

*For Immediate Release*  
**Media Release**

## **National Gallery Singapore announces first international presentation at Gwangju's Asia Culture Center**



*National Gallery Singapore Curator, Charmaine Toh and artist Koh Nguang How at the presentation of Koh's 'Singapore Art Archive Project' at the Asia Culture Center.  
Photos courtesy of Koh Nguang How*

**Singapore, 8 September 2015** – National Gallery Singapore is proud to announce a new project as part of its international programming. The Gallery will be presenting Koh Nguang How's 'Singapore Art Archive Project' at the Asia Culture Center's (ACC) Library Park in Gwangju from 4 September, 2015 to February 2016.

The ACC is a major development in Gwangju that first began in 2008 and the ACC Library Park has invited National Gallery Singapore to present a project in the special exhibition space for its opening in September 2015. The exhibition will be part of a new framework for the awareness of Asian culture, placing Singapore on a unique international platform. When it opens to the public in November, the Gallery will focus on displaying, promoting and researching Southeast Asian modern art, relating this to wider Asian and international contexts, and creating a cultural dialogue between Singapore and the rest of the world.

Koh Nguang How is an independent artist and researcher focusing on Singaporean art history. As an archivist, his project 'Singapore Art Archive' encompasses research on contemporary and historical artists from Singapore. Koh will work with National Gallery Singapore curator Charmaine Toh to present a new display of archival materials relating to Singapore's art history.

Describing the birth of the project: "My collection for the Singapore Art Archive Project began with newspaper cuttings when I was a student in junior college in 1980. I was doing art as a subject, so naturally my focus was more on art related articles. I continue to collect newspaper cuttings to this day."

Koh will also undertake a three-month residency at the ACC from mid-November to mid-February, during which time he will focus on three artists. He will present his research and findings via a changing display in Gwangju.

Artist Koh will first examine the development of artist Tang Dawu and update the timeline of his practice, with a focus on his time in London during the 1970's. In the second month, he will re-visit the archives of Chng Seok Tin which include important reviews and articles on the artists and exhibitions in the 70's and 80's, all of which are written in Mandarin. Part of this research will include translating some of the key writings into English. The final part of his presented research will feature the Shui Tit Sing archives.

On Koh's significant contribution to research at the Gallery, curator Charmaine Toh said: "At National Gallery Singapore, we have used Koh's important research as a resource in curating our opening exhibitions and it has helped us to contextualise many works in the exhibition, providing new insights into our own collection."

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## **ABOUT NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE**

National Gallery Singapore is a new visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in 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 collections 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 this exciting new visual arts venue. Opening 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](http://www.nationalgallery.sg).

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### **Social Media:**

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nationalgallerysg>

Twitter <https://twitter.com/natgallerysg>

Instagram <https://instagram.com/nationalgallerysingapore/?hl=en>

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **Koh Nguang, 'Singapore Art Archive Project' artist**

Koh Nguang How is a first generation member of The Artists Village. His artistic practice started in 1988 and encompasses photography, collage, assemblage, installation, performance art, documentation, archiving, curating and research. Since 2005, he has been working on the self-initiated 'Singapore Art Archive Project', his most ambitious work to date.

### **Charmaine Toh, Curator, National Gallery Singapore**

Charmaine Toh is a curator at National Gallery Singapore. She was previously the Programme Director at Objectifs Centre for Photography and Film where she played a pivotal role in revitalising the gallery programme. She co-curated the 2012 I Light Marina Bay Festival and the 2013 Singapore Biennale.

## **Artists featured in the 'Singapore Art Archive Project'**

### **Tang Dawu**

Born in Singapore in 1943, Tang Dawu has an MFA from Goldsmith's College, University of London. When he returned to Singapore in 1979, Tang began to work in performance art. In 1988 he co-founded The Artists Village, a collective committed to promoting experimental art. Tang works in a number of mediums including performance art, installation, drawing and painting. Through his work, Tang explores social and environmental themes. Tang was also the recipient of the Visual Arts Award from the Arts Council of Great Britain in 1978 and was featured in the Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2007.

### **Chng Seok Tin**

Singaporean artist Chng Seok Tin received first class honours in Fine Art from the Hull College of Higher Education in England. One of the most versatile visual artists in Singapore, her works range from sculpture to ceramics, as well as mixed media, textiles, printmaking, painting and photography. In 1988, she lost nearly all of her sight after surgery to remove a brain abscess. When she re-emerged from her setback, Chng began to create more sculptural and mixed media works, advocated for artists with disabilities and returned to teaching at Lasalle-SIA College of the Arts. She was the first person to hold a solo exhibition at the Headquarters of the United Nations in New York and in the same year in 2005, received the Cultural Medallion for her contributions to visual arts in Singapore.

### **Shui Tit Sing**

Born in 1914 in Guangdong Province, China, Shui moved to Malaya in 1940 after graduating from the Hangzhou National Fine Art College. His art practice traversed Western painting and Chinese ink traditions. He is known for his wood carving sculptures largely influenced by bas relief from temples around Southeast Asia. He participated regularly at major group exhibitions in Singapore and was part of the Ten-Men Art Group together with Yeh Chi Wei, Choo Keng Kwang and Lim Tze Peng.