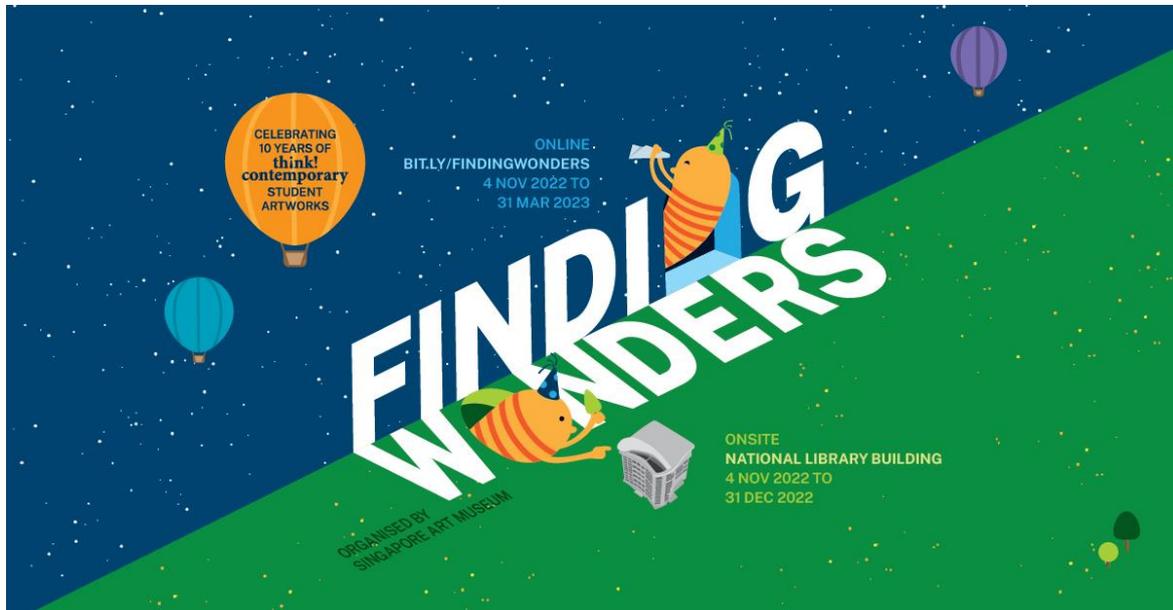


MEDIA FACTSHEET

REDISCOVER THE WONDERS OF EVERYDAY LIFE THROUGH STUDENT ARTWORKS AT SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM'S *FINDING WONDERS* EXHIBITION



Singapore, 27 October 2022 – This November, explore the little wonders that exist in our daily lives in *Finding Wonders: Celebrating 10 Years of Think! Contemporary Student Artworks*. The exhibition marks the 10th anniversary of Singapore Art Museum (SAM)'s signature museum-based school programme, *Think! Contemporary*. Featuring more than 30 artworks by 2,078 primary school students over the past two years, *Finding Wonders* spans across physical and virtual realms for the first time, with an onsite presentation at the National Library Building and an online presentation on SAM's website.

Committed to nurturing an appreciation for art at a young age, *Think! Contemporary* integrates school curriculum with museum visits, using artworks from SAM's exhibitions as primary resources for classroom teaching and the learning of subjects such as English, Art, Science and Social Studies. In partnership with CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, Geylang Methodist School (Primary), Haig Girls' School, Mayflower Primary School and St. Anthony's Primary School, over 11,000 students have taken part in the programme since its inception in 2012.

"We believe in the importance of art education at SAM and are happy to have collaborated with schools over the years to encourage students to create and learn through art. Our

educational programmes aim to cultivate a generation of curious art-lovers who remain deeply engaged with the world around them. *Finding Wonders* celebrates a decade of SAM's *Think! Contemporary* programme, featuring an online and an onsite exhibition, each with its own unique set of works. Through the eyes of our younger generation and their imaginative creations, we hope audiences will be inspired to find hope and wonder in our everyday lives," said Dr Lim Chye Hong, Head of Education, Access and Programmes at SAM.

For the 10th edition, students created their artworks in response to works by local artists such as Jing Quek's *Singapore Idols*, Dawn Ng's *Mamashop*, Nguan's *Untitled* photographs and more, drawing from daily inspirations found in the physical and virtual world, in dreams, in people, and even within themselves.

Loo Hui Xin from Haig Girls' School worked on *Windows to Mamashop* (2022), which reminisces upon the slow disappearance of old-school provision shops. Sharing her learnings from the programme, she said: "Besides learning to collaborate with my team members, I also learnt how our local contemporary artists experimented with different mediums and the issues they tried to address through their artworks. The *Think! Contemporary* Programme has opened my eyes to appreciating and making art in a new way. Creating my work was very enjoyable, and I'm excited at the thought of exhibiting my work!"

Together with her classmates, Myra Khawaja from CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace created *Mushroom Mania* (2022), inspired by SAM's exhibition *REFUSE*. Reflecting on her experience, she said: "I learnt that there is no right or wrong in art. The *Think! Contemporary* programme taught me how to let my imagination flow and not hold back my creative thoughts. When we made our mushrooms, there were no limits, and we could be free with our ideas. We were able to design our mushrooms the way we liked, and I was really proud of my finished artwork. I think you can truly achieve your best masterpiece with trial and error."

The primary school programme also features a lesson package conceptualised from artworks in SAM's Learning Gallery, created in collaboration with partnering teachers. Aimed at using art as a learning tool, the programme uses a multi-disciplinary approach to nurture the students' critical thinking skills.

Finding Wonders: Celebrating 10 Years of Think! Contemporary Student Artworks will hold its physical exhibition from 4 November to 31 December 2022 at the National Library Building, Levels 7 and 8. The virtual exhibition will run from 4 November 2022 to 31 March 2023 on [SAM's website](#). Admission is free for all visitors throughout the exhibition period.

The list of highlight artworks can be found in **Annex A**. Media assets can be accessed via bit.ly/ThinkContemporary2022.

For media queries, please contact:

Shirin Goh
Senior Associate
Tate Anzur
+65 8776 4282
shirin.goh@tateanzur.com

Gerald Peh
Associate
Tate Anzur
+65 8533 3588
gerald.peh@tateanzur.com

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore located in the cultural district of Singapore. Known as SAM, the museum presents contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious in multiple venues across the island, including a new venue in the historic port area of Tanjong Pagar.

The museum is building one of the world's most important public collections of Southeast Asian contemporary art, with the aim of connecting the art and the artists to the public and future generations through exhibitions and programmes. SAM is working towards a humane and sustainable future by committing to responsible practices within its processes.

To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

**Annex A: Artwork highlights from *Finding Wonders: Celebrating 10 Years of Think!*
Contemporary Student Artworks**

Exhibition at National Library Building



A work in progress of '*Mushroom Mania*', 2022, by Primary 4 students from CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace. Image courtesy of CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace.



Primary 4 students from CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace working on '*Mushroom Mania*', 2022. Image courtesy of CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace.

Inspired by the exhibition *REFUSE* by The Observatory at the Singapore Art Museum, our installation comprises a collection of colourful mushrooms in various forms. From the meaty Portobello to the tiny Button mushroom and the woody brackets of Lingzhi, these small but resilient fungi thrive in many parts of the world and in a variety of environments. As we studied these mushrooms, we reflected on the importance of resilience and flexibility in unpredictable times such as the period of the Covid-19 pandemic. Like the mushrooms, we can all learn to adapt and grow as we face challenges in the road ahead.



A work in progress of '*Branching Love*', 2022, by Primary 4 students from St Anthony's Primary School. Image courtesy of St Anthony's Primary School.



Primary 4 students from St Anthony's Primary School working on '*Branching Love*', 2022. Image courtesy of St Anthony's Primary School.

Inspired by the artwork *We Are Family* by Vicente Delgado, this installation expresses what love means to us and our love for our family and friends. The tree represents the persevering nature of love and the leaves on the branches symbolise how love continuously grows all around us and looks different to each of us. Our artwork reminds us to stay grounded and true to ourselves, to be proud of our uniqueness and to keep nurturing our love and extending it to others.



A work in progress of 'Mamashop Then and Now', 2022, by Primary 4 students of St Anthony's Primary School. Image courtesy of St Anthony's Primary School.

What will our Mamashops look like in the future?

Mamashops used to be a common sight for people living in Singapore. Our artwork is inspired by artist Dawn Ng's *Mamashop* and explores how the mamashop has changed over the years.

Mamashops are more than just places for the buying or selling of items; they were where strong relationships and friendships were formed between the owner of the mamashop and their customers. Now, loyal customers continue to shop at the remaining mamashops in Singapore. However, with the emergence of 24-hour supermarkets and online grocery shopping platforms, which are more accessible and convenient, we wonder if our local mamashops can stand the test of time.

Virtual Exhibition at [SAM's Website](#)

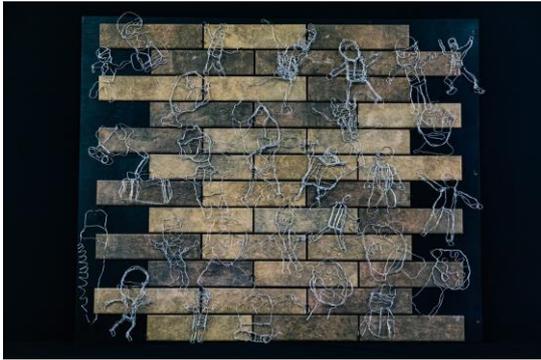


St Anthony's Primary School, Primary 4 students, 'Food and Family', 2021. Ceramics, 100 x 100 cm. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum

Are there any special foods that remind you of your family?

Food and Family is a collection of mini ceramic items created based on our family's favourite food—from our mother's chicken noodle soup to our father's signature chicken rice and not forgetting our grandmother's special chocolate chip cookies! These mini ceramic foods not only display our family's beloved dishes but also highlight our families' core values and lifestyles.

Drawing inspiration from artist Dawn Ng's *Mamashop*, we decided to focus on the theme of food as it is something we all enjoy and a huge part of our identity, especially in Singapore. By experiencing and enjoying food from different cultures, we appreciate our fellow Singaporeans even more!



Mayflower Primary School, Primary 4 students, 'MFPS Idols – The Construction Workers', 2021. 3D Sculpture, Aluminium wire, dimensions variable. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

Made in response to *Singapore Idols* by artist Jing Quek, *MFPS Idols – The Construction Workers* sheds light on oft-forgotten groups of people who have contributed to Singapore. Our artwork is a tribute to the construction workers, the unsung heroes who are rebuilding and renovating our original MFPS campus.

Upon reflection, we realised that, while we are here in our small temporary school campus, a group of construction workers have been toiling day in and day out since 2019 to upgrade the original MFPS campus buildings, even during the pandemic. We wanted to show our appreciation for their hard work. After speaking with and getting to know them, we moulded the wire sculptures to represent them.

Though the wire sculpting experience was not easy, it is incomparable to what the construction workers face every day. The making of this artwork helped us gain a new sense of respect for the construction workers who are seldom remembered for the buildings they help to build.



CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, Primary 4 students, 'Secret Garden', 2021. Ceramics and clay, dimensions variable. Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

When was the last time you stopped to admire the little things?

In *Secret Garden*, a playful interpretation of artist Khairullah Rahim's *Rendezvous*, we imagine a miniature world set within a garden. We created tiny toadstool houses, mushrooms, insects and animals. The artwork encourages one to stop, look closely at and appreciate the tiny spaces and freedoms that we often take for granted in better times.



Haig Girls' School, Primary 4 students, '*Family Fun*', 2021. Cardboard and mixed media, 60 x 80 cm each (set of two). Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum.

How do you bond with your family and create strong relationships?

Family Fun celebrates the joy of family bonding. This vibrant and intricate artwork is our response to artist Vicente Delgado's *We Are Family* and demonstrates our artistic investigations using mixed media, cardboard and relief techniques.

The artwork depicts the stories and special moments that we have shared with our families. The meticulous details, vivid colours, overlapping shapes and textures imbues the otherwise ordinary material of cardboard with visual dynamism and energy.

When creating our artwork, we felt connected to our classmates. Each of our stories had a lasting impact and served as a source of comfort and reassurance for our peers.