



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

### **PAINTING WITH LIGHT RETURNS TO NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE**

*Running from 5 October 2018, the second edition of the festival of international films on art brings a special focus on lives around the world caught in transition*

**Singapore, 13 September 2018** - To showcase the role of art in society, National Gallery Singapore presents the second edition of ***Painting with Light: Festival of International Films on Art***, using the evocative medium of film to shed light on important issues around the world in a bid to create new ways of seeing. This year, there will also be a *Special Focus* section on communities in transition.

Taking place from 5 to 28 October 2018, the only film festival in Singapore dedicated to art returns this year with over 30 thought-provoking films by Singapore, regional and international filmmakers and artists. Comprising a mix of award-winning feature-length and short films, as well as single-channel works, the selection is thoughtfully curated to facilitate conversations on the role of art and museums in offering new perspectives to critical issues in society today.

Ms. Suenne Megan Tan, Director for Audience Development and Engagement at the Gallery, and the Festival Director of *Painting with Light* said, "This year, *Painting with Light* traces the ways in which we are moved by the transformative power in art. Through film, we take a closer look at the challenges of transition, migration and displacement, and the role art plays in shaping new realities in the face of these issues. By harnessing film's storytelling power, we hope to connect with a wider audience, encourage appreciation for the arts, and to foster a thoughtful and inclusive society."

The Festival consists of four sections, with this year's *Special Focus* drawing attention to the reality and experience of displacement, an issue that is central to many of today's most critical global debates.

### **WAYS OF SEEING**

Films on artists and their interventions on society

## HOLDING SPACE

Films on institutions of art and their communities

## SPECIAL FOCUS

Films that capture the reality of transition

## SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHORTS

Short films on the stories of Southeast Asia



*Opening Film: Their Remaining Journey by John Clang*

The festival will open with the debut feature of acclaimed Singapore visual artist John Clang, entitled ***Their Remaining Journey (2018)***, which examines the intertwining stories of three seemingly unrelated groups of people around the world as they negotiate personal loss and displacement. Clang's film enters the intimate worlds of his characters with sensitivity—portraying their private consternation from being in between states—and tells of an existence that transcends time and space, life and death.

This year's *Special Focus* section highlights the unsettling experience of transition, capturing the challenges of displacement, migration and the diasporic experience for millions around the world. ***Glimpse (2017)*** by Polish visual artist Artur Żmijewski, and ***Central Airport THF (2018)*** by based-in-Berlin Brazilian visual artist Karim Aïnouz, reflect the nature of the directors' engagement with the current refugee crisis. Żmijewski's film presents the living conditions of displaced families living at four refugee camps across Europe, and forces us to confront the way we see. Aïnouz's film, on the other hand, follows asylum seekers at the massive hangars of the former Tempelhof

Airport in Berlin, which were now turned into emergency shelters, where they cope with homesickness and the anxiety of their future residency or be deported.



(Left to right) *Glimpse* by Artur Źmijewski; *Central Airport THF* by Karim Aïnouz

Ms. Pauline Soh, *Painting with Light* Festival Programmer said, “Źmijewski’s unrelenting take on the refugees’ bleak living conditions, and Aïnouz’s sensitive compositions surfacing their humanity, together bring to light the immense sense of loss but also abiding hope of these displaced peoples. The refugee crisis has ignited fiery debates across the world in recent years; we hope these films can bring about a deeper reflection on such issues as we navigate an uncertain future.”



*The Tailor* by Kay Nguyen and  
Tran Buu Loc

Festival goers can also catch screenings of romantic comedy *The Tailor (2017)* by Vietnamese directors Kay Nguyen and Tran Buu Loc. This heartwarming film celebrates the enduring beauty of Vietnamese artistry through the adventures of a young heiress to an *ao dai* fashion house in Saigon and her attempt to save her family business by creating the modern *ao dai*.

At selected screenings, the audience will have the opportunity to meet with some of these filmmakers and artists during intimate post-screening dialogues. As part of the opening weekend, the Gallery will also be organising a public forum on 6 October with filmmakers Kamila Andini and John Clang, as well as historian Dr Mohamed Effendy as they explore cultural notions of performative spirituality and displacement surfaced in the films.



More information on *Painting with Light: Festival of International Films of Art 2018* can be found on [www.nationalgallery.sg/paintingwithlight](http://www.nationalgallery.sg/paintingwithlight). Tickets are available from the Gallery, as well as SISTIC websites and ticketing counters.

<b>General Admission</b>	<b>Early Bird</b>
\$10 per ticket (includes booking fee)	\$8 per ticket (Available from 13 to 27 Sep)
<b>Group Bookings</b>	<b>Concessions*</b>
\$8 per ticket (purchases of 4 tickets or more in a single transaction)	Gallery Insiders: \$8 per ticket Local and international students, NSFS, and seniors aged 60 and above: \$8.50 per ticket  *Please bring along a valid ID for checks at the door. Patrons unable to present proof of eligibility are required to upgrade their concession tickets to full price tickets.

- END -

**For media enquiries,**

**Tate Anzur**

Khew Shu Ping  
DID: 6568 9156  
Mobile: 9012 6194  
Email: [shuping.khew@tateanzur.com](mailto:shuping.khew@tateanzur.com)

Keith Kay  
DID: 6568 9157  
Mobile: 9628 4263  
Email: [keith.kay@tateanzur.com](mailto:keith.kay@tateanzur.com)

**National Gallery Singapore**

Nicole Tan  
DID: 6690 9404  
Email: [nicole.tan@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:nicole.tan@nationalgallery.sg)

Susie Lim-Kannan  
DID: 6697 9207  
Email: [susie.lim-kannan@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:susie.lim-kannan@nationalgallery.sg)

**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.

**Annex A: Film selection of *Painting with Light: Festival of International Films of Art 2018***

**Auditorium Programme Schedule  
(Ticketed)**

Film	Time of screening
<b>WAYS OF SEEING</b> Films on artists and their interventions in society	
<i>Megalodemocrat: The Public Art Of Rafael Lozano-Hemmer</i> by Benjamin Duffield	Sat 20 Oct   4.30pm Sun 21 Oct   4.30pm
<i>In the Steps of Trisha Brown</i> by Marie-Hélène Rebois	Sun 14 Oct   7.30pm Sat 20 Oct   2pm
<i>Their Remaining Journey</i> by John Clang	Fri 5 Oct   7.30pm Sat 13 Oct   4.30pm
<i>Selected Works: Them, Sculpture Plein-air. Swiecie, Pole In A Closet, Cookbook</i> by Artur Żmijewski	Sun 7 Oct   7.30pm
<i>Approved for Adoption</i> by Jung and Laurent Boileau	Sun 28 Oct   2pm
Double bill: <i>Focus Iran</i> by Nathalie Masduraud and Valérie Urréa & <i>Hashti Tehran</i> by Daniel Kötter	Sun 14 Oct   4.30pm
<b>HOLDING SPACE</b> Films on institutions of art and their communities	
<i>The Tailor</i> by Tran Buu Loc and Kay Nguyen	Fri 12 Oct   7.30pm Sun 21 Oct   7.30pm
<i>The Graduation</i> by Claire Simone	Fri 19 Oct   7.30pm Sun 28 Oct   4.30pm
Double bill: <i>The Great Theatre</i> by Slawomir Batyra & <i>state-theatre #5 BEIRUT</i> by Daniel Kötter and Constanze Fischbeck	Sat 13 Oct   7.30pm
<i>Louvre City</i> by Nicolas Philibert	Sat 27 Oct   4.30pm
<i>Bontoc Eulogy</i> by Marlon Fuentes	Sat 27 Oct   2pm
<i>In Art We Trust</i> by Benoît Rossel	Sat 13 Oct   2pm Sun 21 Oct   2pm
<b>SPECIAL FOCUS</b> Films that capture life in transition	
<i>Motherland</i> by Ramona S. Diaz	Sat 6 Oct   7.30pm Sun 7 Oct   2pm
<i>Arcadia</i> by Paul Wright	Sun 14 Oct   2pm Sun 28 Oct   7.30pm
Double bill: <i>Glimpse</i> by Artur Żmijewski & <i>Central Airport THF</i> by Karim Ainouz	Sun 7 Oct   4.30pm Fri 26 Oct   7.30pm
<i>In Jackson Heights</i> by Frederick Wiseman	Sat 27 Oct   7.30pm
<i>The Seen and Unseen</i> by Kamila Andini	Sat 6 Oct   2pm Sat 20 Oct   7.30pm

**Auditorium Anteroom Programme Schedule  
(Free admission, daily)**

Film	Time of screening
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIAN SHORTS:</b> Short films on the stories of Southeast Asia	
<i>Where The Light Shines Through</i> by Nelson Yeo	11am daily
<i>Day By Day</i> by Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai	12pm daily
<i>Kartika: 9 Ways of Seeing</i> by Christopher Basile	1pm daily
<i>Bangkok Dystopia</i> by Patipol Teekayuwat	2pm daily
<i>A Long Way Home</i> by Xaisongkham Induangchanthy <i>Missing</i> by Khin Myanmar	3pm daily
<i>2 Or 3 Things About The Bridge</i> by Fai Wan <i>Anchorage Prohibited</i> by Chiang Wei Liang	4pm daily
<i>Dahdi</i> by Kirsten Tan <i>Little Sister</i> by Chiang Wei Liang	5pm daily
<i>Kampung Tapir</i> by Aw See Wee <i>Permanent Resident</i> by Nicole Midori Woodford	6pm daily
<i>Where The Light Shines Through</i> by Nelson Yeo	7pm on Fri, Sat and Sun (feature film screening days)

## Annex B: Painting with Light Special Focus x Art in Southeast Asia Day

The *Special Focus* Public Forum is organised in conjunction with Art in Southeast Asia, a one-day programme exploring the complexities of traversing boundaries, political and spiritual, in Southeast Asia. The programme aims to connect visual artists and filmmakers with researchers from fields like geography, anthropology and history. The programme’s theme “In Transition” aligns with *Painting with Light’s* special focus for this year.

Special Focus Public Forum (Saturday, 6 October 2018)	
<p>Where Do We Belong?: Death and Spirituality in Southeast Asia</p> <p>(3.45–5pm, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium)</p>	<p>Many Southeast Asian cultures posit that the universe consists of both invisible and invisible realms. In this holistic view of the universe, what is understood, experienced, and accepted as reality encompasses both material and supernatural elements. “Where Do We Belong?” will explore cultural notions of performative spirituality from a filmic and anthropologic lens to understand how people traverse different worlds.</p> <p>This public forum will follow the screening of <i>The Seen and Unseen</i> by Kamila Andini, which will provide context for the discussion.</p> <p><b>Speakers &amp; Moderator:</b> Kamila Andini John Clang Dr Mohamed Effendy Abdul Hamid Zarina Muhammad (Moderator)</p>
Art of Southeast Asia: In Transition (Saturday, 6 October 2018)	
<p>Dialogue   Why Do We Leave?: Jose Tence Ruiz in Conversation with Shabbir Hussain Mustafa</p> <p>(12.30-1.30pm, Glass Room)</p>	<p>How do artists bear witness to changes and shifts in their homeland, and why do they leave? Join Senior Curator Shabbir Hussain Mustafa in tracing the journey of multimedia artist Jose Tence Ruiz from Manila, where he was involved in the Kaisahan Social Realist movement, to his life in Singapore as a political cartoonist.</p>



<p>Dialogue   What Happens When We Disappear?: Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai in Conversation with Dr Carl Grundy-Warr</p> <p>(5.30-6.30pm, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium)</p>	<p>What are the everyday realities of people whose existences remain unrecognised, or in some cases, have been erased? Join visual artist Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai and political geography specialist Dr Carl Grundy-Warr as they share insights drawn from their fieldwork on stateless communities in the region.</p> <p>Participants are encouraged to watch <i>Day by Day</i> by Nguyen Thi Thanh Mai at <i>Painting with Light</i> before attending this dialogue. The film will be screened daily at 12pm in the Auditorium Anteroom from 5 to 28 October 2018. Admission is free.</p>
---	--