

For immediate release

## Explore and discover new worlds at National Gallery

### Singapore's latest exhibits for the young

*Refreshed offerings at the Gallery's Keppel Centre for Art Education encourages children to let their imagination run wild as they build miniature cities, create characters for story-telling and experiment with shadows.*

**Singapore, 9 March 2018** – Journey through a world of shadow and light in imaginary cities or breathe new life into Singapore artist Liu Kang's iconic masterpiece at the Keppel Centre for Art Education at National Gallery Singapore. From 10 March 2018, it will introduce two new interactive exhibits – *Wandering in Black and White* at Art Playscape, and *Who's by the River* – after the successful runs of Sandra Lee's *The Enchanted Forest* at Art Playscape, and *Who's in the Woods*.



*Artist's impression of Wandering in Black and White by Singapore artist Tang Ling Nah*

A collaboration with Singapore artist Tang Ling Nah, the refreshed Art Playscape will encourage imaginative play with object, shadow and space. Known for her large-scale charcoal drawings depicting the Singapore cityscape, Tang has injected her artistic style to transform the space into an urban cityscape made up of familiar Singapore architecture and everyday sights such as HDB void decks, staircases and MRT transits and linkways.

As young visitors move around the cityscape, they will experience optical illusionary perspectives designed to challenge their sense of depth and space. They can play ‘hide and seek’ in mini-houses, ‘climb’ up and down staircases and discover hidden miniature cityscapes. To further encourage creativity in children, 3D printed charcoal blocks are also provided by the artist to encourage them to build their own imaginary cities. They can also go on a treasure hunt with pops of colours as clues around the space to locate hidden torches and coloured discs, and create dramatic silhouettes and skylines against the cityscapes. Talk tubes, which are often used in outdoor play, are also incorporated in the indoor play area for children to experiment with sounds and echoes in their imaginary cities.

The new exhibit takes over Sandra Lee’s *The Enchanted Tree House* – a very well-received fantastical play area inspired by the idea of ‘entering a painting’.



*Artist’s impression of Who’s by the River, featuring Liu Kang’s masterpiece Life by the River*

Over at the interactive area at City Hall Foyer, *Who’s by the River* replaces the popular *Who’s in the Woods* exhibit that featured a day-to-night forest-cape. The new exhibit will cast a spotlight on Singapore pioneer artist Liu Kang’s masterpiece *Life by the River*, which is part of the National Collection. Visitors can now create their own characters and watch them move around and interact as the village scene changes from day to night. A self-guided drop-in activity, it aims to pique the imagination of children by immersing them in the lively kampong scene and encourage them to be creative in designing their own story inspired by the painting.

Sharing about the two new immersive exhibits, Ms Ye Shufang, Deputy Director, Education at National Gallery Singapore said, “Art can stimulate one’s imagination and creativity while enhancing learning. Both art exhibits are designed to provide a multi-sensory learning

experience for our young visitors through kinaesthetic and imaginative play. Children develop a sense of curiosity and narrative thinking as they make connections between their daily lives, emotions and stories in art. By providing creative spaces and exhibits for children to discover and enjoy art, we hope to cultivate in children, a love for art at a young age.”

The Keppel Centre for Art Education is the first of its kind in the region that provides young visitors the opportunity to be exposed to art through experiential learning and role-play led by artists and educators. It is part of National Gallery Singapore’s education programme to nurture in visitors an appreciation for art, creativity and culture to contribute to a vibrant and inclusive society. The Gallery identifies and applies pedagogies that are meaningful and relevant to the diverse groups of learners and helps them build knowledge and awareness of art and history, while developing a critical mind.

The education programme, which caters to visitors aged three years and above, is structured to meet the needs of families, school children and teachers through designed activities such as story-telling, hands-on studio workshops and gallery tours. This also includes a museum-based learning programme for Primary 4 students that was recently introduced as part of the 2018 Primary School art syllabus developed by Ministry of Education. Co-developed with MOE curriculum specialists, the programme by the Gallery’s education team aims to develop visual inquiry skills, curiosity and imagination in students, while they appreciate Singapore art and artists. Students will be led to view and learn about the works in the National Collection before engaging in interactive activities to discuss and share their experiences.

Admission to the Keppel Centre for Art Education is free. For more information, please visit <https://www.nationalgallery.sg/discover-learn/kids-families#KCAE>

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Annex A: About the artist and quote from artist Tang Ling Nah

**For media enquiries, please contact:**

**Khew Shu Ping**

Tate Anzur

Tel: +65 6568 9156

Email: [shuping.khew@tateanzur.com](mailto:shuping.khew@tateanzur.com)

**Marcus Lee**

Tate Anzur

Tel: +65 6568 9149

Email: [marcus.lee@tateanzur.com](mailto:marcus.lee@tateanzur.com)

**Kelly Quek**

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: +65 6697 9132

Email: [kelly.quek@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:kelly.quek@nationalgallery.sg)

**Susie Lim-Kannan**

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: +65 6697 9207

Email: [susie.lim-kannan@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:susie.lim-kannan@nationalgallery.sg)

**About National Gallery Singapore**

National Gallery Singapore is a visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Situated 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 venue.

Reflecting Singapore’s unique heritage and geographical location, the Gallery features Singapore and Southeast Asian art from Singapore’s National Collection in its long-term and special exhibitions. The Gallery also works with international museums to jointly present Southeast Asian art in the global context, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

In 2016, the Gallery won the awards for “Best Attraction Experience”, “Breakthrough Contribution to Tourism” and “Best Customer Service (Attractions)” at the prestigious Singapore Tourism Awards for its role in adding to the vibrancy of Singapore’s tourism landscape.

## Annex A: About the artist and quote from artist Tang Ling Nah



**Tang Ling Nah**

(b. 1971)

Image credit: Looi Wan Ping

*"Even though we live in a city, I think many of us do not take time to observe the things around us and to appreciate the various aspects of the city, be it the beautiful or the less glamorous. Therefore, through *Wandering in Black and White*, I hope to encourage children and adults to take the time to explore a physical space, and step into an expedition of an illusionary city of black and white to discover its nook and cranny through play."*

– Tang Ling Nah

### About the Artist

TANG Ling Nah is a Singapore-based artist and independent curator. Her work is inspired by the modern city's transitional spaces. She reflects on urban conditions, especially the speed of life and the lack of interpersonal intimacy in urban life. She creates charcoal drawings, book art, installations, performances and videos to explore buildings, places and architectural spaces as communicators of stories about life.

In 2008, she represented Singapore in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Biennale and also exhibited at the 11<sup>th</sup> International Architecture Biennale in Venice (Singapore Pavilion). She was awarded the 2007/2008 Freeman Foundation Asian Artist Fellowship for a two-month residency at Vermont Studio Centre (Vermont, U.S.A) in 2008. She is also the recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council's Young Artist Award (Art) 2004, the Juror's Choice at the Philip Morris Singapore-ASEAN Art Awards 2003 and the Della Butcher Award 2000.

The exhibitions she has curated include 床事 — *A Thing or Two about the Bed* (Singapore, 2013), *Drawing Out Conversations: Taipei* (Taipei, 2010), *Drawing Out Conversations: Hong Kong* (Hong Kong, 2009) and *Through the Looking Glass* (Singapore, 2004). She also co-curated *CODE SWITCH* (Singapore, 2012) and *Cinopolitans: Inhabitants of a Filmic City* (Singapore, 2004). She recently produced a documentary *Dreaming in Black and White: Portrait of a Singapore Artist—Tang Ling Nah* (2017) directed by Singapore filmmaker Lei Yuan Bin. Straddling fact and fiction through interviews, conversations, dance

and animation segments, the film is a cinematic story woven from Ling Nah's artworks, artistic journey and daily life.

陈玲娜是新加坡艺术家和独立策展人。她的作品灵感来自城市的过渡空间，反映了现代都市的状况，尤其是生活的节奏和人与人之间所缺乏的亲密感。她以炭笔画、本子艺术、装置、表演和录像来探讨建筑物、地方和建筑空间为叙述生活故事的媒介。玲娜在2008年代表新加坡参加第二届新加坡双年展，以及第十一届威尼斯国际建筑双年展（新加坡馆）。她曾荣获2007/2008弗里曼基金会亚洲艺术家奖学金，并在2008年在美国佛蒙特艺术中心驻村两个月。她也是新加坡国家艺术理事会2004年青年艺术家奖（艺术）、2003年菲利普莫里斯新加坡—亚细安艺术奖的评审奖、2000年德拉布切尔奖的得主。她策的展览包括《床事》（新加坡，2013年）、《对画：台北》（台北，2010年）、《对画：香港角》（香港，2009年）、《镜中缘》（新加坡，2004年）以及联合策展《语码转换》（新加坡，2012年）和《影剧都会人》（新加坡，2004年）。她在2017年制作了一部由新加坡电影人雷远彬执导的纪录片《幻境黑白——特写新加坡艺术家陈玲娜》。影片通过访问、交谈、舞蹈和动画手法呈现，跨越真实与虚构的境界，来细数玲娜的作品、艺术之旅和日常生活。