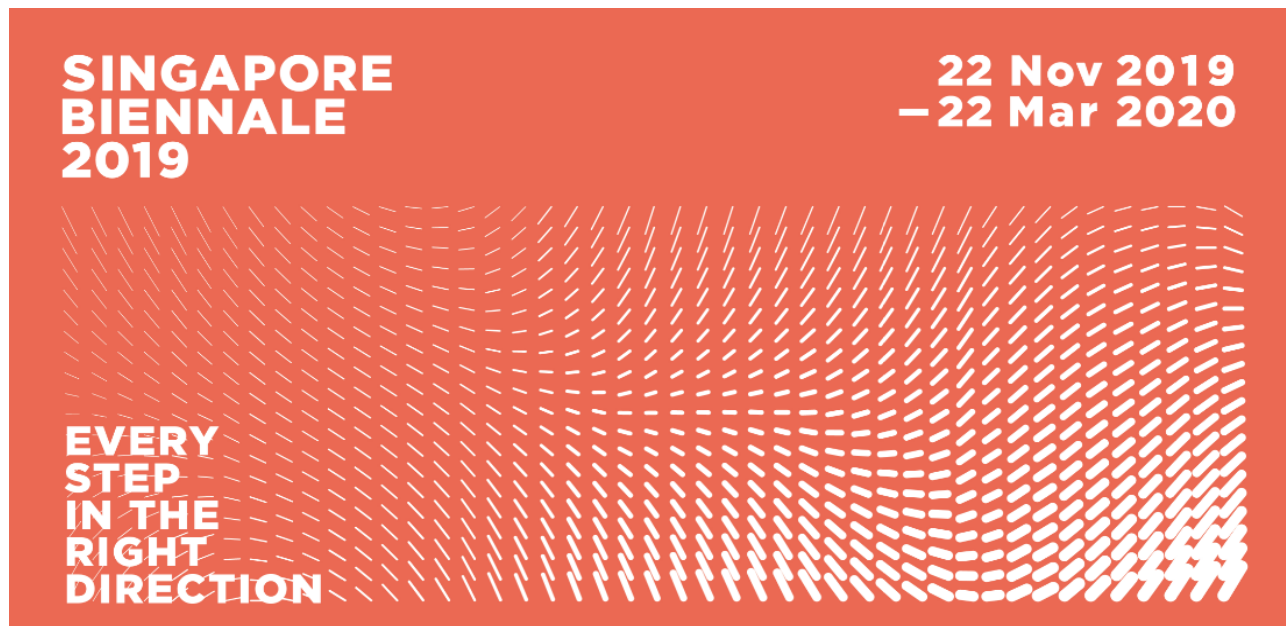


Media Release

**Singapore Biennale 2019: *Every Step In The Right Direction* Opens Across
Multiple Sites in Singapore on 22 November 2019**

77 artists and collectives reflect on contemporary life and the human endeavour for change



20 Nov 2019 - Singapore Biennale 2019 (SB2019) returns for its sixth edition, with 77 artists and art collectives from 36 countries and territories. Titled *Every Step in the Right Direction*, the international contemporary art exhibition invites the public to engage with the act of artistic exploration, drawing on the importance of making choices and taking steps to consider the conditions of contemporary life and the human endeavour for change. Commissioned by the National Arts Council and organised by SAM, the Singapore Biennale will run from 22 November 2019 until 22 March 2020 across 11 venues in the city.

With a strong focus on Southeast Asia, the sixth edition welcomes over 150 works across a breadth of diverse mediums including film, installation, sound art and performance, as well as new commissions and works that have never been presented in contemporary art biennales and exhibitions internationally. SB2019's opening weekend will feature programmes for the public, including artist performances, curator and artist tours and talks.

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

61 Stamford Road, #02-02, Stamford Court, Singapore 178892 • www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

Singapore Biennale 2019: *Every Step in the Right Direction* refers to the ethical imperative for both artists and audiences to make choices and take steps to reflect on the conditions of contemporary life. The Singapore Biennale 2019 puts its faith squarely in the transformative potential of the artist to rework the world, and invites the audience to be open to such a work and to a world that is made different through it. With the artistic and curatorial direction anchored in regional history, SB2019 aims to reflect on pressing concerns relevant to the global cultural community through artworks presented. This is done through 'festival-seminars', where action and reflection are interwoven through the presentation of convivial, participatory, and community-responsive projects and reflective, archival, and research-oriented works.

Led by Artistic Director Patrick Flores, the team of six Singapore Biennale curators have both independent and institutional backgrounds in the region, bringing together a wide spectrum of interests and experiences that afford opportunities for invigorating conversations and deliberations.

"On behalf of the Singapore Biennale 2019 curatorial team and the organising team from the Singapore Art Museum, we are proud to present a wide-ranging city-wide exhibition that brings together artists and collectives from across geographies, disciplines, cultures and personal histories to consider the transformative potential of art and artists to reflect on our contemporary condition and take steps towards thoughtful change. I hope that this Biennale will inspire creativity and creation, and renew a necessary sense of curiosity and attentiveness to the everyday," comments SB2019 Artistic Director Patrick Flores.

"The Singapore Biennale offers rich opportunities for Singaporeans to experience and be curious about contemporary art of Southeast Asia, while expanding its visibility and scholarship in the region. With the exhibition sited at historical, cultural, and public sites across Singapore, we hope that through art, Singaporeans deepen their connection with the city and the region, and overseas visitors will discover more about Singapore and Southeast Asia. The Biennale affirms Singapore's position as a vibrant destination for art, with diverse and accessible programme line-up for everyone to enjoy," adds Rosa Daniel, CEO of the National Arts Council, Singapore.

SB2019 Artwork Experience

SB2019 will take place in 11 venues across the city, spanning Singapore's landmark cultural institutions, historical and vital public spaces. The works in the Biennale converse with the sites in which they are located, where each location becomes a central part of their conception and experience. Each site thus

becomes a node of creative inquiry where artists and artworks are brought together in dialogue to provoke critical reflection and mindful action.

At the **National Gallery Singapore**, 36 artists and collectives engage viewers with unexpected ways of experiencing everyday life and the ecology around us. Renewing our awareness and attentiveness to traditions, customs and craft which have shaped the past and steer a possible future, the works include a co-commissioned work with QAGOMA and APT9 by **Boedi Widjaja** that reflects on the complexities of migration, diaspora, and hybridity; **Zakkubalan** collaborates with **Ryuichi Sakamoto** to present a behind-the-scenes portrait of the Japanese composer and his creative process through an ever-shifting ambient soundscape; a commissioned project by **Celine Condorelli** that engages the archives of five artists in a staged scenario of leisure and contemplation.

The Biennale works in **Gillman Barracks**, 22 artists and collectives invite the audience to sensitively examine the rapid changes in today's environment, revisiting both the history of nature and the nature of history as a complex, vulnerable and enduring ecology. A whimsical play of chance and improvisation, **Nabilah Nordin's** *An Obstacle in Every Direction*, she invites the visitor to enter an obstacle course made up of assemblages of found objects; through assemblages of commonplace objects, **Khairullah Rahim** looks at a range of public and private spaces and explores their adaptability, dual natures and symbolic connotations; **Korakrit Arunanondchai's** SB2019 commission reflects on the contemporary age of rapid technological advancement and simultaneous technological obsolescence.

At **LASALLE College of the Arts**, the public is encouraged to intervene, participate and engage with works by 13 artists and collectives across a range of modes; including the archive, textbook, art history, and lectures, among others. The **Mamitua Saber Project** celebrates the artistic custodianship of the late scholar, cultural worker and educator, who worked to preserve and cultivate the culture of the Moro people in Mindanao; three artistic projects by **Bakudapan Food Study Group**, **•• PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT** and **Mark Sanchez** are commissioned to draw on, deepen and experiment with Saber's ideas and practice.

The works featured at the **Asian Civilisations Museum** confront and reconsider the ideas and values that have come to embody "Asian" identity and the aspiration that is "civilisation" in an increasingly porous

and nuanced world. **Lawrence Lek's** SB2019 commission functions as a model for post-human behavioural patterns, combining the familiarity of a place some call home with an unknown future in a virtual para-fiction. In an installation combining live performances, videos, set design, and painting, **Jen Liu** considers the value and nature of gold's seduction as a vector to discuss the intersections of labour activism and genetic engineering, commodification. **Okui Lala** unpacks the complexity of inter-generational and multilingual conditions through the history and development of language policy planning in Malaysia in a compressed snapshot of its socio-cultural reality.

Other sites include **Amanda Heng's** revisit of her 'Let's Walk' series, through performances, workshops, and presentations that generate reflection at the hoarding of **Singapore Art Museum** and **Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay**; **Pooja Nansi's** celebration of the small joys and triumphs in everyday conversation at **SAM at 8Q** hoarding; **Laurie Anderson and Hsin-Chien Huang's** VR journey through a labyrinth of collective memories at the **SMU de Suantio Gallery**; **Lani Maestro's** works that encourage mindful and sensitive encounters on the front lawn of the **National Museum of Singapore**; **Paphonsak La-or's** installation of painted vine-flowers at **National Library** plaza; as well as additional performances by **Jason Wee** and **Phare, the Battambang Circus** at **Wild Rice @ Funan** and **Far East Plaza**.

SB2019 Opening Week Programmes

Over the opening weekend of the Singapore Biennale, there will be artist performances and artwork activations by SB2019 artists including, **Chang En-Man's** showcase of Taiwanese aboriginal recipes and locally-inspired recipes at the **Telok Ayer Arts Club** (23 Nov); **Jen Liu** presents a choreography based on methods of e-waste gold recycling at the **Asian Civilisations Museum** (22-23 Nov); **Gary-Ross Pastrana** and local dance company P71:SMA reactivate theatrical props from Manila at **LASALLE College of the Arts** (21-24 Nov); **Phare, the Battambang Circus** presents a *Phum Style* show at **Far East Plaza** (23-24 Nov), and **Veronica Troncoso** brings her conversations with migrant workers and local students to life at the **National Gallery Singapore** (24 Nov). The public will also be able to gain more insight into the various Biennale works through curator and artist talks and tours at various SB2019 locations.

Please refer to the following annexes for more information:

[Annex A: SB2019 Artist List and Venues](#)

[Annex B: SB2019 Coordinates Projects](#)

[Annex C: SB2019 Opening Week Programmes.](#)

[Annex D: SB2019 Curatorial Statement, Artistic Director and Curatorial Team biographies](#)

Benesse Prize at Singapore Biennale 2019

Benesse Holdings Inc. will be collaborating once again with Singapore Art Museum on the Benesse Prize at the Singapore Biennale. In its second edition with the Singapore Biennale, short list of artists will be announced during the opening week, and the the winner of the Prize will be announced in January 2020 during Singapore Art Week. A separate release is available in [Annex E: Benesse Prize.](#)

Commissioned by the National Arts Council and organised by SAM, Singapore Biennale 2019: *Every Step in the Right Direction* will run from **22 November 2019 until 22 March 2020** across 11 venues in the city. Visit singaporebiennale.org for updated information.

The complete press kit and images can be downloaded from:

[https://suttonpr.egnyte.com/fl/8N9d9I9HNt/SB2019_Press_Kit_\(Sharing\)](https://suttonpr.egnyte.com/fl/8N9d9I9HNt/SB2019_Press_Kit_(Sharing))

A complete calendar of programme details can be found at <https://singaporebiennale.org/whatson>

[Please register your details at the SB2019 Media Accreditation Link: http://muwwbzed.evenium.net/](http://muwwbzed.evenium.net/)

– END –

For further information, please contact:

Sutton
Victoria Kung
+852 9668 1092
sb2019@suttonpr.com

Singapore Art Museum
Gwyneth Liew
+65 6697 9753
media@singaporeartmuseum.sg

Editor Notes:

About the Singapore Biennale

The Singapore Biennale was established in 2006 as the country's pre-eminent platform for international dialogue in contemporary art. It presents and reflects the vigour of artistic practices in Singapore and the region within a global context, and fosters productive collaborations and deep engagement with artists, arts organisations, and the international arts community.

The Singapore Biennale cultivates public engagement with contemporary art through a four-month exhibition, and its accompanying public engagement and education programmes that include artist and curator talks and tours, school visits and workshops, and community days. It complements achievements in other areas of arts and culture, collectively enhancing Singapore's international profile as a vibrant city in which to live, work and play.

The 2006 and 2008 editions of the Biennale were organised by the National Arts Council. The NAC commissioned the Singapore Art Museum to organise the 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2019 editions.

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum 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 occupies two buildings: the old St Joseph's Institution on Bras Basah Road, built in 1855 and now a National Monument; and SAM at 8Q, a conservation building across the road on Queen Street that was the old Catholic High School. The museum buildings are currently closed for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at partner venues until the buildings re-open.

SAM is the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2019. 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 National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions while we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit www.nac.gov.sg.

Annex A: SB2019 Artist List and Venues

SB2019 Participating Artists and Collectives include:

1. Larry Achiampong (United Kingdom)
2. Raymundo Albano (The Philippines)
3. Laurie Anderson (USA) & Hsin-Chien Huang (Taiwan)
4. Arnont Nongyao (Thailand)
5. Boedi Widjaja (Singapore)
6. Karolina Bregula (Poland/Taiwan)
7. Busui Ajaw (Thailand)
8. Hera Büyüktaşçıyan (Turkey)
9. C&G (Hong Kong)
10. Centro Audiovisual Max Stahl Timor-Leste (CAMSTL) (Timor-Leste)
11. Theresa Hak Kyung Cha (South Korea/USA)
12. Chang En-Man (Taiwan)
13. Kray Chen (Singapore)
14. Sharon Chin (Malaysia)
15. Céline Condorelli (France/UK)
16. Sandu Darie (Romania/Cuba)
17. Desire Machine Collective (India)
18. Dusadee Huntrakul (Thailand)
19. Ha Bik Chuen (Hong Kong)
20. Hafiz Rancajale (Indonesia)
21. Amanda Heng (Singapore)
22. Chia-Wei Hsu (Taiwan)
23. Hu Yun (China/Serbia)
24. Kahlil Robert Irving (USA)
25. Ismail Zain (Malaysia)
26. Juliana Yasin (Singapore)
27. Mathias Kauage (Papua New Guinea)
28. Khairullah Rahim (Singapore)
29. Korakrit Arunanondchai (Thailand/USA)
30. Le Quang Ha (Vietnam)
31. Soyung Lee (South Korea)
32. Lawrence Lek (UK)
33. Lim Sokchanlina (Cambodia)
34. Jen Liu (USA)
35. Temsüyanger Longkumer (India/UK)
36. Lani Maestro (The Philippines/Canada/France)
37. Min Thein Sung (Myanmar)
38. Petros Moris (Greece)
39. muf architecture/art (UK)
40. Nabilah Nordin (Singapore/Australia)
41. Pooja Nansi (Singapore)
42. Ngoc Nau (Vietnam)
43. Okui Lala (Malaysia)
44. Alfonso Ossorio (The Philippines/USA)
45. Paphonsak La-or (Thailand)
46. Gary-Ross Pastrana (The Philippines)
47. Vong Phaophanit and Claire Oboussier (Laos/UK)
48. Phare, the Battambang Circus (Cambodia)
49. Post-Museum (Singapore)
50. Prapat Jiwarangsana (Thailand)
51. Tracey Rose (South Africa)
52. Ruangsak Anuwatwimon (Thailand)
53. Miljohn Ruperto (The Philippines/USA)
54. Ali Akbar Sadeghi (Iran)
55. Judy Freya Sibayan (The Philippines)
56. Haifa Subay (Yemen)
57. Dennis Tan (Singapore/Japan)
58. Koki Tanaka (Japan)
59. Zai Tang (UK/Singapore)
60. The Mamitua Saber Project
 - i. Bakudapan Food Study Group (Indonesia)
 - ii. •• PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT (Hong Kong/China)
 - iii. Mark Sanchez (The Philippines)
61. titre provisoire (Germany)
62. Verónica Troncoso (Chile/Germany)
63. Wu Tsang (USA/Germany/Switzerland)
64. Wendelien van Oldenborgh (The Netherlands/Germany)
65. Vandy Rattana (Cambodia/Japan/France)
66. Carlos Villa (USA)
67. Marie Voignier (France)
68. Vanghoua Anthony Vue (Australia)
69. Jason Wee (Singapore)
70. Zakaria Omar (Brunei)
71. Zakkubalan, in collaboration with Ryuichi Sakamoto (USA/Japan)
72. Robert Zhao Renhui (Singapore)

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore

Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

22 Nov 2019 – 22 Mar 2020
**SINGAPORE
BIENNALE
2019**
EVERY
STEP IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION

sam
singaporeartmuseum
CONTEMPORARY ART IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SB2019 Participating Venues include:

1. Singapore Art Museum & SAM at 8Q
2. National Gallery Singapore
3. Gillman Barracks
4. LASALLE College of the Arts
5. Asian Civilisations Museum
6. Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay
7. SMU de Suantio Gallery
8. National Museum of Singapore
9. National Library
10. Far East Plaza
11. W!LD RICE @ Funan

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

61 Stamford Road, #02-02, Stamford Court, Singapore 178892 • www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

Annex B: SB2019 Coordinates Projects

SB2019 COORDINATES PROJECTS

Complementing the Singapore Biennale is a series of seven Coordinates Projects, each providing creative meeting points, chance encounters, participatory experiences and stimulating dialogues across the city. Focusing on three creative concerns – **heritage, the moving image and performance** – this section aims to provide a framework for discovery and organic exploration around the key concerns of the Biennale and dynamic engagement with local communities beyond traditional gallery walls.



Drama Box | The Lesson: A Workshop

Drama Box is a socially engaged theatre company known for creating work that inspires dialogue, reflection and change, seeking to tell stories that provoke a deeper understanding of Singapore's culture, history and identity. *The Lesson* is a piece of participatory theatre that explores land issues and democratic processes in Singapore, turning passive audiences into active participants who are suddenly compelled to contend with the costs, risks, stakes, and sacrifices that come with creating a community.

Image courtesy of Drama Box.



Geylang Adventures | Lorongs of Wisdom

Google Geylang and its stereotypes abound – from multiple mentions of crimes and the red-light district to listicles showcasing its delicious late-night offerings. Founded by a long-term resident of the area, Geylang Adventures' walking tour presents alternative interpretations of the neighbourhood and the changes the area has witnessed over the years, allowing participants a glimpse into the shared narratives of its inhabitants.

Image courtesy of Geylang Adventures.



Indian Heritage Centre (IHC) | From the Coromandel Coast to the Straits: Revisiting Our Tamil Heritage

Under the management of the National Heritage Board and with support from the Indian community, the IHC traces the history of the Indian and South Asian communities in the Southeast Asian region. *From the Coromandel Coast to the Straits: Revisiting Our Tamil Heritage* will explore ancient trade, religious, political, and cultural contact between the Tamils of the Coromandel Coast and Southeast Asia from the early years of the Common Era. It also features three installations by contemporary artists from India and its diaspora.

Image courtesy of Indian Heritage Centre.

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



**Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI) |
The Making of an Actor**

An independent theatre school for contemporary artists, the ITI is unique in its intercultural approach and in using immersions in traditional Asian theatre systems. Through the multi-session workshop *The Making of an Actor*, attendees are provided a unique opportunity to witness and understand how the creative capabilities of the contemporary actor are conceived, shaped and primed for performance.

Image courtesy of Intercultural Theatre Institute.



**The Projector |
Memento Stella and Inconsolable Ghost**

The Projector is Singapore's most iconic historic movie theatre showcasing foreign, local, and indie arthouse films complete with themed events, live-scoring and special food menus. Their Coordinates project is presented in three parts: A screening of *Memento Stella*, the latest, most seminal work by video artist and filmmaker Takashi Makino; a live audio-visual performance with one of Makino's existing film works; and a documentary screening containing archival footage of the artist, visionary, and celebrated iconoclast Joseph Beuys.

Image courtesy of The Projector.



**NUS Museum |
Hu Yun, *another diorama***

Presented by SB2019 artist Hu Yun, *another diorama* weaves his Biennale artwork around world-making in diorama and the historic conjectures of woodcarving as a populist medium in Southeast Asia. Hu Yun's installation confronts the motifs and materials among the trade and cultural life in the region, in conversation with historic pottery fragments in the Archaeology Library at NUS Museum.

Image courtesy of NUS Museum.

22 Nov 2019 – 22 Mar 2020
**SINGAPORE
BIENNALE
2019**
EVERY
STEP IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION

sam
singaporeartmuseum
CONTEMPORARY ART IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



**Casco Art Institute with Dutch Art Institute |
Eurasia Underground Library**

As a branch of Unmapping Eurasia, a framework in which artists, curators and other transversal practitioners investigate the geographic and geopolitical space of Eurasia, Casco Art Institute presents Eurasia Underground Library, a pop-up library which opens to facilitate public access to Eurasian knowledge and imagination and serves as an occasion to recruit and train new librarians.

Image courtesy of Eurasia Underground Library.

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

61 Stamford Road, #02-02, Stamford Court, Singapore 178892 • www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

22 Nov 2019 – 22 Mar 2020

SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2019

EVERY
STEP IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION

OPENING WEEK PROGRAMME (20 – 24 NOVEMBER 2019)

VERNISSAGE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2019

3pm – 3.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Lim Sokchanlina
Gillman Barracks, Blk 9, Level 3

THURSDAY, 21 NOVEMBER 2019

3pm – 3.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Gary-Ross Pastrana artwork
activation (performance by P7:ISMA)
LASALLE Institute of
Contemporary Art, Gallery 1

4.30pm – 5pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Lim Sokchanlina
Gillman Barracks, Blk 9, Level 3

5pm – 6pm
SINGAPORE SPOTLIGHT!
Artist talks ft. Singaporean artists
Gillman Barracks, Blk 9

6pm – 6.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Gary-Ross Pastrana artwork
activation (performance by P7:ISMA)
LASALLE Institute of
Contemporary Art, Gallery 1

PUBLIC EVENTS

FRIDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2019

3pm – 3.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Gary-Ross Pastrana artwork
activation (performance by P7:ISMA)
LASALLE Institute of
Contemporary Art, Gallery 1

4pm – 7pm
BABY TROPICAL LAB
Exhibition Opening
Gillman Barracks, Blk 1

4pm – 6pm
BABY TROPICAL LAB
Student Think Tank!
Gillman Barracks, Blk 1

8pm – 8.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Jen Liu
Asian Civilisations Museum,
Contemporary Gallery

SATURDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2019

11am – 5pm
ARTIST INSIGHTS
Various venues

11am – 12pm
ARTIST INSIGHTS
Talk on *Ritual*:
Carlos Villa by Lian Ladia
National Gallery Singapore,
Singtel Gallery A

12pm – 2pm
Ticketed | \$45
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Chang En-Man
Telok Ayer Arts Club

3pm – 4.10pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Phare, the Battambang Circus
Far East Plaza, Level 2 Concourse

3pm – 3.30pm | 6pm – 6.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Gary-Ross Pastrana artwork
activation (performance by P7:ISMA)
LASALLE Institute of
Contemporary Art, Gallery 1

6pm – 6.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Jen Liu
Asian Civilisations Museum,
Contemporary Gallery

7.30pm – 8.30pm
Ticketed | \$15
ARTIST AND CURATOR TOUR
Gillman Barracks, Blk 9

7.30pm – 8.30pm
ARTIST TALK
Lawrence Lek
soft/WALL/studs

SUNDAY, 24 NOVEMBER 2019

10am – 11am
Registration Required
ARTIST INSIGHTS
Robert Zhao Renhui
Nature Walk
Gillman Barracks, Blk 22

11am – 5pm
ARTIST INSIGHTS
Various venues

11am – 12pm
ARTIST INSIGHTS
Talk on *Other Sources* and
Magiciens de la Terre:
Exhibition praxis by Lian Ladia
National Gallery Singapore,
Singtel Gallery A

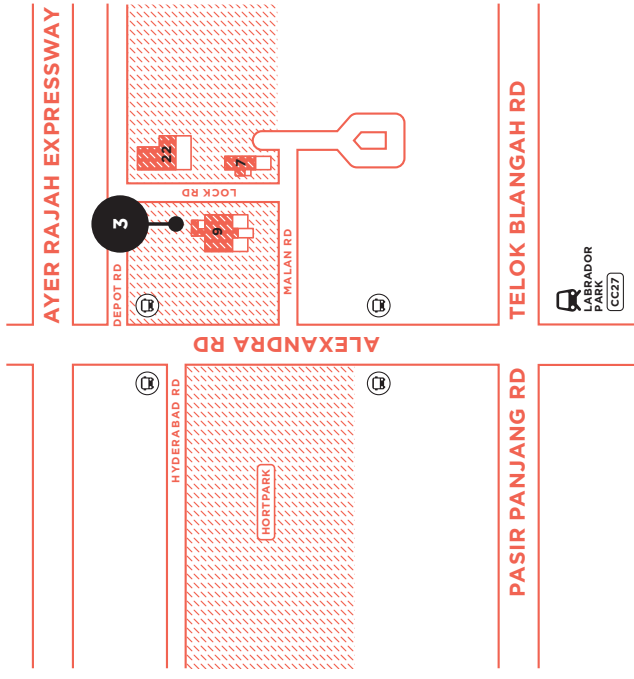
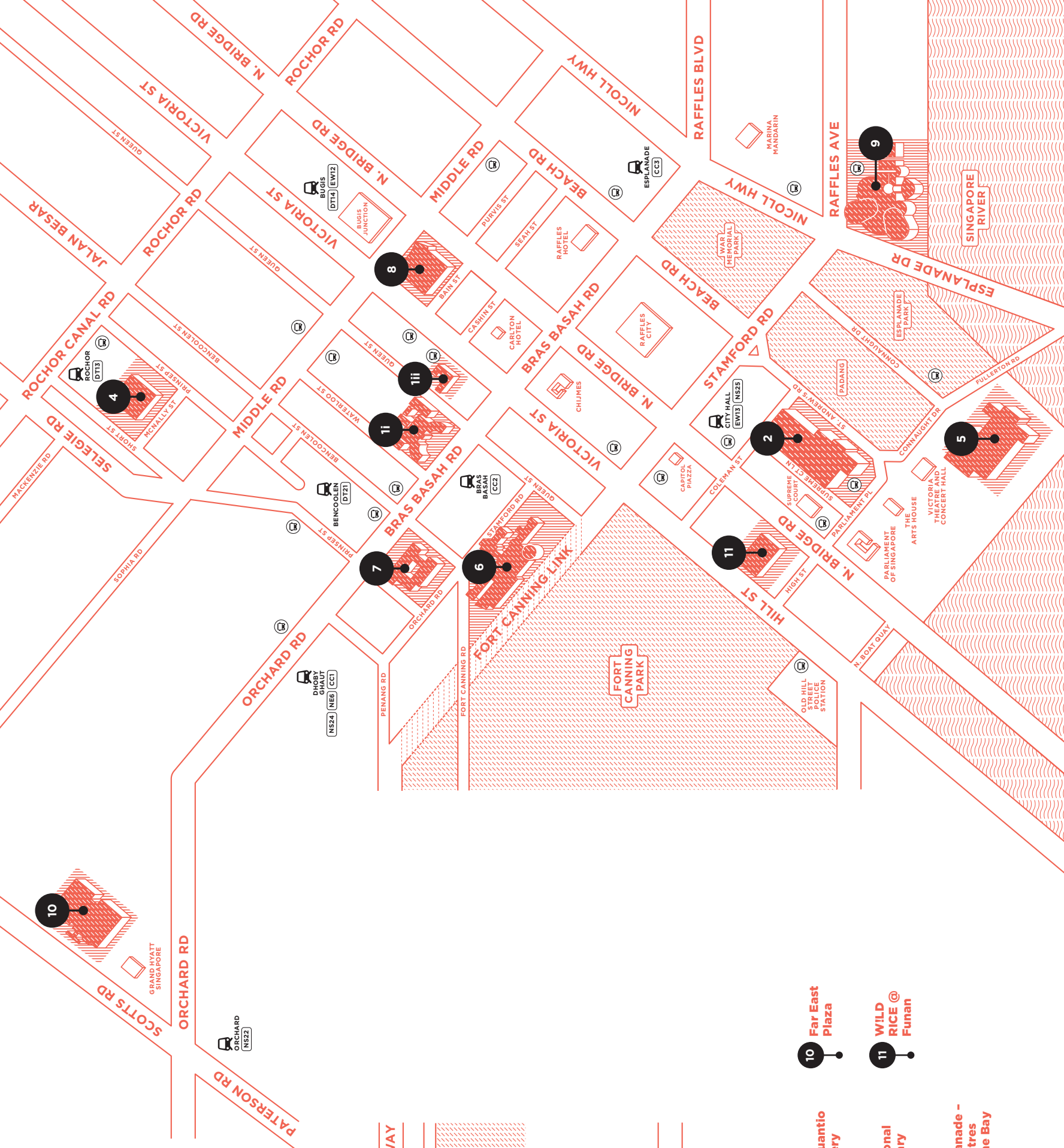
3pm – 4.10pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Phare, the Battambang Circus
Far East Plaza, Level 2 Concourse

3pm – 3.30pm | 5.30 – 6pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Gary-Ross Pastrana artwork
activation (performance by P7:ISMA)
LASALLE Institute of
Contemporary Art, Gallery 1

5pm – 5.30pm | 5.30pm – 6pm
6pm – 6.30pm
ARTIST PERFORMANCE
Verónica Troncoso
Readings by students
National Gallery Singapore,
Singtel Gallery B

Precinct Map

Singapore Biennale 2019 Every Step in the Right Direction



- 1 Singapore Art Museum & SAM at 8Q
- 2 National Gallery Singapore
- 3 Gillman Barracks
- 4 LASALLE College of the Arts
- 5 Asian Civilisations Museum
- 6 National Museum of Singapore
- 7 SMU de Suintio Gallery
- 8 National Library
- 9 Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay
- 10 Far East Plaza
- 11 WILD RICE @ Funan

Visitor & Venue Information

Exhibition Period
22 November 2019 –
22 March 2020

Admission Charges

Admission fees below only apply to National Gallery Singapore

Admission to all other Singapore Biennale 2019 venues is free*

Adult

Standard: \$25
 Singaporeans and Permanent Residents*: \$15

Concession

Students*
Full-time National Servicemen (NSF) excluding foreign personnel*
 Standard: \$20
 Singaporeans and Permanent Residents: \$10

Seniors aged 60 and above*

Standard: \$20
 Permanent Residents: \$10

Pioneer and Merdeka Generation (Singaporeans)

Free admission

Children aged 6 and below*

Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and one caregiver
 Free admission

* Usual museum admission charges apply for some artworks at the Asian Civilisations Museum. For more information, visit singaporebiennale.org

* Valid identification required

For school bookings, please email education@singaporeartmuseum.sg



Image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum

71 Bras Basah Road
Singapore 189555
(65) 6697 9730

SAM at 8Q

8 Queen Street
Singapore 188535
(65) 6697 9730
singaporeartmuseum.sg

Access

By MRT
 City Hall, Exit B (5 mins walk)

Available buses

Bras Basah, Exit A (2 mins walk)
 Dhoby Ghaut, Exit A (10 mins walk)
 City Hall, Exit A (10 mins walk)
 Bugis, Exit C (10 mins walk)

Parking

National Gallery Singapore

Shuttle Service

On Saturdays and Sundays, a complimentary shuttle service runs between National Gallery Singapore and Gillman Barracks.

Visit singaporebiennale.org for schedule and pick-up locations.

The museum buildings are currently closed for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at partner venues until the buildings re-open.

The SB2019 works here are on the hoardings and are publicly accessible at all times.



Image courtesy of National Gallery Singapore

National Gallery Singapore

1 St. Andrew's Road
Singapore 178957
(65) 6690 9400

Opening Hours

Sat to Thu, 10am–7pm
 Fri, 10am–9pm
nationalgallery.sg

Access

By MRT
 City Hall, Exit B (5 mins walk)

Available buses

32, 51, 61, 63, 75, 80, 100, 107, 124, 130, 131, 145, 166, 167, 174, 195, 197, 851, 961

Parking

National Gallery Singapore

Shuttle Service

On Saturdays and Sundays, a complimentary shuttle service runs between National Gallery Singapore and Gillman Barracks.

Visit singaporebiennale.org for schedule and pick-up locations.



Image courtesy of National Arts Council

Gillman Barracks

9 Lock Road
Singapore 108937

Opening Hours

Tue to Sun, and public holidays, 12–7pm
 Fri, 12–9pm
 Closed on Mon
gillmanbarracks.com

Access

By MRT
 Labrador Park, Exit A (10 mins walk)

Available buses

51, 57, 61, 83, 97, 97E, 100, 166, 175, 408, 963, 963E

Parking

Car Park A and B (located along Lock Road) and Car Park C (located behind Blk 43 Malan Road)

Shuttle Service

On Saturdays and Sundays, a complimentary shuttle service runs between National Gallery Singapore and Gillman Barracks.

Visit singaporebiennale.org for schedule and pick-up locations.

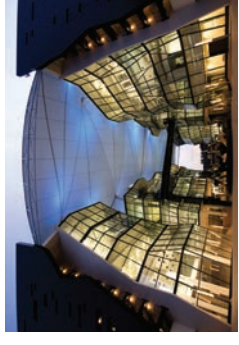


Image courtesy of LASALLE College of the Arts

LASALLE College of the Arts

1 McNally Street
Singapore 187940
(65) 6496 5000

Opening Hours

10am–7pm
 Closed between 24 December 2019 and 1 January 2020
lasalle.edu.sg

Access

By MRT
 Rochor, Exit A (2 mins walk)
 Little India, Exit A (8 mins walk)
 Bugis, Exit A (8 mins walk)
 Dhoby Ghaut, Exit A (10 mins walk)

Available buses

23, 48, 56, 57, 64, 65, 66, 67, 131, 139, 147, 166, 170, 851, 857, 960, 980

Parking

LASALLE College of the Arts

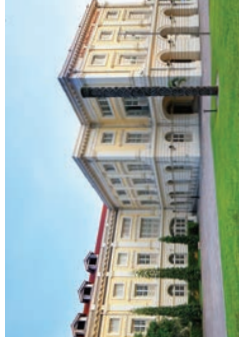


Image courtesy of Asian Civilisations Museum, National Heritage Board

Asian Civilisations Museum

1 Empress Place
Singapore 179555
(65) 6332 7798

Opening Hours

Sat to Thu, 10am–7pm
 Fri, 10am–9pm
acm.org.sg

Access

By MRT
 Raffles Place, Exit H (5 mins walk)

Parking

New Parliament House, Six Battery Road and One Fullerton

Visitor & Venue Information



Image courtesy of National Museum of Singapore, National Heritage Board

National Museum of Singapore

93 Stamford Road
Singapore 178897
(65) 6332 3659
nationalmuseum.sg



Access

By MRT
Bencoolen,
Exit B (5 mins walk)
Bras Basah,
Exit C (5 mins walk)
Dhoby Ghaut,
Exit A (5 mins walk)
City Hall,
Exit A (10 mins walk)



Available buses

7, 14, 14E, 16, 36, 64, 65, 77,
106, 111, 124, 128, 139, 162, 162M,
167, 171, 174, 174E, 175, 190, 700,
700A, 857



Parking

Singapore Management
University, Manulife Centre,
Fort Canning Park and YMCA

The SB2019 work here is
sited outdoors and is publicly
accessible at all times.



Image courtesy of SMU

SMU de Suantio Gallery

Singapore
Management University
School of Economics /
School of Social Sciences
90 Stamford Road
Singapore 178903
(65) 6828 1936



Opening Hours

10am-7pm
smu.edu.sg/campus-life/visiting-
smu/campus-map



Access

By MRT
Bras Basah,
Exit C (5 mins walk)



Available buses

7, 14, 14E, 16, 36, 64, 65, 77, 106,
111, 124, 128, 139, 162, 162M, 167,
171, 174, 174E, 175, 190, 700,
700A, 850E, 951E, 971E, 972



Parking

Singapore Management
University and Nanyang
Academy of Fine Arts



Image courtesy of National Library

National Library

100 Victoria Street
Singapore 188064
(65) 6332 3255
nlb.gov.sg



Access

By MRT
Bugis,
Exit C (6 mins walk)
Bras Basah,
Exit A (6 mins walk)
City Hall,
Exit B (7 mins walk)



Available buses

2, 7, 12, 32, 33, 51, 56, 63, 80,
130, 133, 145, 197, 520, 851,
960, 980



Parking

National Library

The SB2019 work here is
sited outdoors and is publicly
accessible at all times.

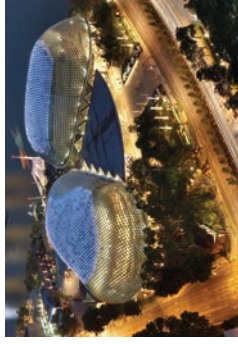


Image courtesy of Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay

Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay

1 Esplanade Drive
Singapore 038981
(65) 6828 8377
esplanade.com



Access

By MRT
Esplanade,
Exit D (7 mins walk)
City Hall,
Exit C (9 mins walk)



Available buses

10, 36, 56, 57, 70, 70M, 75, 77,
97, 97E, 106, 111, 128, 133, 162,
162M, 171, 195, 196, 531, 652,
656, 700, 700A, 850E, 857,
868, 951E, 960, 961, 971E



Parking

Esplanade

The SB2019 work here is
sited in the Esplanade
tunnel and is accessible from
8am-12 midnight.



Image courtesy of Far East Organization

Far East Plaza

14 Scotts Road
Singapore 228213
(65) 6734 2325
Opening Hours
10am-10pm
fareastplaza.com.sg



Access

By MRT
Orchard,
Exit A (6 mins walk)



Available buses

5, 54, 105, 124, 128, 132, 143,
162, 162M, 167, 171, 190, 518,
518A, 587, 590, 598, 700, 700A



Parking

Far East Plaza

The SB2019 performances
the opening weekend,
23 November 2019 and
24 November 2019, from
3-4.10pm.

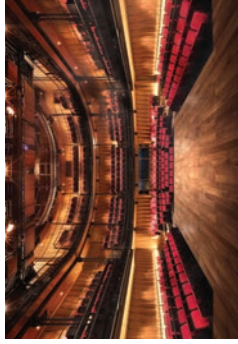


Image courtesy of WILD RICE

WILD RICE @ Funan

107 North Bridge Road
#04-08 Funan Mall
Singapore 179105
(65) 6292 2695
wildrice.com.sg



Access

By MRT
City Hall,
Exit B (5 mins walk)
Clarke Quay,
Exit E (7 mins walk)



Available buses

32, 51, 61, 63, 80, 124, 145, 166,
174, 174e, 196, 195A, 197, 851,
851e, 961, 961C



Parking

Parking available at Funan,
Capitol Piazza, The Adelphi,
Parliament House and
High Street Centre

The SB2019 performances
sited here take place on
19 January 2020, at 7pm
and 9pm, as well as on
16 March 2020, at 8pm
and 10pm.

Annex D: SB2019 Curatorial Statement, Artistic Director and Curatorial Team biographies



**Singapore Biennale 2019: *Every Step in the Right Direction*
Artistic Director's Statement**

It may be said that the world is troubled. To sense such a state of flux is to begin to face it. What is the possibility of art, the artist, and the audience in light of this trouble? What is the responsibility of the artwork, its making, and its experience in the prospects of future action? Every effort to change the world for the better matters. The Singapore Biennale 2019 puts its faith squarely in the potential of art (and its understanding) to rework the world, expressed in the Biennale title: *Every Step in the Right Direction*.

In this examination of act and action, the Biennale then considers the necessity of the step, that is prompted by the Biennale's geography, itself spanning nodes and locations across the city of Singapore, thus inviting audiences to be inspired in an exploration. Furthermore, we observe this everyday but decisive act of walking in artistic practices, such as of Singapore artist, Amanda Heng. Utilising the act of walking in a number of performances (for example, *Let's Walk*, first performed in 1999), Heng presents her audience with moments for moving forward, looking back, turning inward, venturing outward with others, in so doing, engendering reflection, the speculation or adoption of other perspectives, and the consideration of pasts.

As artistic director of the Singapore Biennale 2019 and a scholar of Southeast Asian art, in my effort to deepen the conversation on the need for an ethical gesture in our time and in history, I recall the words of Salud Algabre, who, in the 1930s in the Philippines, played a central role in a peasant movement that did not appear to achieve its immediate intentions. Responding to a scholar on the perception of its failure, Algabre reasoned that no movement fails, "each one is a step in the right direction." This apparently counterintuitive reply opens up for rethinking the condition of failure and the chance at transformation. In relation to art and its investigation of material and its ecologies, it might then be that this counterintuition restores hope as a medium of continuous conversions and as a method of getting things done the right way, but only in light of steps taken and decisions made about the right direction. Informed by such an impulse, SB2019 offers a sustainable, self-renewing project of change, and moves everyone to act – to make a step.

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Patrick Flores
Artistic Director
Singapore Biennale 2019



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Patrick Flores, Professor of Art Studies at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines and Curator of the Vargas Museum in Manila

Patrick Flores is Professor of Art Studies at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines, which he chaired from 1997 to 2003, and Curator of the Vargas Museum in Manila. He was one of the curators of *Under Construction: New Dimensions in Asian Art* in 2000 and the Gwangju Biennale (*Position Papers*) in 2008. He was a Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1999 and an Asian Public Intellectuals Fellow in 2004.

Among his publications are *Painting History: Revisions in Philippine Colonial Art* (1999); *Remarkable Collection: Art, History, and the National Museum* (2006); and *Past Peripheral: Curation in Southeast Asia* (2008). He was a grantee of the Asian Cultural Council (2010) and a member of the Advisory Board of the exhibition *The Global Contemporary: Art Worlds After 1989* (2011) organized by the Center for Art and Media in Karlsruhe and member of the Guggenheim Museum's Asian Art Council (2011 and 2014). He co-edited the Southeast Asian issue with Joan Kee for *Third Text* (2011). He convened in 2013 on behalf of the Clark Institute and the Department of Art Studies of the University of the Philippines the conference "Histories of Art History in Southeast Asia" in Manila. He was a Guest Scholar of the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles in 2014. He curated an exhibition of contemporary art from Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe titled *South by Southeast and the Philippine Pavilion* at the Venice Biennale in 2015.

Organised by Singapore Art Museum | Commissioned by National Arts Council, Singapore
Supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Andrea Fam, Assistant Curator, Singapore Art Museum

Andrea Fam is an Assistant Curator at the Singapore Art Museum where she oversees the Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam portfolios. She holds a B.A. (Hons) degree in Criticism, Communication and Curation in Art and Design from Central Saint Martins, London, UK. She has curated and co-curated several exhibitions at SAM, namely, the 2016 Singapore Biennale, *An Atlas of Mirrors*, *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean*, *Under the Sea*, *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas* and *A New Horizon*, a *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition*. Her research interests include investigations into the implications and impact of borders.



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

John Tung, Assistant Curator, Singapore Art Museum

John Tung oversees the Thai contemporary art portfolio at the Singapore Art Museum. He holds a BA (Hons) in Arts Management conferred by Goldsmiths, University of London (LASALLE) and an MA in Cultural Management from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, where he graduated on the Dean's List. His research interests include post-colonial theory, cultural policy and cultural theory. His artistic interests span varied genres, and exhibitions he has curated at the Singapore Art Museum include *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean*, *Under the Sea* and *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas*, and most recently, *Cinerama: Art and the Moving Image in Southeast Asia*. He is also one of the co-curators of the Singapore Biennale 2016 – *An Atlas of Mirrors*.



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Anca Verona Mihuleț, Art Historian and Independent Curator based in Seoul

Anca Mihuleț has been supporting artists to research on topics such as the implications of knowledge, history, margins or landscape, with a focus on hidden stories, post-colonialism and invisibility. Between 2006 and 2013, together with Liviana Dan, she curated the exhibition program of The Contemporary Art Gallery of the Brukenthal National Museum in Sibiu. In 2013, she was the curator of *Reflection Center for Suspended Histories. An Attempt*, presented as one of the two Romanian Pavilions at the Venice Biennale. In 2015 and 2016, together with Patrick Flores, Mihuleț curated the exhibition *South by Southeast*, which was showed at Osage Gallery in Hong Kong and at The Guangdong Times Museum. Between 2015 and 2017, in collaboration with Diana Marințu, she curated *The White Dot and The Black Cube*, hosted at The National Museum of Contemporary Art in Bucharest.



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Goh Sze Ying, Curator, National Gallery Singapore

Goh Sze Ying is a Curator at National Gallery Singapore. At the Gallery, she has worked on exhibitions *Minimalism: Space. Light. Object.* (2018), *Lim Cheng Hoe: Painting Singapore* (2018), and *Listening to Architecture: The Gallery's Histories and Transformation* (2017). Her research focuses on photography and art in Singapore in the mid-twentieth century, with an interest in how artistic practice relates to mobility and place. She graduated from Goldsmiths, University of London with a MA in urban sociology in 2015. Formerly based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, she has worked on exhibitions and public programmes with a focus on artistic interventions located within the urban public space. Her past projects include *Between States* (2017), *ESCAPE from the SEA* (2017), and *more than one (fragile) thing at a time* (2016).



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Renan Laru-an, Independent Researcher and Curator based in Manila

Renan Laru-an is a researcher, a curator and the Public Engagement and Artistic Formation Coordinator of the Philippine Contemporary Art Network at the Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center. In his research-oriented curatorial work, Laru-an studies 'insufficient' and 'subtracted' images and subjects at the juncture of development and integration projects through long-term inquiries, such as *Herding Islands, Rats, and the Anthropocene* (2015), *Lightning Studies: Centre for the Translation of Constraints, Conflicts, and Contaminations* (CTCCs) (2016), *The Artist and the Social Dreamer* (2017), and *Promising Arrivals, Violent Departures* (2018). He has been (co-)curator of festivals and exhibitions, including the 8th OK.Video – Indonesia Media Arts Festival, Jakarta (2017) and *A Tripoli Agreement*, Sharjah (2018). Between 2012 and 2015, he directed the self-organized, multidisciplinary platform and 'virtual' organisation DisLab | Research and Criticism.



Photo Credit: Singapore Art Museum

Vipash Purichanont, Independent Curator based in Bangkok

Vipash Purichanont is an independent curator and a co-founder of Waiting You Curator Lab, a curatorial collective based in Chiangmai. Purichanont received his doctoral degree in Curatorial/Knowledge from the Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths, University of London. Purichanont's practice has its roots in collaboration. Most of his theoretical work focused on notions of collectivity and community as well as caring and sharing. Although most of Purichanont's curatorial projects are structured around Southeast Asia, his main objective is to initiate a meaningful conversation between the region and the globe. He was an assistant curator for the 1st Thailand Biennale (Krabi, 2018). Purichanont is shortlisted for the ICI Gerrit Lansing Independent Vision Curatorial Award in the same year. He is currently a lecturer at the department of Art History, Faculty of Archeology, Silpakorn University, Bangkok.