



Education Folio

Peng Wei

China

How to use this folio

This education folio contains information about the featured artists in the Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize 2014, their artworks as well as artistic processes, giving visitors a better understanding and appreciation of the artworks displayed.

Questions and activities found at the back of the folio are meant for visitors to have a deeper engagement with each of the finalist artworks. The questions can be used for discussions when looking at the particular artwork, while the suggested activities are designed for educators or parents to explore with their students or children for further engagement beyond the museum visit.

The suggested reading and viewing lists also provide more information about the artist's practice, artwork themes and related ideas or issues, which are aimed at helping educators and readers make interesting and relevant connections to matters in their daily life.

Introduction

The Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation Signature Art Prize is a premier juried prize inaugurated by the Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation and the Singapore Art Museum in 2008. It is a hallmark of distinction awarded to artists whose artworks represent a significant development in contemporary visual art in the Asia Pacific region.

A triennial competition, the APB Foundation Signature Art Prize seeks to highlight new developments in the visual arts, stimulate lively public discussion and critical debate, and provide a cross-cultural exhibition platform for established practitioners and significant emerging artists alike. Aimed at recognising the single most outstanding contemporary visual artwork produced in the preceding three years, the competition is open to all visual artworks, regardless of medium, subject matter and size.

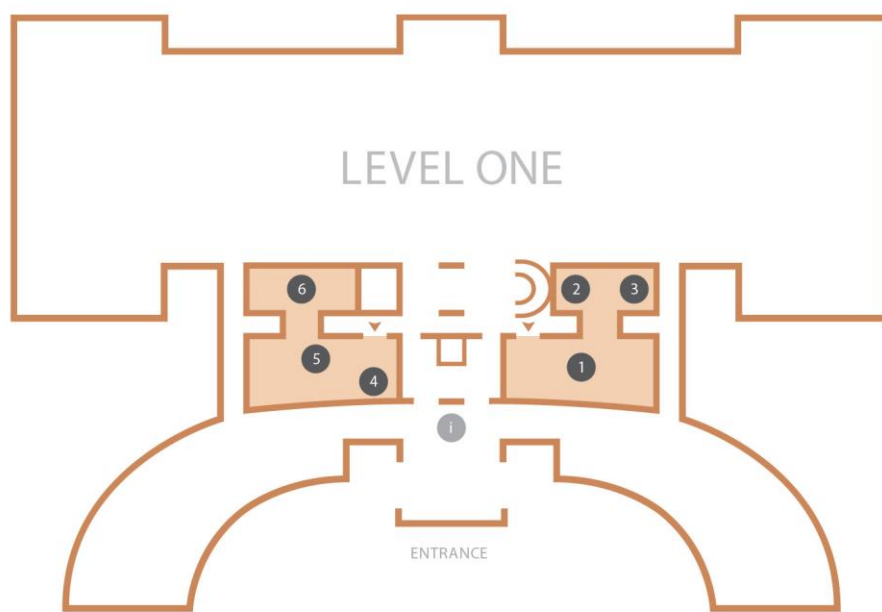
The inaugural edition in 2008 focused only on 12 countries: Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam, and received a total of 34 nominations. The APB Foundation Signature Art Prize soon expanded its focus in 2011 to reach the entire Asia Pacific region, including 130 artworks from 23 Asia Pacific countries and territories. Nominations were received from new countries and territories including Indonesia, Philippines, Myanmar, Brunei, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Australia and other Oceania and Pacific islands. The 2014 edition includes nominations from all previous countries and territories, including a nomination from new entrant, Hong Kong.

Nominators from across the region with a wide range of specialties and backgrounds are specially invited to nominate specific artworks – instead of artists – that had been aesthetically, culturally and socially significant in their particular artscenes in the past three years. A diverse panel of distinguished judges, who mostly hail from the Asia-Pacific region, are also selected specially to evaluate the nominations, shortlist the finalists, and decide on the key award-winning works in the APB Foundation Signature Art Prize exhibition

All nominated works are assessed on a set of criteria: the strength of the idea and concept; creative and interesting use of medium and material; technique, expression and form; artistic insight and interpretation, and imagination and originality. The Grand Prize and two Juror's Choice Awards are chosen by the international jury of art experts, critics and curators, while the People's Choice Award will go to the artist whose work garners the most number of public votes.

The APB Foundation Signature Art Prize is a recognition of distinction and significance in artistic practice, presenting the best of contemporary art in the Asia-Pacific region.

Exhibition map



LEVEL ONE

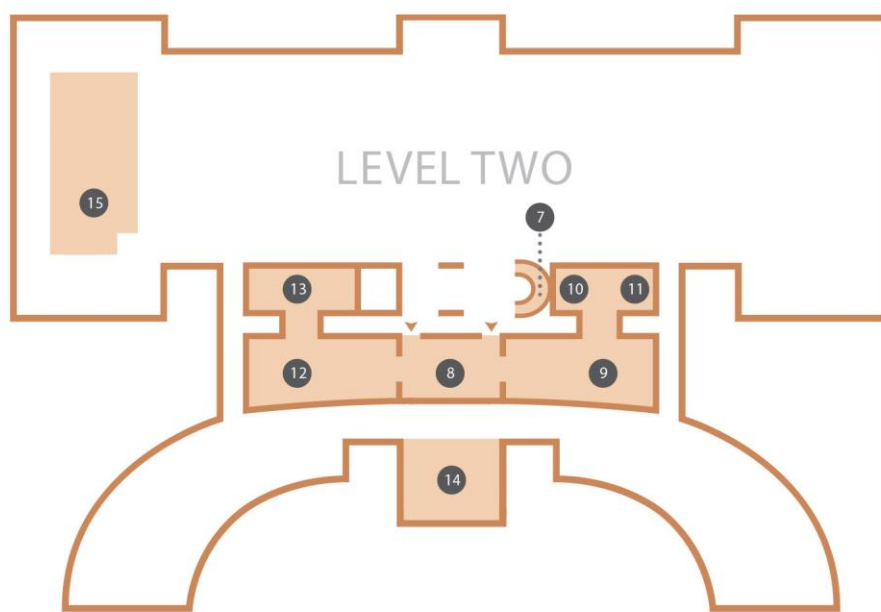
- 1 Nguyen Trinh Thi
- 2 Robert Zhao Renhui
- 3 Owen Leong
- 4 Farida Batool
- 5 Peng Wei
- 6 Yao Jui-Chung
+ Lost Society
Document (LSD)

© Singapore Art Museum. All rights reserved.

No part of this folio may be reproduced without prior permission from the Singapore Art Museum.

All information correct at time of print.

Exhibition map



LEVEL TWO

- 7 Liu Jianhua
- 8 Choe U-Ram
- 9 Go Watanabe
- 10 Lisa Reihana
- 11 Naeem Mohaiemen
- 12 Arin Rungjang
- 13 Ranbir Kaleka
- 14 Melati Suryodarmo
- 15 Ho Tzu Nven

© Singapore Art Museum. All rights reserved.

No part of this folio may be reproduced without prior permission from the Singapore Art Museum.

All information correct at time of print.

Artwork***Letters From A Distance***

Peng Wei

2012-2014

Mixed media and painting installation with handmade linen paper, rice paper, wooden box, silk ribbon, jade pins and oxbone scrollbars

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist and private collection

Image courtesy of the Artist and Tina Keng Gallery

© Singapore Art Museum. All rights reserved.

No part of this folio may be reproduced without prior permission from the Singapore Art Museum.

All information correct at time of print.

About the artwork and artistic process

Letters From A Distance is a mixed media installation which consists of album leaves, scrolls and wooden boxes. These **implements** of traditional Chinese paintings appear to be decorated with elaborate **brocade** fabric typical of traditional Chinese scrolls. However, they are either original works painted by the artist, or replicas of originals that the artist made with the help of modern digital printing technologies. This presentation of both original paintings and printed materials attempts to reflect the ambiguous visual relationship between the notions of **representation** and **replication**, at the same time offering a reinterpretation of traditional Chinese landscape paintings.

The Chinese inscriptions featured in the artwork were gleaned from the personal letters, essays and poems of European literary masters that the artist was inspired by. These literary texts were translated into Chinese and subsequently painted in the medium and style of traditional Chinese paintings. This effectively works to create a dialogue or exchange between the cultures of the East and the West; at the same time reviving the traditions of Chinese art and striking a balance between the old and the new. *Letters From A Distance*, as with Peng Wei's other recent works, transforms two-dimensional pieces into three-dimensional sculptures while maintaining the essence and quality of traditional Chinese art.

© Singapore Art Museum. All rights reserved.

No part of this folio may be reproduced without prior permission from the Singapore Art Museum.

All information correct at time of print.

About the artist

Peng Wei (b. 1974, Chengdu, China) received her Bachelor's degree and Master's degrees in Philosophy and Oriental Art from Nankai University, Tianjin, China. Based in Beijing, Peng served as the editor of ART Magazine from 2000 to 2006. Her works have been shown in solo exhibitions in Hong Kong, Beijing, Taipei and Shenzhen, and she has also participated in various international exhibitions such as *Real Life Stories – Chinese Contemporary Art* at the Bergen Art Museum, Norway (2013) and the 8th Shenzhen International Ink Painting Biennale (2013). Peng is currently a professional artist affiliated with the Beijing Fine Art Academy.

Discussion and suggested activities

Questions for discussion

- Look at the different components of the artwork. Can you identify any typical motifs of traditional Chinese art? Do you know what they symbolise? [chrysanthemum, peony, fish, hexagon, etc.]
- Try to read the Chinese inscriptions on the scrolls, can you identify the original writers of these inscriptions?
- The artwork consists of original works by the artist and duplicates of original works of the past. Can you tell which of the works are original paintings and which are the digitally printed copies? Why do you think the artist has chosen to include this aspect in her work?
- In this day and age, it is not uncommon that traditional artistic techniques are gradually being replaced by more modern or contemporary practices. What are some artistic techniques that seem to be becoming less popular in Singapore? [batik, woodblock printing, etc.]
- Conversely, are there any art forms that have enjoyed a resurgence in recent times? [ceramics, painting, etc.]
- The artwork addresses the interplay between two cultures and artistic forms, in particular Chinese art and European literature. Can you think of any examples of such a fusion or exchange between cultures in Singapore? Consider the fields of art, literature, history, gastronomy or popular culture.
- [FOOD FOR THOUGHT] This work expresses the artist's opinion with regards to how traditional practices can co-exist and be paired seamlessly with modern technology. In the rapid technology-driven world that we live in today, should we retain traditional art practices? Why do you think so?

Suggested activities

- While working on *Letters From A Distance*, Peng Wei imagines she is sending the letters and texts adapted from European writers to someone she will never have the opportunity to meet in person. Imagine that you are the artist. Select your favourite poem or song written in your mother tongue and translate it into English. Next, select a traditional art form found in Singapore. Draw/print out the design and combine the translated text with the image. Share your artwork with friends and family!

Glossary**Implements**

A piece of equipment that is use for a particular purpose.

Brocade

A rich fabric woven with a raised design, often using gold or silver threads.

Representation

The description or portrayal of someone or something in a particular way.

Replication

The action of copying or reproducing something.

Further reading and viewing

Artist's Website

<http://www.pengwei.info/>

Book on East-West cultures

Culture and modernity: East-West philosophic perspectives by Eliot Deutsch

Available [here](#).

Book on the Chinese culture

Chinapedia : the first authoritative reference to understanding China edited by Feng Jun et al. ;

translated by Jane Elliott, Vivian C.W. Hui

Available [here](#).

Book on cross-cultural texts

Between languages and cultures: translation and cross-cultural texts by Anuradha Dingwaney and

Carol Maier, editors

Available [here](#).

Documentary on the history of Chinese painting

The Culture Show : The Art Of Chinese Painting. Available [here](#).