



Press Release — 21 September 2018

S.E.A. Focus Announces Strong Support from Notable International and Local Galleries

Leading galleries to converge in Singapore for debut of boutique art showcase

S.E.A. Focus has announced keen interest from leading galleries to participate in its inaugural edition. An initiative by **STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery**, **S.E.A. Focus** will shine a spotlight on international and local galleries centred on Southeast Asian modern and contemporary art to foster greater appreciation and demand amongst audiences. From 23 to 27 January 2019, it will take the form of a boutique art fair and host approximately 25 galleries within a special pop-up structure in Gillman Barracks.

“I am very pleased by the positive response this homegrown enterprise has received from not just the local arts ecology but also from international galleries and industry stalwarts,” said **Emi Eu, Executive Director of STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery**. *“The premiere of S.E.A. Focus will be a fresh addition to the Singapore Art Week and inject vibrancy into the region’s art marketplace.”*

There will be an enthusiastic presentation from established Singaporean galleries ranging from **Art Commune** which specialises in local Modern Masters such as **Cheong Soo Pieng** to **Yavuz Gallery** who will exhibit Filipino social media sensation **Yeo Kaa**. Strong artistic representation from international cultural mavericks such as **Commonwealth & Council** (Los Angeles) and **47 Canal** (New York) as well as regional leaders including **The Drawing Room** (Manila) and **Lawangwangi Art Gallery** (Bandung) underscore the industry’s interest to participate in a platform that amplifies the region’s creative networks. **Jasdeep Sandhu, Gallery Director and Founder of Gajah Gallery** welcomed this development, *“I look forward to leveraging on the unique opportunity presented by S.E.A. Focus to showcase works by Indonesian artist, Octora Chan. The size of the fair makes it a good platform for such an artist to make her debut”*, he shared.

An Advisory Committee will provide strategic guidance to S.E.A. Focus in developing fresh presentations and enriching programmes. Its members include local and international art luminaries such as **Jim Amberson, Kwok Kian Chow, Lu Xun** and **Aaron Seeto**. Welcoming this endeavour, **Aaron Seeto, Advisory Committee member and Director of Museum MACAN** said, *“To an external observer, Southeast Asia might seem like a homogenous entity, but on the ground, with its distinct geographies, histories, languages and cultural infrastructures, platforms such as S.E.A. Focus will increase visibility to the diversity and nuances of this region.”*



S.E.A. Focus also revealed a suite of programmes to provide a comprehensive experience for visitors. **#SEAcity** will include presentations by partner institutions and lifestyle brands across Singapore; **#SEAccommunity** is designed for children and school groups to deepen their appreciation of art; and **#SEASpotlight** will be a talks programme featuring artists, gallerists, and curators from the region. **Audrey Yeo, Project Director of S.E.A. Focus** added, *“Through providing a spectrum of arts and lifestyle experiences for international collectors and local audiences, we hope that **S.E.A. Focus** will engage new audiences and provide fresh perspectives into Southeast Asia’s rapidly evolving arts scene.”*

Supported by the **National Arts Council (NAC)**, the **Economic Development Board (EDB)** and the **Singapore Tourism Board (STB)**, S.E.A. Focus will be a highlight of Singapore Art Week 2019. It adds to the line-up of exciting visual art activities including curated exhibitions, public art, industry dialogues and multidisciplinary lifestyle events.

More information on the full roster of galleries and programmes will be provided at a later date.

Note to Editors:

ABOUT S.E.A. FOCUS

An initiative by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, S.E.A. Focus is a platform to foster deeper appreciation and increased demand for Southeast Asian modern and contemporary art through dynamic collaboration between international and local galleries. The inaugural edition of S.E.A. Focus takes the form of a boutique art fair and will be held from 23 to 27 January 2019 in a special pop-up structure at the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



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Jim Amberson

Originally from the USA but based in Asia since 1998, Jim Amberson is a Director in a Multinational Insurer. He has been actively collecting Southeast Asian contemporary art for more than 15 years, acquiring works by Sopheap Pich, Dinh Q. Lê, Yee I-Lann, Handiwirman Saputra and more. Amberson’s interest in the region extends to a Masters of Arts Degree from the National University of Singapore in Southeast Asian Studies and publications that include “Deep S.E.A.: Contemporary Art from South East Asia” and “The “Little Red Dot: Becoming a Red Hot Home for Art”. Amberson is frequently invited to panels to speak on collecting Southeast Asian art, and has loaned his collection to numerous international exhibitions.

Kwok Kian Chow

Writer, curator and museum advisor, Kwok Kian Chow is an Associate Professor and Programme Leader of Arts and Culture Management, and Wee Kim Wee Centre Senior Fellow at the Singapore Management University (SMU). A museum professional with more than 20 years of experience, Kwok was Senior Curator (1992-1994) of the National Museum of Singapore, Director (1994-2009) of the Singapore Art Museum, and Director (2009-2011) and Senior Advisor (2011-2015) of the National Gallery Singapore.

Lu Xun

Lu Xun lives and works in Nanjing China. He is a collector of contemporary Chinese and international art. In 2013, he founded the new Sifang Art Museum designed by the renowned American architect Steven Holl. He worked closely with architects and artists to plan and commission more than 40 buildings and art installations in the Sifang Collective, which was nominated by The New York Times as a “Leading Culture Destination in Asia and the Pacific” in 2015. Lu has been selected for “40 Under 40” by Apollo Magazine as well as “The World's Top 100 Art Collectors” by Artnet. He currently sits on the board of Acquisition Committee of the Tate Modern and is a founding member of Delfina Foundation’s Asia Pacific Committee.

Aaron Seeto

The Director of Museum MACAN, Aaron Seeto has vast experience working to advance the goals of contemporary arts organisations and curating significant exhibitions of artists from the Asia and Pacific regions. Seeto was formerly Curatorial Manager of Asian and Pacific Art, at Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, Australia where he led the curatorial team at the eighth Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (APT8) in 2015. For eight years prior, he was the Director of Sydney’s ground-breaking 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art.

LEADERSHIP



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Emi Eu (Executive Director, STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery)

Emi Eu is a member of the Selection Committee for Art Basel Hong Kong, and has been the Executive Director of STPI since 2009. Since 2007, she has also been the Programme Director of Fondation d'entreprise Hermès Aloft in Singapore, a platform for contemporary artists to explore new expressive forms and bring their creative ideas to life through original works created in situ. Eu served as the Vice President and President between 2012 and 2018 for AGAS (Art Galleries Association Singapore). She was an Adjunct Faculty for the course “Art History & Civilisation: East & West” at the Singapore Management University from 2001 to 2017.

Audrey Yeo (Project Director, S.E.A. Focus)

A gallerist for 10 years, Audrey Yeo is the founder of Yeo Workshop, a Singaporean-owned art gallery situated in Gillman Barracks. The gallery has a strong focus on education and community development. Yeo is also the founder of the Arnoldii Arts Club, an education and arts-based association, that organises public art projects such as “DRIVE”, the Singapore Arts Club Public Art Project.

About the STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop & contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

STPI Creative Workshop is a rigorous laboratory for pushing the boundaries of various print and papermaking techniques. Bolstered by specialised facilities and a highly qualified workshop team, STPI Creative Workshop produces unique collaborations with leading international artists to challenge conventions in art, explore new trajectories in their practice and share their experience with the public.

STPI Gallery is an active platform that fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programmes. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in STPI Creative Workshop and remains the only gallery from Singapore and the region to participate in all three editions of the prestigious Art Basel fairs (Hong Kong, Basel, Miami Beach) as well as FIAC, Paris and The Armory Show, New York. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its collaborators and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery’s public programmes aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while its collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

About the Brand Identity



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The brand identity of S.E.A. Focus was conceived as a series of symbols that connect, engage and amplify. These symbols merge to form a tripartite logo that represents the multiplicity of creative networks and collaborations and a convergence of interests that Singapore and S.E.A. Focus stand for.



About Singapore Art Week

A joint initiative by the National Arts Council, the Singapore Tourism Board and the Singapore Economic Development Board, Singapore Art Week reinforces Singapore's position as Asia's leading visual arts destination. In its seventh edition in 2019, the nine-day celebration of the visual arts takes place in venues across Singapore, from galleries and museums to art precincts and non-profit spaces, from 19 to 27 January.

Reaching out to both Singapore residents and international visitors to promote art appreciation, Singapore Art Week offers a myriad of quality art experiences which span the visual arts, from traditional to modern to contemporary practices. Audiences can look forward to gallery openings, exhibitions, lifestyle events, public art walks, and enriching discussions on art and culture. Singapore Art Week also aims to galvanise the arts sector to launch innovative art and lifestyle concepts and events in conjunction with art events during this period.

About Gillman Barracks

Set in a former military barracks dating back to 1936 and surrounded by lush tropical greenery, the Gillman Barracks visual arts cluster was launched in September 2012. Jointly developed by government agencies, the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the National Arts Council (NAC), and the JTC Corporation (JTC), Gillman Barracks' vision is to be Asia's destination for the presentation and discussion of international and Southeast Asian art.

Gillman Barracks is now home to leading international and home-grown galleries, national research centre NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore, and art organisations Art Outreach and Playeum's Children's Centre for Creativity. The art businesses and organisations are complemented by an array of cafes, bars and restaurants.

Today, Gillman Barracks is a place for art lovers, art collectors, and those curious about art. The cluster is one of the focal points of Singapore's arts landscape, and contributes to the development of visual art in the region and beyond.

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For media kit, fact sheet and high-resolution images: <http://bit.ly/seafocus>