

NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE BRINGS ART TO VOID DECKS ISLAND-WIDE

More than 25 void decks across eight heartland neighbourhoods are transformed into art galleries for the public to encounter art in their everyday lives over the next three months



SINGAPORE, 13 September 2021 – National Gallery Singapore aims to bring art closer to people’s hearts and everyday lives by turning void decks into a gateway to art. *The People’s Gallery*, which rolls out island-wide today, transforms more than 25 such open spaces into galleries for the public to discover 50 surprising artworks by Singapore and Southeast Asian artists, using QR codes and Augmented Reality (AR) technology. This exciting new outreach initiative is part of the Gallery’s continued push, as it marks its 5th anniversary, to extend the positive impact of art to an even broader range of audiences through approachable and personal experiences with art beyond the walls of the museum.

TRANSFORMING VOID DECKS INTO A GATEWAY TO ART VIA AR TECHNOLOGY

Void decks are an intrinsic part of everyday Singaporean life. More than 80% of Singaporeans live in public housing, passing through these spaces daily. Leveraging AR technology, the Gallery is able to scale its reach and transform more than 25 Housing Development Boards (HDB) void decks across eight heartland neighbourhoods – Bishan, Toa Payoh, Jurong West,

Marine Parade, Serangoon, Pasir Ris, Punggol, and Yishun – into AR art galleries. The use of SafeEntry TraceTogether check-ins has already taught Singaporeans from all walks of lives how easy and convenient it is to use the humble QR code. Each void deck features up to 10 QR codes which will be refreshed with different artworks four times over the three-month run, from 13 September to end-November.

Ms Chong Siak Ching, Chief Executive Officer of National Gallery Singapore, says: “To be a progressive museum for the people, we must continue to create inclusive art experiences to foster a culture of art appreciation among the public. Leveraging technology has allowed us to ‘hang art on walls’ without concerns about climate control and security. We hope that this outreach will allow us to connect more widely with our local communities as we bring art to where they are, to every corner of Singapore.”

ART FOR ALL



Top to Bottom, L-R: Reclining Nude (undated) by Chia Wai Hon, *Two Workers* (1968, reprinted in 2017) by Tan Lip Seng, and *The Pro-rated Wage of the Abang Guard* (2011) by Jose Tence Ruiz.

Works shown in *The People’s Gallery* aim to offer the public fresh perspectives on modern Singapore and Southeast Asian art. In addition, the Gallery hopes to have audiences’ interests piqued to discover more surprising works at National Gallery Singapore through these

unexpected artworks. The works of art pop up in AR, via an interactive microsite, when the public scan the QR codes on the pillars of designated void decks. The works are accompanied by written labels, with several pieces complemented by multi-lingual audio guides and *Art in 90 seconds* videos – personal stories about the artworks told by people of the Gallery. In the spirit of the Gallery’s 5th anniversary theme of bridging divides and finding common ground through art, the AR microsite experience is available in English, Chinese, Malay and Tamil. Thus, regardless of their backgrounds and mother tongues, everyone can come to appreciate and enjoy the value of art for free. Admission to National Gallery Singapore’s permanent exhibitions is also free for all Singaporeans and PRs.

Works of art shown in *The People’s Gallery* include a bold, abstract figure-painting titled *Reclining Nude* (undated) by Singapore artist, art educator and art critic Chia Wai Hon; a striking photograph of Samsui women in *Two Workers* (1968 reprinted in 2017) by Singapore photographer Tan Lip Seng; and a socio-political commentary painting by Filipino multimedia artist, Jose Tence Ruiz, titled *The Pro-rated Wage of the Abang Guard* (2011).

The public can respond by sharing their thoughts and interpretations of the works on the microsite and read what others have to say. Those who share their views and offer feedback are eligible to redeem a free, one-year Gallery Insider membership worth up to \$120 in value, which includes privileges such as unlimited access to exhibitions and discounts for selected programmes, museum merchandise and the Gallery’s culinary offerings.

LOCATIONS OF THE PEOPLE’S GALLERY



Neighbourhoods	The People's Gallery locations
Toa Payoh	Blk 10 Toa Payoh Lorong 7, Singapore 310010
	Blk 130B Toa Payoh Lorong 1, Singapore 311128
	Blk 79C Toa Payoh Central, Singapore 313079
Bishan	Blk 197 Bishan St 13, Singapore 570197
	Blk 261 Bishan St 22, Singapore 570261
Jurong West	Blk 702 West Coast Road, Singapore 120702
	Blk 32 Teban Gardens Road, Singapore 600032
	Blk 617 Jurong West Street 65, Singapore 640617
	Blk 650A Jurong West Street 61, Singapore 640650
	Blk 701 Jurong West Street 71, Singapore 640701
	Blk 44 Telok Blangah Drive, Singapore 100044
Marine Parade	Blk 79 Marine Drive, Singapore 440079
	Blk 99 Airport Road, Singapore 390099
	8 Haig Road, Singapore 430008
Serangoon	Blk 203 Serangoon Central, Singapore 550203
	Blk 92 Pipit Road, Singapore 370092
Punggol	Blk 268D Punggol Field, Singapore 824268
	Blk 301B Punggol Central, Singapore 822301
	Blk 168 Punggol Field, Singapore 820168
Pasir Ris	Blk 627 Pasir Ris Drive 3, Singapore 510627
	Blk 547 Pasir Ris St 51, Singapore 510547
	Blk 446 Pasir Ris Drive 6, Singapore 510446
Yishun	Blk 257 Yishun Ring Road, Singapore 760257
	Blk 413 Yishun Ring Road, Singapore 760413
	Blk 204 Yishun Street 21, Singapore 760204
	Blk 701 Yishun Avenue 5, Singapore 760701
	Blk 841 Yishun Street 81, Singapore 760841

For more information on *The People's Gallery*, please visit www.thepeoplesgallery.sg. Media assets are accessible via [this link](#). Information on featured artworks in *The People's Gallery* is available at [Annex A](#).

For further information, please contact:

National Gallery Singapore

Esther Conyard
9271 1877
esther.conyard@nationalgallery.sg

Ogilvy on behalf of National Gallery Singapore


Natalie Tan
9173 6129
natalie.tan@ogilvy.com

About National Gallery Singapore

National Gallery Singapore is a leading visual arts institution which 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 the 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.

ANNEX A: THE PEOPLE'S GALLERY ARTWORK HIGHLIGHTS

Artwork	Artwork Description
 <p>Khoo Sui Hoe <i>Girl and Her Playmate</i> 1969 Oil on canvas, 88 x 87 cm Collection of National Gallery Singapore</p>	<p>This whimsical and abstract depiction of a girl playing a game with a friend was painted by Khoo Sui Hoe, an artist whose work is strongly influenced by nature and local subject matter from Singapore and Malaysia where he grew up.</p>



Thomas Yeo
Yellow Rider
 1967
 Acrylic on canvas, 126 x 100 cm
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore

As a student in Tao Nan Primary School, Thomas Yeo's love of painting was nurtured by his art teacher. He eventually pursued an education in the arts both at home and in the UK. Yeo's works, including *Yellow Rider*, have been described as abstract, reflecting a world that has multiple layers and dimensions.



Chia Wai Hon
Reclining Nude
 Undated
 Acrylic on paper, 32 x 94.5 cm
 Gift of the artist
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Chia Wai Hon worked as a teacher before he studied Design and Painting from the Chelsea School of Art in London, UK. Like many of his artist peers, Chia's work was influenced by the abstract movement, and he played with shapes, forms, colours and textures to great effect.



Jose Tence Ruiz
The Pro-rated Wage of the Abang Guard
 2011
 Oil on primed linen, 91 x 132 x 4.8 cm
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Jose Tence Ruiz's works have often been considered confrontational and satirical, and often addressed social issues. In his art, Ruiz believed that an artist should use his work to reveal the ugly truth of society, and show the social struggles that many people faced.



Anthony Poon
PR8-G6 on 6P Waves
1989
Acrylic on canvas-relief, 183.2 x 183.7
cm
Gift of the artist's family
Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Anthony Poon was a pioneer in the Singapore art scene, and was one of the earliest to create abstract art. In 1991, he was awarded the Cultural Medallion for his contributions to the visual arts. Here, we see a composition of six "waves," in tones of pink, green, and blue.



Tan Lip Seng
Two Workers
1968, reprinted in 2017
Photograph, digital print on archival
paper, 33 x 50 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore
This acquisition was made possible with
donations to the Art Adoption &
Acquisition Programme
© Tan Lip Seng

Tan Lip Seng is considered one of the region's most important photographers. He spent 42 years as a medical photographer at the National University of Singapore, before venturing into fine-art photography. He is known for brightly coloured landscapes, made using his trademark colour derivative and photo montage techniques.



Bagyi Aung Soe
Self-Portrait
c. 1980
Oil on plywood, 59 x 44 cm
Collection of National Gallery Singapore
© Maung Maung Soe, Bagyieain
Foundation, Yangon, Myanmar

Bagyi Aung Soe was a Burmese painter who grew up in Myanmar when the country was still a British colony. His bold, modernist abstract style of painting came as a shock to audiences who were used to more traditional styles.