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Media Release

National Gallery Singapore collaborates with Tate Britain to co-curate exhibition on art in the British Empire



From Left to Right: Exterior of National Gallery Singapore. Image courtesy of National Gallery Singapore; Exterior of Tate Britain. Image courtesy of Sam Drake, Tate Photography.

21 July 2015 – In October 2016, the National Gallery Singapore will present *Artist and Empire*, a major international exhibition co-organised with Tate Britain, looking at artistic production relating to the conditions and experiences of the British Empire, and exploring the different ways in which empire was represented and contested.

The Gallery's second international collaboration of this kind, *Artist and Empire* will feature a co-curated selection of works from the 16th century to the present day. The Gallery's international partnerships aim to contribute to emerging areas of art historical scholarship by exploring Southeast Asian art in a global context, as well as provide opportunities to share key works from international institutions with audiences in Singapore.

Tate Britain will first present *Artist and Empire* in London in November 2015. Starting in the 16th century, *Artist and Empire* will show how artists mapped the world and its resources. Their works identified and claimed territories around the globe. Carefully staged paintings of international events also manipulated the sympathies of audiences in Britain, dramatising conquests, treaties and 'last stands'. The exhibition will also bring together grand portraits of key political figures and will examine how British leaders were presented in 'exotic' or hybrid costume, showing how images reflected bonds of union but also established differences between cultural groups. *Artist and Empire* will demonstrate how in the 20th century artists around the world challenged Imperial ideology, and how contemporary artists reflect on these histories today.

The Singapore exhibition in October 2016, presented in the Singtel Special Exhibition Gallery, will be co-curated by the Gallery's team of Low Sze Wee, Director of Curatorial and Collections, Melinda Susanto and Toffa Binte Abdul Wahed, together with the Tate Britain team comprising Alison Smith, Lead Curator, 19th Century British Art, and curators David Brown, Carol Jacobi and Caroline Corbeau-Parsons. The Singapore exhibition will explore the above mentioned themes with a greater focus on Southeast Asia, featuring more works by artists from the region alongside major loans from Tate's collection and other international collections. In particular, the exhibition will focus on the contributions of artists in British Malaya like Low Kway Song, Abdullah Ariff and Chuah Thean Teng.

Some artworks from the exhibition:



Chuah Thean Teng
Mother and Child
 c. 1940s
 Batik
 102.5 x 73.5 cm
 Gift from the Loke Wan Tho Collection.
 © Chuah Thean Teng family.
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore.
 Image courtesy of National Heritage Board.



Chuah Thean Teng
Untitled
 c. 1956
 Batik
 76.5 x 50.5 cm
 Gift of S. Rajaratnam.
 © Chuah Thean Teng family.
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore.
 Image courtesy of National Heritage Board.



Low Kway Song
King of the Jungle
 1917
 Oil on canvas
 75 x 100 cm
 © Low Kway Song family.
 Collection of National Gallery Singapore.
 Image courtesy of National Heritage Board.



Sir John Everett Millais
The North-West Passage 1874
 Oil paint on canvas
 1765 x 2222 mm
 © Tate



Elizabeth Butler (Lady Butler)
The Remnants of an Army 1879
 Oil paint on canvas
 1321 x 2337 mm
 © Tate

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 outstanding 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 an 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.

About Tate Britain

Tate Britain, located by the River Thames in London, displays the world's greatest collection of British art from 1500 to the present day. It is one of four Tate galleries around the country, and works with a wider network of partner institutions which champion the visual arts. Tate manages a growing national collection of over 70,000 works of art, acquired and cared for on behalf of the public and shown in venues throughout the UK and across the world.

www.tate.org.uk

Media enquiries:

Sutton PR Asia

Lucie Sherwood, lucie@suttonprasia.com, +852 9682 5273

Jessica Tedd, Jessica@suttonprasia.com, +852 9160 6976

National Gallery Singapore

Fiona Wong, fiona.wong@nationalgallery.sg, +65 66979138

Social Media:

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

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