

For immediate release

Media Release

**Ngee Ann Development Donates S\$16m to
National Gallery Singapore
– Its First Contribution to a Visual Arts Institution**

Singapore, 16 August 2016 – National Gallery Singapore today announced Ngee Ann Development as its latest partner, supporting its mission of inspiring and engaging audiences with Singapore and Southeast Asian modern art. Ngee Ann Development's S\$16 million donation to the Gallery further accentuates its commitment to support the community and marks the corporation's first donation to a visual arts institution in Singapore.



(Left to right) Dr Eugene Tan, Director, National Gallery Singapore; Ms Chong Siak Ching, CEO, National Gallery Singapore; Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman, National Gallery Singapore; Mr Tan Kien Lip, President, Ngee Ann Kongs; Mr Yoshio Murata, Director, Ngee Ann Development; Mr Richard Lee, Chairman, Ngee Ann Development; Mr Tatsuo Yano, Director, Ngee Ann Development

“We are heartened and thankful to see organisations like Ngee Ann Development recognising the value that arts bring to our society. Ngee Ann Development’s philanthropic contribution will boost our efforts in promoting awareness for the arts and extending the community’s engagement with Singapore and Southeast Asian art,” said Ms Chong Siak Ching, CEO, National Gallery Singapore.

In appreciation of the generosity, the Gallery’s Auditorium and Foyer and Concourse Gallery 1 will be renamed *The Ngee Ann Kongsii Auditorium & Foyer* and *The Ngee Ann Kongsii Concourse Gallery* respectively. The donation will support the Gallery’s research, curatorial and exhibition work, focused on presenting exhibitions that further the understanding of modern art from Singapore and Southeast Asia.

Chairman of Ngee Ann Development, Mr Richard Lee said, “Ngee Ann Development strive to raise Singapore’s cultural profile internationally by providing more Singaporean artists a platform in this world-class visual arts institute to showcase their talent to the world. At the same time, we hope to support the Gallery in building an inspirational environment that cultivates greater appreciation of Singapore and Southeast Asian art in generations to come.”

The Ngee Ann Kongsii Auditorium & Foyer, a space designed to stimulate thought and foster community bonds, has hosted art talks, lectures and seminars with the presence of thought leaders and luminaries in the visual arts arena. The Auditorium has also held several community programmes including *Singapore International Children’s Film Festival*, *Arts & Disability Forum 2016*, and *Painting with Light*, a regular film series showcasing rarely seen classic and contemporary films from the region.

The Ngee Ann Kongsii Concourse Gallery is one of two concourse galleries that present changing exhibitions, giving spotlight to selected artists from the Gallery’s long-term exhibitions.

On 1 September 2016, The Ngee Ann Kongsii Concourse Gallery will welcome its first exhibition featuring one of Singapore and Southeast Asia’s most prominent and recognised ceramic artists, Iskandar Jalil. The show, *Iskandar Jalil: Kembara Tanah Liat (Clay Travels)* is the first major survey of Iskandar’s career and draws on close to 200 works from the 1960s to the present. Also a passionate educator, Iskandar Jalil strongly believes in grooming the next generation, which is congruent with Ngee Ann Development and The Ngee Ann Kongsii’s longstanding mission to support education.

ANNEX

Three Things to Know about The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium & Foyer



- The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium & Foyer is located at the basement of the Gallery's City Hall wing.
- The venue features a theatrical seating layout and is specially designed to enhance both the receptiveness of audiences and the delivery of presentations. The venue is ideal for holding award ceremonies, performances, symposiums, corporate talks and seminars.
- The venue has a total seating capacity of 208 people.

Three Things to Know about The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery

- The concourse galleries located at the basement level of the Gallery can be accessed with a General Admission ticket. It is free for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents.
- The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery, together with Concourse Gallery 2, is designed to be an extension of the Gallery's permanent exhibitions. It is where visitors will get more breadth and depth about selected artists whose works can be found in the two permanent galleries.
- Now renamed as The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery, the Concourse Gallery 1 held its inaugural exhibition, *A Fact Has No Appearance*, from 22 January to 19 June 2016. The exhibition brought together works by three key artists – Tan Teng-Ke (Singapore/Malaysia), Redza Piyadasa (Malaysia), and Johnny Manahan (Philippines) for the first time. The venue has “an uncanny ability to induce a simultaneous melancholy for and joyful discovery of the past” while the show received positive feedback for being “tightly curated”.

ABOUT NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

National Gallery Singapore is a new visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art of Singapore and Southeast Asia. The Gallery is dedicated to collaborative research, education and exhibitions, highlighting the importance of modern art in Southeast Asia in a global context. The Gallery also provides a unique visitor experience through its art presentations and innovative programming, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the National Gallery Singapore has been beautifully restored and transformed from the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings – two important heritage buildings of Singapore’s nationhood – into an exciting new visual arts venue. Opened in November 2015, the Gallery will be a leading civic and cultural destination established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world. Information on the National Gallery is available at www.nationalgallery.sg.

ABOUT Ngee ANN DEVELOPMENT

Ngee Ann Development Pte Ltd (NAD) is a subsidiary of The Ngee Ann Kongsi that manages the leasing of office and retail spaces in Ngee Ann City. Ngee Ann City is a commercial and civic project conceptualised by The Ngee Ann Kongsi, through Ngee Ann Development Pte Ltd (NAD), with Orchard Square Development Corporation (OSDC) in 1988. This massive shopping and office complex lies in the heart of Orchard Road. In 1989, Ngee Ann Development and Takashimaya Co. Ltd signed the joint venture agreement where Takashimaya entered a 20-years lease for the NAD portion of the shopping centre with the rights to name it Takashimaya Shopping Centre.

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