

MEDIA RELEASE

SAM Mini Mobile Museum Brings Works by Singaporean Artist Melissa Tan to Regional Libraries

The Dream from the Other Side maps the evolution of Singapore's cityscape and will transform as it travels to Woodlands, Jurong and Tampines



Melissa Tan, *The Dream from the Other Side*, 2020, in progress.
Singapore Art Museum Commission. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

Singapore, 27 October 2020 – The SAM Mini Mobile Museum, a travelling art exhibition held in partnership with the National Library Board, continues with its latest commission – *The Dream from the Other Side* by Singaporean artist Melissa Tan. The exhibition will start at Woodlands Regional Library from 28 October to 13 December 2020, and travel to Jurong and Tampines regional libraries from between 16 December 2020 to 21 March 2021. Audiences can also view the exhibition online from November onwards on [SAM's website](#).

The SAM Mini Mobile Museum introduces the multifaceted nature of contemporary art through a selection of artworks from Singapore Art Museum (SAM)'s collection, adapted for non-museum spaces and created by Southeast Asian artists.

Tan's works are based on themes of nature, mapping and geography, and she has a long-standing interest in landscapes, the process of formation and rock textures. This interest is reflected in her latest work, *The Dream from the Other Side*, which explores the continual evolution of Singapore's topography.

The installation takes a historical look at the mapping of Singapore from one of the earliest topographical maps of Singapore from 1958, to the present day. Over the course of its showing across the three libraries, the installation will morph to represent how these three different areas – Woodlands, Jurong and Tampines – have transformed over time. Flattened ground and filled-in waterbodies, amongst other changes, will be introduced in each sculpture, reflecting the changes in each region.

"The Dream from the Other Side is a set of abstract sculptures that builds on the series *Back to where we've never been* in SAM's collection. It retains the conceptual reflection that Singapore's constant infrastructural upgrading makes it almost feel like a self-regenerative city. This new series however is site responsive in that the location of the regional libraries informed the form of each sculpture," says Melissa Tan about her latest work.

"In Melissa's practice we saw an opportunity to push ourselves – both the artist and the Mini Mobile Museum project – to greater heights. To consider the shifts in Singapore's terrain through the lens of Melissa's practice was to engage with various readings and interpretations of how and why Singapore's terrain has and continues to change the way it does. The work opens up an invitation for us to see and observe our landscape and environment more closely and curiously," says SAM Assistant Curator, Andrea Fam, who curated this edition of the SAM Mini Mobile Museum.

The work advances Tan's exploration of the material construction of Singapore and its continuous urban development and redevelopment, as seen in her works *November's Echo I* and *Sierra's Whiskey*, both part of SAM's collection. Her past research includes a study of the reconstructive effect of Singapore's infrastructure, which is manifested in *The Dream from the Other Side*. The installation invites audiences to consider the modifications to the work as reflections of the changes around us, as well as to speculate on the future of Singapore's terrain.

For this edition, SAM will introduce a new artwork label for children, specially designed for young visitors to easily read and learn about the work. The exhibition will be accompanied by interactive family-friendly programmes such as an artist-led hands-on video activity and an interactive digital game, available on SAM's YouTube channel and website respectively. SAM's signature Kopi, Teh and Contemporary Art Online programme will also offer virtual tours in English, Mandarin, Malay and Tamil targeted at seniors.

The Dream from the Other Side will be on at Woodlands Regional Library from 28 October to 13 December 2020, Jurong Regional Library from 16 December 2020 to 31 January 2021 and Tampines Regional Library from 3 February to 21 March 2021.

For more information on the artist, please refer to Annex A.

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

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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 redevelopment, with museum programming continuing at partner venues until the buildings re-open.

SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2019. 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

ANNEX A

ARTIST BIO

Melissa Tan is a visual artist based in Singapore who received her BA (Fine Arts) from Lasalle College of The Arts. Her works are based on nature and the different ways of mapping, with her recent projects revolving around landscapes and the process of formation. By employing analogue methods such as paper cutting, silk-screen techniques, and combining them with digital methods, she hopes to borrow this visual language and explore this concept through different mediums, thereby enriching the process whilst simultaneously shaping it into something unexpected.

Her recent solo show *Under the Arched Sky* was held at Richard Koh Fine Art and she has been involved in group exhibitions such as the Singapore Biennale 2016, *An Atlas of Mirrors*, Singapore Art Museum at 8Q, CNEAI, *Chatou*, *Ile des impressionists* in Paris and *Strarta Art Fair*, Saatchi Gallery in London. She also participated in the National Art Council and Dena Foundation Artist Residency program (Paris, France) 2013.