

**MEDIA RELEASE**



Anthony Poon, *Rising Waves on 2P*, Collection of National Heritage Board.

***'Light and Movement Portrayed: The Art of Anthony Poon'***  
**5 September to 25 October 2009**

1 The National Art Gallery, Singapore, is proud to present *Light and Movement Portrayed*, an exhibition that pays tribute to the late Anthony Poon, one of Singapore's most important second generation artists. This exhibition is the first in the National Art Gallery's Southeast Asian Modern Art Series. It celebrates the art and life of this prolific and successful abstract artist.

2 The exhibition opening will be officiated by Guest of Honour, Professor Tommy Koh, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large and Chairman of the National Heritage Board, on 4 September 2009, Friday, 7pm at the Glass Hall, Singapore Art Museum. Media preview led by Director of The National Art Gallery, Singapore, Mr Kwok Kian Chow, and Exhibition Curator, Ms Ong Zhen Min, will be held on 4 Sep, 11am at the Singapore Art Museum.

### **Anthony Poon, one of Singapore's leading abstract artists**

3 Best known for his „Wave“ paintings, this Cultural Medallion recipient has won numerous local and international public commissions, notably the sculpture he created for the Beijing 2008 Olympics. Poon had many of his large-scale, site specific sculptures, reliefs and paintings on display in outdoor public spaces and corporate interiors. His meticulously executed pieces are keenly sought by collectors, and represented in public and private collections around the world, such as the Fukuoka Art Museum, National Library Board, as well as private collectors from the People's Republic of China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, UK and Singapore.

4 Poon's works embody the spirit of new exploration and experimentation with forms and concepts that characterized the abstract art movement during the 1960s and 1970s. Showcasing a variety of works from museums and private collections, including a significant donation made by the Poon family to the National Heritage Board in 2007, this *Light and Movement Portrayed* exhibition will trace the artist's life and works, from his formative years experimenting with the painting medium, to his subsequent venture into relief and sculpture works, and consider his artistic journey as a whole.

5 Says Mr Kwok Kian Chow, Director of The National Art Gallery, Singapore, "This exhibition presents an opportunity to see Anthony Poon beyond the image of a prominent abstract artist, to consider his entire artistic journey, through his life, works and artistic influences. Somewhere between the tensions of realism and abstraction, systemic order and subtle tactilities, monochromatic luminosity and transcendental perfection, Poon spoke to us in a way that was illuminative of the critical concerns and cultural context of the second generation artists in Singapore. The National Art Gallery will continually highlight and celebrate these significant local artists, so that every

Singaporean would be able to understand and share in their artistic journeys, and be proud of our nation's cultural heroes."

### **Updates on Curatorial Developments for the National Art Gallery**

6 *Light and Movement Portrayed* marks the first in a series of incubator exhibitions organized by the National Art Gallery, and held at the premises of the Singapore Art Museum. Titled the Southeast Asian Modern Art Series, the intention of these exhibitions is for the Gallery's curators to try out various exhibition ideas, concepts and programmes, and to gauge and study audience feedback and reactions to each idea. This will allow the Gallery to fine-tune their ideas and concepts progressively, so as to develop the most engaging and exciting exhibitions and programmes for the National Art Gallery when it opens in 2013.

7 Says Mr Michael Koh, CEO of the National Heritage Board and the National Art Gallery, Singapore, "We want to build the best possible National Art Gallery for Singapore. To develop a relevant and exciting curatorial plan for the Gallery, we want to ensure that our ideas for each exhibition space will work with our audiences and grow the museum-going culture here. Hence, to test these incubator exhibitions at the Singapore Art Museum is a natural choice for the Gallery. SAM has played both the modern-historical and contemporary roles up until now. The start of these incubator exhibitions marks a new beginning for both SAM and the National Art Gallery, contributing to the vibrancy of the visual arts scene in Singapore."

### **Media enquiries**

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### **Notes to Editor**

#### **About the National Art Gallery, Singapore**

The National Art Gallery, Singapore (*working title*) is a new visual arts institution which will contribute to building Singapore as a regional and international hub for visual arts. Established as a company under the purview of the National Heritage Board, it will focus on the display, appreciation, promotion, research and study of Southeast Asian and Singaporean art, relating them to the wider Asian and international art context, as well as play host to international art exhibitions.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the City Hall and adjacent former Supreme Court building - two important heritage buildings symbolic of Singapore's nationhood - will be converted to house this exciting new visual arts venue, and is anticipated to be completed by 2013. The National Art Gallery will be a civic and creative space, established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world. Information on the National Art Gallery is available at [www.nationalartgallery.sg](http://www.nationalartgallery.sg).

## Appendix

### Anthony Poon

1945	Born in Singapore
1961-64	Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore Industrial Artist, Singapore Glass Manufacturer
1967-70	Byam Shaw School of Art, London, U.K.
1970-71	Regional College of Art, Bradford, Yorks, U.K.
1971	Returned to Singapore.
1973-79	Manager, Alpha Gallery
1991-92	External Fine Art Examiner, LaSalle College of Arts, Singapore.
1999-2002	Member, Art Specialist Panel, Cultural Medallion and Young Artists Award. National Arts Council. Singapore.
2002	Member, Selection Committee Shell-NAC Arts Scholarship. National Arts Council. Singapore.
1999-2005	Member, Curriculum Development Council, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.
2002	Chairman, NAC-Telok Kurau Studios Management Committee Vice-Chairman, Art Specialist Panel. Cultural Medallion and Young Artists Awards.
2002-2005	National Art Council
2002-2008	Member, Seed Grants Assessment Panel for Visual Arts, National Arts Council. Singapore.
2003	Member, Panel of Arts Advisor, National Art Council, Singapore
2003-2007	Member, Singapore Note and Coin Advisory Committee, Board of Commissioner of Currency, Singapore
2006	Member, Annual Grant Assessment Panel for Visual Arts, National Arts Council
2006	Fine Art Examiner, Nanyang Academy of Fine Art, Singapore Specialist Panel Member. Cultural medallion and Young Artist Award. National Arts Council. New Bridge at Marina Bay Art Competition - Art Evaluation Panel

### AWARDS

1976	<b>Pingat Apad Award</b> , Association of Artists of various Resources
1983	<b>First Prize</b> , United Overseas Bank Painting of the Year
1986	<b>Kallang Theatre Mural Competition</b> , Ministry of Culture
1987	<b>Second Prize</b> , Sentosa Waterfront Sculpture Competition
1991	<b>1990 Cultural Medallion Award</b> , Government of Singapore
1997	<b>Sculpture Competition</b> , United Engineers Square
1998	<b>Sculpture Competition</b> , Singapore Turf Club
1999	<b>Sculpture Competition</b> , Ministry of Information and the Arts
2002	<b>Excellence Prize</b> , China International City Exhibition & Symposium (Beijing 2002)
2004	Ministry of Culture of P.R. China and the People's Municipal Government of Beijing. <b>Sculpture Competition</b> , Housing and Development Board. Singapore

## ONE-MAN EXHIBITIIONS

- 1964 ***Paintings by Anthony Poon***, National Library  
1967 ***Mixed Media***, National Library  
1971 ***Shape Canvases***, Alpha Gallery  
1975 ***Waves Series***, Alpha Gallery  
1978 ***Waves Frequency Waves***, Alpha Gallery

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 1964 ***Southeast Asia Art***, Victoria Memorial Hall, Singapore.  
1967 ***Eight national Art Exhibition***, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
1969 ***Contemporary Art of Singapore***, National Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
***Commonwealth Young Artists***, Royal Overseas League, London, U.K.  
1970  
1972 ***Grand Art Exhibition***, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Singapore.  
1973 ***Commonwealth Young Artists***, Guild Hall, London, U.K.  
***Young Contemporaries***, Royal Academy Galleries, London, U.K.  
1974 ***Modern Art '72*** – Modern Art Society, National Library, Singapore.  
***Elemental Abstraction***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
1975 ***Alpha Invitational***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
***Festival of Arts***, United World College of Southeast-Asia, Singapore.  
1977 ***Alpha Group Show***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
***Art in Singapore Today***, Victoria Memorial Hall, Singapore.  
***Twelve Artists***, Baharuddin Vocational Institute, Singapore.  
1978 ***Inaugural Art Exhibition***, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
***Color***, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
***Contemporary Artists from Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia***, Penang Museum, Malaysia.  
1979 ***Large Paintings***, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
1980 ***Art '77***, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
***Selections, Paintings & Sculptures***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
***Ten Contemporaries***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
1981 ***Art '78***, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
1982 ***Contemporary Art***, Singapore Festival of Arts, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
1983 ***Alpha Group Show***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
***Contemporaries '79***, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.  
***5<sup>th</sup> Festival of Asian Art***, Hong Kong Museum Art Gallery, Hong Kong.  
1984 ***Contemporary Asian Art Show***, Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan.  
***Three Artists***, Raya Gallery, Australia.  
1985 ***Contemporary Singapore Paintings***, Festival of Asian Arts,

- 1985-86 Hong Kong Museum Art Gallery. **Contemporary Asian Art Show**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1986 **Contemporary Form**, Asean Traveling Exhibition of Visual Art, Asean countries.  
**Contemporary Singapore Art**, Singapore Festival of Arts 1982, National Museum Art Gallery.
- 1987 **New Images 1983**, Modern Art Society, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1988 **Third Asean Exhibition of Paintings and Photograph**, Asean Traveling Exhibition of Exhibition of Visual Art.
- 1989 **Singapore Art in the Seventies**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
**Singapore Art, A Decade 1974-1984**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1990 **25-Years of Art in Singapore**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1991 **Singapore Art**, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- 1991-93 **Current Approaches in the Art of ASEAN Region**, Touring ASEAN countries.
- 1993 **Second Asia Art Show**, Fukuoka Art Museum, Japan.
- 1994-95 **Singapore Art for Japanese Festival**, Traveling exhibition around Japan.
- 1996 **Seoul, Contemporary Asian Art Show, 1986**, National Museum of Modern Art, Seoul, South Korea.
- 1997 **8a, Eight Artists**, Alpha Gallery, Singapore.
- 1998 **Asian Contemporary Art**, Singapore Festival of Arts 1986, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1998-99 **New Directions**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 1999 **Ying Yang Festival**, National University of Singapore Society.
- 1999-2000 **The Second Decade, Masterpieces from Private Collections**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 2000 **Singapore Contemporary Artist**, Hong Kong Art Center, Hong Kong.
- 2001 **New Art Expo**, New York, U.S.A.
- 2002 **Bru-Sin Art Exhibition**, Brunei Darussalam Museum, Brunei.
- 2003 **Twenty Artists**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 2004 **Urban Artists**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.
- 2005 **Singapore Artists Speak**, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore.  
**Sculptures in Singapore**, National Museum Singapore.  
**Many in One – 25 years of Singapore Art** - touring U.S.A.  
**Strategies – An exhibition of Artworks by seven Outstanding Contemporary Singapore Artists**, Takashima Gallery Inaugural Exhibition, Singapore.
- 2006 **Contemporary Singapore Art** - traveling exhibition to Hong Kong & 7 major cities in Republic of China.  
**Contemporary Singapore Art**, Soobin Gallery, Singapore.  
**Singapore Art '97**, Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Center.  
**Art Power** – to benefit the Substation, Chijmes, Singapore.  
**Preview of Early Works**, Telok Kurau Studios, Singapore.  
**Tomorrow Realism**, Telok Kurau Studios, Singapore.  
**Brave New World**, Soobin Gallery, Singapore.  
**City/Community** – Nokia Singapore Art '99, Singapore Art Museum.  
**NAFA Cross Century Art Exhibition**, Nanyang Academy of Fine Art.  
**Excerpt 2000**, Soobin Gallery, Singapore.

**Telok Kurau Studios 2001**, Telok Kurau Gallery.  
**China International City Sculpture Exhibition & Symposium (Beijing 2002)**, Beijing International Sculpture Park, Beijing, China.  
**Telok Kurau Studios 2002**, Telok Kurau Gallery.  
**Crossroad, the making of new Identities**, National University of Singapore Museum.  
**New Creations**, Telok Kurau Gallery.  
**Celebration**, Telok Kerau Gallery  
**Art of the Second Generation: Beyond Fact and Fiction**, NAFA Gallery.  
**A Wealth of Vision - Selection from DBS' Corporate Art Collection**, The Gallery, Old Parliament House.  
**"You Can Touch" - Sculptures in the Green**, Singapore Management University.  
**Seventies**, Art 2 Gallery.  
**Art Singapore 2005**, Suntec Singapore.  
**Artery** – Inaugural Exhibition, The Gallery, Singapore Management University.  
**Important Second-Generation Artists Series** – DLR Gallery

### **TELEVISION FEATURES**

#### **Art Central, Self Portraits 3 : Anthony Poon**

Written & directed by Peter Lamb. 19 June 2005  
 Produced by Media Development Authority of Singapore.

**Ultra Eye – Singapore.** Ultra HD Channel (America)  
 Network: Voom HD Network (Echostar Communications Corporation) co-production with: Mega Media Pte Ltd, Singapore. Supported by: Media Development Authority, Singapore to be shown in America. 2006

### **COMMISSIONED WORKS**

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 Steamship Investment Development  
 United Overseas Land Ltd.  
 United Engineers Pte Ltd.  
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 Singapore Turf Club  
 Ministry of Information and the Arts, Singapore  
 Nanyang Technological University  
 Sembawang Properties  
 City Development Limited



Housing & Development Board HQ.  
Tianjin Economic-Technological Development-EDB China

***PUBLIC COLLECTIONS***

Bank of Tokyo  
Brunei Darussalam Museum  
Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore  
Development Bank of Singapore Art Collection  
Dresdner Bank, S.E.A., Ltd  
Economic Development Board  
Fukuoka Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan  
National Institute of Education  
National Library Board  
Overseas Union Bank  
P&T Architects, Hong Kong  
Singapore Art Museum  
Sultan of Brunei Darussalam Art Collection  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Washington D.C. USA  
Embassy and Beijing Embassy, China.  
Temasek Polytechnic  
United Overseas Bank Art Collection  
Ministry of Culture, People Republic of China and  
the People's municipal Government of Beijing.  
Tianjin Economic-Technological Development-EDB China,  
P.R.China.

***PRIVATE COLLECTIONS***

Australia, Brunei, Canada, People Republic of China.  
Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, U.K., USA.