

*For immediate release*

**Media Release**

## **First-ever Civic District Outdoor Festival Brings Art and Culture Beyond the Art Institutions**

*Civic District Outdoor Festival offers the first outdoor multimedia circuit, across six programme zones and over 40 outdoor and indoor programmes by four iconic institutions*



(Credit: National Gallery Singapore)

**4 August 2017** – The Civic District precinct is set to transform with the inaugural ***Civic District Outdoor Festival: When Time Stood Still***. Held over the first two weekends in August, visitors to the *Civic District Outdoor Festival* can look forward to an inaugural Projection Trail with multimedia projections being mapped onto four heritage buildings for the first time, including the façade of National Gallery Singapore. Put together by a Singapore creative team, this immense Projection Trail will be the largest outdoor multimedia circuit featuring the story of “Hemera’s Dream” through a poetic and imaginative exploration of the Festival’s creative theme – When Time Stood Still.

Themed ‘*When Time Stood Still*’, the *Civic District Outdoor Festival* will offer visitors a suite of immersive art installations, art market, food street, enthralling roving acts and live music sessions that aim to extend the art experience beyond the walls of the art and cultural institutions in the Civic District. By featuring artworks outdoor and allowing it to be a part of the Civic District landscape, visitors are offered a unique and immersive

experience by four arts and culture institutions in the Civic District, which for the first time have come together to showcase an extensive suite of engaging exhibitions and programmes.

The *Civic District Outdoor Festival* is presented by National Gallery Singapore, in partnership with The Arts House, Asian Civilisations Museum and Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall. Known as the birthplace of modern Singapore, the Civic District has been transformed into a vibrant precinct with these arts and cultural institutions housed in the country's most historic buildings. These timeless monuments, which span 200 years of Singapore's history from the colonial period through to World War II and independence, now showcase art and culture for the enjoyment of Singaporeans and visitors from all over the world.

Said Ms Suenne Megan Tan, Festival Director, Civic District Outdoor Festival, and Director (Audience Development & Engagement), National Gallery Singapore, "The Civic District area has had a long tradition as a common, shared space where people from all walks of life meet to interact and bond, with food, displays of crafts and performances which were enjoyed by all communities. The four heritage monuments – National Gallery Singapore, Asian Civilisations Museum, The Arts House and Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, have inter-connections through history. The Festival aims to form new connections through art and culture, now that these institutions house content that span across the visual, performing and literary arts, making this the artistic and creative pulse of the Civic District."

Some Festival highlights include:

- **Hemera's Dream: Outdoor Projection Trail**, an imaginative exploration of 'When Time Stood Still' with multimedia projections being mapped onto the facades of National Gallery Singapore, The Arts House, Asian Civilisations Museum and Victoria Theatre & Victoria Concert Hall
- **Intrude by Amanda Parer**, a stunning installation of large illuminated inflatable rabbits of varying heights with the tallest being 7-metres tall, by Tasmanian artist Amanda Parer that will be shown in Singapore for the first time in the heart of the Padang
- **The Time Vortex by Adeline Loo**, an outdoor installation where Loo responds to the festival's theme "When Time Stood Still" with her own version of a time tunnel. Comprising strings forming a vortex, this structure of trans-dimensional planes encourages viewers to explore the notion of time stopping, much like when Hemera and Aether left the cosmic clock at a standstill.
- **Aether's Art Market**, a creative marketplace where visitors can buy one-of-a-kind pieces by Singapore artisans and craft makers
- **Hemera's Feast**, which offers gastronomic delights to fuel visitors at the event
- **A Dragon Behind The Door & More!** held at Empress Lawn, a dynamic interplay of puppets, music, and larger-than-life characters for an immersive experience of theatrical performance and craft activities
- **Live performances and roving acts** by Singapore musicians and song-writers, such as Inch Chua, Joie Tan, Jack & Rai, MICappella, Nat Ho & Gayle Nerva,

Alvin, Naz & Sara (53A), M1LDL1FE, STUART, Jill-Marie Thomas, ShiLi & Adi, Charmaine Pelaez, HubbaBubbas and many more

- **Open House programmes and extended opening hours** at National Gallery Singapore, The Arts House, Asian Civilisations Museum and Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall.

“With six programme zones, it’s time for everyone to get outdoors and enjoy the Civic District with us. The programmes are specially curated for visitors to rediscover the Civic District in fresh ways and to experience Singapore’s creative and artistic expressions in the heart of the city,” said Ms Tan, “And beyond the two outdoor zones of the Padang and Empress Lawn, visitors are invited to explore the four indoor Open House programme zones offered by National Gallery Singapore, Asian Civilisations Museum, The Arts House and Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall.”

The Festival, runs across two weekends on 4 – 5 August 2017 and 11 – 12 August 2017, offering art experiences both outdoors and indoors, with programmes running till late. National Gallery Singapore and Asian Civilisations Museum will also be extending their opening hours till midnight.

*Civic District Outdoor Festival: When Time Stood Still* is proudly supported by development partner, Tote Board and programme partner, National Arts Council.

“Tote Board is happy to support the inaugural *Civic District Outdoor Festival*, with a rich tapestry of art and culture complemented with the history of the museums in the civic district. Singaporeans from all walks of life can enjoy the festival and appreciate the excellent art and culture being presented by National Gallery Singapore,” said Mr Fong Yong Kian, CE, Tote Board.

Ms Chua Ai Liang, Senior Director, Engagement & Participation, National Arts Council said, “The arts are a great way to bring people together, especially in outdoor spaces. We want both Singaporeans and international visitors to experience the Civic District, through the exciting programme that has been lined up and the showcase of home grown talent. We’re confident the inaugural Civic District Outdoor Festival will grow to become a much anticipated and distinctive offering on our cultural calendar.”

The Festival also kicks off two major festivals at the heart of the city in August, aimed at bringing art and culture closer to the people. Visitors can look forward to the *Civic District Outdoor Festival* at the start of the month, and ending with the *Singapore Night Festival* at the month’s end.

Admission to the Festival is free. St Andrew’s Road will be closed during the two weekends on Friday and Saturday from 4pm till 1am.

For more details about the Festival’s activities and programmes, please refer to Annex A. You may also visit [www.civictimoutdoor.sg](http://www.civictimoutdoor.sg).

## **ABOUT NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE**

### UNVEILING MODERN SINGAPORE AND SOUTHEAST ASIAN ART

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.

## **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.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL (NAC)**

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, we want to develop Singapore as a distinctive global city where the arts inspire our people and connect our communities. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions while we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg).

## **About The Civic District**

The Civic District lies at the very heart of Singapore, and is known as the founding point of this modern metropolis. Located on the banks of the historic Singapore River, the area houses some of Singapore's most notable national monuments, civic spaces and cultural institutions.

Colonial architecture, concerts and contemporary art converge at the Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall, and The Arts House (Singapore's former Parliament Building). Art lovers can enjoy the largest collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian paintings at the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings, now home to the National Gallery Singapore; and learn about the cultural heritage of Asia and Singapore's diverse cultures at the Asian Civilisations Museum.

Take a walk around the Civic District and enjoy the sights and sounds of the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, the Padang, Queen Elizabeth Walk as well as the Jubilee Bridge.

We invite you to explore Singapore's Civic District, historic birthplace of modern Singapore.



Members of Tote Board Group



**civicdistrict**

For media enquiries, please contact:

### **Pailin Boonlong**

Burson-Marsteller for National Gallery Singapore

Tel: (65) 6671 3218

Email: [pailin.boonlong@bm.com](mailto:pailin.boonlong@bm.com)

### **Melissa Chow**

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: (65) 6697 9138

Email: [melissa.chow@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:melissa.chow@nationalgallery.sg)

### **Susie Lim-Kannan**

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: (65) 6697 9207

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

## ANNEX A: CIVIC DISTRICT OUT DOOR FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

\*Programme details and prices accurate as of press time.



### HEMERA'S DREAM: OUTDOOR PROJECTION TRAIL

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | Various timings from 8–10pm | Various locations

This inaugural Projection Trail is a poetic and imaginative exploration of the Festival's creative theme – *When Time Stood Still*. Visitors can anticipate multimedia projections mapped onto four beautiful heritage buildings.

Hemera and her brother, Aether, are tasked to keep the Cosmic Clock running so that The Eternal City stays awake. When they both fall asleep after eating too much, the Cosmic Clock stops and chaos ensues. Will Hemera save the day? Will the Cosmic Clock start again? Will the Eternal City forever be asleep? Inspired by Goya's etching "*The sleep of reason produces monsters*", Hemera's Dream is a whimsical and visually-stunning adventure.

#### Hemera's Dream

8pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm | National Gallery Singapore Facade

The journey begins here. Catch the full story of *Hemera's Dream* unfolding across National Gallery Singapore's facade and discover what happens what time stands still.

Learn more about each chapter in her story as you explore the other buildings on the trail.

#### Inhabitants of the Eternal City

8pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm | Asian Civilisations Museum

We are introduced to Hemera and Aether working to keep the Cosmic Clock running. The Eternal City is filled with colour, movement and activity.

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### **The Cosmic Clock**

8pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm |  
Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert  
Hall

The siblings decide to take a break to eat. But they eat too much and fall asleep, causing the Cosmic Clock to slow down and eventually stop.

### **Vortex of Monsters**

8pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm |  
Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert  
Hall Atrium

The Eternal City grows dark and creatures start to emerge from the shadows. Without time and space, gravity is thrown off balance. Aether floats away in his sleep, and is taken away by a creature. Hemera awakens but cannot start the Cosmic Clock without her brother. She chases the creature that took him away.

### **Turn by Turn We Turn**

**8pm, 8.40pm, 9.20pm, 10pm | The  
Arts House**

Hemera manages to outsmart the creature and rescues her brother. They rush back to the Cosmic Clock to restart it. Peace and order is restored!



### **INTRUDE BY AMANDA PARER**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till  
11pm | Padang

Featuring startlingly beautiful creatures enlarged and frozen within their chosen habitats, Australian artist Amanda Parer's edgy and ephemeral sculptures explore the natural world, its fragility and our role within it.

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### **HEMERA'S FEAST: FOOD STREET**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till 11pm | St Andrew's Road

Join Hemera for a feast with food booths stationed along St. Andrew's Road on both weekends of the Festival.

Visitors will be spoiled for choice with glorious grub and sweet treats from &Sons, Coco Loco, Courtyard Café, Kerbside Gourmet, Ninja Cut, and other epicurean delights!

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### **PICNIC WITH THE BUNNIES**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till 11pm | Padang

Once you've got your plates and baskets full, hop on over to the Padang to picnic with the bunnies. Pick your favourite spot on the Padang, lay your feast out on the mats provided and take in the magnificent views of the projection show and surrounding cityscape.

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### **ROVING ACTS**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till 11pm | Empress Lawn

#### **The Illuminated Angels: Born in a Taxi (Australia)**

Established in 1989, Born in a Taxi is one of Melbourne's most highly regarded physical theatre ensembles. Mixing dance with humour, the profound with the profane, and the familiar with the unlikely, it is recognised for producing highly original, physically driven and participatory works.

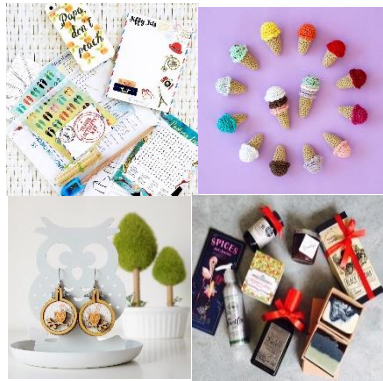


#### **Bantus Capoeira (Singapore)**

Bantus Capoeira is Singapore's leading Capoeira school sharing Brazilian culture through interactive and colourful shows that are sure to engage audiences and enthrall them. Be mesmerised by the pulsating rhythms of Brazilian music and groove with the sensual and charismatic Samba dancers of Brazil!

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### **Aether's Art Market**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till 11pm | Empress Lawn

Check out the wares from some of Singapore's most creative makers, artists, independent labels and entrepreneurs! Whether you're into bags and accessories, or illustrations and candles, there are gems to discover and take home from the likes of A Pale Petal, Pins & Pongs, KoWaLiEu, Tinee Dino, Entrepot, Curious Creatures, and many more!



### **MUSIC PERFORMANCES**

4-5, 11-12 August 2017 | 6pm till 11pm | Padang Atrium, National Gallery Singapore

Move to the beat with musical performances at the National Gallery Singapore. Look forward to performances by local musicians such as Inch Chua, Jack & Rai, Joie Tan, MICapella, Shili & Adi, Alvin, Naz & Sara (53A), and more!



### **A Dragon Behind The Door & More!**

4–5, 11–12 August 2017 | 5pm till 11pm | Empress Lawn

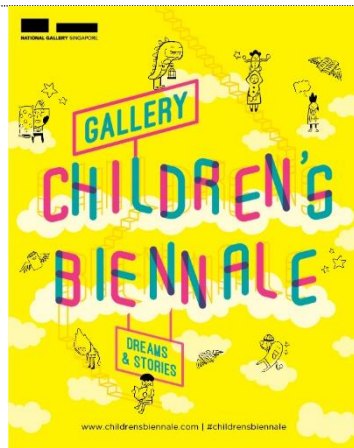
Embark on an amazing journey with Mini and her father when they have to stay at Aunt Trixie's house after waking up to find their house overrun with spotted beetles.

Grab a seat in a spotted beetle and get swept away in a magical, fun-filled journey where the imagination takes flight of puppets, larger-than-life characters, music and surprises a-plenty!

And that's not all! Wander through specially crafted Curious Houses, where families can explore, make believe and bond over craft activities from weaving a dragon, making a spotted beetle puppet to creating your very own mini pop-up theatre.

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## Gallery Children's Biennale

(20 May – 8 October 2017)

4-5, 11-12 August 2017 | 10am till midnight | National Gallery Singapore | General admission rules apply

*Gallery Children's Biennale* presents a suite of art installations and activities specially curated for young visitors and parents to embark on a creative journey of exploration and discovery together.

Themed *Dreams & Stories*, *Gallery Children's Biennale* features ten interactive installations and new commissioned works by artists from Singapore and beyond: Chng Seok Tin, Mark Justiniani, Yayoi Kusama, Vincent Leow, Lynn Lu, teamLab, Tran Trong Vu, Ian Woo and Robert Zhao. The artworks are located at various public spaces within the Gallery across both the City Hall and Former Supreme Court buildings.



## Ghost Nets of the Ocean – Au Karem ira Lamar Lu

1 Jun–6 Aug 2017 | 10am till midnight | Asian Civilisations Museum

Featuring fish, turtles, squid, and jellyfish made from ocean debris, including abandoned fishing nets and recycled plastics, *Ghost Nets of the Ocean* is a spectacular marine themed exhibition created by indigenous and non-indigenous artists from Erub Arts on Darnley Island, Torres Strait, Australia. These colourful woven sculptures, hanging suspended and dramatically lit throughout the gallery, show the peoples' connections to the sea, and strive to generate awareness of ocean pollution, recycling, and conservation of the marine environment.

*Ghost Nets of the Ocean* is complemented by *Tiny Turtles*, artworks resulting from a collaboration between Torres Strait schools and local, international, and special needs students in Singapore.



Credit: Asian Civilisations Museum

4–12 August | 7pm till 11pm | Asian Civilisations Museum

This 360-degree mural is local artist Rajesh Kumar's take on the Asian Civilisation Museum's Tang Shipwreck treasures. Made using dynamic colours, textures and patterns, this glow-in-the-dark piece invites audiences to participate in creating a community artwork that explores timelessness and beauty.



### Time's Up!

4–5, 11–12 August | 7pm till 11pm | Asian Civilisations Museum

Peer over the edge of time into eternity and experience a slice of timelessness. Catch exclusive performances and leave your mark on our walls. Choose the way you want to enjoy the museum – put on your time-traveller's hat and explore our nooks and crannies your way. Then take home a piece of your time spent amongst the treasures of the Asian Civilisations Museum.



### The Time Vortex by Adeline Loo

4–12 August 2017 | 7pm till 11pm | The Arts House

*The Time Vortex* is an installation by maker Adeline Loo of knitting outfit "It takes Balls". Heavily influenced by science fiction and the idea of time travel, Loo responds to the festivals' theme of "When time stood still" with her own version of a time tunnel. Comprising of strings forming a vortex, this multi stringed structure of trans-dimensional planes encourages the viewer to explore the notion of time stopping, much like when the characters Hemera and Aether left the cosmic clock at a standstill.