

MEDIA FACTSHEET

TWO NEW ART EXPERIENCES FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG AT HEART BY SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM TO CHECK OUT FROM JUNE 2022

This June, Singapore Art Museum (SAM) will be unveiling two new offerings for everyone to discover contemporary art together. Unleash your inner playful spirit with ***Superfluous Things: Paper*** at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, a new exhibition that transforms the ubiquitous but often-overlooked material, paper, into different forms. For those who are up for an adventure in the West, the second cycle of ***Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong*** at Science Centre Singapore will feature an installation by Berny Tan that was co-created with the community, and explores collective memories of the Chinese Garden in the Jurong district.

Superfluous Things: Paper

From 28 May to 14 August 2022 at Gallery 2 and The Engine Room, SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark

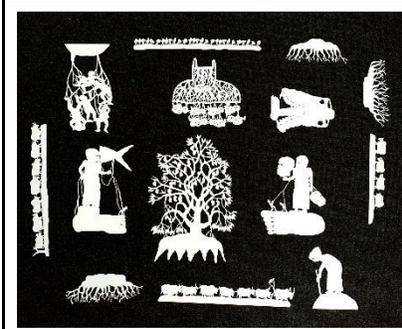


An exhibition for the young and young at heart, *Superfluous Things: Paper* highlights the work of contemporary artists as storytellers, evoking precious personal and cultural memories through a long tradition of paper manipulation. The vivid artworks will explore the concept of paper as a carrier of ideas and encoded with material intelligence, transforming paper into objects of visual feast and irresistible emotional resonance. As part of the museum's commitment to sustainability, up to 80% of the material used is paper-based, a renewable resource.

Spread across two spaces at SAM at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Gallery 2 houses works by Jumaadi, Li Hongbo, Nabilah Said, PHUNK & Keiichi Tanaami and Cheryl Teo, while The Engine Room, an extension of the exhibition, invites audiences to activate their imagination and curiosity through play. Visitors can create and tell their own shadow-play story with Jumaadi's paper cut-outs; explore perceptions of scale with Cheryl Teo's miniature sculpture, adapted and supersized;

and get up close to the world of PHUNK in the form of a giant pop-up book. There will also be programmes such as artist-led paper craft and creative writing workshops, shadow-play performances, and upcoming editions of *SAMily Funday*, which feature fun-filled afternoons of art activities for families.

Artist & Artwork	Description
<p><i>Just a Little at a Time</i> 2017-2022 Cheryl Teo</p>  <p><i>Cheryl Teo, 'Just a Little at a Time', 2017-2022. Image courtesy of Cheryl Teo.</i></p>	<p><i>Just a Little at a Time</i> is a self-initiated project by Cheryl Teo to take on the routine task of making a paper sculpture the size of a matchbox each day. The project, started off as the <i>100 Days Project</i> in 2017, is based on a prescribed set of self-imposed rules and each miniature would take about five to six hours to complete. According to Cheryl, working in such small scale enables her to see things with fresh eyes, and with each new creation, she is discovering a better understanding of the nature of paper. This relentless pursuit of excellence pushes the boundaries of her craft as she challenges herself to experiment with more complex processes and narratives. The journey has led Cheryl to sharpen her skills, including developing personal techniques in paper construction as well as finding her own artistic voice.</p> <p><u>About the artist</u></p> <p>Cheryl Teo is a Malaysian-born Singaporean artist who specialises in creating intricate paper sculptures and tactile illustrations. Her practice focuses on craft-based media that embraces the memory of play. She is drawn to the ubiquity of paper and the meticulous process involved in handcrafted design. Teo is also interested in constructing whimsical worlds and toying with our perception of reality through the elements of surprise and scale. She has worked on commercial set design, photo illustrations and installations. She has been featured in local and international publications such as The Straits Times Singapore, Frankie Magazine Australia, and Flow Magazine France.</p>
<p><i>Joli Jolan</i> 2022 Jumaadi</p>	<p>Jumaadi's art is imbued with a poetic sensibility. <i>Joli Jolan</i>, a word coined and derived from the Javanese term <i>ijol ijolan</i>, references ideas of making an exchange— to swap, to trade and/or to replace. In <i>Joli Jolan</i>, he affords us a glimpse of his grand private cosmology. At first glance it is whimsical but upon a closer look, it reveals a world of peculiarity. A seemingly autobiographical figure carries enormous objects ranging from a</p>



Jumaadi, 'Joli Jolan', 2022. Image courtesy of Jumaadi.

pineapple, fishbone, and human foot to miniature mountains and buildings sprouting foliage. Other recurring motifs include the buffalo, tree of life, rootless tree, and tree-less roots. Informed by a traditional Javanese worldview and that of a postmodern nomad living in a global world straddling his studios in Imogiri (Yogyakarta, Indonesia) and Sydney, Jumaadi weaves together a personal iconography of human and organic motifs, where natural and spiritual worlds converge.

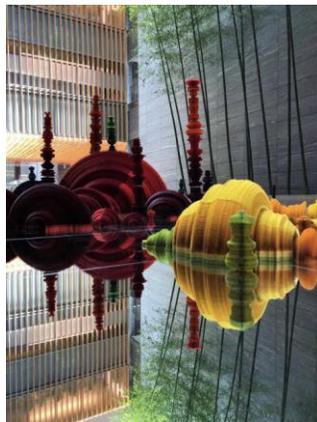
About the artist

Jumaadi works with a range of mediums, including drawing, painting, performance, and installation. His practice is informed by personal experience and the political and aesthetic lineages of his homeland, including wayang kulit, shadow-puppet plays originating in Java and Bali. With poetic sensibility, Jumaadi weaves together human and organic motifs to explore universal themes like love, conflict and belonging. His works are in the collections of institutions such as the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Museum of Contemporary Art and National Gallery Australia, and have been featured in the 14th Jakarta Biennale, 5th Moscow Biennale, 13th Gwangju Biennale and 10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art. Born in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia, Jumaadi currently lives and works in Sydney, New South Wales and Imogiri, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

***Land of Fairy Tales* 《童话世界》**

2010-2016

Li Hongbo 李洪波



Li Hongbo's paper sculptures brings a breath of fresh air to traditional Chinese arts and crafts. Hongbo transforms the medium of paper, one of the key inventions in Chinese civilisation, through deconstruction and reassembling. In doing so, he creates a shift away from the familiar and the overlooked, drawing attention to the hidden essence of an object's existence, offering the viewer a platform to reconsider current ideas and rethink the familiar. Hongbo loves playing with ambiguity. *Land of Fairy Tales* features an imaginary map of the world where continents are constructed from layers of paper meticulously glued together in a honeycomb-like structure by hand. Each structure can be laid flat, twisted or stretched. This beautiful large-scale installation of colourful malleable continents subtly reflects the geopolitics of borders and boundaries as active forces and resources in international and domestic political, social, and economic relations.

Li Hongbo, 'Land of Fairy Tales', 2010-2016. Image courtesy of Li Hongbo.

About the artist

Li Hongbo is best known for his interpretations of paper. Fascinated by traditional Chinese toys and festive decorations made of paper since young, Li reinvents and creates kinetic paper works, which elegantly expand, contract and retract. A selection of his solo museum shows around the world includes *The Child with Scarf* (2020), Asia Society Hong Kong Center, Hong Kong; *Quand La Sculpture Devient Créature* (2017), Musée du Papier, Angoulême; *Li Hongbo: Irons for Ages, Flowers for Days* (2015), SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah; and *Li Hongbo – Out of Paper* (2013), Kunstverein Ludwigsburg, Ludwigsburg. Li currently lives and works in Beijing.

Eccentric City

2010

PHUNK & Keiichi Tanaami

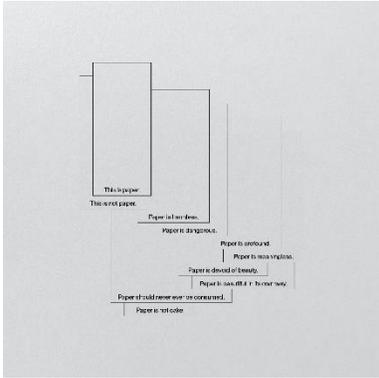


PHUNK & Keiichi Tanaami, 'Eccentric City', 2010. Images courtesy of PHUNK.

Eccentric City is an imaginary floating city that is constructed of *tatebanko* or Japanese paper dioramas. This traditional Japanese craft, popular in the late Edo period (1603–1867) and the Meiji period (1868–1912), has continued to fascinate Keiichi Tanaami. He subsequently introduced *tatebanko* to PHUNK, a Singapore art and design collective, for this collaboration in 2010. The cityscape, populated by PHUNK's black-and-white carnivalesque theme-park universe on one side and Tanaami's brilliantly coloured psychedelic dreamscapes on the other, portrays the pulsating energy of urban living. These images are somewhat autobiographical. For PHUNK, amusement parks afford relatable childhood memories, while Tanaami's brand of psychedelia can be traced back to two formative periods in his life: the witnessing of the firebombing of Tokyo during World War II and his four-month stay in hospital while recovering from pleurisy in 1981, marked by nightly hallucinations from the strong medication.

About the artists

PHUNK (previously known as :phunk and Phunk Studio) is a Singapore-based contemporary art and design collective. Founded in 1994 by LASALLE Diploma in Design Communication alumni Alvin Tan, Melvin Chee, Jackson Tan and William Chan, PHUNK's expansive repertoire spans across art, design, publishing, fashion, music, film and interactive, including collaborations with international brands like Nike, MTV and Levi Strauss & Co. In the universe imagined and created by PHUNK, traditional Chinese folklore, Hong Kong wuxia pulp fiction, Japanese manga, American street culture and British

	<p>new wave music come together. A recipient of the President's Design Award in 2007, PHUNK's focus is on experimenting with new approaches to visual expression.</p> <p>Keiichi Tanaami graduated from the Graphic Design programme in Musashino Art University in 1960. He quickly forged a successful career in design and advertising, illustrating the Japanese releases of record covers for Jefferson Airplane and The Monkees, among other projects. An encounter with the Japanese neo-dada scene centred around the studio of the artist Ushio Shinohara, as well as Manga-style cartoons, inspired Tanaami's foray into art. His colourful, overpopulated psychedelic collages, animations and drawings frequently juxtapose war imagery with American and Japanese pop culture, communicating an underlying peace message. Still active today, Tanaami continues to explore new frontiers of creativity.</p>
<p>100ish Meaningless Statements 2022 Nabilah Said</p>  <p>Nabilah Said, '100ish Meaningless Statements', 2022, artist impression. Image courtesy of Sarah and Schooling.</p>	<p><i>100ish Meaningless Statements</i> is a collection of 100(ish) sentences that meditates on, explores, and subverts the uses and functions of paper in our lives, as well as the various meanings ascribed to it. As text, it communicates a spectrum of meanings and provocations to the reader—from nonsensical axioms and philosophical questions, to pop cultural references, commentaries on social relations, and instructions for creative response. The text positions paper as material, and yet also imbues it with personality and voice, giving it agency to turn its gaze back onto humanity and society. In <i>100ish Meaningless Statements</i>, paper also becomes a placeholder for the self, full of randomness, emotion, and life. It moves us towards a possible future of what 'paper' can be—writ large and limited only by the imagination.</p> <p>About the artist Nabilah Said is a Singapore-based playwright, editor and artist who works with text as material across different forms. She has worked with Teater Ekamatra, The Necessary Stage, T>:Works, and multiple independent theatre collectives. Her play ANGKAT (2019) won Best Original Script at the Life Theatre Awards. Her play Inside Voices (2019) won the Outstanding New Work award at VAULT Festival, London, and was published by Nick Hern Books (UK). She is currently under commission of Malthouse Theatre in Melbourne. Her years of working as a Straits Times</p>

	<p>arts correspondent, the editor of regional arts publication, ArtsEquator, and various capacities within the visual, literary and performing arts scenes have allowed her to develop her voice as a cultural commentator in Singapore. Nabilah also teaches writing and critical thinking across various age groups. She has an MA in Writing for Performance from Goldsmiths, University of London.</p>
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***Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong* featuring Berny Tan**

From 16 June to 11 September 2022 at Science Centre Singapore



Berny Tan, *a shapeless mass; a network of times* (2022), work in progress.
Image courtesy of the artist. Photo by Marvin Tang.

The second edition of *Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong* returns with a new art installation by Singaporean artist Berny Tan, exploring another area of the Jurong district – Chinese Garden, located in Jurong Lake Gardens. Closed for redevelopment since 2019, the Chinese Garden can only be experienced in fragments today: viewed only from a distance, in photographs, and in memories.

a shapeless mass; a network of times takes a look at this iconic site of Jurong in its inaccessible state and examines how it exists in people’s memories. The installation is a machine-knitted “diagram” derived from the artist’s analysis of memories about the Chinese Garden which have been contributed by members of the public. These responses range from the detailed and heartfelt, to the brief, vague, and even inaccurate. The title is a reference to how these responses

evolve from a shapeless mass of collected data into a textured network of collective memories which, for all their differences, describe a common space.

This presentation is part of *Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong*, SAM's collaboration with Science Centre Singapore to embark on community-based participatory art programmes to uncover community interests within the Jurong district. The initiative is supported by Tote Board Singapore.

Artist & Artwork	Description
<p><i>a shapeless mass; a network of times</i> 2022 Berny Tan</p>  <p><i>Berny Tan, 'a shapeless mass; a network of times', 2022, work in progress. Image courtesy of the artist. Photo by Marvin Tang.</i></p>	<p><i>a shapeless mass; a network of times</i> takes a look at the Chinese Garden, which has been closed for redevelopment since 2019. Collecting memories of the garden that have been contributed by members of the public, the installation translates this shapeless mass of data into a network of parallel times and memories describing a common space. Its title draws its title from Jorge Luis Borges's short story "The Garden of Forking Paths" (1941) which describes a complex novel that is only revealed in the form of fragments and drafts.</p> <p><u>About the artist</u> Berny Tan (b. 1990, Singapore) is an artist, curator, and writer based in Singapore. Her interdisciplinary practice explores the tensions that arise when she applies systems to—and unearths systems in—her personal experiences, complicating the false binary between rational and emotional. Her strategies also reflect a fundamental interest in language as it is read, written, and spoken by her. Tan holds an MA (Dist) in Contemporary Art Theory from Goldsmiths, University of London, and a BFA (Hons) in Visual and Critical Studies from the School of Visual Arts.</p>

For more information on *Superfluous Things: Paper*, please visit bit.ly/SAM-SuperfluousThingsPaper. For more details on *Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong*, please visit bit.ly/SAM-AITC2022. Accompanying visual assets may be found in our digital media kit: bit.ly/SAMSUPERFLUOUSTHINGSKIT.

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For media queries, please contact:

Tricia Low
Senior Associate
Tate Anzur
+65 9231 7480
tricia.low@tateanzur.com

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