

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Discover worlds of wonder with art at Gallery Children's Biennale

- *The second edition of Gallery Children's Biennale will feature 11 interactive artworks set to the theme of 'Embracing Wonder'*
- *Winner of the Children in Museums Award 2018, the Keppel Centre for Art Education at National Gallery Singapore will welcome three reimagined spaces that encourage creativity, imagination and self-led exploration.*

Singapore, 30 April 2019 - Committed to inspire young, curious minds through art, National Gallery Singapore, presents the ***Gallery Children's Biennale 2019: Embracing Wonder*** from 25 May to 29 December 2019. Through 11 interactive and multi-dimensional artworks by 13 Singapore and Southeast Asian artists, this year's *Gallery Children's Biennale* aims to spark curiosity in our young visitors about the world around them, encourage openness to discover diversity, and imagine new possibilities.

Expanding on the theme of 'Embracing Wonder', this edition of *Gallery Children's Biennale* goes beyond imaginative play to unfold new layers of discovery through art that articulates the power of acceptance, belonging and openness. Inspired by a child's unfettered imagination and ability to embrace all things new, the works will activate their senses and reignite their sense of curiosity, excitement and wonder.

"The Gallery strongly believes that art plays a huge role in the development of our future generations. Art is a place for children to learn about themselves, trust their ideas, and explore what is possible, all of which are important in enabling children to become confident, independent thinkers. Hence, we are always looking at innovative ways to engage with young learners to nurture an early interest in art by showcasing how it can be fun, inspirational and educational. Through the Gallery Children's Biennale, we hope to create a platform where younger visitors together with their parents, can come together and be inspired by what art has to offer," said Ms Suenne Megan Tan, Director, Audience Development & Engagement, National Gallery Singapore.

Inspiring Curiosity About Our World



(L-R) *Stardust: Soaring Through the Sky's Embrace* by Mark Justiniani, *The Oort Cloud and the Blue Mountain* by Hazel Lim-Schlegel and Andreas Schlegel, *Every World* by Donna Ong

Several artworks anchor on exploring nature to encourage imaginative play. Visitors can embark on a wondrous journey into the unknown with ***Stardust: Soaring Through the Sky's Embrace***. As visitors cross the 16-metre bridge, they can peer down into what looks like an endless rock formation that glimmers and glows, as they encounter a galaxy of cosmic elements. This will be the third iteration of this bridge installation by Mark Justiniani since its launch in 2017 – and he has since been invited to participate in the Venice Biennale this year.

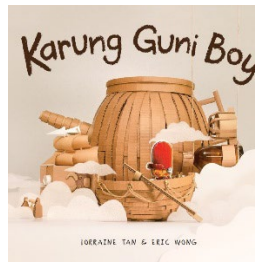
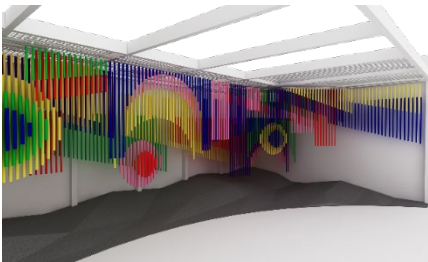
Singaporean artists, Hazel Lim-Schlegel and Andreas Schlegel continue the sensory adventure in ***The Oort Cloud and the Blue Mountain***, engaging visitors through a 3D motion-activated wall-relief artwork with LED lights, sounds, handmade objects and sensors that are inspired by landscapes and objects from the cosmos.

In ***Every World***, Donna Ong leads visitors to five magical landscapes – comprising English and Tropical gardens, as well as worlds of the cactus, mushroom, underwater, and the underground. Individually put together using hundreds of paper cut-outs in five frosted domes, visitors can enter each intricate world to experience the magic. The journey continues in ***BIG HUG*** by husband-wife duo, Milenko & Delia Prvački, where visitors are introduced to big ideas that connect us to a diverse world of everyday scenes. Through a combined use of painting and ceramics, children can learn about the concepts of family, friendship and teamwork. Children can also imagine themselves in different professions and take part in activities that inspire compassion and empathy.

Discovering Diversity Around Us

The *Gallery Children's Biennale* also introduces visitors to other cultures. Indonesian artist Eko Nugroho's ***Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies)*** will centre on six *Damar Kurung*, which are traditional paper lanterns that depict scenes from everyday Javanese life, to illustrate important values such as peace, love and care. In ***The Other Wall***, Burmese artists Nge Lay and Aung Ko provide a rare glimpse into a typical Burmese childhood. Young visitors are invited to enter two traditional Burmese homes plated entirely in gold, where they can be further introduced to a selection of the country's folktales presented as hand-carved woodcuts and narrated voiceovers (in English and Burmese).

Harnessing Imagination to Create Something New



(L-R) *Chance Operations* by Song-Ming Ang, *The Story of Karung Guni Boy* by Lorraine Tan and Eric Wong, *Dayung Sampan - be your own captain on deck* by Zainudin Samsuri

Finally, see art in a different light as some of them take on a new lease of life. A new work titled ***Chance Operations*** by Song-Ming Ang, who is Singapore's representative at the 2019 Venice Biennale, will inspire visitors to create unexpected sounds with a colourful formation of wind chimes and ping pong balls. Meanwhile, Singapore writer, Lorraine Tan and illustrator, Eric Wong, will bring their book, *Karung Guni Boy* to life with ***The Story of Karung Guni Boy***, where young visitors put on their 'tinkering caps' to create new inventions out of recycled materials.

Staying true to its mantra of '*Children first, parents second!*', the Keppel Centre for Art Education will also see three reimagined spaces to introduce children to art at an early age and spark new ways of learning. One in particular is ***Dayung Sampan - be your own captain on deck*** by Singaporean sculptor, Zainudin Samsuri at the Project Gallery. Inspired by Malay proverbs, visitors can come on board and interact with sculptures such as large propellers, a giant foot

resembling a *sampan*, and a birdcage with a view of limitless imagination. This will be complemented by the revamped Children's Museum which hosts a Sculpture Studio and an interactive digital game where visitors can create and exhibit a 'virtual' sculpture.

In conjunction with the *Gallery Children's Biennale*, there will be a series of films presented in collaboration with Singapore International Children's Film Festival, alongside other exciting tours and artist-led workshops.

Held in alternate years to each other, the *Gallery Children's Biennale 2019: Embracing Wonder* complements the Children's Festival, which was first launched by National Gallery Singapore in 2018¹ and anchors on the life and works of a Singaporean artist in the National Collection.

Gallery Children's Biennale is proudly supported by Development Partner Tote Board, Major Sponsor Keppel Corporation and Supporters Deutsche Bank and Singapore Tourism Board.

Mr Fong Yong Kian, Chief Executive of Tote Board, shares, "Tote Board continues to support the *Gallery Children's Biennale* because we believe the arts is one of the best ways to develop creativity, innovation, confidence building and self-expression – attributes that our younger generations need to thrive in the new economy. We look forward to even more captivating programmes at the Gallery which will bring families together and engage in meaningful parent-child activities."

General admission applies for the *Gallery Children's Biennale*. For more details, visit www.childrensbiennale.com

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Annex A: Artworks of *Gallery Children's Biennale 2019: Embracing Wonder*

Annex B: Programme Highlights of *Gallery Children's Biennale 2019: Embracing Wonder*

¹ Children's Festival: Small Big Dreamers 2018 features the life and practice of Singaporean artist, Lee Wen.

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About National Gallery Singapore

National Gallery Singapore is a leading visual arts institution which oversees the world's largest public collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian modern art. Situated at the birthplace of modern Singapore, in the heart of the Civic District, the Gallery is housed in two national monuments - City Hall and former Supreme Court - that have been beautifully restored and transformed into this exciting 64,000 square metres venue. Reflecting Singapore's unique heritage and geographical location, the Gallery aims to be a progressive museum that creates dialogues between the art of Singapore, Southeast Asia and the world to foster and inspire a creative and inclusive society. This is reflected in our collaborative research, education, long-term and special exhibitions, and innovative programming. The Gallery also works with international museums such as Centre Pompidou, Musée d'Orsay, Tate Britain, National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo (MOMAT) and National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art, Korea (MMCA), to jointly present Southeast Asian art in the global context, positioning Singapore as a key node in the global visual arts scene.

In 2019, the Gallery was the only museum in Southeast Asia that received a ranking in *The Art Newspaper's* annual global survey of attendance at art museums, taking 32nd place. It was the first museum in Asia to receive the Children in Museums Award by the European Museum Academy and Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums in 2018. The Gallery also won the awards for "Best Theme Attraction" at TTG Travel Awards 2017, "Best Attraction

Experience”, “Breakthrough Contribution to Tourism” and “Best Customer Service (Attractions)” at the prestigious Singapore Tourism Awards in 2016 for its role in adding to the vibrancy of Singapore’s tourism landscape. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgallery.sg>.

About Tote Board

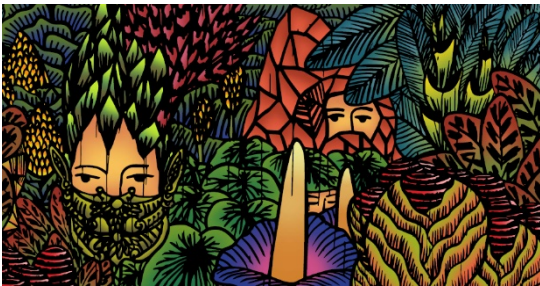
Established in 1988, Tote Board (Singapore Totalisator Board) is a statutory board of the Ministry of Finance. As a grantmaking organisation, Tote Board works closely with stakeholders and partners, to support broad and diverse worthy projects in the sectors of Arts, Community Development, Education, Health, Social Service and Sports. Through these projects, Tote Board helps to uplift the community by giving hope to vulnerable groups and improving the lives of all in Singapore.

Being a broad-based grantmaker, Tote Board strives to identify synergies and needs across multiple sectors, and tailor our funding efforts accordingly to create greater impact. The wide reach of Tote Board’s grants has enabled us to touch the lives of Singaporeans from all walks of life. We provide equitable opportunities for vulnerable groups, strengthen communities, and inject vibrancy and liveability in our community spaces through our grantmaking.

Tote Board’s grants are derived from surpluses from the gaming businesses Singapore Pools (Private) Limited (a subsidiary company of Tote Board) and Singapore Turf Club (a proprietary club of Tote Board), as well as the collection of casino entry levies. Tote Board also ensures that Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club conduct their businesses in a socially responsible manner, so as to provide a safe and trusted avenue for gaming and to counter illegal gambling.

Tote Board’s goal is to help build a flourishing society in Singapore. We want to inspire positive change and contribute towards building an inclusive, resilient and vibrant community, while fostering a caring and compassionate nation.

Milenko Prvački (b. 1951) is an established artist born in former Yugoslavia. He has many years of experience in the industry, teaching at LASALLE College of the Arts since 1994. He is now a senior fellow and coordinator of the Tropical Lab, at LASALLE. His works are about the communities he has lived amongst and are display in numerous private and public collections. In 2012, he was awarded Singapore's Cultural Medallion for Visual Arts.



**Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies)
by Eko Nugroho**

*Supreme Court Wing, Level B1, Koh Seow Chuan
Concourse Gallery*

Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies) comprises six life-sized, interactive lanterns that encourage individual and group play. These lanterns take reference from the *Damar Kurung*, a traditional paper lantern from Eastern Java in Indonesia, depicting scenes from everyday Javanese life. Using his own style of patterns, colours, and characters, Eko Nugroho imagines a world where everyone shows love and care to one another. Like fireflies in the nighttime forest, these luminescent lanterns are arranged in a labyrinth-like path, representing hope, guidance and creativity for children to explore and rediscover.

About the artist

Eko Nugroho (b. 1977) is an Indonesian artist who creates vibrant and playful artworks influenced by Javanese culture and everyday life. He often combines traditional crafts like batik and embroidery, with the vivid images and colours of contemporary street art.



Tightly Hugging Care, Love, Peace by Eko Nugroho
Padang Atrium Mural

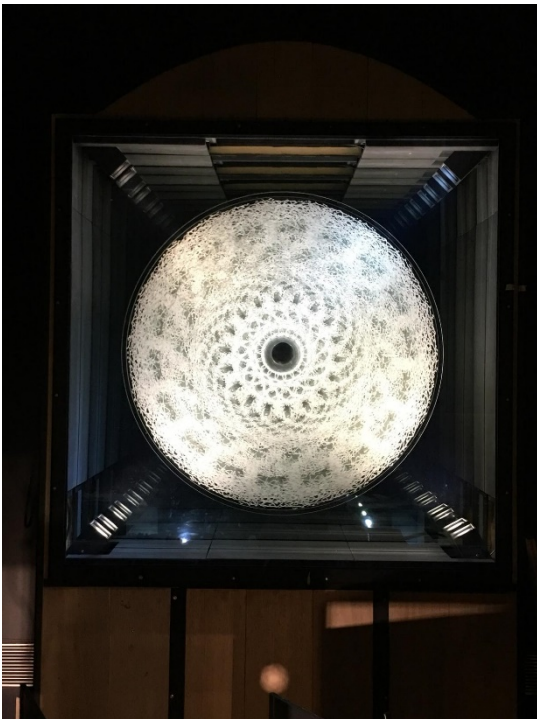
*“Love is never static, but spreads and reaches out,
growing and transforming...” – Eko Nugroho*

Observe this impressive wall mural featuring corals, leaves, and vines—does it appear to be living, breathing and growing? Artist Eko Nugroho believes that a world full of care, love and peace looks like a heartfelt embrace. Through this visual landscape filled with hopes

and wishes, he encourages us to live in harmony and be good to one another.

About the artist

Eko Nugroho (b. 1977) is an Indonesian artist who creates vibrant and playful artworks influenced by Javanese culture and everyday life. He often combines traditional crafts like batik and embroidery, with the vivid images and colours of contemporary street art.



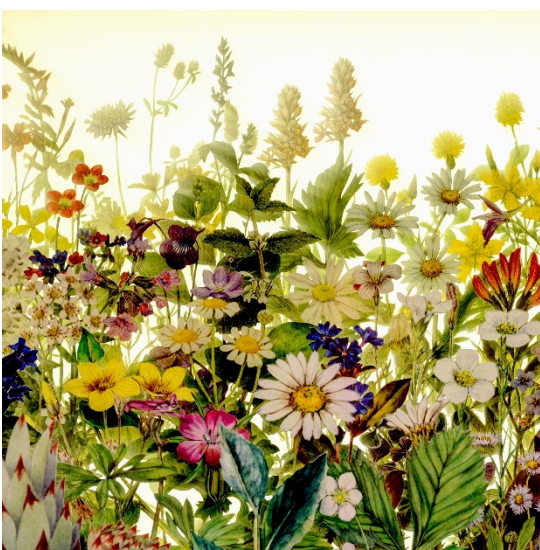
***Stardust: Soaring Through the Sky's Embrace* by Mark Justiniani**

Supreme Court Wing, Level B1, Outside Koh Seow Chuan Concourse Gallery

Stardust: Soaring Through the Sky's Embrace sees the third iteration and final year of the site-specific installation by Filipino artist, Mark Justiniani. Initially created to provide a semblance of the excavation site at the Former Supreme Court Basement and to present the cycle of a human being's life, Justiniani's magic realism takes audiences beyond one's immediate environment, and instead invites them to imagine the infinite world across the universe. While keeping to the same frame of the original work, this immersive work presents hand-drawn images, sculpted and kinetic objects that open a new way of looking at the dimensions of reality.

About the artist

Mark Justiniani (b. 1966) uses mirrors and other reflective objects to create artworks which are not as they appear to be. As a child, he encountered an artwork that both frightened and fascinated him. This harmony of two seemingly opposite reactions has been the pursuit of his recent works. He also likes magic realism, a type of art depicting real life that incorporates imaginary elements too. Mark is representing the Philippines in the 58th Venice Biennale.



Every World by Donna Ong
Former Supreme Court Foyer Level 1

Every World is about the dream of escaping to a different place – one which you feel should exist, even if it doesn't. With five frosted domes standing side by side, the audiences are teased to enter the different spaces to experience the fantastic, the magical and the imaginary. As one pops one's head into a hole, a lush and dreamy landscapes made with elaborate paper cut-outs are revealed. Within this space, one could wander and traverse through an English or Tropical garden, and worlds of the cactus, mushroom, underground and underwater.

About the artist

Donna Ong (b. 1978) creates installations which are large-scale constructions that contain different types of furniture, objects, and her own art pieces. Her installations are designed for specific spaces all around the world, and these new environments are full of wonder and delight. Donna has many artistic accomplishments and is also a recipient of the 2009 National Arts Council's Young Artist Award.



The Other Wall by Nge Lay & Aung Ko
Former Supreme Court Level 3

The Other Wall is the first collaborative project of Burmese couple, Nge Lay and Aung Ko. The couple, whose practice has been independent from one another for years, are bringing their separate walls together, casting them as one while inviting visitors to enter their golden installation.

This large-scale installation piques one's interest in the Burmese childhood and its cultural upbringing through storytelling, image creation and reproduction, a combined presentation of both Burmese and Roman alphabets, constructing messages and meanings, exploration of oral tradition, and play.

About the artist

Aung Ko (b. 1980) and Nge Lay (b. 1979) are a talented husband-wife duo from Myanmar. They love to tell stories about Burmese culture and societal issues. Their works have been exhibited in different parts of the world

and in turn bring greater awareness to what goes on in their country. Presently, they run a meaningful community project that enables Burmese children living in villages and rural areas to be exposed to art in their everyday lives.

Aung Ko (b. 1980) is a Burmese conceptual artist who loves to paint and perform. Conceptual artists believe that the idea behind the work is more important than the actual work itself, and Aung Ko's works respond to what is happening to the Burmese community. He strongly believes in passing down tradition and culture so that it is not lost in the future generations.

Nge Lay (b. 1979) is a multi-disciplinary artist from Myanmar who works on different art forms like performance, sculpture and photography. Her artworks reflect her thoughts and feelings on Burmese history and the issues in her culture. Through her art, Nge Lay seeks to educate and bring about greater awareness of what is going on in Myanmar to improve lives.



The Oort Cloud and the Blue Mountain by Hazel Lim-Schlegel & Andreas Schlegel
Former Supreme Court Passage Wall

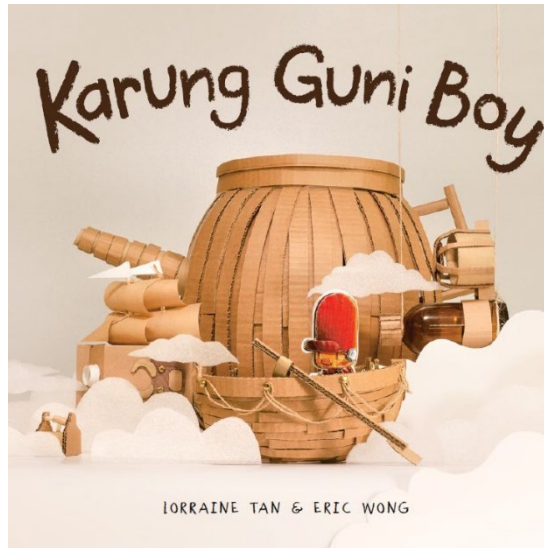
The title of the wall-relief art, *The Oort Cloud and the Blue Mountain*, is inspired by the seen and the unseen. The "Oort Cloud" is a thick layer of icy objects encircling our solar system, while the "Blue Mountain" refers to a painting by Wassily Kandinsky depicting various landscapes. A motion-activated installation with lights, sounds, objects and sensors, it invites the visitors to take time and understand the value of patience, gentleness and tactility through the engagement.

This is the first major collaborative work of Hazel and Andreas as artists. They also collaborated with their 7-year old daughter Hannah along with an engineer and designer in completing this work.

About the artist

Andreas Schlegel & Hazel Lim-Schlegel are a husband-wife duo who teach at LASALLE College of the Arts. From Germany, Andreas Schlegel (b. 1975) produces interactive artworks that are a combination of art and technology. He also researches on computing and

programming. Hazel Lim-Schlegel (b. 1975) works on mediums like paint and photography. Topics such as memory, history, and narratives interest her. In 2013, she was commissioned for the Singapore Biennale.



***The Story of Karung Guni Boy* by Lorraine Tan and Eric Wong**

City Hall L1 Padang Wing

Karung Guni Boy is a story about a boy, Ming, who collects old items and repurposes them. Using his imagination and creativity, he builds a machine that surprises and delights his neighbours. Ming's inventive spirit and love for experimenting is seen in the creative processes of many artists who find inspiration in everyday things.

About the artist

Lorraine Tan (b. 1979) is the author of *Karung Guni Boy*. She finds great joy working on creative projects and in inspiring others to write. Tan has also written and illustrated two other award-winning books, *Origami Girl* and *Pip's Garden*. She is currently a lecturer at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Eric Wong (b. 1974) started doodling from a very young age and developed great interest in drawing and painting ever since. His illustrations have appeared in magazines, advertisements, and even on mobile phone applications. He created the illustrations for *Karung Guni Boy* and strongly believes that recycling objects bring things to life.

The book *Karung Guni Boy* is published by Epigram Books in 2016 and shortlisted for Hedwig Anuar Children's Book Award 2018.



Dayung Sampan: be your own captain on deck by Zainudin Samsuri

L1 Keppel Centre for Art Education (KCAE), Project Gallery

How far and fast can a flock of propellers go? Inspired by Malay proverbs, Singapore sculpture Zainudin Samsuri beckons visitors on board the *Dayung Sampan*, a Malay phrase which translates into 'row your boat'. Discover a collection of giant objects that seem to resemble a foot or a cage, imagine, and follow your dreams!

About the artist

Zainudin Samsuri (b. 1974) is a sculptor who works primarily with wood and steel. His sculptures are a response to Malay proverbs and idioms, and often resemble body parts and structures. In public sites like schools and train stations around Singapore, Zainuddin's work can be found. He currently teaches at School of the Arts, Singapore.



Play by the River

City Hall L1 Foyer

This installation takes reference from Liu Kang's painting titled *Life by the River* (1975). *Play by the River* invites visitors to sit under colourful trees, play with a family of ducks and enjoy simple games like *five stones* and *capteh* by the river.

Annex B: Programme Highlights of Gallery Children's Biennale 2019: Embracing Wonder

All information accurate as of 29 April 2019

Opening Festivities

Sat–Sun 25–26 May, 1–2 Jun | 12–5pm | Various locations

Celebrate the opening of Gallery Children's Biennale 2019 with a host of activities happening across two weekends. Don't miss the myriad performances, workshops and artist talks.



Artist Chitter-Chatter

Sun 26 May, Sat 1 Jun, Sun 25 Aug | 3 - 4pm |
Supreme Court Wing, Level 4M, Glass Room

How do artists come up with ideas? What inspires them? Don't miss this chance to ask the artists featured in the Biennale anything!

26 May – Song-Ming Ang and Mark Justiniani
1 Jun – Delia and Milenko Prvački
25 Aug – Andreas Schlegel and Hazel Lim-Schlegel

Afternoon Croons by Jukeleles

Sat-Sun 1-2 Jun | 2pm, 3pm, 4pm | Padang Atrium

Stomp your feet and sing along to medleys created by ukuleles, trumpets, and other fun instruments!

Poetry Reading by Haig Girls' School

Sat 25 May | 2.30pm | Padang Atrium

Join these young poets from Haig Girls' School as they share their responses to the works in the Biennale.



Resonates With: EVOKX

Sat 25 May | 2pm, 3pm, 4pm | Padang Atrium

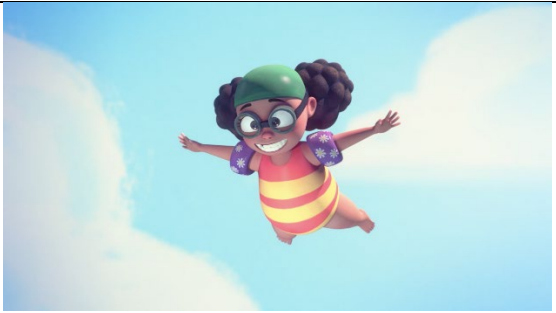
Be serenaded by a choral programme led by conductor Terrence Toh to celebrate the opening of Gallery Children's Biennale: Embracing Wonder.



Super Sonic Walk

Sat–Sun 25–26 May, 1-2 Jun | 1pm and 4pm | Meeting point at Coleman Street Information Counter | Registration required on our website

Learn more about Song-Ming Ang's *Chance Operations* and listen to sounds in a new way!



Singapore International Children's Film Festival – Big Eyes, Big Minds

Sat–Sun 1–2, 8–9, 15–16 Jun | 10am, 11.30am, 2.15pm, 3.30pm | City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium | \$12.90 per ticket | Ages 2–18

The 9th edition of this popular children's film festival features eight collections of imaginative short films from over 30 countries. Each unique collection is curated for a specific age-group, ranging from charming shorts for tots to edgy animation for teens. Highlights include 2019 Oscar-nominated films, *One Small Step* and *Late Afternoon*, as well as *Zog* from the Oscar-nominated producers of *The Gruffalo* and *Room on the Broom*.



Tickets are required for admission for ages 1 and up, available through www.bigeyesbigminds.com.

Children ages 12 and below must be accompanied by an adult.



Sound Makers by Little Creatures

Sun 11 Aug, Sat 9 Nov | Free

2–2.30pm | 3–6 years

3.30–4pm | 18 months–36 months

4.30–5pm | 0–18 months

Registration required on our website

Create rhythms and beats using everyday objects like pots and pans in this fun parent-child workshop.