



National
Heritage
Board

20

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MEDIA RELEASE

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THIRD DIRECTOR OF THE SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM APPOINTED

- interdisciplinary arts practitioner, Dr Susie Lingham takes on new role

1 The National Heritage Board is pleased to appoint Dr Susie Lingham as the Director of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) with effect from early August 2013. Dr. Lingham replaces Mr Tan Boon Hui who was appointed to a new role as Group Director, Programmes.

2 Dr Lingham was selected through an open recruitment process where both local and foreign candidates were interviewed. Ms Jane Ittogi, Chair of the SAM Board said, "I am very pleased with the appointment of Susie Lingham. She has a strong academic background in the study of contemporary society and the visual arts and a keen understanding of the needs of this sector. These attributes are important as we continue on the track of establishing SAM as a leading museum of contemporary art."

3 Since 2009, under the leadership of Mr Tan, SAM has been widely recognised as a contemporary art museum that champions the artistic leadership of this region and of Singapore. When the National Art Gallery, Singapore opens in 2015, SAM will continue to lead the way in presenting current art practices of both established and emerging young artists of this generation. SAM is an institution under the visual arts cluster, together with the National Art Gallery and the Singapore Tyler Print Institute.

4 Dr Lingham, who will be the third director of SAM, has a Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil) in Literature, Religion and Philosophy from the University of Sussex, U.K. Dr Lingham is a writer-artist, art theorist and art educator. Her interdisciplinary work and philosophical inquiry synthesizes ideas relating to the nature of mind across different fields, from the arts and humanities to the sciences. Since 2009, Dr Lingham has been an Assistant Professor with the Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group at the National Institute of Education. Dr Lingham has taught at universities and art colleges in Australia, Singapore and the U.K. She has published extensively on topics related to the visual arts scene, particularly in relation to Singapore.

5 Of her appointment, Dr Lingham said, "As an interdisciplinary practitioner myself, I understand and respect contemporary art as that meaningful, inclusive and exploratory 'space' that generates other spaces. Contemporary art is also where creativity and intellectual curiosity flourishes alongside generosity of heart and deep understanding of the human spirit. I believe that the Singapore Art Museum is this necessary space for serious

research-led, and ever-evolving, curatorial and art practice. It is also a space where critical engagement with social, cultural and philosophical issues is presented and expertly made accessible to the various segments of the public. SAM, as the heartbeat of contemporary Singapore, will continue to grow significantly, within the region and beyond. I am humbled by my appointment and pledge to do my best.”

6 Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, NHB said, “Under Boon Hui’s vision, SAM has earned accolades both locally and regionally. Boon Hui has put SAM on a strong foundation to grow as a reputable contemporary art institution within and outside Singapore. In the past four years, SAM has seen the growth of new audiences and developed a pool of regular supporters. This was possible because of tight curatorial vision, creative programming and close linkages built with the visual arts community.”

7 With effect from 1 July 2013, Mr Tan moves to the NHB to take on a new role as Group Director, Programmes within NHB to enhance and grow NHB’s offerings in the national and community heritage institutions.

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. Its mission is to foster nationhood, promote identity building, and champion the development of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. As the custodian of Singapore’s heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. Through the national collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans through a shared experience. NHB manages the national museums, community heritage institutions, Heritage Conservation Centre, Preservation of Monuments Board and the Language Councils Secretariat. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Singapore Art Museum

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) focuses on the creation of art in the present moment. It advocates and presents the contemporary art practices of Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, situating them within the global context of art making today. SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region, and its programming aims to introduce new artistic practices and styles to the public, as well as nurturing discerning audiences for contemporary art. SAM is also organiser of the Singapore Biennale 2013.

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About Susie Lingham

Susie Lingham, 47, is a writer-artist, art theorist and art educator whose interdisciplinary work and research synthesizes ideas relating to the nature of mind across different fields, from the humanities to the sciences, and whose interests encompass the visual and performing arts, literature, and philosophical inquiry in the arts, religion and science. A founding member of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA), Singapore Section, Susie's art practice incorporates writing, performance, sound and image.

As an independent writer, Susie contributed the essay 'Mediated Thresholds: Between Ideal, Image, and Experience' for the Singapore Biennale 2011 publication *Open House*, and the essay 'A Quota on Expression: Visions, Vexations & Vanishings' for the Singapore Art Museum's publication *Negotiating Home, History and Nation: two decades of contemporary art in Southeast Asia* (2011). In 2010, Susie presented the paper '*Between Spider & Fly, Prehension & Becoming*' in the 3rd International Deleuze Studies Conference in Amsterdam. Susie's solo visual art exhibition *Turn* was presented by The Substation, Singapore in November 2012, and opened with *elsewhere|erehwise*, a performance work featuring sound and poetry, choreographed movement, and vocals.

Susie has a DPhil in Literature, Religion and Philosophy from the University of Sussex, U.K. (2008), and an MA (Honours) in Writing from the University of Western Sydney, Australia (2000). She obtained her Postgraduate Diploma in Teaching Higher Education at NIE/NTU, Singapore (2001).

Currently an Assistant Professor at the National Institute of Education, Singapore, Susie has taught at universities and art colleges in Australia, Singapore and the United Kingdom.