

## Press release

### **S.E.A. Focus – a showcase of contemporary art from Southeast Asia – announces gallery list and programme for highly anticipated return in January 2020**

- *20 galleries with locations in 13 cities across Southeast Asia and beyond invited for the 2020 edition, with 8 galleries participating for the first time*
- *Featuring over 35 artists based in, or connected to, Southeast Asia, with over half born after 1985, cementing the platform's commitment to supporting the creative development of the region*
- *Accompanied by a creative programme of artist-led events and talks*



Mit Jai Inn, *Patchwork* (2019). Oil on canvas. Courtesy of SILVERLENS

**Singapore, 13 November 2019** – S.E.A. Focus returns for its second edition during Singapore Art Week in January 2020 with 20 leading galleries from Singapore and around the world. Held at Singapore's visual arts precinct Gillman Barracks, the platform will run from Thursday 16 January until Sunday 19 January, with a VIP preview on Wednesday 15 January.

S.E.A. Focus 2020 builds on its mission to showcase contemporary art from Southeast Asia, providing a platform to foster greater appreciation and engagement with the art and artists from the region. Of the 20 participating galleries, half have gallery spaces in Singapore, with others drawn from galleries based in cities across the wider Southeast Asia region, including Jakarta, Makati City, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok and Hanoi, as well as Beijing, Berlin, Brisbane, New York and Seoul. All will exhibit work by artists based in, or connected to, Southeast Asia.

### Stellar line-up of galleries and artists

A cross-section of galleries from Singapore will showcase the strength and vitality of the local art scene. Highlights include a presentation of Singaporean **Yanyun Chen**'s charcoal drawings by Art Porters Gallery depicting the passage of time through the gradual decay by juxtaposing fake and real flowers. Chan + Hori Contemporary will display the first-ever presentation of drawings by Indonesian artist **Lugas Syllabus** in conversation with Singapore-based ceramist **Ahmad Abu Bakar**, while FOST Gallery will exhibit a joint presentation featuring two Singaporean artists: an installation by **Grace Tan** and new metal paintings by **Wyn-Lyn Tan**. STPI will present work by Thai artist **Pinaree Sanpitak** and Indonesian-born **Melati Suryodarmo**, developed at STPI's workshop and gallery in 2018-2019, showcasing possibilities in the mediums of print and paper. A solo presentation by **Luke Heng** featuring a new series of paintings commissioned especially for S.E.A. Focus 2020 will take centre stage at Yavuz Gallery's booth.



Yanyun Chen, *I am lying, no.2* (2019). Charcoal on Paper. Courtesy of Art Porters Gallery.

Art Seasons, with spaces in Singapore and Beijing, will spotlight Malaysian artist **Umibaizurah Mahir Ismail**, widely recognised for her ceramic sculptures, and Gajah Gallery, based in Singapore and Yogyakarta, will highlight three young emerging artists: **Dini Nur Agnia** (Indonesia), **Kara Inez** (Malaysia) and **Mahalakshmi Kannappan** (India). From Singapore, Tokyo and New York, Mizuma Gallery will bring paintings and sculptures made with industrial materials by Singapore-based **Ben Loong**, while Richard Koh Fine Art, with spaces in Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, will spotlight emerging artists from Malaysia working across painting, drawing and sculpture, as well as Malaysia-based, Taiwanese artist **Liu Hsin-Ying** and Cambodian artist **Pen Robit**. Sullivan + Strumpf from Singapore and Sydney will dedicate its booth to sculptures by Singaporean artist **Dawn Ng**, who immortalises a personal exchange with fossilised sculptures.

Vitamin Creative Space, based in Guangzhou and Beijing, will present work by **Danh Vo**, the Vietnam-born, Danish artist who often explores the intersection of autobiography and collective memory in his internationally acclaimed conceptual practice. Brisbane-based gallery Jan Manton Art Gallery will bring together a group exhibition of Indonesian artists **Dadang Christanto**, **Heri Dono** and **Jumaadi**, whose work was widely received at the first edition of S.E.A. Focus. ROH Projects Projects from Jakarta celebrates Indonesian artists **Nadira Julia**, **Maruto Ardi** and **Luqi Lukman**, who all create ephemeral work incorporating diverse materials, and from Hanoi, CUC Gallery will display a sculptural installation of



Yee I-Lann, *Local Matters* (details) (2019). Pandanus weave. Courtesy of SILVERLENS.

natural serpentine stones and gearboxes by **Tulip Duong**. Berlin's galerie neugerriemschneider will present work by illustrious Argentinian-born Thai artist **Rirkrit Tiravanija**, whose work will also be shown with The Drawing Room from Makati City exhibited alongside a performance piece by the Filipino, Denmark-based artist **Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen**. Silverlens Galleries, also from Makati City, will exhibit work by Malaysian-Bornean artist **Yee I-Lann** and one of the most recognized artists of Thai contemporary art today **Mit Jai Inn**, whilst Bangkok's Nova Contemporary showcases the work of three Thai artists: **Nim Kruasaeng**, **Tada Hengsapkul** and **Latthapon Korkiatarkul**. **Eisa Jocson** (Philippines) will investigate the Filipino service industry and social

mobility through a choreographed performance with Seoul's The Columns Gallery, with Kuala Lumpur-based Wei-Ling Gallery exhibiting an installation by one of Malaysia's most provocative and courageous contemporary voices, **Cheng Yen Pheng**. The installation will reflect on an important chapter of the artist's life through a variety of mediums, including clothing, wheat and grass roots stitched on rice paper and sandpaper.

### **Fostering dialogue with creative talks programme**

Underscoring its commitment to fostering greater appreciation for art from Southeast Asia, S.E.A. Focus will present a series of creative talks, under the title SEASpotlight, specially curated by Talks and VIP Programmes Manager Audrey Yeo. These talks, led by artists and the region's artworld heavyweights, will cast a spotlight on key Southeast Asian countries – Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam – and on subjects pertinent to this expansive region. Titled 'Southeast Asia Art Watch', this spotlight series features speakers including Zoe Butt, Curator and Artistic Director of The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre in Ho Chi Minh, Vietnam; Mella Jaarsma, artist and founder of Cemeti Institute for Art & Society in Yogyakarta, Indonesia; Indonesia's Dr. Oei Hong Djien, founder of OHD Museum in Magelang, Java; and Izan Satrina, founder of Malaysia's Cultural Economy Development Agency.

Looking beyond countries to the broader and diverse Southeast Asia region, Asia's renowned curators, museum directors and professionals will lead talks on artist-run spaces, the role of art prizes and understanding Southeast Asia through a global lens. The panels will include the likes of Singaporean artist Robert Zhao, Mae Anderson of IMPART Awards in Singapore and others.

S.E.A. Focus is an initiative by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery with support from the National Arts Council, Singapore. Launched in 2019, the platform is an anchor of Singapore Art Week, an annual celebration of visual arts that takes place across Singapore in January. Its 2020 advisory committee includes: Jim Amberson, who has dedicated the last 15 years to building one of the most important collections of Southeast Asian art; Patricia Chen, filmmaker, author and independent arts writer; Aaron Seeto, Director, Museum MACAN, Jakarta; and Alexandra Seno, an art critic and Head of Development at Asia Art Archive, Hong Kong.

**ENDS**

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### Notes to editors:

### **Media preview:**

Wednesday 15 January, 5-6pm

### **Opening days and hours:**

Wednesday 15 January: VIP Preview (by invitation only) 6-9pm

Thursday 16 January 12-7pm

Friday 17 January 12-10pm

Saturday 18 January 12-7pm

Sunday 19 January 12-6pm

**About S.E.A. Focus:**

S.E.A. Focus is a showcase of contemporary art from Southeast Asia. Launched in 2019, it aims to bring together a curated selection of some of the finest artists and galleries from across the region to foster a deeper appreciation of contemporary art and artists in Southeast Asia. A meeting point for artistic vision and vigour, S.E.A. Focus provides a platform to propel diverse cultural exchanges which celebrate, promote and provoke dialogue about Southeast Asian art.

Returning to Gillman Barracks visual arts precinct in Singapore for its second edition in 2020, S.E.A. Focus will host 20 galleries.

S.E.A. Focus is an initiative led by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

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**About STPI:**

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is a not-for-profit organisation 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 space 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 programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its artist collaborations and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery's public programme aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

[www.stpi.com.sg](http://www.stpi.com.sg)

Facebook: [@STPICreativeWorkshopandGallery](https://www.facebook.com/STPICreativeWorkshopandGallery)

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## **S.E.A. Focus 2020 exhibitor list and artists:**

1. Art Porters, Singapore  
Yanyun Chen (b. 1986, Singapore)
2. Art Seasons, Singapore and Beijing  
Umibaizurah Mahir Ismail (b. 1975, Malaysia)
3. Chan + Hori Contemporary, Singapore  
Ahmad Abu Bakar (b. 1963, Malaysia) and Lugas Syllabus (b. 1987, Indonesia)
4. CUC Gallery, Hanoi  
Tulip Duong (b. 1959, Vietnam)
5. FOST Gallery, Singapore  
Grace Tan (b. 1979, Malaysia) and Wyn-Lyn Tan (b. 1974, Singapore)
6. Gajah Gallery, Singapore, Yogyakarta  
Dini Nur Aghnia (b. 1995, Indonesia), Kara Inez (b. 1991, Malaysia) and Mahalakshmi Kannappan (b. 1981, India)
7. galerie neugerriemschneider, Berlin  
Rirkrit Tiravanija (b. 1961, Argentina)
8. Jan Manton Art, Brisbane  
Dadang Christanto (b. 1957, Indonesia), Heri Dono (b. 1960, Indonesia) and Jumaadi (b. 1973, Indonesia)
9. Mizuma Gallery, Singapore, Tokyo, New York  
Ben Loong (b. 1988, Singapore)

10. Nova Contemporary, Thailand  
Tada Hengsapkul (b. 1987, Thailand), Latthapon Korkiatarkul (b. 1988, Thailand) and Nim Kruasaeng (b. 1974, Thailand),
11. Richard Koh Fine Art, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok  
Haffendi Anaur (b. 1985, Malaysia), Joshua Gomes (b. 1993, Malaysia), Hasanul Isyraf Idris (b. 1978, Malaysia), Yeoh Choo Kuan (b. 1988, Malaysia), Justin Lim (b. 1983, Malaysia), Pen Robit (b. 1991, Cambodia), Malaysia-based Liu Hsin Ying (b. 1991, Taiwan) and Faizal Yunus (b. 1989, Malaysia)
12. ROH Projects Projects, Jakarta  
Nadira Julia (b. 1993, Indonesia), Maruto Ardi (b. 1994, Indonesia) and Luqi Lukman (b. 1990, Indonesia)
13. Silverlens Galleries, Makati City  
Yee I-Lann (b. 1971, Malaysian Borneo) and Mit Jai Inn (b. 1960, Thailand)
14. STPI, Singapore  
Pinaree Sanpitak (b. 1961, Thailand) and Melati Suryodarmo (b. 1969, Indonesia)
15. Sullivan & Strumpf, Singapore, Sydney  
Dawn Ng (b. 1982, Singapore)
16. The Columns Gallery, Seoul  
Eisa Jocson (b. 1986, Philippines)
17. The Drawing Room, Makati City  
Lilibeth Cuenca Rasmussen (b. 1970, Philippines)
18. Vitamin Creative Space, Beijing, Guangzhou  
Danh Vo (b. 1975, Vietnam)
19. Wei Ling Gallery, Kuala Lumpur  
Cheng Yen Pheng (b. 1982, Malaysia)
20. Yavuz Gallery, Singapore  
Luke Heng (b. 1987, Singapore)