#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

## National Gallery Singapore presents #SmallBigDreamersAtHome, the first online festival in Singapore for children to play, learn and create with art

Close to 30 interactive games, hands-on activities, and videos inspired by artworks from Singapore and Southeast Asian artists will be available online

**Singapore, 1 June 2020** — National Gallery Singapore's biennial children's festival, *Small Big Dreamers*, returns for its second edition with a digital twist from 1 June 2020 to 28 March 2021! Alongside <u>#GalleryAnywhere</u><sup>1</sup>, #SmallBigDreamersAtHome is part of a concerted effort of key initiatives aimed at bringing more art experiences to its audiences, even while the Gallery remains temporarily closed due to the ongoing COVID-19 situation. Following the introduction of new weekly activities on <u>Gallery Kids!</u><sup>2</sup> during the May school holidays, #SmallBigDreamersAtHome is the first online art festival in Singapore that serves up a series of fun and engaging activities for children aged six to 12, featuring interactive games, and easy-to-follow, hands-on activities designed to let them unleash their inner artist while learning about artworks within the National Collection and beyond.

Suenne Megan Tan, Director of Audience Development and Engagement at National Gallery Singapore said, "With families spending more time at home to curtail the spread of COVID-19, we want to provide opportunities for parents to continue engaging their children with art during this time. #SmallBigDreamersAtHome allows children to learn while being in their element with the online platform and ignites their imagination through creative play. We hope that it will serve as a springboard for new and regular visitors to take their own self-guided adventures into the world of art and look forward to welcoming them at the Gallery soon".

#### Adventures inspired by Singapore and Southeast Asian art

Children's adventures take place on the new <u>#SmallBigDreamersAtHome interactive site</u>, inspired by the art of five artists in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Holding focus groups with children, the Gallery allowed little ones to shape the festival by selecting artworks they wanted #SmallBigDreamersAtHome to be based on, namely *Tropical Fruits* by Georgette Chen, *Horizontals I* by Choy Weng Yang, *Gamelan Orchestra* by Sudjana Kerton, and *Dungun Siri II* by Ruzaika Omar Basaree. Completing this line-up is Singaporean artist Yeo Shih Yun, whose work, *My INK-credible Adventure*, focuses on the medium of ink painting.

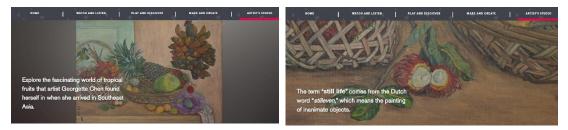
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> A digital portal by the Gallery for the audience to get their daily dose of art and virtual experiences in the comfort of their homes

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> A digital portal by the Gallery, targeted at kids, which offers weekly home-based art activities and resources to nurture one's interest in art

#### A bevy of art activities across five fun-filled experience zones

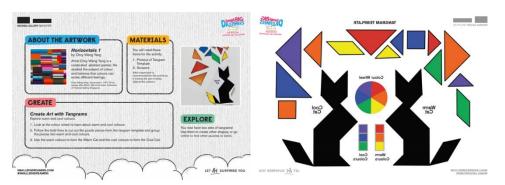
Visitors will be able to learn more about the artworks, have fun with interactive online games, let their creative juices flow with downloadable hands-on activities, and watch videos that include guided art tutorials. These experiences are brought to life through four experience zones, each featuring content and activities based on the five key artists and their works. From September, a fifth experience zone will be added, featuring scheduled live-streamed programmes for children to sign up for.

 Artists' Studio – Through an immersive art-viewing experience, kids can begin their journey by first learning about the artworks and their respective artists upon which the festival is based. The dynamic interface also brings them up close and personal with all five artworks, unveiling interesting facts and details about each masterpiece as they scroll through.



In the Artists' Studio section of the website, kids get to take a keener look at the artworks while learning fun facts about them

Make and Create – Taking a break from their screens, parents can download and print a collection of activity sheets. Comprising fun arts and crafts projects that invite kids to create, these printable activities explore the practice of every featured artist in a child-friendly and consumable way.



Free downloadable activity sheet for endless offline fun

Play and Discover – Additionally, kids can have fun with interactive games that also serve to
educate them on the artmaking techniques employed within the artworks. Three of such
games will be made available from 1 June; namely *An Artist's Tropical Landscape* (inspired
by Georgette Chen's *Tropical Fruits*), *Feeling Blocks* (inspired by Choy Weng Yang's *Horizontals I*) and *My INK-credible Adventure* by Yeo Shih Yun. Two more games based on

works by Indonesian artist Sudjana Kerton and Malaysian artist Ruzaika Omar Basaree will be released in July 2020.



Interactive game inspired by Georgette Chen's Tropical Fruits explores the concept of composition and shadows in art

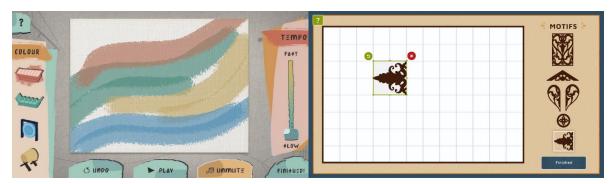
 Watch and Listen – Explore a series of on-demand tutorial videos facilitated by educational experts, independent artists, and illustrators, which hope to inspire kids to embark on projects of their own while simulating the artistic practices of some of the featured artists. Fun and engaging storytelling sessions along with sit-down chats with artists, educators and curators will join the line-up later in the year.



Video tutorial for children to create patterns

### Always something new to engage young audiences through the year

Come July 2020, two more interactive games inspired by works of regional artists will be made available. One of them is *Music Making*, a game that takes reference from *Gamelan Orchestra* by Sudjana Kerton. The other interactive titled *Dungun Dreaming* is inspired by *Dungun Siri II* by Ruzaika Omar Basaree. These will be accompanied by new home-based activity sheets and videos.



Interactive games inspired by Gamelan Orchestra and Dungun Siri II will be made available in July 2020

In September, the Gallery will introduce the fifth experience zone titled **SBD Live!**. In this new zone, they will be able to register for, and enjoy a series of approximately seven scheduled programmes such as live-streamed workshops, talks and performances, bringing the fun of a Gallery outing into their homes. As we continue to be more measured with physical gatherings, this new experience will continue to provide regular opportunities for families to bond over art-related activities.

In November, the Gallery will once again introduce new content on #SmallBigDreamersAtHome with more activity sheets, programmes and videos—just in time for the year-end school holidays.

Parents and children are encouraged to share their artworks created in response to the festival on social media with the hashtag #SmallBigDreamersAtHome for a chance to be featured in a series of compilation videos under the banner *Made by* #*SmallBigDreamersAtHome*. These videos will be published on the website in August and December 2020, and further reinforce *Small Big Dreamers* as a festival created for children, and with children.

#SmallBigDreamersAtHome also complements other family-friendly online resources and programmes by the Gallery, such as the refreshed <u>Gallery Kids! website</u> which offers new weekly home-based art activities and resources to nurture one's interest in art.

#SmallBigDreamersAtHome is proudly supported by the Gallery's Development Partner, Tote Board. Mr Fong Yong Kian, Chief Executive of Tote Board, shared, "We're seeing whole new ways of engaging the community, from online classrooms for students to supporting our vulnerable seniors through teleconferencing. These are trying times but organisations are adapting to new ways of operating, and Tote Board is ready to support the Gallery in devising novel unconventional ways of bringing art to the people. A dose of art and fun for the whole family can be especially beneficial to mental and emotional well-being. As demonstrated by #SmallBigDreamersAtHome, we can seize upon new opportunities to change the way we work and play".

For more information about the festival, please visit: www.smallbigdreamers.com

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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-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 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.

#### **About Tote Board**

Established in 1988, Tote Board (Singapore Totalisator Board) is a statutory board of the Ministry of Finance. As a grantmaking organisation, Tote Board works closely with stakeholders and partners, to support broad and diverse worthy projects in the sectors of Arts, Community Development, Education, Health, Social Service and Sports. Through these projects, Tote Board helps to uplift the community by giving hope to vulnerable groups and improving the lives of all in Singapore.

Being a broad-based grantmaker, Tote Board strives to identify synergies and needs across multiple sectors, and tailor our funding efforts accordingly to create greater impact. The wide reach of Tote Board's grants has enabled us to touch the lives of Singaporeans from all walks of life. We provide equitable opportunities for vulnerable groups, strengthen communities, and inject vibrancy and liveability in our community spaces through our grantmaking.

Tote Board's grants are derived from surpluses from the gaming businesses Singapore Pools (Private) Limited (a subsidiary company of Tote Board) and Singapore Turf Club (a proprietary club of Tote Board), as well as the collection of casino entry levies. Tote Board also ensures that Singapore Pools and Singapore Turf Club conduct their businesses in a socially responsible manner, so as to provide a safe and trusted avenue for gaming and to counter illegal gambling.

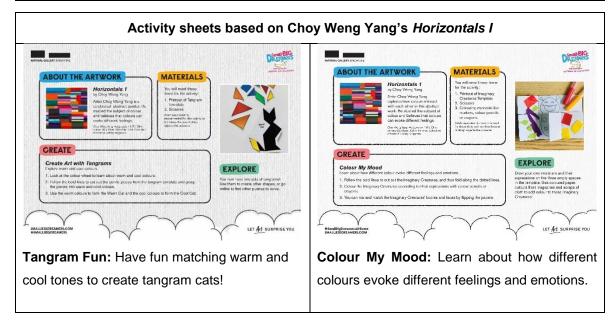
Tote Board's goal is to help build a flourishing society in Singapore. We want to inspire positive change and contribute towards building an inclusive, resilient and vibrant community, while fostering a caring and compassionate nation.

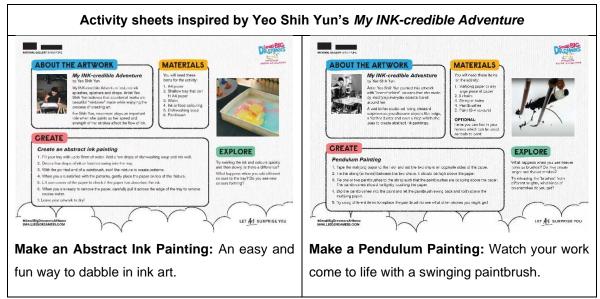
# ANNEX A: List of experiences on #SmallBigDreamersAtHome

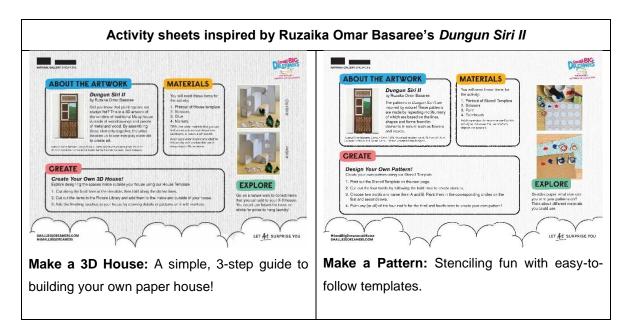
Artists' Studio - Explore the works of these artists!	
	<i>Tropical Fruits</i> 1969 Georgette Chen
Georgette Chen, <i>Tropical Fruits</i> . 1969. Oil on canvas. 73 x 92 cm. Gift of the artist. Collection of	Georgette Chen created many of her still life works to reflect the sights, sounds, smells and textures of Singapore and Southeast Asia. <i>Tropical Fruits</i> presents a collection of fruit that defined the artist's new homeland, fruit that were not naturally found in her
	-
National Gallery Singapore.	birthplace of China. <i>Horizontals I</i> 1977 Choy Weng Yang
	Choy Weng Yang believes that colours can express feelings, and that different colour combinations can evoke certain responses. Mr Choy has put a lot of thought into combining the colours in <i>Horizontals I</i> . If you
Choy Weng Yang. Horizontals I. 1977. Oil on	look closely at the artwork and follow the
canvas. 92 x 92 cm. Gift of the artist. Collection of	colours, you may be reminded of different
National Gallery Singapore.	things and feelings!
	<i>My INK-credible Adventure</i> 2020 Yeo Shih Yun Yeo Shih Yun (b.1976) is a Singaporean ink
	artist who frequently uses inventive tools such as robots to create her paintings, which she customises with twigs and Chinese brushes. She believes that accidental marks and imperfections are beautiful and encourages everyone to embrace "mistakes" in art as they happen instead of striving for perfection.

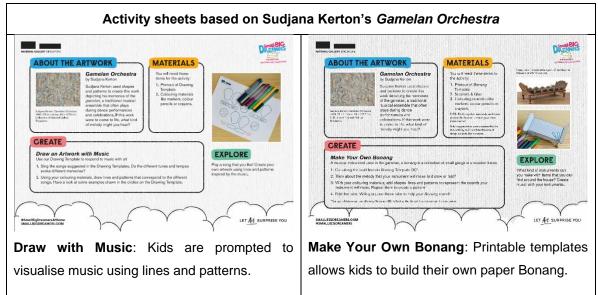
	Dungun Siri II
	1978
	Ruzaika Omar Basaree
	Combining elements of architecture and
	traditional Malay wood carvings, Ruzaika
124224224	Omar Basaree is known for challenging the
	idea of a traditional painting by including
<b>EXERCISE</b>	materials such as wood to make her works
	multidimensional. Dungun Siri II was created
Ruzaika Omar Basaree. Dungun Siri II. 1978.	during the time she lived in Dungun,
Wood and emulsion paint. 72.4 x 91.4 cm.	Terengganu (Malaysia), where she
Collection of Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah,	incorporated Terengganu-style woodcarving
Universiti Sains Malaysia.	called "kerawang" into her work.
	Gamelan Orchestra
	1960
	Sudjana Kerton
していたいですこ	Sudjana Kerton was among a number of
	Indonesian artists who travelled abroad for
A BERT	further studies in the 1950s. The Gamelan
	Orchestra was created while Kerton was
Sudjana Kerton. <i>Gamelan Orchestra</i> . 1960. Oil on	living in New York, and reveals the influence
canvas. 89 x 127.5 cm. Collection of National	of Cubism and the artist's formal exploration
Gallery Singapore.	of traditional Indonesian subject matter within
	the medium of painting.
	and medium of painting.

#### Make and Create - Get Hands-On! Activity sheets inspired by Georgette Chen's Tropical Fruits DREAMOR DREAMER ABOUT THE ARTWORK MATERIALS -ABOUT THE ARTWORK MATERIALS Tropical Fruits Tropical Fruits of Fruit Templet Colouring materials like markets, colour pencils or Sciaec Tape Paint Adult succession is constructed of the activity as it involves the use of share objects the science. Generate Oler, Schröchner 1959 Olan mitter Vielbert, Cabeller i Nate of Octov Because. CREATE CREATE EXPLORE Make Your Own Paper Brushes Explore creating s.rt with different textures Create Art With Your Own Shadows! , then roll it up tightly and secure it with tape of fold them back gently to create a paper br different shapes such as a secure or a point EXPLO 2. Cut sits around one end of the tube and field then back genty to create a partial. Mole there when paper brackes in dimensional such as a separe on a sean in the image of the right. 3. Dip or of the bushnes into parks and stamp it don't he fulls in the Fruit Temp 4. Report Stop 3 as many limes as you want with a first of paper brackes and to we the trachlight or adjust B to change the seat the step as many times as you wish, our the line art that you have created. hape of the sha LET Art SURPRISE YOU LET Art SI #SmallBigDreamersAtHome MALLBIGDREAMERS.C Shadow Art: Exploring moving shadows and Make Paper Brushes: Craft paper brushes that double up as patterned stamps. art.









### Play and Discover – Where kids learn through play.



Interactive Game: An Artist's Tropical Landscape

#### Stepping into the mind of local art pioneer Georgette Chen, children can draw inspiration from Tropical Fruits—her 1969 still-life painting featuring a collection of regional fruits which demonstrates how often inspired artists are by their environment. Sitting in front of their own digital easels for the game An Artist's Tropical Landscape, they can watch the interplay between light and shadow by shifting the light source in this digital miseen-scène, and learn even about



Interactive Game: Feeling Blocks

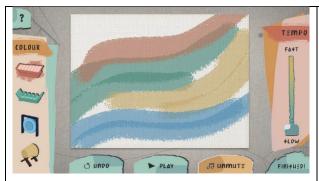


Interactive Game: My INK-credible Adventure

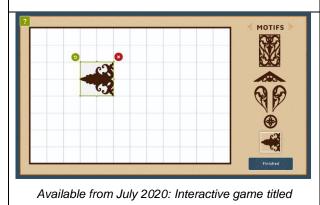
composition in still-life paintings by experimenting with the placement of fruits on the table.

From colourful fruits to colourful blocks, this interactive game draws inspiration from Horizontals I by prominent Singaporean artist Choy Weng Yang. Echoing his use of colour as an emotive medium, Feeling Blocks encapsulates a colouring challenge that encourages children to express themselves through colours and understand the relationship between colours and emotions. Children can paint with their hearts on their sleeves by filling up kaleidoscopic patterns with warm or soft colours of their choice, or take up a bigger challenge by creating a painting from scratch using geometric shapes and colours.

The Gallery worked with Singaporean painter Yeo Shih Yun to develop a new activity inspired by her work in the medium of ink. Encapsulating her decades-long love affair with the fusion of traditional and contemporary art mediums, Yeo developed the online game My INK-credible Adventure, which allows children to create digital artworks filled with ink splashes, strokes, splatters and drops in an open and playful manner. The game is inspired by the space of the same name at the Keppel Centre for Art Education created collaboratively between the artist and the Gallery, which will be launched later in 2020.



Available from July 2020: Interactive game titled Music Making



Dungun Dreaming

*Music Making*, a game that transforms the artistry of music into bold visual strokes. It takes reference from the painting *Gamelan Orchestra* by Indonesian artist Sudjana Kerton in which he depicts the sounds of the traditional instruments from his homeland. Children can play conductor to a digital orchestra with their own symphonies and see how their music creation is represented in a painting with brush strokes that change with varying beats and tempo.

This interactive game is inspired by *Dungun Siri II* by Malaysian artist Ruzaika Omar Basaree where she assembled objects such as window locks, pieces of wood and intricately designed Malay wood carvings to create this 3-dimensional painting of a traditional Malay window. In the game *Dungun Dreaming*, children can dream up their own versions of the woodcarving patterns, using motifs found in this artwork.

