



For immediate release

Media Release

**Inaugural Gallery Children's Biennale brings
Dreams and Stories to Life**

Gallery Children's Biennale will feature ten interactive art showcases produced in collaboration with artists from Singapore and beyond

16 May 2017 – Young visitors to the National Gallery Singapore will have their creative imagination ignited with the launch of the first-ever *Gallery Children's Biennale*. Starting from 20 May and spanning across more than four months, *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* will feature 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.

"The Gallery believes that art education plays an important role in developing innovative and expansive thinking in our young. For the *Gallery Children's Biennale*, we engaged artists to create works accessible for young visitors to showcase how art can be fun, inspirational and educational. This will be a good platform for families to come together and explore fresh perspectives while engaging with art," said Ms Chong Siak Ching, CEO, National Gallery Singapore.

"The *Gallery Children's Biennale* serves as an excellent opportunity for parents to initiate their young ones into learning about art. Art ignites imaginations, evokes emotions, captures cultural values and expresses aspirations. *Gallery Children's Biennale* is premised on the belief that every child is creative – everyone dreams and has stories to tell – and we want to activate their senses, and enable them to express their thinking, ideas and emotions through the universal theme of *Dreams & Stories*. We are very excited to present the inaugural *Gallery Children's Biennale*, and we hope that both the young – and the young at heart – will be inspired by the installations and programmes," added Ms Suenne Megan Tan, Director, Audience Development & Engagement, National Gallery Singapore.

For a fuller experience, visitors can pick up a *Gallery Children's Biennale* Art Pack – which is available at S\$5/pack at the Gallery. Produced as a learning resource, the art pack contains activities and ideas for discussion, which are designed to enhance the

appreciation and understanding of the art on display, and provide children the opportunity to reflect and express their own thoughts and creativity.

Adds Ms Tan, “A key aim of the *Gallery Children’s Biennale* is to incubate, pilot and research new approaches of art engagement, within a museum context, where artists and visitors function as partners and contributors toward a shared learning experience. While this advances the development of art education and the learning of art by an individual, it also transforms museums into active learning environments in which people can feel, think, look and respond, moving comfortably from what they know to new areas of knowledge.”

The Keppel Centre for Art Education is also undergoing a refresh as part of our continuous efforts to inspire new ways of learning. One of the refreshed spaces, Project Gallery, will feature an immersive ocean-themed installation, *The Blue Who Swims All This Way* by artist Betty Susiarjo. The installation, inspired by the National Collection, invites visitors to explore a myriad of textures, sounds and colours. Visitors will exercise their senses as they hug soft sculptures, climb into giant rocks, listen to the sound of waves and observe a shimmering display of colours.

In conjunction with *Gallery Children’s Biennale*, a series of public programmes, film screenings, special tours for families, and artist-led workshops for children have been lined up. Visitors can also look forward to an outdoor festival in August.

Gallery Children’s Biennale is proudly supported by development partner Tote Board. “The *Gallery Children’s Biennale* is an excellent platform to inspire the imagination of young minds through artistic experiences. The event also encourages intergenerational bonding and strengthen families. Tote Board supports the *Gallery Children’s Biennale* as a community event for all Singaporeans to enjoy,” said Mr Fong Yong Kian, CEO, Tote Board.

Gallery Children’s Biennale opens to public 20 May to 8 October 2017. The *Gallery Children’s Biennale* is a ticket exhibition. General admission rules apply. Free entry for Singaporeans & PRs. For more details, visit www.childrensbiennale.com.

– End –

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.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Beverly Tan

Burson-Marsteller for National Gallery Singapore

Tel: 6671 3277

Email: beverly.tan@bm.com

Kelly Quek

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: 6697 9132

Email: kelly.quek@nationalgallery.sg



Susie Lim-Kannan

National Gallery Singapore

Tel: 6697 9207

Email: susie.lim-kannan@nationalgallery.sg

ANNEX 1: About the Art Installations

ARTWORK IMAGE	DESCRIPTION
 <p data-bbox="248 703 771 756">Yayoi Kusama. <i>The obliteration room</i>. 2002 to present. Installation view.</p> <p data-bbox="248 787 841 898">Collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and Queensland Art Gallery. Commissioned Queensland Art Gallery, Australia. Gift of the artist through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation 2012. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery.</p> <p data-bbox="248 926 509 951">Photograph: Katie Bennett.</p> <p data-bbox="248 978 509 1003">Image courtesy: QAGOMA</p>	<p data-bbox="883 331 1372 394">YAYOI KUSAMA: THE OBLITERATION ROOM</p> <p data-bbox="883 401 1347 464">Supreme Court Wing, Level B1, Concourse Gallery 2</p> <p data-bbox="883 495 1344 999">Yayoi Kusama (b. 1929. Nagano, Japan) is one of the world's most influential artists, known for her iconic dots, nets and pumpkin motifs. When she was a young girl, she started seeing the world through a screen of tiny dots. They covered everything she saw — the walls, ceilings, and even her own body. For 40 years, she has created paintings, sculptures, photographs and installations covered in dots. Kusama calls this process 'obliteration,' which means the complete destruction of every trace of something. She invites you to join in and have fun covering all the furniture and walls in this living room with bright colourful dots!</p>
	<p data-bbox="883 1083 1315 1146">MARK JUSTINIANI: FIREWALK, A BRIDGE OF EMBERS</p> <p data-bbox="883 1152 1315 1215">Supreme Court Wing, Level B1, Outside Concourse Gallery 2</p> <p data-bbox="883 1247 1360 1358">Mark Justiniani (b. 1966. Bacolod, Philippines) is a "magic realist" who uses reflective media to explore space, vision and their changing relationship with time.</p> <p data-bbox="883 1390 1360 1652">Embark on a journey of discovery through <i>Firewalk</i>. The work plays on an illusion of depth, depicting an archeological site that stretches endlessly into the ground. Objects that could have been once treasured – toys, books, building blocks and letters – can be found within it. As you cross the 16-metre-long bridge, peer into infinity and experience what it feels like to be suspended in space and time.</p>



teamLab: HOMOGENIZING AND TRANSFORMING WORLD
 City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery

teamLab is a collective, interdisciplinary creative group that brings together professionals from various fields of practice in the digital society.

Inspired by how the Internet has connected the world, teamLab has created a digital, multi-sensory world where all physical boundaries have been eliminated. Suspended in air, these glowing orbs change colour and produce sounds when touched. This triggers subtle changes in the surrounding orbs. Be enveloped by a mesmerising symphony of sound and light as you navigate this immersive labyrinth.



CHNG SEOK TIN: BEING YOURSELF
 Level 1, Padang Atrium

Chng Seok Tin (b. 1946. Singapore) is a leading figure in the Singapore art scene, a Cultural Medallion awardee and an advocate for artists with disabilities.

Being Yourself features a selection of Chng Seok Tin's artworks, recreated as woodcuts. Each represents a significant moment in her life. The installation invites you to touch and feel the woodcuts, and connect their textures with emotions such as joy, anger, despair, hope and strength.



IAN WOO: ROCK & SPHERE
 City Hall Wing, Level B1, Auditorium Anteroom

Ian Woo (b. 1967. Singapore) is an artist and musician who is influenced by the language of abstraction and the structures of improvised music.

Inspired by odd and even shapes, Ian Woo made two objects – a rock and a sphere – which can be taken apart and rearranged to create new forms. Engage in imaginative play and make new connections between colours and shapes.



The Sonnet in Blue is made possible by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and the Tote Board Group which comprises the Tote Board, Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club.

TRAN TRONG VU: THE SONNET IN BLUE

Supreme Court Wing, Level 3, Supreme Court Foyer

Tran Trong Vu (b. 1964. Hanoi, Vietnam) is a Vietnamese artist who paints on large transparent plastic sheets and installs them to create works in 3D.

In several Asian countries, people hang their wishes on trees or at street corners in the hope that they may be fulfilled. Inspired by this tradition, Tran Trong Vu created a sprawling labyrinth of handmade flowers with poems and stories by children from Southeast Asia written on their petals. The 100 poems featured in this installation are by students from Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam, and were compiled with support from the Poetry Festival (Singapore).



LYNN LU: DUPLET

City Hall Wing, Level 2, Singapore Courtyard

Lynn Lu (b. 1974. Singapore) was inspired to create a performance artwork by a Tibetan Buddhist nun Pema Chodron who once said, “[S]top waiting for some idealised moment when everything is simple and secure.” Instead, we should try to be fully present in each moment.

Sit under a cloud with a friend or family member and answer a series of questions posed by the artist.



LYNN LU: THIS CHANGED MY LIFE...

City Hall Wing, Level 2, Singapore Courtyard

Lynn Lu (b. 1974. Singapore) was inspired to by a story in the book *Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino, in which a nomadic community remembers important events in their lives by stretching strings across the room.

Write down a significant memory on a piece of ribbon and stretch it across the room to help form a web of shared histories.



ROBERT ZHAO: A GUIDE TO THE FLORA AND FAUNA OF THE WORLD, CHILDREN'S EDITION

City Hall Wing, Level 2, Social Table

Robert Zhao (b. 1983. Singapore) is a visual artist whose work addresses man's relationship with nature, and related issues of morality and ethics.

This project documents 39 animals, plants and environments that have been manipulated by humans, though this may not be apparent at first glance. The specimens here challenge our ideas of what is natural and what is man-made



VINCENT LEOW: FROM ROCHOR TO KALLANG




City Hall Wing, Level 1, City Hall Foyer



Vincent Leow (b. 1961. Singapore) is an artist and an art educator who was awarded the Culture Award by the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry for his contribution to the arts and has represented Singapore in various art festivals around the world.

Rochor Centre, one of Singapore's first public housing estates, is due to be demolished. A majority of the estate's residents have been relocated and now live in Kallang. Vincent Leow created this work in response to ideas of moving, migration and relocation. If the tall towers represent blocks of flats, what do you think the bird traps represent?

ANNEX 2: Programme Highlights

- Activities will take place from 20 May – 8 October 2017.
- Programme details and prices accurate as of press time.

PROGRAMME DETAILS	
	<p>GUIDED TOURS DREAMS & STORIES: THE DREAMCATCHERS Wednesdays & Saturdays 24 May–8 Oct 5pm</p> <p>Gain insights into the creative vision behind the Children’s Biennale, and the dreams and stories that inspired the artworks on this exciting docent-led tour.</p> <p>Suitable for families, the young as well as the young at heart.</p> <p>Registration opens 20 minutes before each tour at the Tours Desk located at Basement 1. 20 slots are available per tour on a first come, first served basis.</p>
	<p>ART EXPLORERS: ALL CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL Sat–Sun 10–11 Jun 1.30–2pm City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education</p> <p>Engage in a lively discussion on select installations in the Gallery Children’s Biennale and discover nature through the eyes of artists! Then, create your own masterpiece inspired by the world around you.</p> <p>Suitable for families with children aged 5 and up.</p> <p>Admission is free.</p> <p>Go to https://www.nationalgallery.sg/learn/families for details on how to register.</p>
	<p>PARENTS FORUM: CURIOUS CHILDREN NOW, CREATIVE THINKERS FOR THE FUTURE Sat 1 Jul 10.30am–12.30pm City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium</p> <p>Children who are curious tend to be self-motivated learners and open to new experiences. These qualities are fundamental to the development of critical thinking skills later in life. Learn from a panel of educators and artists about the role of museums in cultivating curiosity in children and discover techniques to engage your children through art.</p> <p>Suitable for early childhood educators and parents with children aged 3–12.</p>

	<p>Admission is free but registration is required at http://nationalgalleryeduforum.peatix.com/</p>
	<p>TWEEN WORKSHOPS Sat 3 Jun, 10 Jun 2–4pm City Hal Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education</p> <p>\$30 per session, tickets available at http://www.sistic.com.sg/events/cngstw2017</p> <p>Calling all budding artists! Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn new techniques from some of Singapore's most outstanding artists, in a series of dynamic workshops at National Gallery Singapore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 June – Learn printmaking techniques from artist Dahlia Osman, then apply your newfound skills by creating prints inspired by the work of one of Singapore's foremost artists Chng Seok Tin • 10 June – Be inspired by Vincent Leow's installation <i>From Rochor to Kallang</i>, then create your own masterpiece under the guidance from the artist himself. <p>Strictly for children aged 11–14.</p>
	<p>FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS Sun 11 Jun, 9 Jul, 13 Aug, 10 Sep 1.30–3pm City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education</p> <p>\$20 per adult-child pair or \$30 per adult-child trio, tickets available from at http://www.sistic.com.sg/events/cngsfaw2017</p> <p>Get creative as a family in these fun, hands-on workshops! Pick up new skills for art making under the guidance of artists, then create your own masterpieces inspired by works in the Children's Biennale.</p>
	<p>11 Jun – Don't miss this rare opportunity to learn about art from one of Singapore's most important artists, Vincent Leow! Create a masterpiece inspired by his installation <i>From Rochor to Kallang</i>.</p> <p>Suitable for families with children aged 7 and up.</p>



Still from *Revolting Rhymes Part 1: Riveting Tales*

SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FILM FESTIVAL 2017

Sat 27, 28 May & 3, 10, 11 June | Various timings |
The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium, Level B1, City Hall Wing

\$12.90 per ticket. Tickets are required for admission for children ages 1 and above and may be purchased at <http://www.bigeyesbigminds.com/sg-ticketing>. Children ages 12 and below must be accompanied by an adult.

Showcasing seven collections of short films, each carefully curated for a specific age group, this film festival brings children on a magical journey that is sure to enrich and inspire! Catch films like Roald Dahl's wickedly awesome *Revolting Rhymes* and the wonderfully empowering *Sing*, which won the Oscar for Best Live-Action Short Film 2017.



Artist's impression of *The Blue Who Swims All This Way* by Betty Susiarjo. Actual site may vary.

KEPPEL CENTRE FOR ART EDUCATION

Sat 20 May onwards

The Keppel Centre for Art Education also provides an exciting line-up of programmes for youth, children and families all year round. Keppel Centre will be unveiling a refresh of all its four spaces in October. In conjunction with the Children's Biennale, one of the refreshed spaces, Project Gallery, will feature an immersive ocean-themed installation, *The Blue Who Swims All This Way* by artist Betty Susiarjo. The installation, inspired by the National Collection, invites visitors to explore a myriad of textures, sounds and colours. Visitors will exercise their senses as they hug soft sculptures, climb into giant rocks, listen to the sound of waves and observe a shimmering display of colours.



CIVIC DISTRICT OUTDOOR FESTIVAL: IT'S TIME!

4 – 6 & 11 – 13 Aug 2017 | National Gallery Singapore, Civic District

An outdoor festival will be organised over two weekends to extend the art experience beyond the walls of the Gallery and into the Civic District precinct, in which the Gallery is situated in. Visit this festival and discover eye-catching outdoor light installations, immersive theatre performances, as well as a slew of interesting F&B pop-ups.