

For immediate release

Media Release

**National Gallery Singapore presents the first Minimalism exhibition in
Southeast Asia in collaboration with ArtScience Museum**

Minimalism: Space. Light. Object.

16 November 2018 to 14 April 2019

Singapore, 7 September 2018 – Singapore’s two leading cultural institutions, National Gallery Singapore and ArtScience Museum are collaborating for the first time to present the region’s first exhibition focusing on Minimalism. Led by the Gallery and set across these two sites, over 130 works will explore the history and legacy of this groundbreaking art movement, which continues to influence a wide range of art forms and practitioners across the world today.

Dr. Eugene Tan, Director of National Gallery Singapore said, “This institutional collaboration will enable us to extend the scale of the exhibition, to further examine the many rich and complex dimensions of this significant artistic tendency, which has had such an enormous influence on contemporary art and design but has been little seen in Southeast Asia. Its profound impact will become evident through the exhibition set across both venues, each of which will have a distinct focus in our examination of Minimalism. This will further allow both institutions to reach out to and engage different audiences, due to our respective localities and programmatic focus. We hope to further enhance our understanding of Minimalism and its legacies for art today through this exhibition.”

Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum added, “ArtScience Museum is delighted to partner National Gallery Singapore on *Minimalism: Space. Light. Object.* The curatorial teams at both museums have worked together to create a coherent single exhibition that shows how Minimalism became a radical turning point in the history of 20th-century art, stepping away from the experience of art as an object, to the consideration of the spatial, social and political contexts in which art exists. Playing to our strength as a museum of both science and art, ArtScience

Museum will present artwork which meditates on the notions of the cosmological void, emptiness and nothingness – principles which are resonant to both Minimalism and to science. Our show seeks to exemplify the comment often attributed to Albert Einstein that, ‘everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.’”

The exhibition will provide a re-examination of Minimalism’s origins, broadening the scope beyond New York to consider related tendencies around the world. A key aspect is the ongoing engagement of Minimal art with Asian art and spirituality in the work of Asian, American and European artists.

The Gallery’s exhibition will explore the development of Minimal art and ideas from the 1950s to the present day, tracing its shift from painting to sculpture and then to spatial installations and immersive environments. It will feature works by some of the most significant artists of the past 70 years, including Mark Rothko (USA, 1903-1970), Donald Judd (USA, 1928-1994); Yayoi Kusama (Japan, 1929-); Charlotte Posenenske (Germany, 1930-1985); Lee Ufan (Korea/Japan 1936-); Olafur Eliasson (Denmark/Iceland, 1967-); Anish Kapoor (India/UK 1954-); Ai Weiwei (China, 1957-); Po Po (Myanmar, 1957-) as well as Singaporean artists Kim Lim (1963-1997) and Tang Da Wu (1943-).

ArtScience Museum will present a thematic exhibition exploring form, colour and spirituality, including the work of influential artists such as Carmen Herrera (Cuba-USA, 1915-); Mona Hatoum (Lebanon/UK, 1952-) and Richard Long (UK, 1945-) as well as contemporary artists Song Dong (China, 1966-); Tan Ping (China, 1960-); Charwei Tsai (Taiwan/France/Vietnam, 1980-) and teamLab (Japan, 2001-). Singaporean artist Jeremy Sharma (Singapore, 1977-) will also be showcasing his new commission at the exhibition. ArtScience Museum will also explore the impact and legacies of minimalist sound and experimental composition within a dedicated Sound Room.

Throughout the duration of the exhibition, special programmes at both venues will feature music, film, dance and interactive installation, showing the close engagement of other art forms with Minimalism. Further details to be announced.



For more information about the exhibition, please visit:

<https://www.nationalgallery.sg/minimalism>

<https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/minimalism.htm>

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Editor's Note:

High-resolution images may be downloaded at:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1CCcnN9UFfkVBaIVz_10i4IDxXMx6GaJa

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About National Gallery Singapore

National Gallery Singapore is a visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Situated 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 venue. Reflecting Singapore’s unique heritage and geographical location, the Gallery features Singapore and Southeast Asian art from Singapore’s National Collection in its long-term and special exhibitions. The Gallery also works with international museums to jointly present Southeast Asian art in the global context, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

In 2016, the Gallery won the awards for “Best Attraction Experience”, “Breakthrough Contribution to Tourism” and “Best Customer Service (Attractions)” at the prestigious Singapore Tourism Awards for its role in adding to the vibrancy of Singapore’s tourism landscape.

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is the cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. Since opening in February 2011, the museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world’s major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh, and M.C. Escher. In addition, it has presented significant exhibitions which explore aspects of science, including, in recent shows, big data, particle physics, natural history, marine biology and space exploration.

ArtScience Museum's striking lotus-inspired building, designed by Moshe Safdie, features 21 gallery spaces spanning nearly 5000m². The museum has staged international exhibitions in partnership with renowned museums and galleries around the world, including the British Museum and Science Museum in London, the American Museum of Natural History in New York, the Ambrosiana in Milan, Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, the Australian Centre for Moving Image in Melbourne, and many others. ArtScience Museum also originates and produces exhibitions in-



house, and runs a full programme of education, events, activities and learning opportunities for a wide range of audiences.

ArtScience Museum is owned and operated by Marina Bay Sands.