

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Gallery Singapore reopens Keppel Centre for Art Education with an entirely refreshed space offering a world of wonder for children to learn about art through play

The revamped Centre offers seven new interactive and stimulating learning zones centred around the theme of Art & Wonder, promising to stimulate children's sense of creativity and artistic expressiveness.



The refreshed Keppel Centre for Art Education features seven new learning zones for children to learn through art and play, the perfect destination for families during this December holidays.

Singapore, 14 December 2023 – The **Keppel Centre for Art Education** (Centre), one of National Gallery Singapore's (Gallery) most popular spaces, is reopening on **16 December 2023**, just in time for the year-end school holidays. The entirely revamped centre features new child-centric learning zones and activities that revolve around the theme of **Art & Wonder: Nurturing Wonder through Play and Creativity**. Free for all visitors, the Centre offers a fun learning experience for the entire family to enjoy a day at the Gallery.

The Centre was the first dedicated art education facility of its kind in Singapore and the region when it first opened in 2015, and quickly grew to become one of the Gallery's most well-loved spaces, offering engaging learning opportunities to nurture children's creativity through art and play. The internationally recognized Centre was unanimously awarded the winner of the 2018

Children in Museums Award, an initiative of the European Museum Academy and Hands On! International Association of Children in Museums. Eight years on, the Centre reaffirms its leading position as the perfect destination for families, children and youths to embark upon a journey of artful discovery, with its line-up of refreshed spaces and exciting programmes all year round.

The reopened Centre features an immersive learning space comprising seven zones, with stimulating and interactive experiences suitable for children aged 4 – 12. Each zone offers a welcoming and nurturing environment, providing a gateway through which children can be fully immersed in the wonderment of the world of art through play and creativity. With the revamped Centre's series of drop-in activities and facilitated workshops, children will develop imagination, critical thinking and visual literacy skills as they are exposed to the seven core elements of art: space, form, colour, texture, line, shape and value. The Centre also continues to cater to the different physical and learning needs of visitors, with wheelchair-friendly furniture and learning stations of various heights.

At National Gallery Singapore, programmes for young learners are built upon the principles found in educational pedagogies that kickstart the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development in children through active engagement with the arts. The reopened Centre features an immersive learning space comprising seven zones, with activities designed to amplify learning approaches for children aged 4 – 12. For example, play is adopted as a pedagogical approach encouraging children to explore, discover and make personal connections while learning about subject matters of interest. Young learners are encouraged to express themselves in imaginative ways, be it through the play of materials to create unique 3D sculptures, role-playing or interacting with an immersive multimedia space. By embedding inquiry-based learning within art, children have the opportunity to develop understanding and appreciation of visual language through play.

Ms Chong Siak Ching, the Gallery's Chief Executive Officer, says, "The Keppel Centre for Art Education has always aimed to engage children in learning through play and cultivating a museum-going audience from a young age. Along with our other child-friendly programmes such as the Gallery Children's Biennale, the refreshed Centre demonstrates the Gallery's efforts in preparing our young for a future where critical and creative thinking are necessary competencies."

Mr Loh Chin Hua, Keppel's Chief Executive Officer, says, "Keppel is pleased to collaborate with National Gallery Singapore to encourage creative thinking among youths and students through the Keppel Centre for Art Education. The refreshed space, including interactive exhibits that leverage digital technology, will stimulate imagination among young visitors and provide an enriching platform for them to experience the arts."

The Gallery is grateful to Keppel for their support in making the Keppel Centre for Art Education possible.

Stimulating and interactive experiences across seven new zones

From digital artworks, sensorial play, 3D works and drop-in activities, parents and children can look forward to a myriad of family-oriented programmes centred around sparking inspiration for learning and developing confidence in expressing children's thoughts and feelings through art. The first zone, themed **Expansion**, brings Raden Saleh's iconic artwork *Boschbrand* (Forest Fire) to life in an activity named **A Brush with Forest Fire**.



The Expansion zone features a re-creation of Raden Saleh's work *Boschbrand* (Forest Fire), allowing children to step into an immersive re-imagining of the painting's tropical environment.

A Brush with Forest Fire re-imagines Saleh's artwork to present an interactive tropical forest. Children will be exposed to the basic elements of art while learning about environmental issues and different animals in Southeast Asia. Using a special paintbrush as a tool, children can learn about colour theory as they are invited to mix primary colours together and create secondary colours at a digital colour well. Children are also invited to learn about composing an artwork by playing with the scale and sizes of the animals.



Children are invited to mix primary colours together at a digital colour well (left), and apply the ideas explored where they can put their own spin and create artworks on a digital canvas (right) as part of the Expansion zone.

A Brush with Forest Fire empowers children to change the artwork's narrative by inviting them to take part in an interactive augmented reality game where they can draw lines to help put out the virtual forest fire raging on the screen before them. For children who have enjoyed the classic game of shadow play, this activity offers a delightful opportunity to play this childhood favourite while internalising the interrelationship between shape and scale. Having been treated to these stimulating learning activities, children will be able to consolidate the ideas explored with a digital canvas for children to put their own spin upon the artworks.



Children are invited to experiment with the interplay of different colours, shapes and light by observing how a given shape is projected upon a screen (left), and use torchlights to paint with light (right).

Next, children will be encouraged to draw out their artistic curiosity with the theme of **Exploration** in the next zone, **Illuminate!** Drawing inspiration from the Gallery's artworks, **Illuminate!** invites visitors to explore abstract art and experiment with the interplay of colours, shapes, light and shadow. Through the engaging visual presentation of these works, children will develop an understanding of how symbols, colours and shapes come together to create an artwork.



At the **Makers Studio** (left), children are encouraged to use 3D doodling pens to create their own unique 3D sculptures. At the **Expression Workshop** (right), children are invited to use materials to create their own unique collages.

A learner-centered education space, children and youths are then invited to explore various topics and subjects with art at the **Makers Studio**. Revolving around the theme of **Experimentation**, children will be invited to use 3D doodling pens and wooden shapes to create their own unique

3D sculptures inspired by artworks from the Gallery's collection. Through hands-on use of materials and textures, the **Makers Studio** aims to spark multi-disciplinary learning of art with other subjects such as science and technology. Through developing children's understanding of the wide range of materials used in crafting an artwork, they will be able to learn how physical materials can be used to craft narratives about themselves and the world they live in. Building upon the free-ranging creativity established in the Maker's Studio, the Workshop Studio offers daily drop-in activities and facilitated workshops, building upon the theme of **Expression** and inviting families to explore, create, imagine and play. Whether it be picking up a paintbrush, moulding clay, or gathering materials to build a collage, anything is possible at the Centre.



At the Portrait Gallery, children and families are invited to create their own portraits using magnetic props representing a person's facial features.

The **Portrait Gallery** provides opportunities for children and families to engage in role-playing activities and create stories and memories together. For an Instagram-worthy experience, mirrors and props are available for parents and kids to dress up and strike poses together. Visitors are also invited to create their own portraits using magnetic props representing various facial features. In viewing the wide range of unique individuals presented with differing personal quirks and styles, children are encouraged to embrace and celebrate the vast range of distinctive personality traits exhibited by the people around them.



The Book Nook offers a selection of books appropriate for all ages, providing the perfect space for parents and children to wind down together.

The centre also features the **Book Nook**, stocked with a selection of books appropriate for all ages. The selection of books available offers further learning opportunities centred around art, such as *Awesome Art Singapore: 10 Works from the Lion City Everyone Should Know*, which encourages children to appreciate art by making art concepts and ideas easy to enjoy and understand, and Low Lai Chow's *Eat with Your Eyes*, which offers a visual treat by spotlighting 14 modern Southeast Asian artworks in the Gallery's collection.



The Calm Pod offers a dedicated space for visitors to regulate their feelings and rest if they are feeling over-stimulated.

The Centre also offers the **Calm Pod**, where visitors can rest if they feel over-stimulated or overwhelmed by their environment. In this soothing and safe space, visitors can take the time to calm down, regulate their feelings and renew their focus.

Interactive programmes for families to enjoy during the December holidays

The Centre is free for all, with select ticketed facilitator-led programmes that offer guided learning experiences. Be sure to drop by the Centre this weekend for special opening weekend programmes, including a DIY Hat-Making craft activity session where parents and children can make precious memories together as they apply their hands-on skills to craft a personalised hat.

To ensure that families and children have an enjoyable experience in the revamped Keppel Centre for Art Education and manage visitor flow especially during the school holiday period, visitors are encouraged to pre-book a 1 hour 15 min time slot [here](#). You may refer to [Annex A](#) for the relevant time slots.

For visitors who did not register online, they may also register on-site as walk-ins are welcome, subject to availability. The Centre will be cleaned and sanitised after every session for the benefit of all visitors.

More information on the Centre's free and paid programmes can be found in the following **Annexes** and at this [link](#). Media assets are available via this [link](#).

- Annex A: Time slots for entry into Keppel Centre for Art Education
- Annex B: Keppel Centre for Art Education Programme Lineup

Centre details

Opening date	16 December 2023
Venue	National Gallery Singapore 1 St Andrew's Road, Singapore 178957 City Hall Wing, Level 1
Tickets	Admission is free for all

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About National Gallery Singapore

National Gallery Singapore is a leading visual arts institution that 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-metre 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 2020, 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 20th 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 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.

About Keppel Centre for Art Education

A 21st-century centre for education within an art gallery, the Keppel Centre for Art Education (the Centre) fosters a lifelong love for art in children. The Centre first opened in 2015 and was the first dedicated art education facility of its kind in Singapore and the region, with spaces and programmes developed specially to help children develop curiosity through multisensory active learning and creative play. Art education plays a vital role in preparing our young for a future where critical and creative thinking is a necessary competency, and the Centre introduces children to art at an early age while acknowledging the importance of lifelong learning. This year, the Centre underwent a massive revamp and re-opened in December 2023 as a brand-new space inspired by the theme, Art & Wonder. An inspiring, fun and nurturing environment for children aged 4 to 12 years old, the new Centre features multiple educational zones in which families and children can experience the world of art through play and creative activities.

Annex A: Time Slots for Entry to the Centre

Visitors may register for time slots [here](#):

Time Slot	Time
First Time Slot	10:00 am – 11:15am
Second Time Slot	11:30 am – 12:45pm
Third Time Slot	1:00 pm – 2:15pm
Fourth Time Slot	2.30 pm – 3:45pm
Fifth Time Slot	4:00 pm – 5:15pm
Sixth Time Slot	5.30 pm – 6:45pm

Annex B: Keppel Centre for Art Education Programme Lineup

Visitors may sign up for all programmes [here](#).

Tours and Programmes	
DIY Hat-Making Activity	
Date and Time:	Sat 16 Dec 2023 10am-7pm Sun 17 Dec 2023 10am-7pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children of all ages
Venue:	The Spine Hall, Level B1, City Hall Wing, National Gallery Singapore
Admission Details:	Drop-in
Description:	Create a personalised hat for you and your children, themed after the Keppel Centre for Art Education! This activity is operated on a drop-in basis.
TACTILITY STUDIES: the forest is (still) a wild thing!	
Date and Time:	Sat 16 Dec 2023 2.30–3.45pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children of all ages
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Basement 1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium Anteroom
Admission Details:	Free, registration encouraged but not required
Description:	How does a body grow and shrink across time and space? In <i>Can you see the forest for the trees?</i> by Izziyana Suhaimi, there is simultaneously an invitation for audiences to add to the artwork as well as the constant pruning back of contributions to allow for other audiences to add to the artwork. What might it look like if the body of the artwork was allowed to grow uncontrollably? This performance will be followed by an Artist Sharing. Visit https://www.nationalgallery.sg/resonateswithresidency for updated performance information

	and registration link closer to the date of the performance.
Family Art Tour	
Date and Time:	Sun 17 Dec 2023 Sat–Sun 6– Jan 2024 2.30–3.15pm, 3.30–4.15pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children aged 5-12
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	Free, register at the entrance of Keppel Centre for Art Education on the day of the programme
Description:	Come along on a tour of the Gallery! Our facilitator will get you thinking about the artists, their inspirations and the different tools and materials they use.
PAINTING OUR WORLD: Live story-telling session and art hunt	
Date and Time:	Mon 18 Dec 2023 2–3.15pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children aged 5 and up
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	Free, register at the entrance of Keppel Centre for Art Education on the day of the programme
Description:	Join us for a captivating reading session as one of the authors of <i>Painting Our World</i> , brings the story to life right before your eyes. Dive deep into the story, learn about the artworks and life in Singapore in the 1960s and 1970s and have the chance to interact with the author. Receive an art hunt activity card with every copy of the book purchased. Use the card to hunt for an artwork from <i>Painting Our World</i> and one from <i>Drawing Our World</i> , the

	forthcoming second book in the series. Upon completion, receive a surprise gift!
BIRD AND MONKEY'S ART DAY BY THE SEA: Live storytelling session and drawing activity	
Date and Time:	Mon 18 Dec 2023 3.30–4.30pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children aged 5 and up
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	Free, register at the entrance of Keppel Centre for Art Education on the day of the programme
Description:	What would it be like to step into an artwork and become a part of it? Learn all about line and shape with author and illustrator Dinaz Cassim as she tells the story of <i>Bird and Monkey's Art Day by the Sea</i> , a fantastical journey through spaces within National Gallery Singapore as well as the worlds depicted within artworks from the Gallery's collection. After the reading, Cassim will demonstrate how to use lines and shapes to depict characters from the book. Collect a free activity sheet and try drawing Bird and Monkey too!
GALLERYBABIES!	
Date and Time:	Thurs 21 Dec 2023 10.30–11.10am, 11.30–12.10pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with babies aged 9-18 months
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	\$10 per adult-child pair
Description:	Calling all mummies and daddies! Experience art with your baby through facilitator-led conversations and sensory activities. Explore

	together and bond with your baby in this safe space.
GALLERYTODDLERS!	
Date and Time:	Sat 6 Jan 2024 10.30–11.10am, 11.30–12.10pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with toddlers aged 2-3
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	\$10 per adult-child pair
Description:	Want your toddler to learn more about art but don't know where to start? GalleryToddlers! engages your toddler in sensory play, with fun art activities inspired by a different artwork each month!
FAMILY ART WORKSHOP: Decode the signs in an artwork — create your own visual language using found materials!	
Date and Time:	Sat 23 Dec 2023 2–3.30pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children aged 7-12
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	\$12 per participant
Description:	In this workshop, participants will discover the possible sign and meanings behind the artworks in the Gallery. You will also get to create your own signs through visual note taking. The session will end off with a fun 'sign-filled' art-making session with found materials.

ART ALIVE!: TROPICAL	
Date and Time:	Sat–Sun 13–14 Jan 2024 2.30–3.15pm, 3.30–4.15pm
Recommended Age Range:	For families with children aged 4-10
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 1, Keppel Centre for Art Education
Admission Details:	\$5 per adult-child pair
Description:	Immerse yourself in the world of <i>Tropical</i> and let your imagination soar with Art Alive! Our interactive programme offers families a fun and exciting journey of exploration, using drama and storytelling to bring artworks to life.