



For immediate release

Media Release

Prime Minister Unveils National Gallery Singapore

Singapore's largest museum presents

the best of modern Singapore and Southeast Asian Art

Singapore, 23 November 2015 –Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong unveiled the new National Gallery Singapore at a celebration attended by delegates, artists, donors, partners, sponsors, civic and community leaders and others who have contributed to the making of the Gallery over the past 10 years. The newest visual arts institution will showcase the largest public collection of modern art of Singapore and Southeast Asia.

Prime Minister Lee toured the Gallery's expansive interior including the DBS Singapore Gallery, the UOB Southeast Asia Gallery and the Keppel Centre for Art Education, where he viewed iconic works and interacted with artists including Singapore's Cultural Medallion recipients Chua Mia Tee and Iskandar Jalil together with their families.

Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, Chairman of National Gallery Singapore in his opening remarks, said, "Artists are often seen as being unconventional, separate from the mainstream. Through our exhibitions, visitors will realise that in fact, artists are integral to society and that art is not created in a vacuum.

Knowing who our key artists are, knowing what artistic expressions have been made over time in our country and in our region – all this is knowledge that will inform and shape our sense of connection to our community. Looking at art is a way of engaging in national and regional dialogues about identity and belonging."

The Prime Minister launched the opening celebrations by making the first brushstroke of an artistic light and sound installation inspired by artworks in the exhibitions. Guests were

treated to a preview of the *Share the Hope* façade show generously sponsored by Cartier which will be a highlight of the Art Carnival at the Padang from 27 to 29 November.

National Gallery Singapore will open its doors to the public on 24 November 2015. All visitors will enjoy complimentary entry to National Gallery Singapore, its exhibitions and the opening celebrations until 6 December 2015 (see Annex). Thereafter, there will be free admission for Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents as well as children six years and under, into all exhibition galleries (except selected Special Exhibitions) and Keppel Centre for Art Education. For more information about the upcoming activities and registration requirements, please visit www.nationalgallery.sg

- End -

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 art presentations 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. 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.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Beverly Tan

Burson-Marsteller for National Gallery Singapore
Tel: 6671 3277 / Email: Beverly.tan@bm.com

Michelle Chua

National Gallery Singapore
Tel: 6697 9132 / Email: michelle.chua@nationalgallery.sg

Annex A

Event	National Gallery Singapore's Opening Celebrations
Date	24 November 2015 to 6 December 2015
Exhibition opening hours	10am to 7pm (Monday to Thursday) 10am to 11pm (Friday to Sunday)
Art Carnival	5pm – midnight (27 – 29 November)
Admission Charges	Free (registration required for some activities) Admission into the Gallery building by tickets only. Tickets can be booked online from 5 Nov, 10am onwards till 6 Dec, 5pm through https://tickets.nationalgallery.sg

Recommended highlights

OUTDOOR EVENT

SHARE THE HOPE FACADE SHOW (exclusive sponsor Cartier)

Fri 27 – Sun 29 November

8pm, 9pm, 10pm | 10 minutes | Building Façade

Share the Hope is a grand audio visual production designed with inspiration from the art in the Gallery, sponsored exclusively by Cartier. For three nights only, be captivated by the stunning displays of light, sound and visuals set against the backdrop of the newly transformed National Gallery Singapore.

INDOOR EVENTS

IN THE NAME OF RED

Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 9pm

10 minutes | Padang Atrium

A unique dance performance pays homage to distinct hues of red found within the Gallery's collection. In shades of stunning maroon, crimson and ruby, dancers from The Arts Fission Company invite audiences to rediscover the stories behind the works as they perform against the majestic backdrop of a cascading grand staircase at the Padang Atrium.

STORYBOOTHS

Sat 28 Nov – Sun 29 Nov | 1pm – 4pm

Supreme Court Wing, Level 4M, Supreme Court Terrace

Articulate your thoughts to an artist from the Organisation of Illustrators Council, who will interpret them into a personalised and unique artwork for you to take home.

LAUNCH OF SERIES

MEMORA(FILM)IA: RANDOM ACTS OF REMEMBERING

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | top of each hour from 10am – 10pm

Mon 30 Nov – Thu 3 Dec | top of each hour from 10am – 6pm

30 minutes | Supreme Court Wing, Level 5, Theatrette

The world premiere of three short films specially commissioned to realise the Opening Celebrations' themes of memory and hope.

RESONATES WITH

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm

20 minutes | Padang Atrium

Curated by multidisciplinary artist Bani Haykal, the performances feature cross-genre musical collaborations between ensembles and musicians. Immerse in a unique soundscape inspired by artists like Liu Kang and Chen Wen Hsi.

FULL PROGRAMME LISTING

SIAPA NAMA KAMU? (DBS Singapore Gallery)

BETWEEN DECLARATIONS AND DREAMS (UOB Southeast Asia Gallery)

Tue 24 November onwards

Mon - Thurs 10am – 7pm, 27 – 29 Nov & 4 – 6 Dec 10am – 11pm

National Gallery Singapore

Two exhibitions of approximately 800 Singapore and Southeast Asian artworks will be on display for visitors to experience the timeless appeal of these masterpieces and through them, glean precious insights into local and regional art narratives and developments.

SHARE THE HOPE

FAMILY FUN AT THE PADANG ART CARNIVAL

Fri 27 – Sun 29 November

5pm – midnight | The Padang

The iconic Padang transforms into a block party with thematic landscapes for artists and art lovers. Experience the rich heritage and history of Singapore and Southeast Asian art beyond the walls of the Gallery with a weekend of interactive art installations, community art workshops and artisanal treats.

TENT 1: FAMILY & COMMUNITY

Draw, Weave, Knot

5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm | 30 minutes

Artist Tay Bee Aye's *Draw, Weave, Knot* explores the beauty of the creation through thread, yarn and rope.

Looming Isles

6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm | 30 minutes

Join artist Hazel Lim and explore a tapestry of abstraction and projection within the confines of a tent canopy. Inspired by paintings such as Chen Wen Hsi's *Heron* and Seah Kim Joo's *Log Factory*, abstract lines and forms traipse across planes and dimensions to create mystique and wonder.

TENT 2: FOOD & BEVERAGE

5pm – midnight

Fuel yourself with a wide selection of gastronomic delights inspired by popular Southeast Asian dishes!

TENT 3: ADVERSITY & CONFLICT

From the Ground Up

5pm – midnight

From the Ground Up is an installation that immortalises the struggle and hope of survivors in the Bukit Ho Swee fire.

Superfarmers

5.45pm, 7.15pm, 8.15pm | 10 minutes

In just 10 minutes, *Superfarmers* teach life-saving tips like how to find edible plants and forage for food in a simulated war scenario.

TENT 4: PASSION & LOVE

Room For All

5pm – midnight

Room For All is an interactive labyrinth that explores the range of human passions and interests.

Makan Memories

7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm | 30 minutes

Makan Memories distils the fond memories associated with Singaporean dishes into a series of short monologues and playlets.

Empty Frames

Various timings

Empty Frames is a series of choreographic works inspired by the Gallery's collection.

TENT 5: REBIRTH & PEACE

Edible Gardens

5pm – midnight

Edible Gardens presents an oasis of urban growth. The immersive pop-up garden invites visitors to experience urban farming.

Share the Hope Façade Show

8pm, 9pm, 10pm | 10 minutes | Building Façade

Share the Hope is a grand audio visual production inspired by the Gallery's collection, sponsored exclusively by Cartier. For three nights only, be captivated by the stunning displays of light, sound and visuals set against the backdrop of the newly transformed National Gallery Singapore.

LET'S TALK ABOUT ART

ART FORUM 1: The Exceptional and the Exemplary. Stories from National Gallery Singapore's Permanent Exhibitions of Southeast Asian and Singapore Art

Tue 24 Nov | 2pm – 4.30pm

City Hall Wing, B1, Auditorium

Join our panel of Gallery's curators, an artist and a researcher as they share the stories behind five key artworks on display in the Gallery's permanent exhibitions. Taking a single artwork as an entry point, each speaker expands his or her discussion to touch upon various themes in the development of the region's art from the 19th century to the present.

ART FORUM 2: Trends and Points of Collaboration Across Museums

Thu 26 Nov | 10am – 12pm

City Hall Wing, B1, Auditorium

Low Sze Wee, the Gallery's Curatorial and Collections Director, will be joined by museum directors and specialists from Hong Kong and China to explore ways that museums in Asia today can enrich art appreciation and scholarship by sharing their collections, expertise and resources. They will discuss the changing role of museums and increasing points of collaboration, inspired by the inaugural exhibition at the Wu Guanzhong Gallery.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Architecture, Design and Conservation Principles of the Gallery

Sun 6 Dec | 2pm – 4.30pm

City Hall Wing, B1, Auditorium

After winning the prestigious international competition to design the National Gallery Singapore, architects from studioMilou Singapore and CPG Consultants were faced with the tremendous task of transforming two of Singapore's most significant monuments into a gallery. In this session, they share their experiences and insights on the practice of adapting historical buildings into public spaces while respecting their heritage.

FOLLOW YOUR BLISS

NATIONAL LANGUAGE CLASS by Spell #7

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm

Mon 30 Nov – Thu 3 Dec | 11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm

30 minutes | City Hall Wing, Level 2, Singapore Courtyard | Free admission

Inspired by Chua Mia Tee's artwork *National Language Class*, this is a participatory

performance for audiences of up to eight people at a time. Guided by actors, the audience will be able to recreate the painting by taking part in a Malay language lesson.

ROVING PERFORMANCES

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 1pm – 9pm

Various locations in the Gallery

In collaboration with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, performances inspired by highlights in the Gallery's collection will surprise and delight.

STORYBOOTHS

Sat 28 Nov – Sun 29 Nov | 1pm – 4pm

Supreme Court Wing, Level 4M, Supreme Court Terrace

Articulate your thoughts to an artist from the Organisation of Illustrators Council, who will interpret them into a personalised and unique artwork for you to take home.

ALL YOU CAN SEE: A SKETCHING WORKSHOP

Mark Making Tools 30 Nov, 2 Dec, 4 Dec, 6 Dec

Quick Perspectives 1 Dec, 3 Dec, 5 Dec

2pm – 6pm | City Hall Wing, Level 5, Rooftop Studio | Registration required

Sharpen your sketching skills. Join a *Mark Making Tools* workshop and learn how to make your own sketching tools, or explore sketching as a fun way to express yourself in *Quick Perspectives*.

[Register through programmes@nationalgallery.sg](mailto:programmes@nationalgallery.sg) with your name and contact number.

INSIDE/OUT: SKETCHWALKS with Urban Sketchers Singapore

Sat 5 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 10am – 1pm

Various locations

Join the sketching sessions and record your perspective of the Gallery! Urban Sketchers Singapore is a global network of artists who record scenes of cities. On Saturday, *sketchwalks* focuses on scenes within the Gallery such as rooftop terraces or around the compound, while the session on Sunday will focus on people and artworks within the Gallery.

[Groups will depart promptly from the B1 Information Counter at 10am.](#)

MEMORA(FILM)IA: RANDOM ACTS OF REMEMBERING

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | top of each hour from 10am – 10pm

Mon 30 Nov – Thu 3 Dec | top of each hour from 10am – 6pm

30 minutes | Supreme Court Wing, Level 5, Theatrette

The world premiere of three short films specially commissioned to realise the Opening Festival's themes of memory and hope.

STUDY OF A SINGAPOREAN FACE by Kan Lumé and Megan Wonowidjoyo

Over 1,000 hand-drawn portraits of MRT commuters, at their most open and unguarded, are photographed and woven together to create this animated short. As the film progresses, the camera moves in to show a crowd of people who are alone together. And yet, they experience the tension of finding a space for themselves. Space, for them, is what is hoped for.

BILA LARUT MALAM (In the Still of the Night) by Sanif Olek

In this musical juxtaposition of P Ramlee's *Nak Dara Rindu (Young Maiden's Longing)* and Zubir Said's *Semoga Bahagia (May You Achieve Happiness)*, we hear the individual and the national, romantic doubt and decisive confidence. In this film, three women struggle with an acute sense of loss related to the men in their lives, but finds new strength amid the sorrow.

SILENT LIGHT by Liao Jiekai

An elderly voice shares memories of growing up in a Singapore that no longer exists, on the passing of a generation, and her acceptance of death. Deep into the night, suffused by the dry rhythm of mechanical fans, a mourner is accompanied by restless phantoms and a lonely moth perches on the yellow funeral tent. Together, they welcome the silent light of daybreak.

Curated by Philip Cheah.

*This collection launches the annual film commission series titled **readings**, which features the world premieres of Southeast Asian short films on the art in the Gallery.*

26th SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Sat 28 Nov – Sun 6 Dec | Various timings

City Hall Wing, B1, Auditorium | Tickets available through authorised SISTIC outlets

The Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the leading independent film platform in Singapore.

[Visit SGIFF.com](http://SGIFF.com) for more details.

MUSIC & DANCE — STEP INTO THE BEAT

RESONATES WITH

Fri 27 Nov – Sun 29 Nov, Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 7.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.30pm

20 minutes | Padang Atrium

Curated by multidisciplinary artist Bani Haykal, the performances feature cross-genre musical collaborations between ensembles and musicians. Immerse in a unique soundscape inspired by artists like Liu Kang and Chen Wen Hsi.

IN THE NAME OF RED

Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 9pm

10 minutes | Padang Atrium

A unique dance performance pays homage to distinct hues of red found within the Gallery's collection. In shades of stunning maroon, crimson and ruby, dancers from The Arts Fission Company invite audiences to rediscover the stories behind the works as they perform against the majestic backdrop of a cascading grand staircase at the Padang Atrium.

THE SCROLL OF NANYANG INK

Fri 4 Dec – Sun 6 Dec | 8pm, 10pm

10 minutes | Supreme Court Wing, Level 4M, Supreme Court Terrace

A visual spectacle, set within Supreme Court Terrace, exemplifies the relations of space and time. Marrying the historical architecture and modern design of the Gallery's restoration with interpretative choreography, The Arts Fission Company provides a parallel contrast between traditional and contemporary dance styles.

Annex B

Visitors' Information for Opening Celebrations

<p>Complimentary entry for all visitors</p>	<p>Entry into the Gallery building by tickets only. Tickets can be booked online from 5 Nov, 10am onwards till 6 Dec, 5pm through https://tickets.nationalgallery.sg</p> <p>Each booking will provide a maximum of five tickets at a time.</p> <p>To avoid disappointment, please book entry tickets online.</p>
<p>Exhibition Opening Hours</p>	<p>24 November to 6 December 2015</p> <p>Mon–Thu 10am–7pm (Last admission at 6.30pm)</p> <p>Fri, Sat and Sun 10am–11pm (Last admission at 10.30pm)</p>

Visitors' Information after Opening Celebrations

<p>Ticketing Prices</p>	<p>From 7 December 2015 onwards</p> <p>Free admission for Singapore Citizens/PRs and children 6 years and under (except selected Special Exhibitions)</p> <p>\$20 for non-Singaporeans; \$15 for concession holders and children between 7 and 12 years</p> <p>Tickets are required for entry into all exhibition galleries and Keppel Centre for Art Education and can be obtained through the following channels:</p> <p>Online at https://tickets.nationalgallery.sg</p> <p>Gallery Ticketing Counters at level B1 (Starts 24 November 2015)</p>
<p>Exhibition Opening Hours</p>	<p>From 7 December 2015 onwards</p> <p>Mon–Thu, Sun and Public Holidays 10am–7pm (Last admission at 6.30pm)</p> <p>Fri, Sat and Eve of Public Holidays 10am–10pm (Last admission at 9.30pm)</p>

<p>Different guided tours</p>	<p>Free Daily Guided Tours commence 10 December 2015 onwards For first 20 visitors (first come first served)</p> <p>Building Highlights 11.00am (English) Daily 11.30am (Mandarin) Fridays to Sundays only</p> <p>DBS Singapore Gallery Highlights 2.00pm (English) Daily 2.30pm (Mandarin) Fridays to Sundays only</p> <p>UOB Southeast Asia Gallery Highlights 3.30pm (English) Daily 4.00pm (Mandarin) Fridays to Sundays only</p> <p>Highlights of Wu Guanzhong: Beauty Beyond Form and Chua Ek Kay: After the Rain 4.30pm (English) Daily 2.00pm (Mandarin) Fridays to Sundays only</p> <p>Private group tours can be arranged for a fee. To enquire, please email: groupenquiries@nationalgallery.sg</p>
<p>Shopping & dining</p>	<p>Gallery & Co. (retail & F&B offerings available from 24 Nov) City Hall Wing, #01-05 Sun–Thu 10am–7pm; Fri–Sat 10am–10pm Email: hello@galleryand.co</p> <p>This progressive retail and F&B destination presents a curation of art and design products alongside the Gallery’s unique and exclusive brand of food and goods to complete your museum experience. Children’s books, exhibition catalogues and research titles published by the Gallery on the visual art of Singapore and Southeast Asia will also be available for purchase.</p>

Alti's Gastrobar (Opening mid-Dec)

Supreme Court Wing, #01-02,
Sun–Thu 10am–midnight;
Fri–Sat 10am–1am

A stylish gastrobar that is perfect any time of the day or night, Alti's Gastrobar showcases a selection of wines from all over the world, including Asia, and a range of specially designed Asian-inspired fruit cocktails.

Aura Restaurant

City Hall Wing, #05-03
Daily noon–2.30pm, 6.30pm–10.30pm
Email: book@aura.sg
Phone number: 6866 1977
Website: www.aura.sg

Aura Restaurant treats diners to classic Italian cuisine and a world-class contemporary dining experience. The menu is an extensive expression of Italian creativity, showcasing a variety of antipasto, pastas and wholesome mains that feature the finest, freshest ingredients from the land and the sea.

Aura Sky Lounge

City Hall Wing, #06-02
Daily 11am–1am
Email: book@aura.sg
Phone number: +65 6866 1977
Website: www.aura.sg

Fronted by the spectacular skyline of the Marina Bay, Aura Sky Lounge is a stylish lounge and bar with a strong Mediterranean focus. Moving from day to night with its Mediterranean lunch and high-tea options in the afternoon, it becomes the ultimate rooftop bar with happy hours in the evenings.

Odette

Supreme Court Wing #01-04
Mon – Sat | Lunch: 12pm - 2pm ; Dinner: 7pm - 9.30pm (Last order timing)
Website: www.odetterestaurant.com
Email: enquiry@odetterestaurant.com
Phone number: 6385 0498

This modern French restaurant reflects Chef-Owner Julian Royer's respect for seasonality, terroir and the finest artisanal produce.

National Kitchen by Violet Oon Singapore (Opening 24 Nov)

City Hall Wing, #02-01
Daily 11am–11pm
Email: info@violetoon.com

Helmed by local celebrity chef Violet Oon, National Kitchen is a celebration of fine local flavours reflecting Singapore's colourful culinary heritage. Dine indoors in an elegant dining hall or enjoy sweeping views of Singapore's skyline with local bar bites and sunset cocktails on the veranda.

Saha Signature Restaurant & Bar (Opening mid-Dec)

Supreme Court Wing, #01-03
Daily noon-3pm, 6pm-11pm
Email: info@saha.sg

Experience modern Indian cuisine with an innovative interpretation by renowned Chef Patron Abhijit Saha. Saha's menu offers an array of eclectic flavours originating from the rich culinary tapestry of various Indian regions, recreated with a twist.

Smoke & Mirrors

City Hall Wing, #06-01
Sun–Thu 11.30am–12.30am;
Fri–Sat 11.30am–1am
Phone number: 6384 5595
Website: smokeandmirrors.com.sg
Email: reserve@smokeandmirrors.com.sg

Enjoy magnificent panoramic views over the Padang and Marina Bay while savouring a drink from a meticulously curated menu including signature cocktails, wines and craft spirits.

Yàn

City Hall Wing, #05-02
Mon–Fri 11.30am–2.30pm, 6pm–10.30pm;
Sat–Sun 11.30am–2.30pm;
afternoon tea 2.30pm–5pm, 6pm–10.30pm
Phone number: 6384 5585
Website: Yan.com.sg
Email: reserve@yan.com.sg

Yàn offers diners the best in Cantonese cuisine. The sophisticated and innovative signature dishes crafted with

	diverse ingredients alongside familiar flavours promise to tantalise your taste buds.
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OTHER INFORMATION

Museum etiquette	<p>Help us protect and preserve the artworks by observing the following while inside the building and Exhibition Galleries.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please do not bring in any food or drinks. Food or drinks are only permitted in the F&B outlets. 2. Flash photography of any form is not allowed inside the galleries. They damage the artworks. 3. Please ensure all protruding objects are properly kept in your bag. Otherwise, please deposit them in the lockers provided at level B1 or at the Information Counter if the bags or items are too large. 4. This includes selfie sticks and tripods as they can cause damage to the works. 5. Please do not touch the artworks, unless stated otherwise. When in doubt, please check with any of our Gallery Hosts. 6. 'Heelys' and other similar footwear should not be used while inside the galleries. Parents are advised to hold on to their young children inside the galleries. 7. The use of strollers are permitted in exhibition galleries with care, but they would need to be of a standard size. Due to space constraints in the Keppel Centre for Art Education, strollers are not permitted in the Centre. We have designated stroller parking areas in the Gallery. <p>Thank you for helping us preserve our treasures and provide an enjoyable experience in the Gallery for all our visitors.</p>
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Road closures in the area during weekend of 27 – 28 Nov:

ROAD	FROM	TO	CLOSURE TIME
Coleman Street	St Andrew's Road	Supreme Court Lane	23 Nov 2400 – 24 Nov 0600
St Andrew's Road	Connaught Drive	Stamford Road	25 th Nov 2300 – 26 th Nov 0300
Parliament Place	Supreme Court Lane	St Andrew's Road	27 th Nov 1300 – 28 th Nov 0200
Connaught Drive slip road	-	St Andrew's Road	28 th Nov 1500 – 29 th Nov 0200
Fullerton Road	Empress Place	St Andrew's Road	29 Nov 1500 – 30 Nov 0200
Connaught Drive	Stamford Road	Fullerton Road	28 Nov 0700 – 2300 29 Nov 1200 - 2300

Road closures in the area on 29 Nov:

ROAD	FROM	TO	CLOSURE TIME
Parliament Place	Supreme Court Lane	St Andrew's Lane	0600 - 1200
Fullerton Road	Esplanade Drive	Connaught Drive	0600 - 1200