

For Immediate Release

**ARTIST BOEDI WIDJAJA CO-COMMISSIONED FOR
'THE 9TH ASIA PACIFIC TRIENNAL OF CONTEMPORARY ART' (APT9) AND
THE UPCOMING EDITION OF THE SINGAPORE BIENNALE**

*The artwork is the first project arising from a long-term partnership between
Singapore Art Museum and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA).*

Singapore, 29 October 2018 – Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) have co-commissioned an artwork by Indonesia-born Singaporean artist Boedi Widjaja, which will be presented at 'The 9th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT9) in Brisbane, Australia and the Singapore Biennale 2019. The project marks the first to be developed from a five-year partnership between the two art institutions, established since October 2016.

The partnership agreement between SAM and QAGOMA was forged on common interests to promote and advance the art of this region. The partnership is wide-ranging; covering extensive exchanges between the two institutions, including staff and professional development and collaborative research, exhibition and programming.

Through this partnership, the two art institutions have co-commissioned Boedi Widjaja to create a two-part site-specific architectural and sound installation – the first iteration of the work will debut at APT9 from 24 November 2018 to 28 April 2019, and the second will be unveiled at the upcoming 6th edition of the Singapore Biennale, taking place towards the end of 2019. Titled *Black—Hut, Black—Hut*, the artwork is shaped by the curatorial and specific contexts of both exhibitions, and stems from the artist's ongoing artistic interrogations into what constitutes home. It also expands on Widjaja's earlier explorations and projects, such as an installation titled *Black—Hut*, which was an affiliate project of Singapore Biennale 2016. Widjaja was selected on the grounds of his distinctive practice by the curatorial teams at both institutions.



Joyce Toh, Head of Content and Senior Curator at the Singapore Art Museum, says, “The co-commissioning of an artwork by a Southeast Asian artist – one that draws from the artist’s experiences in Indonesia, Singapore and Australia – is such a meaningful first project to be coming out of our five-year partnership with QAGOMA. With our shared interest in the development, research and presentation of art from the region, we look forward to unveiling more collaborative projects that will spotlight the art practices from this part of the world on an international stage.”

Reuben Keehan, Curator of Contemporary Asian Art, QAGOMA said Boedi Widjaja’s exploration of house, home and homeland, was an exciting inclusion in the APT9 exhibition.

“*Black—Hut, Black—Hut* (2018–19) is a site-specific, proto-structure that formally engages with the architectural space and distinctive materials of the lower level of the Robin Gibson designed Queensland Art Gallery.

“Visually the artwork extends the overhang of the Gallery’s upper level with a black concrete platform while the numerous supporting columns of the structure make reference to the type of raised flooring found in various vernacular architectures including the old Queenslander house, the Javanese *joglo*, and the Malay *attap*,” Mr Keehan said.

APT9 is the 9th edition of QAGOMA’s flagship exhibition series, which has fostered the development and presentation of the world’s most significant works of contemporary Asian and Pacific art for more than 25 years. With artworks by more than 80 artists and groups from over 30 countries, APT9 will be presented at QAGOMA from 24 November 2018 to 28 April 2019.

The Singapore Biennale is Singapore’s pre-eminent platform for international dialogue in contemporary art. Commissioned by the National Arts Council of Singapore, SAM has been appointed the organiser for the past three editions, and will continue to organise the next two editions, to be held in end 2019 and 2021. More information on the Singapore Biennale will be made by end 2018.

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MEDIA CONTACTS

Priscilla Li | +65 6697 9761 | priscilla.li@singaporeartmuseum.sg

Lynn Sim | +65 6697 9762 | lynn.sim@singaporeartmuseum.sg

Amelia Gundelach | +61 (0) 404 994 985 | amelia.gundelach@qagoma.qld.gov.au

ABOUT THE SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM

Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is a contemporary art museum which focuses on art-making and art thinking in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, encompassing a worldwide perspective on contemporary art practice. SAM advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice.

Since it opened in January 1996, SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region. It seeks to seed and nourish a stimulating and creative space in Singapore through exhibitions and public programmes, and to deepen every visitor's experience. These include outreach and education, research and publications, as well as cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges.

SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013 and 2016, and will continue to organise the next two editions in 2019 and 2022. SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013, operating under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

About the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art

The Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art (QAGOMA) encompasses two adjacent river-side buildings in the Cultural Precinct at Brisbane's South Bank. The Gallery's vision is to be the leading institution for the contemporary art of Australia, Asia and the Pacific.

QAGOMA holds a Collection of over 17,000 works of historical, modern and contemporary art, and stages a dynamic program of Australian and international exhibitions. QAGOMA is



home to the Children's Art Centre which collaborates on interactive artworks with leading artists from around the world, and the Australian Cinémathèque, the only dedicated cinema facility in an Australian art museum.

The Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art' (APT) is the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art's flagship contemporary art series. Since 1993, the APT series has attracted more than three million visitors with its unique mix of presenting the most exciting and important contemporary art from the region and offering cross-cultural insight. Enabling QAGOMA to develop expertise and partnerships in the region, the APT has fostered the development of one of the world's most significant collections of contemporary Asian and Pacific art.

To find out more, visit www.qagoma.qld.gov.au

About Boedi Widjaja

Boedi Widjaja (b. 1975, Indonesia) lives and works in Singapore. Trained as an architect, he spent his young adulthood in graphic design, and turned to art in his thirties. His works often connect diverse conceptual references through his own lived experience of migration, culture and aesthetics; and investigate concerns regarding diaspora, hybridity, travel and isolation. The artistic outcomes are conceptually-charged, and span mediums from drawings to installations, sound and live art. He has shown in numerous exhibitions in Singapore and internationally, such as *MAP1: Waterways* (2017), at the 57th Venice Biennale Diaspora Pavilion and in the Barbican (2017).