

26 March 2008

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008**

11 September – 16 November 2008  
(Vernissage: 9 – 10 September 2008)

***Wonder***

**List of Participating Artists  
Exhibition Sites and Programmes**

The Singapore Biennale 2008 (SB2008), Singapore's premier international contemporary visual arts event, will open to the public from 11 September to 16 November 2008. Organised by the National Arts Council, the Biennale will feature a total of more than 50 artists and art collectives from over 36 countries and regions including Singapore. Following the critical success of SB2006, this second edition will continue to be the significant cultural event that brings visual arts into the daily lives of Singaporeans.

**THEME**

SB2008, through its theme *WONDER*, proposes to investigate the articulation and creation of marvels, riddles and illusions in our world today. Its conceptual scope issues a challenge to the contemporary world, a world that no longer questions choices, nor allows for things and events to awe us. Through contemporary art, *Wonder* calls on us to question and be curious; to reach beyond the surface, surpassing the apparent and to allow ourselves be surprised, awed, tantalised and challenged. All of which is an aperture to the World.

"The artworks selected or to be newly developed with the artists, will attempt to cut through the fabric of the politically and socially constructed and perceptual limits, of our world," Artistic Director Fumio Nanjo remarks. "These call upon us to question and be curious, to punch through surfaces of what is apparent so that we can be surprised, tantalised and challenged at what is revealed or presented. Consequently, some of these works also engage our minds and our senses upon terrain that is unexplained, unfamiliar and, at times, seemingly consistent with trickery, or present things of unutterable beauty, that we are held at awe in their presence."

**ARTISTS, ARTIST COLLECTIVES AND ARTWORKS**

This exhibition will showcase an illustrious list of established and emerging artists whose works engender wonder about the world we live in. The present artist list includes artists from Asia, Middle East, Europe and the Americas, such as **Ilya and Emilia Kabakov, Deborah Kelly, Isak Berbic, Hans op de Beeck, Anthony**

**McCall, Isaac Montoya, Faisal Samra, Fujiko Nakaya, Ki-bong Rhee, and Felice Varini**, to Southeast Asia and Singapore, **Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Heman Chong, Shubigi Rao, Tang Ling Nah and Willy Koh** and **Sherman Ong**. All produce sharp, wonderful work that provide apertures and prisms of possibilities and hope, through which we can gaze at the world.

While Nakaya surprises with her appearing and disappearing fog, op de Beeck will immerse you in a meditative architectural scape of infinite beauty and solitude. Varini and Tang literally paint and draw in space, making marks that question, yet unquestionably engage our relationship with those spaces. Kelly develops works that allow us to critique yet contribute to the social and political structure that we call home. The Kabakovs, Aquilizans, Chong and Goh focus on the minutiae of our lives and present ironic statements that cause us to rethink what we often take for granted. Rhee and Rao poetically suggest re-considerations of what is presented in our faces. McCall and Samra in their keen knowledge of film, video and their tendency to be perceived in conventional ways, critique and re-present the moving image in exciting ways. Montoya, Berbic and Ong clearly present images that at the outset seem true but look deeper and other truths are liberated, often in contrast to what we are led to believe.

Skepticism, criticism and doubt are intrinsic to creative thinking and the methodology as the artist engages with a process filled with wonderment in the development and execution of the artwork. As such, and without boundaries, there are varied approaches and media, from drawing and sculpture, photography and video, to new and mixed-media installations, indicating yet again the breadth of contemporary art practice. Some of these will be of a site-specific manner occupying internal and outdoor spaces, developed for SB2008.

Individually, these works present unique visions as they question conventional ways of seeing and encourage us to entertain new or different ways in which we can link ourselves to the world. In the collective presentation of such artworks, SB2008 seeks to intelligently, yet intuitively, interrogate our belief and trust in theories, logic, science and technology, politics, and economics that consciously regulate and consume the world we live in.

More updates on the list of artists will be available at a later date.

## **EXHIBITION SITES**

Key to the exhibition is also in the selection of the venues within walking distance that are best able to present, engage and inform the experience of the artworks. In contrast to the multi-venue presentation of the exhibition in 2006, SB2008 will squarely focus on creating the journey of wonder through two large indoor spaces and a connecting outdoor area.

The historic City Hall, one of the key venues of the 2006 exhibition and South Beach, a cluster of Art Deco colonial buildings that is synonymous with the Singapore Volunteer Corps, bookend the entire exhibition. The ambience and environment of the two indoor locations are poles apart, providing very distinct colours to the experience and engagement of the artworks.

Linking the two indoor venues is the Marina Bay Area, a location that itself speaks of wondrous ambition as it gets ready to be the new hot spot come 2010, with the opening of the Integrated Resort, new Financial Centre and a heritage waterfront

development. Featuring a number of large-scale interactive and engaging outdoor installations, the waterbody of the Marina Bay serves as a focal point in connecting these works as you journey from the recently opened Singapore Flyer to the Central Promontory Site.

## **OPENING EVENTS**

Central to the vernissage week of the SB2008 exhibition will be an opening event on 9 September 2008 at the South Beach Development. This will feature a number of specially commissioned works and performance presentations related to the artworks showcased. Like in 2006, the public is invited to celebrate the launch of this iconic contemporary art event in Singapore.

## **EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES**

A major part of the Biennale programming involves cultivating a deeper public engagement with contemporary art. This will be conducted through the *Encounters* series of talks, workshops and events. These regular dialogue sessions provide a discursive platform for Singaporeans to voice issues and concerns pertinent to art and society. In addition, a series of education projects focusing on primary and secondary school children will accompany the Biennale. This culminates in a new platform called the **Kids' Biennale**, presented by our partner Jet Airways. Comprising a series of exhibitions, art competitions and mass events opened to all children, the Kids' Biennale engages the young ones in moments of wonder through the power of contemporary art.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Prior to the opening of SB2008, a free brochure will be made available, giving full details about the Biennale. A comprehensive shortguide listing all artists, exhibition venues and programmes will also be available at the opening of the Biennale. This will be followed by a full colour catalogue published after the opening, which will include installation photographs of the exhibition and documentation of all aspects of the Biennale. An updated version of the SB2008 website will also be launched today with a full listing of artists, sites and programmes, in addition to useful travel and press information. For the first time, we will also be including a community engagement section on the website for visitors and observers of the Biennale to blog and express their thoughts.

## **ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMME**

In a strategic move to open the discussion on the place of contemporary art in the global context, **Showcase:Singapore** a premium boutique art fair will premier during the opening days of the SB2008. Featuring the top 25 galleries from around the world, this special by-invitation only art fair will showcase the current darlings of the art market, and will see a gathering of dealers, collectors and artists engage in intimate exchange and dialogue on the business of art collection. Located on Level 1 City Hall, Showcase:Singapore will have the professional and media previews on 9 to 10 September 2008 and will open to the public on 11 to 12 September 2008.

A series of exhibitions organised by the NUS Museum will be held during the period of SB2008. **Bound for Glory: Wong Hoy Cheong 2002 – 2007** (12 September to 30 November 2008) presents Wong Hoy Cheong's five recent works *Re:Looking* (2002-1003), *Anthem* (2006), *Chronicles of Crime* (2006), *Suburbia: Bukit Beruntung, Subang Jaya* (2006), and *Oh Sulukule, Darling Sulukule* (2007). Wong is one of

Southeast Asia's most influential contemporary artists, whose practice is conditioned by multiple and simultaneous contexts of history, memory, nation, globality, ethnicity, culture and political contingencies.

**Ventura: Recent Works** (5 September to 16 November 2008) will showcase Filipino artist Ronald Ventura who uses the human body to explore subjects such as commodification of humans, paranoia and religious consciousness. Born in 1973, Ventura studied painting in the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, where he now teaches.

Other aspects to keep a lookout for are the Permanent Public Commissions, an on-going project in partnership with a number of property developers who share the vision of providing Singaporeans and visitors a vibrant artistic landscape through the enjoyment of unique artworks located in public areas.

For more information on the accompanying programmes during the SB2008, please visit [www.singaporebiennale.org](http://www.singaporebiennale.org).

## **ASIA-PACIFIC BIENNALE COLLABORATION**

Continuing the joint promotional efforts started in 2006 with Gwangju and Shanghai Biennales, ArtCompass 2008 has grown to include the closing week of Biennale of Sydney and the Yokohama Triennale. Come September 2008, this Asia's Grand Tour will offer visitors a specially designed travel itinerary for art lovers everywhere a chance to view all five exhibitions in one and a half weeks. Bookings for travel and hospitality arrangements begin end-April 2008. For more information, please visit [www.artcompass2008.com](http://www.artcompass2008.com).

## **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Media and Professional Previews	9 and 10 September 2008
Opening Party	9 September 2008, 7pm
Exhibition Period	11 September to 16 November 2008
Closing Event	15 November 2008

Please refer to the following annexes for more information:

Annex 1	– List of Artists
Annex 2	– Profile of Curatorial Team
Annex 3	– About Exhibition Venues
Annex 4	– About the Programmes
Annex 5	– Biennale Partners
Annex 6	– Biennale Steering Committee
Annex 7	– Biennale Secretariat

### **For media enquiries, please contact:**

Ms Viviane Then | Corporate Communications Manager | National Arts Council,  
Singapore  
DID: +65 6837 9571 | Mobile: +65 9735 5318 | E-mail: [Viviane\\_Then@nac.gov.sg](mailto:Viviane_Then@nac.gov.sg)

Ms Chia I-Ling | Assistant Director, Corporate Communications | National Arts  
Council, Singapore  
DID: + 65 6837 9729 | Mobile: +65 9755 9389 | Email: [Chia\\_I-Ling@nac.gov.sg](mailto:Chia_I-Ling@nac.gov.sg)

### **About the Singapore Biennale**

Organised by the National Arts Council, Singapore, the Singapore Biennale aims to position Singapore prominently as an international centre and regional thought leader in the field of visual art. It encourages Singapore artists and Singapore to engage with the international art world, through the invitation of regional and international artists to exhibit with Singapore artists, and for Singapore to join the international community of art biennales whose language is mainly conducted through the medium of contemporary art. As a platform for collaborations with the global arts community, the Biennale provides new opportunities for local visual artists and arts businesses, and is a significant opportunity to cultivate deeper public engagement with the arts. It complements the achievements of other areas of the arts and cultural scene, collectively enhancing Singapore's international image as a vibrant city to live, work, play.

### **About Art Compass 2008**

*Art Compass 2008* is a new initiative developed by the leading contemporary art events in the Asia-Pacific region; the Biennale of Sydney, Gwangju, Shanghai and Singapore Biennales and the Yokohama Triennale. *Art Compass 2008* is a travel packaging device to encourage contemporary art lovers to visit the events in an organised itinerary. The proposed package tour will provide visitors with an unprecedented opportunity to experience five extraordinary and innovative contemporary art events from September 2008 through to November 2008. *Art Compass 2008* will actively promote visitation to the Closing Week events of the Biennale of Sydney (30 August – 7 September 2008) and the Opening Previews of the Gwangju Biennale (5 September 2008), Shanghai Biennale (8 September 2008), Singapore Biennale (9 – 10 September 2008) and Yokohama Triennale (12 September 2008).

For more information, please visit [www.artcompass2008.com](http://www.artcompass2008.com)

### **About the National Arts Council (Singapore)**

The National Arts Council (NAC) was established in September 1991 to spearhead the development of the arts in Singapore. To realise its vision of developing Singapore into a distinctive global city for the arts, NAC provides total support to nurture artistic talent, promotes the practice and appreciation of the arts among Singaporeans, builds up capabilities and resources, facilitates internationalisation and advocates the value of the arts. Through its holistic range of programmes and initiatives to develop the entire arts value chain, the Council champions the growth of a vibrant arts sector where the arts is accessible to all, and the community of artists, arts groups and arts businesses can innovate, excel and achieve sustainability in the long term.

**SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008**  
**About the Artists**

ARTIST NAME	BORN	GENDER	GENRE	PLACE OF BIRTH	LIVES & WORKS	NEW WORK																																																																																																																																		
ALFREDO JUAN AQUILIZAN	1962	M	Site Specific Installation	Philippines	Australia	YES																																																																																																																																		
MARIA ISABEL GAUDINEZ-AQUILIZAN	1965	F					ANTHONY McCALL	1946	M	Video Installation	UK	USA	NO	APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL	1970	M	Film	Thailand	Thailand	NO	BEN-DAVID ZADOK	1949	M	Installation	Yemen	UK	NO	CHARLY NIJENSOHN	1966	M	Video / Photography	Argentina	Germany	NO	CHAW EI THEIN	1969	F	Installation	Myanmar	Myanmar	YES	RICH STREITMATTER-TRAN	1973	M	Vietnam	Vietnam	CHEO CHAI HIANG	1946	M	Installation / Performance	Singapore	Singapore	YES	CLARE LANGAN	1957	F	Video Installation	Ireland	Ireland	NO	DANIEL BUREN	1938	M	Public Art	France	France	YES	DEBORAH KELLY	1962	F	Public Art	Australia	Australia	NO	DESIREE DOLRON	1963	F	Photography	Netherlands	Netherlands	NO	DINH Q. LEY	1968	M					TRAN QUOC HAI		M	Installation	Vietnam	Vietnam	NO	LE VAN DANH		M					E-CHEN	1966	M	Installation	Taiwan	Taiwan	YES	FAISAL SAMRA	1955	M	Video Installation	Bahrain	Bahrain	NO	FARHAD MOSHIRI	1963	M	Photography	Iran	Iran	NO	SHIRIN ALIABADI	1973	F	FELICE VARINI	1952	M	Installation	Switzerland	France	YES	FUJIKO NAKAYA	1933	F
ANTHONY McCALL	1946	M	Video Installation	UK	USA	NO																																																																																																																																		
APICHATPONG WEERASETHAKUL	1970	M	Film	Thailand	Thailand	NO																																																																																																																																		
BEN-DAVID ZADOK	1949	M	Installation	Yemen	UK	NO																																																																																																																																		
CHARLY NIJENSOHN	1966	M	Video / Photography	Argentina	Germany	NO																																																																																																																																		
CHAW EI THEIN	1969	F	Installation	Myanmar	Myanmar	YES																																																																																																																																		
RICH STREITMATTER-TRAN	1973	M		Vietnam	Vietnam																																																																																																																																			
CHEO CHAI HIANG	1946	M	Installation / Performance	Singapore	Singapore	YES																																																																																																																																		
CLARE LANGAN	1957	F	Video Installation	Ireland	Ireland	NO																																																																																																																																		
DANIEL BUREN	1938	M	Public Art	France	France	YES																																																																																																																																		
DEBORAH KELLY	1962	F	Public Art	Australia	Australia	NO																																																																																																																																		
DESIREE DOLRON	1963	F	Photography	Netherlands	Netherlands	NO																																																																																																																																		
DINH Q. LEY	1968	M																																																																																																																																						
TRAN QUOC HAI		M	Installation	Vietnam	Vietnam	NO																																																																																																																																		
LE VAN DANH		M																																																																																																																																						
E-CHEN	1966	M	Installation	Taiwan	Taiwan	YES																																																																																																																																		
FAISAL SAMRA	1955	M	Video Installation	Bahrain	Bahrain	NO																																																																																																																																		
FARHAD MOSHIRI	1963	M	Photography	Iran	Iran	NO																																																																																																																																		
SHIRIN ALIABADI	1973	F																																																																																																																																						
FELICE VARINI	1952	M	Installation	Switzerland	France	YES																																																																																																																																		
FUJIKO NAKAYA	1933	F	Public Art	Japan	Japan	YES																																																																																																																																		

ARTIST NAME	BORN	GENDER	GENRE	PLACE OF BIRTH	LIVES & WORKS	NEW WORK
HANS OP DE BEECK	1969	M	Installation	Belgium	Belgium	NO
HANS PETER KUHN	1952	M	Public Art	Germany	Germany	YES
HEMAN CHONG	1977	M	Installation / Public Art	Malaysia	Singapore	YES
ILYA KABAKOV	1933	M	Installation	Russia	USA	NO
EMILIA KABAKOV	1945	F				
ISAAC MONTOYA	1963	M	Public Art	Spain	Spain	YES
ISAK BERBIC	1983	M	Video	Bosnia	UAE	NO
JANE LEE	1963	F	Painting Installation	Singapore	Singapore	NO
JEPPE HEIN	1974	M	Public Art	Denmark	Denmark	YES
JONG GEUN HAN		M	Installation	Korea	Korea	NO
JOSHUA YANG	1974	M	Drawing Installation	Malaysia	Singapore	YES
KI-BONG RHEE	1957	M	Installation	Korea	Korea	NO
KIRAN SUBBAIAH	1971	M	Video	India	India	NO
LAYLA JUMA A. RASHID		F	Sculpture/ Photography	UAE	UAE	NO
LEANDRO ERLICH	1978	M	Installation	Argentina	Argentina	YES
LEE YONG DEOK	1956	M	Relief Painting	Korea	Korea	NO
LENA COBANGBANG	1976	F	Photography	Philippines	Philippines	NO
LEONID TISHKOV	1953	M	Photography	Russia	Russia	NO
LUCHEZAR BOYADJIEV	1957	M	Public Intervention	Bulgaria	Bulgaria	YES
MARIELLE NEUIDECKER	1965	F	Installation	Germany	Germany	NO
NGUYEN QUANG HUY	1971	M	Sculpture & Video installation	Vietnam	Vietnam	NO
NADHIA BAMADHAJ	1968	F	Video	Malaysia	Malaysia	NO
PAOLO W. TAMBURELLA	1973	M	Installation	Italy	Italy	YES
PHAM NGOC DUONG	1976	M	Sculpture Installation	Vietnam	Vietnam	NO

ARTIST NAME	BORN	GENDER	GENRE	PLACE OF BIRTH	LIVES & WORKS	NEW WORK
RACHEL GOH	1976	F	Video Installation / Photography	Singapore	Singapore	NO
RICK HADLOW	1954	M	Sculpture Installation	Australia	Australia	YES
RIZKI R. UTAMA (oQ)	1982	M	Video	Indonesia	Indonesia	NO
RYURO FUKUDA	1975	M	Photography	Japan	Japan	NO
SERGIO PREGO	1969	M	Video Installation	Spain	USA	YES
SHERMAN ONG	1971	M	Film / Photography	Malaysia	Singapore	YES
SHIGERU BAN	1957	M	Architecture	Japan	France	YES
SHUBIGI RAO	1975	F	Installation	India	Singapore	YES
SIMA ZUREIKET	1978	F	Photography/ Installation	USA	Jordan	NO
SPELL 7 KAYLENE TAN PAUL RAE)	1973 1973	F M	Sound Installation	Singapore UK	Singapore Singapore	YES
EVAN TAN	1971	M		Singapore	Singapore	
SRINVIASA PRASAD	1974	M	Site Specific installation	India	India	YES
SU MEI-TSE	1973	F	Installation	Luxembourg	Luxembourg	NO
SUHA SHOMAN	1944	F	Video installation	Jerusalem	Jordan	NO
TANG LING NAH	1971	F	Drawing Installation	Singapore	Singapore	YES
WILLIE KOH		M				
TAREK TALAT AL-GHOUSSEIN	1962	M	Photography	Palestine	UAE	NO
TROMARAMA: RUDDY ALEXANDER H. FEBY BABY ROSE HERBERT HANS	1984 1985 1984	M F M	Video installation	Indonesia	Indonesia	NO
TRUONG TAN	1963	M	Installation	Vietnam	Vietnam	NO
YUAN GOANG MING	1965	M	Video Installation	Taiwan	Taiwan	NO

## Singapore Biennale 2008 Profile of Artistic Director

Fumio NANJO 南條史生



Fumio Nanjo (b.1949 in Tokyo) is the Director of the Mori Art Museum, a position he assumed in November 2006.

Also an art critic and a lecturer at Keio University, Tokyo, Nanjo has organised numerous exhibitions in various capacities as: an officer of the Japan Foundation (1978-1986), Director of ICA Nagoya (1986-1990), Founder and Representative Director of Nanjo and Associates (1990-2002), and Deputy Director of Mori Art Museum (2002-October 2006).

His main achievements include being the commissioner of the Japan Pavilion at the 47th Venice Biennale (1997) and the 1st Taipei Biennale (1998). Nanjo was also a member of the jury committee for the Turner Prize (1998), co-curator of the 3rd Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (1999), and member of the selection committee for the Sydney Biennale (2000).

His experience also extends to being the director for the Japan Pavilion at EXPO 2000 in Hanover, artistic co-director of the Yokohama Triennale (2001), selector of the Artes Mundi Prize in Wales (2004), being a jury member of the Golden Lion Prize for the 51st Venice Biennale (2005) as well as the artistic director of the inaugural Singapore Biennale (2006).

Having served as a consultant on several public art and corporate art projects including the Shinjuku I-Land Public Art Projects (Tokyo/1995), the Hakata Riverain Art Project (Fukuoka/1999), Art Project for Obayashi Corporation Head Office (Tokyo/1999) and VivoCity Public Artworks (Singapore/2006), Nanjo also holds advisory positions which include being a board member of Comité International des Musées d'Art Moderne et Contemporain (CIMAM) and member of the Association International des Critiques d' Art (AICA).

He is also involved in the selection committees of several art awards and artist-in-residence programmes. In 1997, he published *From Art to the City: A Record of 15 Years as An Independent Curator*.

## **Singapore Biennale 2008 Profile of Curatorial Team**

### **Joselina CRUZ**



Joselina Cruz is an independent curator currently working between Manila and Singapore. She was formerly a curator at the Singapore Art Museum and at the Lopez Museum in Manila. She has curated numerous exhibitions and writes essays, reviews and criticism for catalogues, newspapers and magazines. She took Masteral Studies in Art History at the University of the Philippines and holds an MA in Curating and Commissioning Contemporary Art from the Royal College of Art (RCA), London, UK.

### **Matthew NGUI**



Matthew Ngui (b. 1962) is a visual artist working in the areas of installation, video, performance and site-specific works. He has exhibited in Australia, Singapore and internationally in contemporary art spaces in cities such as Berlin, Bordeaux, Copenhagen, Graz, Hong Kong, London, Manila and Vienna. He participated in the Sao Paulo (1996), Venice (2001) and Gwanju Biennales (2002) and the tenth Documenta in 1997.

Ngui has taught at art schools at the Australian National University, Curtin University of Technology, Edith Cowan University and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and run workshops or attended residencies in Austria, Japan, Holland, Switzerland, and Venezuela. He is past Chairman of the Artists Regional Exchange in Perth, has served as a council member of the National Arts Council, Singapore and on the Board of the Singapore Art Museum and is now a member of the Public Art Appraisal Committee in Singapore. Ngui lives and works in Singapore and Australia. He is currently working on a public art commission for the New Performing Arts Venue in Perth, while a survey exhibition of his art practice over nearly two decades, which began at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, is currently on tour.

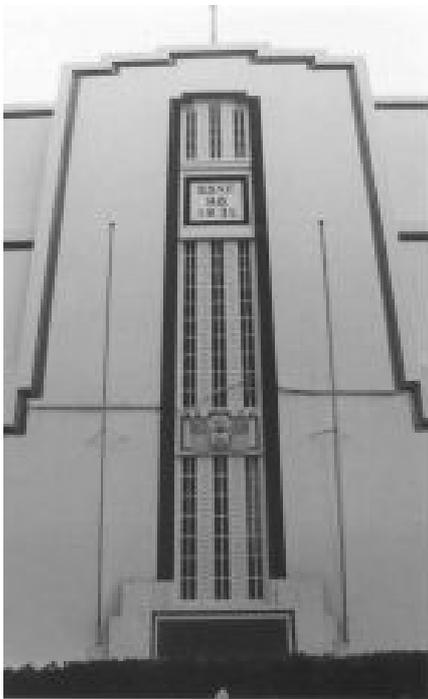
## SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008 About the Exhibition Venues



### CITY HALL

City Hall was designed by Municipal Architects, A. Gordon and Assistant Architect F. D. Meadows, and was completed in 1929. It was originally named the Municipal Building and housed the Municipal Council, which was responsible for the development of infrastructure in Singapore. In 1951, the Municipal Council and Municipal Building were renamed the City Council and City Hall respectively, as Singapore was conferred city status by King George VI. It was here that the British accepted the surrender of the Japanese on 12 September 1945, formally ending the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. It was also here that Lee Kuan Yew, as Prime Minister, proclaimed self-government for Singapore on 5 June 1959 and merger with Malaysia on 16 September 1963. After Separation, the first fully-independent Singapore Government was sworn in at City Hall on 9 August 1965.

As part of the transformation of Singapore's civic district into a bustling arts and cultural hub, City Hall will be converted into a world class national art gallery by 2010.



### SOUTH BEACH

Located along Beach Road, Blocks 1, 9 and 14 within the Former Beach Road Camp, the NCO Club Building and the Former Beach Road Police Station building were given conservation status on 9 October 2002. The former camp is synonymous with the history of the Singapore Volunteers Corps and the camp was also the venue for the first NS enlistment in 1967. Blocks 1, 9 and 14, built in the 1930s, are of the Art Deco Style while the NCO Club building, designed by Palmer and Turner and built in 1952-53, is a hybrid of Art Deco and the Modern Style. The Former Beach Road Police Station, built in 1931, is a simple 3-storey Art Deco building.

The famous Beach Road Camp that for the better part of 20th century had been used as the headquarters of Singapore's volunteer defence forces, finally closed its doors on 18 Feb 2000. In a ceremony designed to mirror the fanfare of its colonial-era opening, past Volunteers and present-day members of the People's Defence Force were present to witness the symbolic 'golden key' to the camp being handed over to the Land

and Estates Organization accompanied by the tune of "The Last Post."

Beach Road Camp started out as the headquarters of the Chinese section of the Singapore Volunteer Corps (SVC) but became the overall headquarters of the SVC when its original headquarters at Fort Fullerton (the site of the present-day Fullerton Building) was deemed no longer suitable. In 1907, the entire SVC Headquarters, which had been made of reconstructable wooden panels, was dismantled and re-built at Beach Road.

The SVC was reorganised as the Straits Settlement Volunteer Force (SSVF) in 1921, combining the volunteer forces in Singapore, Penang, and Malacca. In 1930, the colonial authorities decided that a more permanent structure was needed to meet the growing needs of the volunteers. Three years later, the Governor of the Straits Settlement, Sir Cecil Clementi, officially opened the SSVF's new headquarters at Beach Road Camp.

After the Second World War, the camp became HQ Singapore Military Forces (SMF) and with the implementation of the colonial National Service Bill in 1953, hosted swearing-in ceremonies for the new recruits were held there. The first batch of recruits of Singapore's pioneer professional military unit, the 1st Singapore Infantry Regiment (1SIR), was also sworn in at Beach Road Camp. The formation of 1 SIR is a major milestone in Singapore's military history because it marks the first time a full-fledged regular unit was drawn from the resident population.

After Singapore gained her independence in 1965 the camp was used for the training of PDF officers and NCOs. It also housed the Singapore Infantry Brigade HQ which was then made up of Singapore's two regular battalions and 20 PDF (Arty). At the time the camp was handed back to the Urban Redevelopment Authority in 2000, it was used as the headquarters of the 2nd PDF Command (now in Clementi Camp). The closing of the camp concluded a colourful chapter in Singapore's military history; one that will be fondly remembered by all those who have served there.

Scheduled to reopen by 2012, South Beach is envisaged to become the 'revolutionary New Eco-Quarter in Singapore'. Developed by CityDev and its partners Istithmar (part of the Dubai World Group) and US-based Elad Group, the development will feature two striking towers of up to 45 storeys, including four revitalized historic buildings. With a gross floor area of about 1.6 million square feet, it will house premium office space, two luxury hotels, exquisite retail space and exclusive city residences.



## MARINA BAY

Located at the Southern tip of Singapore, Marina Bay is a 360ha development designed to seamlessly extend Singapore's downtown district and further support the city-state's continuing growth as a major business and financial hub in Asia.

A greenfield site surrounded by water and gardens, Marina Bay provides an opportunity for further urban transformation, attracting new investments, visitors and talent, as well as becoming a new destination for the local community.

Marina Bay has been designed with people in mind, with a 24/7 vibrancy that will include the highly anticipated Integrated Resort (a destination attraction offering world-class hotel, convention, leisure and entertainment facilities, and casino) as well as other residential, commercial and entertainment developments.

Marina Bay will be a place for people from all walks of life to explore, exchange and entertain. There will be apartments set amidst lush greenery near Singapore's waterfront. The local community and visitors alike can enjoy the parks, waterfront promenade and attend the events and celebrations held at the Bay. State-of-the-art office space and transport infrastructure will provide seamless connectivity for companies and professionals to grow and exchange business ideas. It will be place with a loop of attractions and round-the-clock energy that continues during and outside office hours.

## SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008 About the Programm



### WONDER EXHIBITION

*Wonder* is the theme for SB2008. Its conceptual scope issues a challenge to the contemporary world, a world that no longer questions choices, nor allows for things and events to awe us. Through contemporary art, *Wonder* calls on us to question and be curious; to reach beyond the surface, surpassing the apparent and to allow ourselves be surprised, awed, tantalised and challenged. All of which is an aperture to the World.

Singapore Biennale 2008 (SB2008) highlights Singapore's prominence as an international visual arts hub, not only providing new opportunities for Singapore artists, curators and arts businesses, but also as a key enabler of exchange and collaborations for the global arts community. The

presence of SB2008 is also a significant opportunity for the Singaporean public to develop a stronger relationship with contemporary art.

More than 60% of the exhibition will showcase artists from across the Asia Pacific, with artists from Latin America, Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, Europe and North America completing the full list. These will be a mix of both emerging as well as established artists working across all art forms including architecture, biotechnology, drawing, installation, new media, painting, performance, photography, sculpture, sound projects and video.

### OUTREACH PROGRAMMES



### ENCOUNTERS SERIES

As part of a larger community building program, the Singapore Biennale established a series of public platforms called *Encounters*. The *Encounters* series can range from dialogue sessions with the curatorial team, to artists' talks, workshops and master classes, to press conferences, symposiums, forums, and other social events usually associated with other international Biennales. *Encounters* either take place in Singapore or at

international art events including art fairs, biennales, forums, etc.

These *Encounters* sessions serve as feedback mechanisms for the Biennale as it is being organized, developing a sense of ownership from various segments of the local community for this large scale event. To find out more about upcoming *Encounters* please visit [www.singaporebiennale.org](http://www.singaporebiennale.org)



## EVENTS

The Singapore Biennale 2008 will also feature a number of key events such as the Opening Party. This is a major event to celebrate the start of the 2 month long event. This will take place at South Beach with historic military camp as the unique backdrop. Specially commissioned artworks will be a major attraction during this celebration. The Singapore public will be invited and together with the presence of the participating artists,

the international art world and media, the Biennale will open with a bang.



## EDUCATION & OUTREACH TO SCHOOLS

### PRIMARY SCHOOL

Singapore Biennale is committed to building new arts audiences and broadening arts participation. An art education & outreach programme for schools has been developed to accompany the Biennale with these aims in mind: Inspire, Instill and Engage through participation. SB is also proud to partner Jet Airways and Little Art Bug Workshop to present the Kids' Biennale.

Primarily targeted for children in Primary Schools, the Kids' Biennale is an integrated programme that empowers and celebrates kids' creativity and sense of wonder. The key components include a concentrated in-school education curriculum, art competitions, mass participation platforms and a dedicated Kids Zone within the indoor Biennale venues. Through this, we also hope to build a new generation of audiences who will grow together with Singapore Biennale. This is the foundation for long term relationships for children and young parents by providing them with a unique platform – one that is educational, entertaining, and meaningful.

## **About JetAirways**

Jet Airways is Asia's fastest growing premiere airline. Beginning with four aircraft in 1993, the airline has grown to a current fleet of 76 aircraft. Today, the airline is acknowledged as having one of the youngest aircraft fleets in the world. Jet Airways flies to more than 59 destinations in India and internationally, and operates over 370 flights daily.

## **SECONDARY SCHOOL AND JUNIOR COLLEGES**

Students from the Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges have not been left out. A specially developed Contemporary Art Pack called Wonder (How We Got Here) is essentially an educational resource designed to enhance the appreciation and understanding of contemporary art through key conceptual tools. The SB2008 Art Pack is a two-part programme which includes a video of a performance lecture and a structured visit to the SB2008, which can be conducted by the teacher or a facilitator.

In addition, we will be developing a Peer-led guiding system where schools can send selected pupils to go for a half-day training session & tour. Students will be given a framework on which they can then formulate a personalized tour which they can in turn lead their peers.

## **TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS**

Polytechnics and Art Institutions will be taking contemporary art into their own hands and into their communities by helming their own visual art festivals revolving around the theme of Wonder. Look out for these exciting exhibitions from Republic Polytechnic and LaSalle.

## **SCHOOL VISITS**

Tickets for the 3-venue exhibition are available at a 50% discounted student rate. A complimentary short guide will be given per class. Bookings for school visits can be made from 2nd June onwards and should be made at least one month in advance. A volunteer guide can be provided upon availability.

For more information, please visit [www.singaporebiennale.org](http://www.singaporebiennale.org) or send enquiries to [education@singaporebiennale.org](mailto:education@singaporebiennale.org).

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Apart from the Encounters Series, one big way of engaging different communities with SB2008 is our Volunteer Programme. This year we are developing an even bigger volunteer programme with the aim of reaching 1300 volunteers who will run the daily operations and be at the frontline of the Biennale. SB2008 will give volunteers more ownership over the event and provide art education sessions. The SB volunteer will be the bridge to bring contemporary art to the lives of Singaporeans.

SB2008 also aims to bring art into the lives of Singaporeans. We are partnering several organisations to help spread the Wonder. Our partners include Arts House, Art Outreach, Lasalle, National University of Singapore, National Library Board, People's Association, Republic Polytechnic, SAGE, Substation, and schools.

We also hope to extend our reach to children from children's homes and children with special needs as Art is able to inspire, refresh and restore beyond the limits of language and culture and should be available to everyone. We will be identifying partners to assist in delivering this programme, to open up the wonderful world of contemporary art through the SB2008.

Other Community Engagement projects in collaboration with the Yellow Ribbon Project are also in the pipeline.

## ACCOMPANYING PROGRAMMES

### Showcase:Singapore

**Showcase:Singapore** a premium boutique art fair will premier during the opening days of the SB2008. Featuring the top 25 galleries from Asia, Europe and America, this highly exclusive art fair will showcase the current darlings of the art market and will see a gathering of dealers, collectors and artists engage in intimate exchange and dialogue on the business of art collection. Accompanying this will be an art investment forum that will serve as an important opportunity for collectors to dialogue, network and explore the wealth of Asian contemporary art. Developed together with our partner Fortune Cookie Projects, this will be the key nucleus in jump starting the art market in Singapore and the region, bringing together key collectors and dealers in one location during the time of the Biennale for exchange, trade and research. This new initiative will serve as the key catalyst to grow a larger base of High Networth Individuals and Upper Middle Class collectors, creating a stronger stratified consumer art market.



showcase  
singapore

Venue: Level 1, City Hall  
Professional and Media Previews: 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
Public Opening: 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> September 2008

[www.showcasesingapore.com](http://www.showcasesingapore.com)





### **Bound for Glory: Wong Hoy Cheong 2002 - 2007**

**12<sup>th</sup> September – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**NUS Museum, University Cultural Centre, NUS**

Wong Hoy Cheong is one of Southeast Asia's most influential contemporary artist, whose practice is conditioned by multiple and simultaneous contexts of history, memory, nation, globality, ethnicity, culture and political contingencies. The exhibition *Bound for Glory* presents Wong Hoy Cheong's five recent works *Re:Looking* (2002-1003), *Anthem* (2006),

*Chronicles of Crime* (2006), *Suburbia: Bukit Beruntung*, *Subang Jaya*, (2006), and *Oh Sulukule, Darling Sulukule* (2007).

Born in 1960 in Georgetown, Malaysia, Wong's practice is interdisciplinary, involving areas such as drawing, installation, theatre/performance and video, and often reveals the artist's interest in historical, social and aesthetic issues. His works have been exhibited at the National Art Gallery (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia), Pitt Rivers Museum (Oxford, UK), Kunsthalle (Vienna, Austria), Museum of Contemporary Art (Taipei, Taiwan), the Guangzhou Triennial (2005, China), Liverpool Biennial (2004, UK), 50th Venice Biennale (2003, Italy), and more recently at the Istanbul Biennale (Sep 2007).

The exhibition will be presented during the period of the Singapore Biennale. It is also presented as part of the Museum's **NX Gallery** programme, a space conceived as a contemporary art venue to showcase emerging artistic trends in Singapore and beyond, as well as to encourage critical curatorial and museum practices. Past exhibitions organized at the NX Gallery include *Picturing Relations: Simryn Gill and Tino Djumini* (May 2007), *We* (July 2007), and *Reconfiguration: Chinese Contemporary Art* (December 2007).

### **Ventura: Recent Works**

**5<sup>th</sup> September – 16<sup>th</sup> November 2008**

**NUS Museum, University Cultural Centre, NUS**

Filipino artist Ronald Ventura uses the human body to explore subjects such as commodification of humans, paranoia and religious consciousness. His hyperrealist paintings are created mainly in graphite on canvas. The artist's studies are also expressed in sculptures and assemblages. Ronaldo Ventura was born in 1973, studied painting in the Philippines College of Architecture and Fine Arts, University of Santo Tomas, Manila, where he now teaches.

This is a two-part project starting with Ventura's works providing a dialogue with Ng Eng Teng's creations at NUS Museum. Ng (1934 – 2001) was interested in issues of humanity and used the human figure widely to express the dilemmas in life and the challenges imposed on the human spirit. The second part of the project is a collaborative effort between Ventura and Singapore artist Francis Ng (exhibition venue to be confirmed); it represents a fusion of ideas from two professionals of different cultural background, each with a strong individual style.

The exhibition will be presented during the period of the Singapore Biennale. The exhibition is presented in conjunction with a permanent display of works from the Museum's **Ng Eng Teng** Collection, a donation from the late Singapore modern sculptor consisting of sculptures, paintings and drawings.

## SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008 Biennale Partners

### Major Sponsors



### Sponsors



### Institutional Sponsors



### Venue Partners



**SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008  
Biennale Steering Committee**

***Steering Committee***

**Chairman**

LEE Suan Hiang  
CEO, National Arts Council

**Co-Chairman**

KWEK Leng Joo  
Managing Director, City Developments Limited

**Members**

Henri CHEN  
Artist

CHEW Kim Liong  
Dean, Office of Academic Affairs, Nanyang Academy of the Arts

CHOY Weng Yang  
Artist, Cape of Good Hope Art Gallery

CHUA Soo Bin  
Managing Director, SooBin Art International

Patrick DANIEL  
Editor-in-chief (English & Malay Newspaper Division), Singapore Press Holdings

HO Peng  
Director, Curriculum Planning and Development, Ministry of Education

KHOR Kok Wah  
Deputy CEO, National Arts Council

Karen KOH  
Deputy CEO, Singapore Health Services Pte Ltd & Singapore General Hospital

KOH-LIM Wen-Gin  
Chief Planner and Deputy CEO (Physical Planning and Conservation & Urban Design), Urban Redevelopment Authority

KOH Lin-Net  
Deputy Secretary, ICM & the Arts, Ministry of Information, Communications, and the Arts

Melissa KWEE  
Chairwoman, Halogen Foundation

KWOK Kian Chow  
Director, Singapore Art Museum

LIM Chwee Seng  
Director, Visual Arts, National Arts Council

Susan LOH  
Director, Marketing Development, Corporate Communication & International  
Relations, National Arts Council

Milenko PRVACKI  
Dean, Fine Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts

Jane ITTOGI SHANMUGARATNAM  
Partner, Shook Lin & Bok Lip

WOON Tai Ho  
Managing Director, MediaCorp News Pte Ltd

## **SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2008 Biennale Secretariat**

### ***Secretariat***

The Secretariat has been organised into 4 main functions:

- **Programming**
- **Site & Logistics**
- **Marketing & Partnership Development**
- **Outreach & Education**

We are here to get things done: from ensuring the paint dries on time, to making sure that internationally acclaimed artworks make it for the opening, to plying the roads to ensure that the Singapore Biennale experience is an unforgettable one.

### **The Secretariat**

Mr LOW Kee Hong (General Manager)  
Ms Michelle TAN (Manager, Exhibitions)  
Ms Grace LIEW (Manager, Marketing & Partnership Development)  
Ms Pearlyn Cai (Manager, Outreach & Education)  
Ms Nurhidahyu Bte RAHIM SHAH (Officer)

### **Singapore Biennale Secretariat**

1 Coleman Street  
The Adelphi #05-06  
Singapore 179803

Tel: (+65) 6837 9270  
Fax: (+65) 6837 3654  
[info@singaporebiennale.org](mailto:info@singaporebiennale.org)