

Singapore Biennale 2008: Overview of Information

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Exhibition duration: 11 September - 16 November 2008
Vernissage: 9 - 10 September
Presse conference and opening party on 9 September

Artistic Director: Fumio Nanjo
Curators: Joselina Cruz and Matthew Ngui
66 participants - see the artists' list (annex)

Organizer: National Art Council of Singapore

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Once again, the Japanese curator and art critic Fumio Nanjo, who is also the head of the Mori Art Museum in Tokyo, will chart the direction and programming for Singapore's visual arts Biennale, as he already did in 2006. With this re-appointment, the organizers expect a greater continuity for the event, and a deepening in its reach and engagement with the city and audiences. Joselina Cruz and Matthew Ngui were appointed as co-curators.

Theme "Wonder"

SB2008, through its theme "Wonder," proposes to investigate the articulation and creation of marvels, riddles and illusions in our world today. The artworks in the exhibition will call on us to question and be curious; to reach beyond the surface, surpassing the apparent and to allow ourselves be surprised, awed, tantalized and challenged. All of which is an aperture to the World.

According to Fumio Nanjo, "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."

Exhibition venues

In contrast to the multi-venue presentation of the first edition in 2006, the Singapore Biennale 2008 will be concentrated in two large indoor spaces and a connecting outdoor area, all venues within walking distance.

City Hall

Constructed between 1926 and 1929 for Singapore's municipal administration. Until 2005, facilities of the municipal and national administration and of Singapore's Supreme Court were located in the building. It will be converted into the country's national art gallery by 2010. Was already one of the key venues of the 1st Singapore Biennale in 2006.

South Beach Development

A cluster of colonial buildings located along Beach Road (close to the famous Raffles Hotel): Blocks 1, 9 and 14 within the Former Beach Road Camp, the Non-Commissioned Officers' Club Building and the Former Beach Road Police Station building. All were given conservation status in 2002. The Beach Road Camp is synonymous with the history of the Singapore Volunteers Corps, and it was also the site for the first National Service enlistment in 1967. Blocks 1, 9 and 14 were built in the 1930s in Art Deco style. The NCO Club building, designed by Palmer and Turner, and built in 1952-53, is a hybrid of Art Deco and modern style. The Former Beach Road Police Station, built in 1931, is a simple 3-storey Art Deco building. Scheduled to reopen by 2012, South Beach is being promoted as the "revolutionary New Eco-Quarter in Singapore". It will feature two towers of up to 45 storeys, including four revitalised historic buildings, with office and retail space, luxury hotels, and exclusive city residences. (Press information from the organizer)

Singapore Biennale @ Marina Bay

Located at the Southern tip of Singapore, Marina Bay is a 360ha development area designed to seamlessly extend Singapore's downtown district. The Development Agency in charge actively collaborates with partners to create exciting events at Marina Bay. The Singapore Biennale@Marina Bay is one such event, presenting a series of outdoor installations on these sites:

Central Promontory Site

Immediately adjacent to Marina Bay Residences, the Central Promontory will be a waterfront development home to many public attractions, including a museum, art gallery, science centre, planetarium and aquarium. For the Singapore Biennale 2008, a temporary Containart Pavilion designed by the Japanese Architect Shigeru Ban will house artworks by several artists, and serve as one of the information centres for the exhibition.

Fullerton Heritage Area

An area located near the mouth of the Singapore River, with some older buildings, like the Fullerton Hotel, the fine-dining hub One Fullerton, as well as the Merlion Park, home to Singapore's iconic Merlion Fountain.

Esplanade Waterfront

The Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay is Singapore's performing arts centre. Besides the concert and theatre halls, the large complex also encompasses two outdoor performing venues, restaurants and a promenade along Marina Bay.

Singapore Flyer

Giant observation wheel. Its 28 air-conditioned capsules are capable of holding 28 passengers each. A complete rotation of the wheel takes about 30 minutes. With a total height of 165 metres it provides a breathtaking, panoramic view of the city centre and beyond, as far as Malaysia and Indonesia.

List of Artists

Names with links are connected with the artists archive of Universes in Universe, which provides access to further information, texts and photos about the particular artist on the website.

Aktan Abdykalykov & Ernest Abdyjaparov	A. Abdykalykov: * 1957 Kountouou, Kyrgyzstan. Lives in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. E. Abdyjaparov: * 1961 Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; lives there.
Shirin Aliabadi & Farhad Moshiri	S. Aliabadi: * 1973 Tehran, Iran; lives there. F. Moshiri * 1963 Shiraz, Iran. Lives in Tehran.
Shaarbek Amankul	* 1959 Kyrgyzstan. Lives in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
Alfredo Juan Aquilizan & Maria Isabel Gaudinez-Aquilizan	A.J. Aquilizan: * 1962 Cagayan Valley, Philippines. M. I. Gaudinez-Aquilizan: * 1965 Manila, Philippines. They live in Brisbane, Australia.
Nadiah Bamadhaj	* 1968 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Shigeru Ban	* 1957 Tokyo, Japan. Lives there and in Paris, France.
Hans Op de Beeck	* 1969 Turnhout, Belgium. Lives in Brussels, Belgium.
Isak Berbic	* 1983 Bosnia. Lives in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
Luchezar Boyadjiev	* 1957 Sofia, Bulgaria; lives there.
Daniel Buren	* 1938 Boulogne-Billancourt, France. Lives in Paris, France.
Gary Carsley	* 1957 Brisbane, Australia. Lives in Sydney, Australia, and Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
Chaw Ei Thein, Richard Streitmatter-Tran & Aung Ko	Chaw Ei Thein: * 1969 Myanmar; lives there. R. Streitmatter-Tran * 1972 Bien Hoa, Vietnam. Lives in Ho-Chi-Minh-City, Vietnam. Aung Ko: * 1969 Myanmar; lives there.
Cheo Chai-Hiang	* 1946 Singapore; lives there.
Heman Chong	* 1977 Muar, Malaysia; raised in Singapore; lives there.
Lena Cobangbang	* 1976 Manila, Philippines; lives there.
Søren Dahlgaard	* 1973 Copenhagen, Denmark; lives there.
Desiree Dolron	* 1963 The Netherlands; lives there.
E-Chen	* 1966 Taiwan. Lives in California, USA.
Leandro Erlich	* 1973 Buenos Aires, Argentina. Lives there and in Paris, France.
Ryuro Fukuda	* 1975 Japan.
Tarek Al-Ghoussein	* 1962 Kuwait, Palestinian. Lives in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.
Rachel Goh	* 1976 Singapore; lives there.
Rick Hadlow	* 1954 Australia; lives there.
Jong Geun Han	* 1971 Korea. Lives in Gwangju, Korea.
Jeppé Hein	* 1974 Copenhagen, Denmark. Lives in Berlin, Germany.
Layla Juma A. Rashid	* 1977 Sharjah, United Arab Emirates; lives there.
Ilya & Emilia Kabakov	I. Kabakov: * 1933 Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. E. Kabakov: * 1945 Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine. They live in New York, USA, and Paris, France.
Deborah Kelly	* 1962 Melbourne, Australia. Lives in Sydney, Australia.
Willie Koh & Tang Ling Nah	W. Koh: * 1971 Singapore; lives there. Tang: * 1971 Singapore; lives there.
Hans Peter Kuhn	* 1952 Kiel, Germany. Lives in Berlin, Germany.

Clare Langan	* 1967 Dublin, Ireland; lives there.
Dinh Q. Lê with Tran Quoc Hai and Le Van Danh	Dinh Q. Lê: * 1968 Ha-Tien, Vietnam. Lives in Los Angeles, USA, and Ho-Chi-Minh City, Vietnam.
Jane Lee	* 1963 Singapore; lives there.
Lee Yong Deok	* 1956 Korea. Lives in Seoul, Korea.
Liew Kung Yu	* 1960 Jitra, Malaysia. Lives in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
Anthony McCall	* 1946, United Kingdom. Lives in the USA.
Isaac Montoya	* 1963 Burgos, Spain. Lives in Madrid, Spain.
Fujiko Nakaya	* 1933 Sapporo, Japan. Lives in Tokyo, Japan.
Marielle Neudecker	* 1965 Düsseldorf, Germany. Lives in London and Bristol, United Kingdom.
Leeroy New	* 1986 Philippines; lives there.
Nguyen Quang Huy	* 1971 Vietnam; lives there.
Charly Nijensohn	* 1966 Buenos Aires, Argentina. Lives in Berlin, Germany.
Sherman Ong	* 1971 Malaysia. Lives in Singapore.
Pham Ngoc Duong	* 1976 Vietnam; lives there.
Wit Pimkanchanapong	* 1976 Bangkok, Thailand; lives there.
Srinivasa Prasad	* 1974 Bangalore, India; lives there.
Sergio Prego	* 1969 San Sebastián, Spain. Lives in New York, USA.
Shubigi Rao	* 1975 Mumbai, India. Lives in Singapore.
Ki-Bong Rhee	* 1957 Korea. Lives in Seoul, Korea.
Faisal Samra	* 1956 Bahrain; family of Saudi Arabian origin. Lives in Bahrain.
Marie Sester	* 1955 France. Lives in Los Angeles, USA.
Lieko Shiga	* 1980 Aichi Prefecture, Japan. Lives in London, United Kingdom.
Suha Shoman	* 1944 Jerusalem; Palestinian. Lives in Amman, Jordan.
spell#7 & Evan Tan	spell#7: founded in 1997 by Paul Rae and Kaylene Tan. Paul Rae: * 1973 United Kingdom. Evan Tan: * 1971 Singapore. Kaylene Tan: * 1973 Singapore. They live in Singapore.
Kiran Subbaiah	* 1971 Sidapur, India. Lives in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, and Bangalore, India.
Paolo W. Tamburella	* 1973 Rome, Italy. Lives there and in New York, USA.
Truong Tan	* 1963 Vietnam; lives there.
Leonid Tishkov	* 1953 Ural mountains region, Russia. Lives in Moscow, Russia.
Tromarama	Founded in 2004. Febie Babyrose: * 1985 Indonesia. Herbert Hans: * 1984 Indonesia. Ruddy Alexander Hatumena: * 1984 Indonesia. They live in Indonesia.
Su-Mei Tse	* 1973 Luxembourg; lives there.
Rizki R. Utama (oQ)	* 1982 Indonesia; lives there.
Felice Varini	* 1952 Locarno, Switzerland. Lives in Paris, France.
Apichatpong Weerasethakul	* 1970 Bangkok, Thailand; lives there.

Joshua Yang

* 1974 Malaysia. Lives in Singapore.

Yuan Goang Ming

* 1965 Taiwan; lives there.

Ben-David Zadok

* 1949 Bayhan, Yemen. Lives in London, United Kingdom.

Zhan Wang

* 1962 Beijing, China; lives there.

[Sima Zureikat](#)

* 1978 Chicago, USA; Jordanian-American. Lives in Berlin, Germany.