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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**DBS Bank donates SGD25 million to National Gallery Singapore**

*DBS Singapore Gallery to be a platform to showcase the development of Singapore art*

**Singapore, 2 April 2014** – The National Gallery Singapore and DBS Bank jointly announced today that DBS will be donating SGD25 million to the National Gallery Singapore. The donation will be used to support the gallery’s efforts to tell the Singapore story through visual arts.

For the first time in Singapore, the DBS Singapore Gallery will have on permanent display, seminal works from the nation’s art history, celebrating the achievements of Singaporean artists. Featuring key artworks from the National Collection<sup>1</sup>, the DBS Singapore Gallery aims to provide a deep and comprehensive overview of Singapore art from the 19th century to present day. It will be a critical component of Singapore art education endeavours and an important platform for studying and presenting the cultural and aesthetic identity of Singapore.

The narrative of the DBS Singapore Gallery chronicles how Singapore art has developed in tandem with Singapore’s rise from colony to nation and demonstrates how Singapore art is a product of cross-cultural influences, as evidenced by Singapore’s multi-cultural make-up. It will also highlight how Singapore art is related to the wider international art discourse, reflecting Singapore’s global connectivity. Artworks will be complemented by archival materials through which important art and historical developments are highlighted.

Mr Sim S Lim, Managing Director and Singapore Country Head of DBS Bank, said, “Given our roots as the former Development Bank of Singapore, DBS has played a pivotal role in Singapore’s growth. Today, we are privileged to be a part of the transformation of two distinguished buildings, emblems of Singapore’s heritage, into a new Singapore landmark. As a founding partner of the National Gallery Singapore, we hope that our support of the Singapore Gallery will help to forge a stronger sense of national pride and cement DBS’ position as a leading bank in this region.”

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<sup>1</sup> The National Collection refers to the nation’s collection of artworks and artefacts under the care and custody of the National Heritage Board for use in the national museums.

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman of the National Gallery Singapore said, "DBS' significant contribution will be applied towards supporting the Gallery's research, presentation and conservation of artworks from our National Collection. It will also be used for community outreach and education programming. We are deeply grateful to DBS for their generous gift which will enable visitors from Singapore and all over the world to enjoy Singapore art."

Last year, DBS also donated 26 artworks by Singapore's leading artists to the Gallery. These comprised works of various media by notable artists such as Cheong Soo Pieng, Chen Chong Swee, Anthony Poon, Tan Swie Hian, Ong Kim Seng, and Thomas Yeo. The pieces were specially selected from the bank's corporate art collection, which was started in 1968 when the bank was founded. DBS has played a key role in shaping and financing the development of Singapore since its establishment and similarly, its art collection reflects the bank's strong Asian heritage, and traces the changing Singapore artistic landscape and evolving art scene. Members of the public can view a selection of these donated artworks at the DBS Singapore Gallery, in special exhibitions as well as the Gallery's educational outreach programmes.

The DBS Singapore Gallery is located at the second level of the National Gallery's City Hall wing and occupies a total floor area of 1,740 square metres. Admission to the DBS Singapore Gallery is free for all Singaporeans and PRs.

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### **About National Gallery Singapore**

National Gallery Singapore is a new visual arts institution which will contribute towards positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for visual arts. It manages a large public collection of visual arts from Southeast Asia and Singapore from the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day. The Gallery focuses on displaying, promoting and researching these artworks, relating them to the wider Asian and international contexts, and hosting international art exhibitions.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the City Hall and adjacent former Supreme Court building - two important heritage buildings symbolic of Singapore's nationhood - will be transformed into this exciting new visual arts venue. Opening in 2015, the Gallery will be a leading civic and cultural destination established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world. Information on the National Gallery is available at [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg).

### **About DBS**

#### ***DBS - Living, Breathing Asia***

DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia, with over 250 branches across 17 markets. Headquartered and listed in Singapore, DBS has a growing presence in the three key Asian axes of growth: Greater China, Southeast Asia and South Asia. The bank's capital position, as well as "AA-" and "Aa1" credit ratings, is among the highest in Asia-Pacific. DBS has been recognised for its leadership in the region, having been named "Asia's Best Bank" by The Banker, a member of the Financial Times group, and "Best Bank in Asia-Pacific" by

Global Finance. The bank has also been named “Safest Bank in Asia” by Global Finance for five consecutive years from 2009 to 2013.

DBS provides a full range of services in consumer, SME and corporate banking activities across Asia. As a bank born and bred in Asia, DBS understands the intricacies of doing business in the region’s most dynamic markets. These market insights and regional connectivity have helped to drive the bank’s growth as it sets out to be the Asian bank of choice. DBS is committed to building lasting relationships with customers, and positively impacting communities through supporting social enterprises, as it banks the Asian way. It has also established a SGD 50 million foundation to strengthen its corporate social responsibility efforts in Singapore and across Asia.

With its extensive network of operations in Asia and emphasis on engaging and empowering its staff, DBS presents exciting career opportunities. The bank acknowledges the passion, commitment and can-do spirit in all of our 19,000 staff, representing over 30 nationalities. For more information, please visit [www.dbs.com](http://www.dbs.com).

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