

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Singapore Art Museum's annual family-friendly exhibition returns with
*Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time***

Featuring interactive artworks by artists from around the world, exploring the concept of time



SINGAPORE, 3 MAY 2018 – The eighth edition of Singapore Art Museum's annual family-friendly contemporary art exhibition returns with ***Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time***. Held from **6 May to 26 August 2018** at **SAM at 8Q**, the exhibition explores the tales and theories that shape our memories and futures, and examines the concept of time through immersive and interactive artworks by 10 artists and art collectives from around the world.

Artists whose works feature in the exhibition are: Ronald Apriyan (Indonesia), Maarten Baas (the Netherlands), Mayuko Kanazawa (Japan), Lee Mei Ling (Singapore/Taiwan), Lee Xin Li (Singapore), Stéphane Masson (France), Matthew Sia (Singapore), Boedi Widjaja (Indonesia/ Singapore), and art collectives Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey (Australia), and The GedAze Project (The Philippines).

Visitors can look forward to site-specific installations and specially commissioned artworks that come alive through audience interaction, such as Madeleine Flynn and Tim Humphrey's interactive megaphone installation, Matthew Sia's immersive *Cosmic Grass* and Mayuko Kanazawa's *Utsuroi Iroha*.

Delving deeper into the concepts explored in the exhibition, there are artist-led tours, poetry reading sessions, various art workshops for children, and daily screenings of award-winning animations and short films at the museum's cinema, each exploring the concept of time.

The Artworks

The 2018 edition of *Imaginarium* features the works of 4 Singaporean and Singapore-based artists:

- Illustrator **Lee Xin Li's** *In Our Time* is an immersive installation that combines memories and dreams from his childhood with references to Singapore's changing landscape over time.
- **Cosmic Grass**, by artist and designer **Matthew Sia**, is a grassy plain of motion-activated fibre optic lights. The lights respond to human movement, where a small action can light up the entire field – a breathtaking visual metaphor of our relationship with nature.
- Inspired by connect-the-dots books from the artist's childhood, **Lee Mei Ling's** *Connect-the-Dots* charts the ageing of three characters through a series of charcoal portraits, reflecting how every choice and life event leaves a mark in our lives. The artist will complete one of the canvases on-site in May, which visitors are invited to watch.
- Singapore-based Indonesian artist **Boedi Widjaja's** *Round and round and back home again* explores earlier and newer animation devices, inviting visitors to be transported back to the past or be propelled into the future by peering into peepholes and activating mutoscopes (early motion picture devices).

The artworks presented at *Imaginarium* examine various concepts related to time – from the passage of time as observed in our personal lives to the changing of seasons:

- Indonesian artist **Ronald Apriyan's** *The Song of Life* consist of three murals in the museum's stairwell which were inspired by childhood songs sung in Indonesia. The artist considers these songs to be timeless, as they communicate parents' hopes and prayers to their children in a time of relentless change.
- Filipino artist duo **The GedAze Project's** *Passage*, filled with crochet hangings and childhood toys, evokes a metaphorical reflection of our journey through time – where we are often in search of our place in the universe throughout our lives.
- Audiences become part of the artwork in Japanese artist **Mayuko Kanazawa's** *Utsuroi Iroha*, which comprise animated paintings that represent the four seasons. Highlighting how the Japanese culture is influenced by changes in the seasons, visitors may make flowers bloom in Spring, morph into an animal in Summer, play with forest animals in Autumn, and become a snowman in Winter.

Other *Imaginarium* artwork highlights by international artists include:

- **Sweepers' clock** by renowned German artist **Maarten Baas** is a 12-hour-long recorded durational performance. What appears to be a large analog clock (telling the exact time of the day over the course of the exhibition) is revealed, upon closer look, to be two handymen sweeping trash for 12 hours, indicating time as they go by creating and erasing sections of

the clock, minute by minute. This artwork is part of the artist's *Real Time* series, which has garnered him worldwide acclaim.

- **the megaphone project** by leading experimental artists from Australia, **Madeleine Flynn** and **Tim Humphrey**, comprise 14 red megaphones of different shapes and sizes scattered outside the SAM buildings. The instruments manipulate visitors' voices such that they are mysteriously and ambiguously returned, resulting in a sonic performance that is co-created by the community of passers-by.
- A monument of captured moments, **Momentarium** by French artist **Stéphane Masson** features a wall of 280 glass jars, each containing projected snippets of people moving, dancing and smiling. The artwork invites audiences to ponder if our recorded memories and moments are timeless or fleeting, even as they become a part of the artwork through live-feed cameras.

"*Imaginarium* is an annual exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum that allows the young and young-at-heart to explore big ideas and concepts through contemporary art. This year's edition, titled *Into the Space of Time*, invites visitors to reflect on our eternal fascination with time, and celebrates how something so universal can simultaneously, be so personal. Through the presented artworks and accompanying programmes, we hope that our visitors will experience contemporary art's powerful potential to inspire and engage." says Ms. Tan Shir Ee, Head of Programmes, Singapore Art Museum.

Public and Educational Programmes

A series of *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time* programmes will take place throughout the four-month-long exhibition period, where visitors of all ages can further engage with the ideas and concepts explored in the exhibition. These include a special preview tour led by *Imaginarium* artists, toddler art workshops, tours and workshops specifically tailored for school children, as well as daily screenings of award-winning short films inspired by the concept of time, dreams and imagination about the world.

Before they journey through the exhibition, young time travellers are encouraged to equip themselves with a special 'Traveller's Kit', which includes an activity booklet that introduces ideas and concepts within the exhibition in fun and engaging ways, colour pencils and a 'I Am a Time Traveller' badge.

Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time is on view from 6 May to 26 August 2018 at SAM at 8Q. Find out more about the exhibition and its programmes online at www.singaporeartmuseum.sg. For high-resolution images, please download them at www.bit.ly/imaginariumSG. Image use guidelines apply.

#imaginariumSG

www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum

www.instagram.com/singaporeartmuseum

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum (SAM) 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 building along Bras Basah Road is currently closed in preparation for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at SAM at 8Q and partner venues such as the National Museum of Singapore.

In 2011, SAM was the venue organiser of the Singapore Biennale, becoming the main organiser for the 2013 and 2016 editions. 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

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Annex A

Exhibition Synopsis – *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*



EXHIBITION VENUE: SAM at 8Q, 8 Queen Street, Singapore 188535

EXHIBITION DATES: 6 May – 26 August 2018

OPENING HOURS: 10am to 7pm (Saturdays to Thursdays), 10am to 9pm (Fridays)

ADMISSION CHARGES:

| | |
|---|--|
| Standard* | |
| Adults | \$6 |
| Students & senior citizens (with valid ID) | \$3 |
| Children under six | Free |
| Groups of 20 or more | 20% off standard adult admission charges |
| Singaporeans and permanent residents | Free |

* Free admission to SAM every Friday from 6.00 pm to 9.00 pm and on Open House days

Singapore Art Museum invites all dauntless time travellers to *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*, the eighth edition of the museum's annual family-friendly exhibition.

Mysterious yet imbued in every living being, time has fascinated humankind for ages. From charting the movements of planets to cataloguing our days, new tools of measure are constantly being created to frame or direct our lives. Join us as we discover what the fourth dimension means to different people and cultures. Explores the myths and theories that shape our memories and futures, and ponder relationships between time and space.

Through immersive and interactive artworks by artists from the region and around the world, the 2018 edition of *Imaginarium* invites you to engage your senses and expand your horizons in this journey through time.

#imaginariumSG | www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

Annex B

Public and Educational Programmes – *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*



A series of *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time* programmes will take place throughout the exhibition period, where visitors of all ages can further engage with the ideas and concepts explored in the exhibition. These include artist preview tours, poetry reading sessions, screenings of award-winning films, toddler art workshops and tours and workshops specifically tailored for school children. More programmes and information may be found at www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/programmes

IMAGINARIUM OPEN HOUSE OPEN HOUSE ACTIVITIES

***Imaginarium* Opening Activities**

Children's Craft Fair

Date: Sunday, 6 May

Time: 3pm–5pm

Venue: Workshop Space 1 & 2, SAM at 8Q

Teen Open Mic

Date: Sunday, 6 May

Time: 3.15pm–4pm

Venue: Moving Image Gallery, SAM at 8Q

Join us at the opening of *Imaginarium* for an exciting afternoon filled with family-friendly activities and fun. Happening between 3pm to 5pm, swing by the *Children's Craft Fair* where children call the shots in making, buying and selling; and *Teen Open Mic*, where teens from Homeschool Singapore will showcase and perform original songs.

Free admission.

***Imaginarium* Open House (Hari Raya Aidilfitri)**

Date: Friday, 15 June

Time: 10am – 7pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Bring the whole family to SAM this Hari Raya Aidilfitri Open House for fun workshops and hands-on activities around the museum. Free entry for all to *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time* at SAM at 8Q from 10am to 7pm.

Free entry for all (U.P. \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and senior citizens, free for Singaporeans, PRs and children under 6).

PERFORMANCES

***Imaginarium* Poetry Readings**

Date: Friday, 8 June

Time: 7pm – 8pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Lobby

Free.

Listen to poetry readings inspired by the artworks in *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*, and you might get caught in a time warp. Poetry readings by Singaporean poets Crispin Rodrigues, Iain Lim, Marylyn Tan, Patricia Karunungan and Samuel Caleb Wee.

WORKSHOPS

Toddler Art Workshop

Dates: Tuesdays, 5, 12, 19, 26 June

Saturdays, 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 June

Time: 10.30 am – 11.30am

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Workshop space, Level 2

Expand your child's creativity and imagination through sensory craft and play! Explore works of contemporary art at *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time* and participate in a parent-and-child art-making session, specially tailored for children from ages 18 months to 3 years old.

\$35 for each toddler accompanied by an adult. Pre-register at www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

TOURS

Preview Tour with Artists & Director

Date: Saturday, 5 May

Time: 3pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Lobby

Meet the *Imaginarium* artists and our Director of Curatorial, Programmes and Publications, as they share more about the artworks and provide deeper insights on the themes explored, in this exclusive preview tour of *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*.

\$25[^] for adults. \$20 concession for students, docents, seniors, NSF, children. Recommended for ages 7 and above. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at SAM and AACTix.

Tour for Educators

Date: Friday, 25 May

Time: 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Workshop Space 2

Free. For educators only.

Join our Education Manager as she explains key concepts, highlights education aspects of *Imaginarium* artworks, and introduces educational resources for the exhibition.

Note: Tour will not proceed if total sign-up is below minimum number of participants. This event is exclusive to teachers only. Registration opens till one day before the event.

Registration required via education@singaporeartmuseum.sg

Start Small Dream Big at SAM: A Tour and Briefing for Preschool Educators

Date: Thursday, 24 May

Time: 2pm – 3.30pm & 4pm – 5.30pm

Venue: SAM Glass Hall

Free. For educators only.

Join this consultative session and tour, and be equipped with tips as you embark on the *Start Small Dream Big* programme.

Tour will not proceed if total sign-up is below minimum number of participants. This event is exclusive to educators only. Registration opens till one day before the event.

Registration required via education@singaporeartmuseum.sg

SCHOOL TOURS AND WORKSHOPS

Guided Tours for Schools

Date: Weekdays, 7 May – 24 August

Time: 10am, 12pm, 2.30pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q

School Self-directed Tours

Date: Weekdays, 7 May – 24 August

Time: 10am – 7pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Offer your students a multidisciplinary and holistic contemporary art experience at *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time* with these guided tours and workshops. For more information on guided tours, self-directed visits and school workshops, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/education.

School Workshops

Date: Weekdays, 7 May – 24 August

Time: 10.30am, 2.30pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Workshop Spaces

Register for these educational workshops inspired by the artworks at *Imaginarium*, that are specially developed to offer students a multidisciplinary and holistic contemporary art experience. These workshops range from learning specific art techniques, to craft-making that encourages originality and teamwork. Each workshop includes a guided tour of the exhibition, followed by a hands-on activity component.

Each workshop accommodates a minimum of 20 participants, and a maximum of 40 participants for pre-schoolers, primary, secondary and tertiary level students. The minimum number of participants for each workshop for special needs schools is 10, and a maximum of 40 participants.

This programme is eligible for the Tote Board Arts Grant Subsidy and is endorsed under the NAC-AEP for pre-schools.

The educational workshops are for school bookings only. To book, download and complete the Educational Workshop Booking Form and send it to education@singaporeartmuseum.sg

\$15 (preschools/ 4 - 6 years old); \$20 (primary schools/ 7 - 12 years old); \$30 (secondary schools/ tertiary institutions / 13 - 18 years old)

IMAGINARIUM SHORT FILMS SCREENING

Date: Sunday, 6 May – Sunday, 26 August 2018

Time: Mondays – Sundays | 10am–7pm

Fridays | 10am–9pm

Venue: Moving Image Gallery, SAM at 8Q

Total run-time: 42 minutes on loop. Parental guidance is advised.

Catch a special selection of short films revolving around the concept of time at the Moving Image Gallery. From stories about dreams to experiencing magical moments in life, these films reveal humankind's fascination with time and encourages our imagination about the world. Sink into the doob Bean bags and enjoy!

Free with museum admission.

IMAGINARIUM MERCHANDISE

Imaginarium Traveller's Kit

Grab an *Imaginarium Traveller's Kit* before you begin travelling through time! Items include 'A *Traveller's Guide Through Time*' – a handy booklet that guides you through the exhibition and artworks. Each kit comes with a set of 4-colour pencils and a *I Am a Time Traveller* badge. Seize the moment and purchase this *Traveller's Kit* before you embark on your travels!

\$5. Items sold separately at \$2 each. Available for sale via the vending machine near SAM Curve and at the Front Desk at SAM at 8Q Lobby.

Activity Guide: A Traveller's Guide Through Time

Zip through the space of time with this *Traveller's Guide* and discover what time means to different people and cultures. Use the guiding questions in the *Traveller's Guide* to explore the worlds that present themselves this *Imaginarium*!

\$2. Available for sale via the vending machine near SAM Curve and at the Front Desk at SAM at 8Q Lobby.

Time Machine Photobooth

\$2

Beat the clock and freeze time with your fellow time travellers in this Time Machine! \$2 for two photobooth prints.

FOOD

Standing Sushi Bar: *Imaginarium*-themed Set Meals

Date: 6 May – 26 August 2018

Open Daily

Time: Lunch: 12pm – 2:30pm, last order 2pm

Dinner: 6pm – 10.30pm, last order 9:45pm

Weekends (all day): 12pm – 10.30pm, last order 10pm

Price: Imaginarium Sushi Set, \$20 - 22

Imaginarium Kids Bento, \$10-12

Venue: Standing Sushi Bar, 8 Queen Street #01-03, Singapore Art Museum

Inspired by the theme from *Imaginarium: Into the Space* of Time – the casual sushi spot will be serving delicious sushi sets based on time periods such as the 'Original', 'Traditional' and 'Modern' sushi. Come savour the specially created sushi set meals before or after your visit to the *Imaginarium*.

Imaginarium Sushi Set:

Each set consists of: Slightly raw Tuna Marinated with Soya Sauce (traditional Nigiri sushi), Salmon Belly, Swordfish aburi with miso and cod roe (modern Nigiri), Salmon Aburi with Teriyaki sauce and Japanese Leek slices (modern Nigiri), Box-pressed Unagi (original style sushi), Box-pressed Prawn (original style sushi), Rice paper roll with tuna, swordfish, salmon and avocado (modern sushi roll).

Imaginarium Kids Bento:

Each bento set consists of comfort favorites such as hot dogs along with one of the most popular Japanese delights, mentaiko salmon on sushi rice. On the sides are sliced veggies, potato salad, watermelon, and yakult.

[^] *BYOF: Bring Your Own Family / Friends. Enjoy 20% off minimum purchase of two standard tickets when you bring your family and friends along.*

Annex C

Artists and Artworks – *Imaginarium: Into the Space of Time*

Maarten Baas (the Netherlands)



Sweepers' clock 2009

Single-channel video

Video duration: 720 min

Collection of the Artist

What appears at first glance to be a large flat projection of an analogue clock, is in fact a recorded performance featuring two handymen sweeping trash for 12 hours, indicating the time as they go. Creating and erasing sections of the clock, minute by minute, they cleverly combine the analogue and digital worlds marking of time with in a durational performance.

Sweepers' clock is part of Maarten Baas' '*Real Time*' series of four 12-hour films, in which people's actions, rather than the mechanics of traditional clocks, present the passage of time as a highly physical, even labour-intensive, process. The artist combines theatre, art, film and design in a variety of surprising but highly-recognisable formats.

'*Real Time*' was launched in April 2009 and has since then, has expanded from films and standing clocks, to an iPhone app and special commissions.

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Maarten Baas (b. 1978) is considered one of the most influential designer artists of the early 21st century. His work straddles boundaries between art and design. Known for his rebellious, intellectual, theatrical and artistic style, he incorporates conceptual art, craftsmanship, installation, public space and performance in his oeuvre. Maarten's most renowned works *Smoke*, *Clay* and *Real Time* garnered him worldwide acclaim. In 2016, Maarten won the ArtPrize for *Sweepers' clock*. He lives and works in the Netherlands.

Image courtesy of the Artist

Madeleine Flynn & Tim Humphrey (Australia)



the megaphone project 2007-2018

Site-specific installation with sound, steel, wood and electronics, interactive and pre-recorded sounds

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artists

Singapore Art Museum commission

the megaphone project is an interactive installation that encourages discovery and participation in a game of sound and physical play. Fourteen striking red megaphones of various shapes and sizes recreate the miracle of wireless tin can telephones. The joyful manipulations of voices from the local community are naturally reinforced through simple acoustics, with varying time delays, allowing voices to mysteriously and ambiguously return. The audience creates a lively environment of play and enjoyment that is all their own invention.

From time to time, the sounds from the megaphones combine to form a chorus that blends its voices and effects into a cohesive sonic whole. The art, and the performance, is thus co-created by the passers-by. The artists' aesthetic is shaped by ideas of a democratic and decentralised mode of cultural production, one that invites audience members who encounter the work to express themselves in gesture and voice.

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Madeleine Flynn (b. 1965, Australia) and **Tim Humphrey** (b. 1957, Australia) are leading experimental Australian artists who create unexpected situations for listening. In 2017, they were awarded the prestigious Australia Council Award for Emerging and Experimental Artforms. Presented and commissioned internationally, their long-term collaborative practice is driven by a questioning about listening in human culture, and seeks to evolve and engage with new processes and audiences, through public and participative interventions. Their practice intertwines local, national and international relationships.

Image courtesy of the Artists

Lee Xin Li (Singapore)



In Our Time 2018

Site-specific installation

Vinyl print, fabric, bean bags (in collaboration with doob Bean Bags)

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

The artist's participation is supported by DP Architects

This intricate and vivid illustration of Singapore's landscape is peppered with references to pop culture and childhood memories recalled by the artist, but which are also familiar to many who grew up in or have lived on this island. It brings both children and adults together beyond the boundaries of time into a collective space where memories can be shared, and people can be seen as they imagine themselves to be.

Watching his niece and nephew role-play with their toys, the artist recalls the innocence and dreams of his childhood where for both the artist and his sister, any place could be their playground. Even as childhood has since given way to the responsibilities of adulthood, he finds himself drawn back to these memories. Visitors are invited to share personal stories in the drawing room, and in contributing to the artwork, mark their own place in this maze of collective memories and shared heritage.

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Lee Xin Li (b. 1988, Singapore) is a Singaporean illustrator working at DP Architects. The architecture graduate from the National University of Singapore sees illustration as a medium to explore the urban and cultural heritage of Singapore. It is also Xin Li's way of documenting and connecting with a home that is rapidly changing. The illustrator is fascinated with the rich textures he finds in landscapes in Singapore and beyond. He uses illustration to juxtapose layers of culture, history, architecture and nature with personal references to pop culture or childhood.

Image courtesy of the Artist

Ronald Apriyan (Indonesia)



Song of Life 2018

Series of 3 acrylic paintings on wall and video

371.5 x 458.4 cm

Video duration: 7:51 min

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

A set of three murals based on childhood songs from artist Ronald Apriyan's early years span the staircase landings in SAM at 8Q. These nursery rhymes recall for him beautiful memories, memories that he hopes his children will also have through passing these songs on. Ronald views such timeless songs as a means of transmission of hopes and prayers from parents to their children, especially in a time of change. The songs address different stages of a child's development, with these stages reflected chronologically in the paintings from the first landing to the third.

Collectively, the vibrant murals celebrate the joy of childhood innocence – a time of spontaneous curiosity and imagination. Even as the adorable surreal characters are created to appeal to children, it is also imagined that the rich detail and imagery may reawaken a sense of wonder in adults. A video of the artist and the songs that inspired the murals is available at the staircase landing on the fourth floor.

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Ronald Apriyan (b.1979, Indonesia) is a painter who works and lives in Yogyakarta. He believes children retain the quality of an innocence that adults have lost. Often referencing memories and dreams in his work, he aims to create a bridge to one's childhood through sentiments conveyed in the a candy pastel palette of his work. Reminiscent of children's drawings in their playfulness and humour, his works hark back to an ideal idyllic childlike state of being in a world of change of being in a world of imagination and possibilities. His paintings express a common desire to relive childhood and to not grow old.

Image courtesy of the Artist

Boedi Widjaja (Singapore)



Round and round and back home again 2018

Installation with 14 mutoscopes, 3 LED displays and TV monitors

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

In a room referencing designed to reference the chamber of a camera obscura, visitors are invited to peer through peepholes, turn hand-cranked mutoscopes and activate motorised mutoscopes in order to be transported back to the past or be propelled into the future.

Considering time is as a space for memory and illusion, and the artist he has created an immersive installation that explores the development and mechanics of earlier and shuttling visitors through time, via the exploration of old and newer animation devices. Due to the split second retention of images in perception, animation devices can create meaningful movement by employing rapid change and visual memory. Building upon a shared visual memory of time-travel films and space exploration documentation of space exploration in this work, both time and space (travel) are traversed in mere seconds.

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Boedi Widjaja (b. 1975, Indonesia) lives and works in Singapore. Trained as an architect, he spent his young adulthood in graphic design, and turned to art in his thirties. His works often connect diverse conceptual references through his own lived experience of migration, culture and aesthetics; and investigate concerns regarding diaspora, hybridity, travel and isolation. The artistic outcomes are conceptually-charged, and span mediums from drawings to installations, sound and live art. He has shown in numerous exhibitions internationally, such as *MAP1: Waterways* (2017), at the 57th Venice Biennale Diaspora Pavilion and in the Barbican (2017).

Image courtesy of the Artist

Stéphane Masson (France)



Momentarium 2018

Site-specific installation, projection with sound
Wood, glass jars
Dimensions variable
Collection of the Artist
Singapore Art Museum commission

With the prevalence of social and mass media, would we consider our recorded memories and moments to be timeless or ephemeral? In *Momentarium*, Stéphane Masson asks if time can truly be captured and preserved by the use of technology. This installation was created over the course of several months in an open call that saw public volunteers recorded as they smiled, laughed, grimaced, gesticulated and danced before our cameras. These briefly filmed sequences are projected onto 280 glass jars that are stacked across a wall, a monument of captured moments.

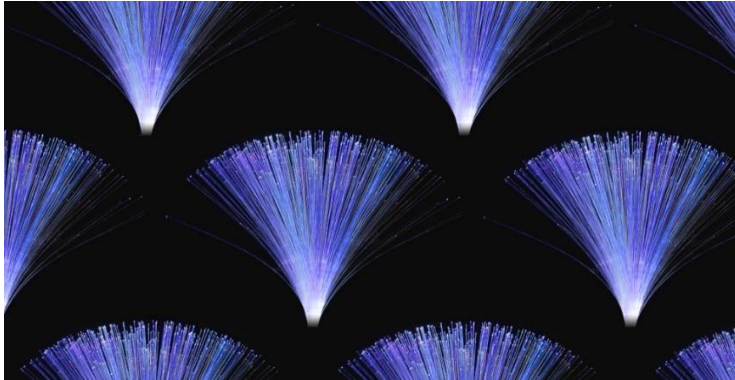
Locked in space but not frozen, the images appear simultaneously transient and immortalised. In observing the scale of the installation, one might say that it reflects a pervasive human desire to capture, store and share memories and occurrences even as we question how such images can be distinguished when viewed en masse. Providing an opportunity for viewers to contribute to this wall of moments, two cameras are positioned on each side of the jars to capture a fleeting moment of visitors to the artwork, via a live feed.

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Stéphane Masson (b. 1972, France) is a self-taught artist who initially worked as a master light technician in theatres. He started to explore the medium of videos as artwork in 2004. This videographer appropriates mundane objects with the help of the moving picture. Answering an urge to inject a bit of craziness and magic in the everyday, he transforms our environment through unexpected encounters. He participated as the designer in the artwork *Le Vaisseau* (using holographic solutions) which won the first prize for Heritage & Innovation for an Immersive Device in 2016.

Image courtesy of the Artist

Matthew Sia (Singapore)



Cosmic Grass 2018

Installation with optic fibers, board, LED lights and sound

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

Soundscape developed by Samuel Caleb Wee

As Earth's climate warms at an unprecedented pace, scientists believe that such effects are influenced by humans and that the global scale of human activities have fundamentally changed the natural world. In this installation, artist Matthew Sia creates a breathtaking visual metaphor of our relationship with nature. Through technology, *Cosmic Grass* readily responds to human presence in the room.

Emulating a plain of grass, the artwork that comprises islands of fiber optic lights allows visitors to experience their impact on this environment and, by extension, the role they can play in determining our future. Like the proverbial ripple effect, here we see how even a small action can light up the entire field. The meditative soundscape of electronic synthesizer layers and ambient sounds from a rainforest invites further contemplation on the interconnectedness of life.

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Matthew Sia (b. 1987, Singapore) is an installation artist and interactive designer based in Singapore whose work combines conceptual themes with technological experimentation. He graduated from the London College of Communication with a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic and Media Design. His installation work has been showcased at the Maker Faire in London, as well as at various events in Singapore. He has been featured in publications such as Culture Push.

Image courtesy of the Artist

Mayuko Kanazawa (Japan)



***Utsuroi Iroha* 2014**

Interactive installation with painting and animation on canvas, Kinect, handy camera, iPhone, PCs, projectors and speakers

Artwork and sounds by Mayuko Kanazawa

Engineering by Ichi Kanaya, Masataka Imura, Shinji Tanaka and Yu Shimura

Dimensions variable

Collection of the Artist

This artwork is supported by Japan Foundation

Utsuroi Iroha invites the audience to become part of the artwork, while travelling through seasons and time. Movement and image-recognition sensors react to visitors with different surprising results – raise your hands to animate flowers in Spring, morph into a mythical creature in Summer, jump to play with forest animals in Autumn, and become a snowman in Winter!

Residents of tropical countries, such as Singapore, experience the passage of time quite differently from those who live in temperate regions. The artist uses the changing seasons to highlight how Japanese culture and emotions are strongly affected by changes in the seasons. The theme of the four seasons has deep roots in her culture and through this work, she hopes to share how Japanese people co-exist with nature and encourage visitors to consider how their actions can impact nature and the environment.

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Mayuko Kanazawa (b. 1981, Japan) started out as an illustrator of children books. She then extended certain characters from her illustrations into video installations. With the help of technology, she has since been creating immersive installations which allow visitors to interact with her work.

Image courtesy of the Artist

The GedAze Project (Philippines)



Passage 2018

Yarn, repurposed fabric, found, personal and fabricated objects
Dimensions variable
Collection of the Artists
Singapore Art Museum commission

In this immersive installation, the viewer assumes the role of an astronaut, embarking on an exploration of space and memories. Donning a crochet helmet, the viewer encounters comets and curious forms that conceal familiar objects, such as toys that evoke the familiarity of early childhood.

This journey through the universe is presented as a metaphorical reflection of our voyage through time, where we “shoot for the moon” but through twists and turns in life, find ourselves landing amongst the stars and comets. Regardless of our place within the constellation, the artists’ work encourages us to persevere, and to celebrate and learn from both triumphs and failures. From this galactic perspective, everyone has a special place in this universal passage of time.

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The GedAze Project is a duo comprising Manila-based crochet, textile and performance artist **Aze** (b. 1977, Philippines), and New York-based mixed-media artist **Ged** (b.1962, Philippines). While both artists use textiles as their medium, their collaborative projects evolve organically from their differences and similarities. Their works explore the relation between their interests, experiences and the self on an emotional and intellectual level.

Image courtesy of the Artists

Lee Mei Ling (Singapore/Taiwan)



Connect-the-Dots 2018

Pencil, ballpoint pen, marker, acrylic and charcoal drawing on canvas

200 x 200 cm

Video projection with sound

Collection of the Artist

Singapore Art Museum commission

Recalling the connect-the-dots books of her childhood, the artist meticulously charts the progress of life via three characters in a process of 'aging' portraits. Like a blank canvas, life begins with many possibilities. But as its 'dots' are joined with time and each passing stage, its image or outcome becomes clearer.

Every choice, be it a rebellious act or the pursuit of things material and immaterial, leaves their mark in our lives. Even the lines on our faces reveal the acquisition of wisdom gained through experience, time and grace. The artist often uses her personal experiences to inform her work, and the theme of life's unpredictability and transience often recurs in her oeuvre.

The artist will complete one of the canvases on site in May and visitors are welcome to watch the work-in-progress.

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Lee Mei Ling (b. 1966, Singapore) graduated with First Class Honours in Fine Arts from the University of Michigan; with a major in Fibre Art and a minor in painting and ceramics. Due to her diverse training, she has demonstrated immense versatility in the use of materials and in technical expressions. She frequently employs techniques of the textile traditions in experimenting with new materials. Mei Ling's works are widely collected and commissioned, and she has participated in both solo and group shows in Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Taiwan and the United States.

Image courtesy of the Artist