

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

National Gallery Singapore celebrates National Day

- *Free admission to all exhibitions at the Gallery for 14 days between 22 July–12 August 2019; visitors can also enjoy 50% off their tickets from 13–31 August 2019.*
- *The Gallery brings its programmes closer to the community at libraries in the heartlands.*
- *A venue partner for the National Day Parade, the Gallery will be closed on 27–28 July, 2–4 August, and 8–10 August 2019 in preparation for the country's birthday celebrations.*

Singapore, 19 July 2019 – In celebration of Singapore's 54th year of independence and as a venue partner for the National Day Parade (NDP) at the Padang this year, National Gallery Singapore will offer free admission to all exhibitions for 14 days between 22 July–12 August 2019. Celebrations continue throughout the month of August and visitors will also enjoy 50% off admission tickets from 13–31 August. (Please refer to Annex A for the calendar). This is also in commemoration of Singapore's Bicentennial year.

Similar to the Padang, the City Hall and Former Supreme Court that house National Gallery Singapore today, were landmarks of Singapore's past and journey to independence and have borne witness to many pivotal events in the nation's history. It is therefore significant for the Gallery to play its part for this special NDP—that reflects how far we have come and our common aspirations for Singapore.

Embracing wonder at the libraries

In preparation for the country's annual celebration, the Gallery will be closed on eight select days between 27 July and 10 August 2019. Singaporeans can however look forward to participating in the Gallery's programmes during the weekends as they will be brought out and around Singapore to the heartlands instead.

A story-telling session, titled *Stories in Art: The Midas Touch*, that is inspired by *The Other Wall*¹ in the Gallery Children's Biennale, will be held at the Central Public Library and Yishun Public Library. Children who are four years old and above can join R Chandran, founder-

¹ *The Other Wall* by Burmese couple Nge Lay and Aung Ko piques one interest in the Burmese childhood as visitors are invited to enter two traditional Burmese homes plated entirely in gold, and introduced to a selection of the country's folktales presented as hand-carved woodcuts and narrated voiceovers (in English and Burmese).

director of ACT 3 Theatrics, to learn of a king who turned everything into gold, including his daughter, and even be part of the story!

There will also be family art workshops hosted at the Central Public Library and Serangoon Public Library. Participants can create hanging art mobiles and explore shapes, shadows and silhouettes with moving sculptures, inspired by *Every World*² and *Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies)*³ at the Gallery Children's Biennale.

Appreciate art from the comfort of your homes too

There is also a range of resources available on the Gallery website for visitors to peruse from the comforts of their homes or while on the go. For example, children can enjoy interactive and hands-on activities to learn about the art on display as part of *Gallery Kids* (<https://www.nationalgallery.sg/discover-learn/gallery-kids>). This includes creating their own artworks using shapes and patterns, inspired by Kim Lim's and Rasheed Araeen's masterpieces. Art enthusiasts can also deepen their understanding and appreciation of the artworks with the insights from curators, artists and programmers on *Perspectives* (<https://www.nationalgallery.sg/blog>)

New exhibition on City Hall building to open on 1 September



On 1 September, visitors can immerse themselves in pivotal moments that occurred at the City Hall building with the launch of a two-year multimedia exhibition—*City Hall: If Walls Could Talk*. Showcasing defining events such as the swearing-in of the nation's first President and the unveiling of the national flag and anthem in 1959, the exhibition at the City Hall Chamber

² *Every World* by Donna Ong leads visitors to five magical landscapes, individually put together using hundreds of paper cut-outs in five frosted domes.

³ *Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies)* centre on six *Damar Kurung*, which are traditional paper lanterns that depict scenes from everyday Javanese life, to illustrate important values such as peace, love, and care.

chronicles the building's rich past, and sheds light on the nation's progress before it transforms into National Gallery Singapore today. Alongside the multimedia showcase, visitors will be able to expand their experience beyond the Chamber's walls through an interactive digital wall situated outside the City Hall Chamber. Offering a personalised thematic art journey comprising of artworks from long-term exhibition *Siapa Nama Kamu?* at the DBS Singapore Gallery, visitors stand to gain a deeper understanding of the nation's history through an artistic lens.

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Annex A: Calendar of Gallery's operations from 22 July–31 August

Annex B: Programme line-up by National Gallery Singapore in August 2019

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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 metres 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 2019, 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 32nd 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. For more information, visit <https://www.nationalgallery.sg>.

Annex A: Calendar of Gallery’s operations from 22 July–31 August

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
22-Jul	23-Jul	24-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	27-Jul	28-Jul
FREE ADMISSION					CLOSED	CLOSED
29-Jul	30-Jul	31-Jul	1-Aug	2-Aug	3-Aug	4-Aug
FREE ADMISSION				CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED
5-Aug	6-Aug	7-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug	10-Aug	11-Aug
FREE ADMISSION			CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	FREE ADMISSION
12-Aug	13-Aug	14-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug	17-Aug	18-Aug
FREE ADMISSION	50% OFF ADMISSION TICKETS					
19-Aug	20-Aug	21-Aug	22-Aug	23-Aug	24-Aug	25-Aug
50% OFF ADMISSION TICKETS						
26-Aug	27-Aug	28-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug	31-Aug	
50% OFF ADMISSION TICKETS						

Annex B: Programme line-up by National Gallery Singapore in August 2019

	<p>Family Art Workshop - Floating Art Mobiles 3 August 2019, Saturday 3pm–4.30pm Central Public Library, Children’s Section Free 4 August 2019, Sunday 3pm–4.30pm Serangoon Public Library, Children’s Section Free</p> <p>Be inspired by two highlight installations from Gallery Children’s Biennale - <i>Every World</i> and <i>Kenangan Kunang-Kunang (Memories of Fireflies)</i>. Learn about moving sculptures, while exploring shapes, shadows and silhouettes to create your own hanging art mobiles under the guidance of an experienced Gallery facilitator.</p>
	<p>Stories in Art: The Midas Touch 3 August 2019, Saturday 2pm–2.45pm Yishun Public Library, Children’s Section Free 4 August 2019, Sunday 2.30pm–3.15pm Central Public Library, Children’s Section, Stage Area Free</p> <p>Would it be a blessing or a curse if everything you touched turned to gold? Inspired by <i>The Other Wall</i> in the <i>Gallery Children’s Biennale</i>, storyteller and founder-director of ACT 3 Theatrics, R Chandran, will share the story of a king who turned everything into gold, even his daughter.</p> <p>Suitable for children aged 4 and above.</p>
	<p>Sound Makers by Little Creatures 11 August 2019, Sunday 2.30pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm City Hall Wing, Level 1, Outside Keppel Centre for Art Education Free, registration required through Gallery website</p> <p>Create rhythms and beats using everyday objects like pots and pans in this fun parent-child workshop.</p>
	<p>We Started Something 16–18 August 2019, Friday–Sunday Various timings Various venues at National Gallery Singapore Free, registration through Gallery website</p> <p>The symposium, in conjunction with <i>Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia, 1960s-1990s</i>, charts the evolution of artistic collectivism in Asia and its impact on the course of art and cultural history. Prominent historians, curators, and art</p>



practitioners examine how unique modes of collaboration have facilitated the exchange and preservation of knowledge and catalysed social change in the region and beyond.

Keynote Lecture by Reiko Tomii – Localising Collectivism: A Do-It-Yourself DNA in Modern and Contemporary Art in Japan

16 August 2019, Friday | 6.30pm–7.30pm | City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium

Collectivism in Japanese modernism has and continues to shape the entire institutionalisation of modern art as well as avant-garde and contemporary practices within the country. Prominent art historian Reiko Tomii focuses on collectivism in late 19th-century Japan in this talk.



Artist Talk & Film Screening | Nick Deocampo: Revolutions Happen Like Refrains in a Song

16 August 2019, Friday | 8pm–9.15pm | City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium

Filipino filmmaker Nick Deocampo’s narration offers insight into the struggle of queer and other marginalised communities during the 1986 revolution that led to the toppling of President Ferdinand Marcos’ regime in the Philippines.



In-Gallery Talk | Collaboration in Contemporary Art: Tran Luong in conversation with Roger Nelson


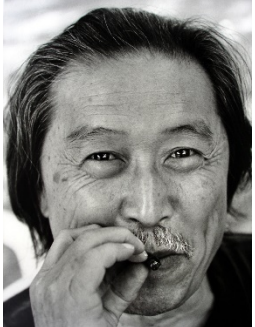
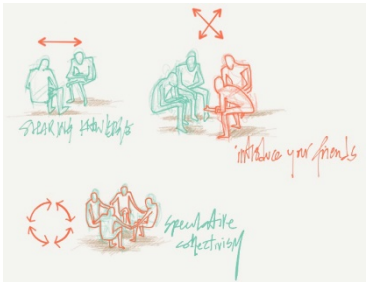

17 August, Saturday | 10.30am–noon | Supreme Court Wing, Level 5, UOB Southeast Asia Gallery 15




Tran Luong, one of Vietnam’s most celebrated contemporary artists, discusses how the emphasis on creative collaboration heralded a new era of art-making in contemporary Vietnam, after the demise of the Cold War.

Artist Talk & Performance | Lee Kun-Yong

17 August, Saturday | noon–1.15pm | City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium

Pioneer South Korean performance artist Lee Kun-Yong shares about his performances with 1970s avant-garde art group Space and Time and how performance art has challenged authoritarianism in the country.

	<p>Keynote Lecture by Kuroda Raiji – Invisible Chains: Woodcut Movements in Asia 17 August, Saturday 2pm–3.30pm City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium</p> <p>This lecture by prominent art historian and chief curator of the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Kuroda Raiji, draws on new research and findings from his latest exhibition <i>Woodcut Movements in Asia 1930s–2010s</i> to deepen the discussion on the medium across Asia.</p>
	<p>Artist Talk & Film Screening Chang Chao-Tang in conversation with Hsu Fang-Tze 17 August, Saturday 4pm–6.15pm City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium</p> <p>This programme explores the spirit of inquiry and collaboration in Taiwanese filmmaker and photographer Chang Chao-Tang’s practice and considers how his artistic choices differ from other dominant documentary approaches.</p>
	<p>Panel Collectivism in Practice 18 August, Sunday 4pm–5.30pm City Hall Wing, Level 5, Rooftop Studios</p> <p>Representatives from contemporary art collectives in Southeast Asia (Pangrok Sulap, Brack, Gudskul) surface the motivations and challenges of working collaboratively in their own socio-historical contexts.</p> <p>Film Programme Collectivism in Experimental Filmmaking 18 August, Sunday 6pm–7.30pm Supreme Court Wing, Level 5, Theatrette</p> <p>The formation of artist collectives in Asia in the 1960s was critical to the later development of experimental interdisciplinary art practices. This programme presents film works that embody the struggles of city dwellers in charged socio-political environments.</p>
	<p>Life Circuit by Urich Lau and Teow Yue Han 22–23 August 2019, Thurs–Fri 7pm City Hall Wing, Level 3 Free, registration through Gallery website</p> <p>In conjunction with <i>Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s–1990s</i>, a two day audiovisual performance entitled Life Circuit: I/O by the collective INTER—MISSION will inhabit Lee Kang-so’s <i>Disappearance, Bar in the Gallery</i> (1973). Life Circuit is an ongoing project that is experimental and explores</p>

	<p>intersections between video art, music and performance.</p>
	<p>A Somatic Series by Vincent Yong 24–25 August 2019, Sat–Sun 2.30pm, 4.30pm Rooftop Studios 1 & 2, City Hall Wing Level 5 Free with General Admission ticket, registration through Gallery website</p> <p>Movement educator and art therapist Vincent Yong translates the visual and performance art of the 60s to the 90s into a bodily experience in this unique somatic movement workshop. The participatory programme, in conjunction with <i>Awakenings: Art in Society in Asia 1960s-1990s</i>, consists of a 30-minute workshop and a 45-minute in-gallery experience culminating in a group performance.</p>
 	<p>Artist Chitter Chatter: Imagining the Seen and Unseen feat Hazel Lim-Schlegel and Andreas Schlegel 25 August 2019, Sun 3pm Glass Room Free, registration through Gallery website</p> <p>Join us in conversation with Hazel Lim-Schlegel and Andreas Schlegel, artists of <i>The Oort Cloud</i> and <i>the Blue Mountain</i> as they share about their inspirations and the process of collaboration in their artistic practice. Take this opportunity to ask them anything. Open to all, big and small!</p>