a glitch season</i> looks into contemporary art practices that embody these ideas, highlighting local articulations that mirror the many undercurrents the world is grappling with in light of this pandemic.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tini Aliman 2. Kin Chui 3. Priyageetha Dia 4. Aki Hassan 5. Ila (co-curated with SAM) 6. Clara Lim 7. Norah Lea 8. Fajrina Razak 9. Izzad Radzali Shah 10. Sufian Samsiyar <p>More information can be found at: www.nationalgallery.sg/glitchseason</p>

<p>Time Passes Singapore Art Museum</p> 	<p>4 September 2020 – 21 February 2021</p> <p>National Gallery Singapore</p>	<p>Conceptualised during this necessary time apart, <i>Time Passes</i> stages our return to one another and to shared public spaces. The works in the exhibition manifest acts of care-taking through the handling of different materials, and the commitment towards uncovering possibilities of living and relating even through difficulty and uncertainty.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yeyoon Avis Ann 2. Victor Paul Brang Tun 3. Stephanie Jane Burt 4. Jon Chan 5. Chong Lii & Christian Kingo 6. Diana Rahim 7. Divaagar 8. Fazleen Karlan 9. Ila (co-curated with Gallery) 10. Khairullah Rahim 11. Mengju Lin 12. Ashley Yeo <p>More information can be found at: www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/art-events/exhibitions/time-passes</p>
<p>The Fabric of Sympathy LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore</p>	<p>12 September 2020 – 11 October 2020</p> <p>Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore</p>	<p>While the nation is in recovery from this global pandemic, <i>The Fabric of Sympathy</i> encourages the viewer to get in touch with their innate ability to feel and to examine the interior of things. The featured artists employ a wide range of art forms while sharing a keen</p>

	<p>LASALLE College of the Arts 1 McNally Street, Singapore 187940</p>	<p>devotion to materiality. Their works reveal forms of how we can make sense of our life amidst uncertainties, a call to treat things with care and sympathy.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Liyana Ali 2. Lee Pheng Guan 3. Nicholas Lim 4. Liu Liling 5. Ong Sihui 6. Ruben Pang 7. Rifqi Amirul Rosli 8. Eugenia Tan 9. Jodi Tan
<p>#NEVERBEFORESG National Museum of Singapore</p> 	<p>Free online access from early-Oct 2020</p>	<p>The National Museum of Singapore offers <i>NEVER BEFORE</i>, an online exhibition curated by Yang Derong, that explores our state of mind during this global pandemic.</p> <p>The presentation serves as a visual diary that documents the different emotions – anxieties, fears and hope, as the world transitions and adjusts into the ‘new normal’.</p> <p><i>#NEVERBEFORESG</i> is presented through 9 chapters that showcase a multitude of 139 artworks by 87 artists and creatives, in solidarity, capturing the psyche of this unprecedented crisis.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p>

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Photographers: David Chan, Rex Teo, Jet Ho, Issy Lim, Ryan Loh (5) 2. Fashion/ Industrial designers (17) 3. Low Kow Fong, Dick Lee (2) 4. IG Photographers: Leslie Heng, Yafiq Yusman, Zac Tan, Lee Aik Soon, Ivan from Photomenon, Yais Yusman, Chia Aik Beng, Lee Yik Kit, Thomas Kopankiewicz, Steven Sung (10) 5. Writers from Singlitstation (19) 6. Digital artists: Crave FX, Darryl Lim, Dude.sg (3) 7. Architects (13) 8. Brian Gothong Tan
<p>Precious Things Coda Culture</p> 	<p>7 November 2020 to 28 November 2020</p>	<p>‘Precious Things’ is a visual art exhibition with 12 Singapore artists who have often produced works with extant objects. The “value” of art and artists have been called to question due to the ongoing pandemic. However, for some artists, their methodologies and artworks have always existed at the margins of presumed “value”.</p> <p>This exhibition features new works from artists across generations, aesthetic styles, and artistic practices to examine the “value” of art objects, one that is especially curious now.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Art R’eev 2. Daniel Chong 3. Genevieve Leong

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Glenn Lim 5. Jason Thomas 6. Jeremy Hiah 7. Maisarah Kamal 8. Marla Bendini 9. Seelan Palay 10. Tang Da Wu 11. Tang Mun Kit 12. Veronyka Lau 13. Syed Muhammad Hafiz (writer)
<p>Under the Skin NTU CCA Singapore</p> 	<p>1 December 2020 – 31 January 2021</p> <p>http://ntu.ccasingapore.org/events/under-the-skin/ (this is an online exhibition)</p>	<p>A trio of new performative works by artists George Chua, Nina Djekić, and Noor Effendy Ibrahim curated by artist Cheong Kah Kit for NTU CCA Singapore’s Free Jazz III, which aims to activate and challenge common understandings of exhibition-making and the use of space. These artists each engage with sound, bodily movements, and performance. In this project, the artists will create new performative pieces that will be translated to the medium of video and streamed online.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nina Djekić 2. Noor Effendy Ibrahim 3. George Chua 4. Russell Morton (director filming 3 performances)

<p>Negentropic Fields INTER-MISSION</p>  <p>Image: background artwork courtesy of Andreas Schlegel</p> <p>Design: Currency</p>	<p>4 Dec 2020 – 5 Feb 2021</p> <p>National Gallery Singapore - Anteroom, with extended corridor space @ Basement 1</p>	<p>Negentropic Fields is a process-based digital platform that incorporates virtual environments. An exploration of archival practices in the context of emerging digital modes of artistic expressions and forms of being. The current paradigm shift exposes the necessity to imagine new emancipatory practices for non-physical forms of creation, mediation, and exposure; for the navigation and manipulation of abstract materials.</p> <p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Zai Tang 2. Debbie Ding 3. Bani Haykal 4. Ong Kian Peng 5. Andreas Schlegel
<p>Strange Forms of Life STPI</p> 	<p>5 Dec 2020 – 31 Jan 2021</p> <p>STPI Gallery</p>	<p>A physical exhibition taking place at STPI Gallery, Strange Forms of Life explores ideas of 'liveliness' and questions of form, in relation to abstraction as a mode of engaging with different aspects of being. Comprising works by STPI artists and other prominent Singaporean artists, the exhibition considers the natural, emotional, technological, and temporal facets of our existence through the language of abstraction. It serves to ignite conversations centred around moving forward from the ongoing crisis in new and generative ways.</p>

		<p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Genevieve Chua 2. Han Sai Por 3. Kim Lim 4. Sherman Sam 5. Ian Woo 6. Guo-Liang Tan 7. Suzann Victor 8. Jeremy Sharma 9. Zul Mahmod
<p>In Our Best Interests: Afro-Southeast Asian Affinities during a Cold War ADM Gallery, NTU School of Art, Design and Media</p> 	<p>21 Jan 2021 – 27 Mar 2021 ADM Gallery</p>	<p><i>In Our Best Interests</i> presents contemporary art works and archival material that nuance Afro-Asian legacies that grew out of the Cold War. Focusing on Southeast Asia as a geopoetic imagination alongside a post-WWII global anti-colonial resistance to racism, the exhibition traces a historical line between early regional imaginations such as Maphilindo to contemporary appropriations of Afro-Asian histories, such as China’s development of cultural infrastructure in Senegal.</p> <p>In parallel with a series of webinars that map out the histories of Afro-Southeast Asia affinities, <i>In Our Best Interests</i> questions what a global solidarity can mean. Thus, bringing into relief the geopolitical stakes of working for ‘our’ best interests in a failed “post-racial” contemporary and in the face of the global pandemic, Covid-19.</p>

		<p>Participating artists include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Bani Haykal2. Kenya (Robinson)3. Simon Soon4. Vuth Lyno5. Ming Wong6. Eisa Jocson7. Fyerool Darma
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