

# PRESIDENT'S YOUNG TALENTS

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21 AUG 2015 - 27 MAR 2016

Ang Song Ming | Bani Haykal | Ezzam Rahman  
Loo Zihan | Ong Kian Peng



The *President's Young Talents (PYT)* distinguishes itself from other art awards as it is the only mentoring and commissioning exhibition programme in Singapore. *PYT* recognises young artists whose practices chart new dimensions in contemporary art. Inaugurated by the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) in 2001, an independent committee comprising local art professionals and a SAM curator nominates a group of local artists, aged 35 and below, for the award, based on the depth of their practice, their potential for growth, and the contributions they would potentially make to the field of contemporary art. Each artist, working closely with mentors from the committee, will present newly-commissioned work for the *President's Young Talents* exhibition, which culminates in two awards: the Grand Prize and the People's Choice Award.

The list of finalists for this year's *President's Young Talents* are Ang Song Ming, Bani Haykal, Ezzam Rahman, Loo Zihan and Ong Kian Peng. Representing some of the most exciting strands in contemporary Singapore art, they create works spanning the disciplines of performance, new media, sculpture and sound.

The 2015 exhibition coincides with Singapore's SG50 Jubilee Year, and marks the sixth edition of the *President's Young Talents*. Aptly, it recognises and celebrates the nation's ever-evolving spirit of artistic creation and innovation. Previous *President's Young Talents* artists include Boo Junfeng, Heman Chong, Liao Jiekai, Charles Lim, Lim Tzay Chuen, Donna Ong, Tan Pin Pin and Vertical Submarine, among others, who have gone on to develop outstanding artwork, both within and beyond Singapore.

## PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD

Singapore Art Museum invites the public to vote for their favourite artwork from 21 August 2015 to 18 October 2015 at the SAM at 8Q lobby. The artist whose artwork receives the most votes is conferred the People's Choice Award, as well as \$5,000. The *President's Young Talents* People's Choice Award will be announced on 21 October 2015.

# ANG SONG MING

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## *Days*

2015

Multi-part installation: video,  
photographs, drawings, text

Dimensions variable

Singapore Art Museum commission

Collection of the Artist



*Days* is a multi-part study of the mundane, presenting image, sound and text in various formats. As with most of Ang Song Ming's works, they utilise music as a subject matter from which other concerns are highlighted. The centerpiece of *Days* is a video featuring Ang's parents on a flight from Singapore to London to bring him his guitar (en route to Berlin, where Ang is currently based). In return, Ang composed and recorded its soundtrack using the same guitar. Elsewhere, diary entries and acrylic sketches illustrate his thoughts, while drawings and photographs are created based on repetition and self-imposed restrictions. Together, the components highlight the time, labour and processes that inform the acts of art and music making.

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**ANG SONG MING**'s work, while centered on music, is rooted in the everyday and often made from the overlapping perspectives of an artist, fan, and amateur. Ang has presented his works at Camden Arts Centre (London), Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin), Witte de With (Rotterdam), and Museum of Contemporary Art (Sydney). In 2011, he was conferred the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council of Singapore.

# BANI HAYKAL

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## ***necropolis for those without sleep***

2015

Installation with custom designed  
mechanical turks, computer-  
programmed chess game, 3D  
printed chess pieces and jumpsuits;  
rubber ducks

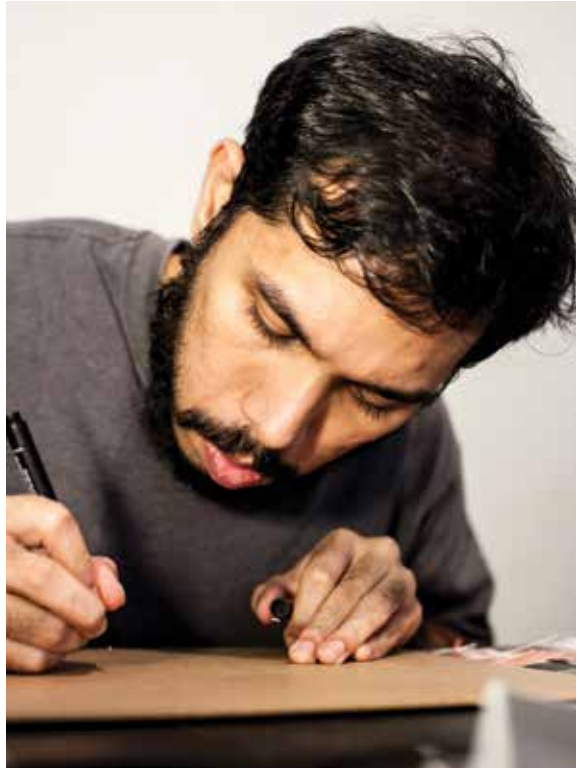
Dimensions variable

Singapore Art Museum commission  
Collection of the Artist

Game Designer:  
Tan Jianyang

Robotics Engineer:  
Leonardus Adi Prasetya

Artist performance of  
*the public assembly*: 16 Oct



A game of chess, played by two mechanical turks based on collected game data, runs according to a computer programme. Instead of the usual black and white pieces, there is an orange team and a white one; the orange team is significantly disadvantaged, consisting only of Pawns, a Knight and a King. Bani's installation, ***necropolis for those without sleep***, is premised on an asymmetry of power. It evokes political, social and economic hierarchies, distilling the complex networks of power at play in our climate of neoliberalism into a purposefully imbalanced game. The audience is likewise affected, where one viewer is allowed only 50 steps in the gallery, while another enjoys free reign within the space – reflecting the anxieties of globalisation and disequilibrium of democracy in the twenty-first century.

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**BANI HAYKAL**'s work stretches across various disciplines and mediums, including installation, poetry and theatre. As a musician, he works primarily with acoustic instruments, both traditional and improvised, and his favoured forms are structured improvisation and the spoken word. He is a member of musical groups OFFCUFF and b-quartet. Bani has exhibited, performed and toured internationally, having participated in festivals including Media/Art Kitchen in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Japan, as well as the M1 Fringe Festival in Singapore.

# EZZAM RAHMAN

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## ***Allow me to introduce myself***

2015

Performative installation with talcum powder, second-hand furniture and glass bell jars  
Dimensions variable  
Singapore Art Museum commission  
Collection of the Artist

## ***Here's who I am, I am what you see***

2015

Artist's skin, nails and adhesive, second-hand furniture and glass bell jars  
Dimensions variable  
Singapore Art Museum commission  
Collection of the Artist

Artist performance of *Allow me to introduce myself*: 21 & 22 Aug, 11 Sep, 9 Oct, 13 Nov & 11 Dec



Fragile, miniature flowers shaped from flakes of dead skin, and ephemeral sculptures that consist of little but talcum powder – Ezzam Rahman's practice is grounded in a keen sense of materiality. Animating these otherwise mute objects, however, is the artist's living, breathing body. The skin is his own, culled over a period of time from the soles of his feet, and the powder sculptures are remnants of his performances, into which his perspiration is mixed. As Ezzam puts it: "These works are representations of self, about that impermanent moment of someone's presence." The human body, then, as both thematic concern and physical fact, haunts these delicate, evanescent pieces, which channel the generally unpalatable realities of our flesh into an exquisite aesthetic.

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**EZZAM RAHMAN** is a multi-disciplinary artist, but his mediums of choice are performance and installation art. He is also known for his use of unconventional materials, such as corporeal detritus. Recent works include skin sculptures commissioned by the Singapore Art Museum for the exhibition, *Unearthed*, in 2014, as well as performances at the SingaPlural design festival in 2015. Ezzam is a member of The Artists Village, The Singapore Sculpture Society and the Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya (Association of Artists of Various Resources).

# LOO ZIHAN

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## ***Of Public Interest: The Singapore Art Museum Resource Room***

2015

Installation of books from  
the Singapore Art Museum

Dimensions variable

Singapore Art Museum commission

Collection of the Artist



Loo Zihan views knowledge as his chief medium. His practice is deeply engaged with the archive in all its myriad manifestations – with history and collective memory, and the narratives and absences thereof. ***Of Public Interest: The Singapore Art Museum Resource Room*** is a project that moved nearly 5,000 volumes from the museum’s resource room into the space of a gallery. Presented as an interactive installation, the work will function as a reference library open to the public. The artist, in working with SAM to make these materials accessible as artwork, intends to foreground the evolving priorities and concerns that are reflected in the institution’s collection of books and ephemera, and for the space “to critically reflect on the role of the art museum as a centre for the dissemination and transmission of knowledge.”

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**LOO ZIHAN** is a performance and moving-image artist. His work emphasises the malleability of memory, through various representational strategies that include performance re-enactments, essay films and data visualisation. His performances have been presented at various events, including the M1 Singapore Fringe Festival in 2012 and in 2015. His moving-image works have been screened at various international film festivals, such as the AFI Fest in Los Angeles and the Pusan International Film Festival in South Korea.

# ONG KIAN PENG

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## ***Too Far, Too Near***

2015

DC Motor, ball bearings, steel structure;  
2-channel video with 3-channel sound

Dimensions variable

Duration: 15 mins

Singapore Art Museum commission

Collection of the Artist



Climate change has been a persistent global issue, yet the reality of climate change is disconnected from the urban environment where the world's majority lives in. Enclosed in concrete and steel structures, the threat of a potential sea level rise remains alien to those within, despite compelling evidence of the phenomenon. ***Too Far, Too Near*** is a two-part installation with audio-kinetic sculptures accompanying a video of melting ice sheets and glaciers filmed on location in Greenland. Taking viewers on an immersive, perceptual journey to experience this haunting landscape, the work is an intimate reflection on the changes taking place at the edges of the earth. It reminds us that humankind and nature are linked, and that these changes will ultimately have impact on us all.

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**ONG KIAN PENG** is a media artist who works across multiple disciplines, ranging from media installations to theatre productions, using a media arts perspective. Inspired by natural phenomena, the human sensorium and information consumption, these thematic areas converge into works that intersect art, science and technology. His works have been presented in festivals such as the Singapore M1 Fringe Festival and the Japan Media Arts Festival, and he has also exhibited locally and internationally at ICA Singapore (2014) and Arebyte Gallery London (2014).

# CURATORIAL COMMITTEE BIOGRAPHIES

## IAN WOO

Ian Woo is an artist working in the language of abstraction. His works are in the collection of major institutions such as the Singapore Art Museum, National Gallery Singapore, the Istana Singapore and more. He is currently Programme Leader of the MA Fine Arts programme at the Faculty of Fine Arts, LASALLE College of the Arts.

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## NOOR EFFENDY IBRAHIM

An interdisciplinary artist, Noor Effendy Ibrahim has performed in over 20 theatre and dance productions, and written and directed over 30 theatre productions locally and internationally. He served as a member of the National Arts Council Board from 2004 - 2006, and was Artistic Director of The Substation from 2010 - 2015 and Teater Ekamatra from 2001 - 2006.

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## TWARDZIK CHING CHOR LENG

Twardzik Ching Chor Leng practices installation art and land art, and has exhibited extensively internationally and locally. Founder of the arts group Landing Space in Singapore, she is also an independent curator as well as a member of WITA (Women in the Arts), Singapore. She is currently a lecturer at NIE, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

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## VINCENT LEOW

Vincent Leow is an artist and an art educator whose practice spans a wide range of genres from sculpture, installation, performance art to painting and mixed-media. He has exhibited internationally and regionally; and his works have been collected and commissioned by various public institutions such as museums, corporate companies and private collections both locally and internationally.

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## LOUIS HO

Louis Ho is a curator with the Singapore Art Museum, where his focus is on the art of Malaysia and Brunei. His first exhibition for the museum was the permanent collection show, *After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art*. He also lectures at the National Institute of Education, and is a contributor to various art publications.



## ARTIST PERFORMANCES | SAM at 8Q

### Ezzam Rahman | *Allow me to introduce myself*

Fri, 21 Aug | 7.30pm – 9.30pm, Sat, 22 Aug | 8.30pm – 10.30pm

Fri, 11 Sep, 9 Oct, 13 Nov, 11 Dec | 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Artist Ezzam Rahman will be performing his work, *Allow me to introduce myself*, during the opening weekend of the **President's Young Talents** exhibition. This performance will also take place monthly at SAM at 8Q from September to December 2015.

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### Bani Haykal | *the public assembly*

Fri, 16 Oct | 7.30pm (45 – 60 min)

*the public assembly* is a durational performance consisting of two chess players and an ensemble of musicians. The performance revolves around the chess game played, the outcome of which would inform the sounds produced through a set of instructions.

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## PUBLIC PROGRAMMES | SAM at 8Q

### Think&Tinker Room

Level 2, SAM at 8Q

This special interactive space makes room for you to explore materials and ideas inspired by the five artworks within the **President's Young Talents** exhibition. How do we make meaning of the mundane everyday? Can we transform how beauty is perceived and experienced? Where does power lie, and why? How do we organise knowledge and information? Is it possible to reverse environmental damage?

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### Artist Talk with Ang Song Ming

Sat, 22 Aug

1pm – 2pm

Join artist Ang Song Ming as he shares the insights and inspiration behind his new artwork *Days*, specially commissioned for the **President's Young Talents** exhibition.

*Free. Register at <http://bit.ly/1K1JSBT>*

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### Curator's Tour

Wed, 2 Sep

7.30pm – 8.30pm

Join SAM curator Louis Ho as he brings you on a specially-curated tour of the **President's Young Talents** exhibition that will provide insights on the artworks, as well as the curatorial process behind their selection and presentation.

*\$15. Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC.*

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### Artists and Curator Dialogue Tour

Tue, 20 Oct

7pm – 8.30pm

Join us for an evening tour with the artists and curator behind the **President's Young Talents** exhibition. Learn more about the artworks from the artists' own perspectives, and gain other insights into the exhibition from SAM curator Louis Ho.

*\$20. Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC.*

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

For more information and to register, please visit [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/programmes/edu\\_workshop.html](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/programmes/edu_workshop.html)

### Educators' Tour

Fri, 28 Aug  
4pm – 5.30pm  
SAM at 8Q

Join SAM curator Louis Ho and educator Shirley Khng as they share the ideas and concepts behind the artworks in the **President's Young Talents** exhibition. This session will help prepare educators who are planning to bring their students for a visit to the exhibition. For teachers only. Registration required.

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### Afternoon Tea with the PYT Mentors

Sat, 26 Sep  
2.30pm – 4pm  
Glass Hall, SAM

Join the five esteemed **President's Young Talents** mentors, Ian Woo, Noor Effendy Ibrahim, Twardzik Ching Chor Leng, Vincent Leow and Louis Ho in an afternoon tea session as they explore what it takes to be a mentor and the significance of mentoring young artists in Singapore.

*\$15. Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC.*

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### School Workshops

Weekdays  
10.30am or 2.30pm  
SAM at 8Q

Educational workshops inspired by the artworks in the **President's Young Talents** exhibition have been specially developed to offer pre-schoolers, primary, secondary and tertiary students a multidisciplinary and holistic contemporary art experience. These workshops range from learning specific art techniques to craft-making that encourage originality and the development of language skills and self-confidence.

*Valid for school bookings only (between 20 – 40 participants per workshop only).*

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### Artist-led Workshops for Students

Get up close with artists of the **President's Young Talents** exhibition and learn more about their processes, ways of thinking and sensitivity to materials in these workshops. Targeted for secondary and tertiary students, these workshops encourage a deeper appreciation of contemporary art.

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### Activity Sheets

The **President's Young Talents** activity sheets are based on selected artworks in the exhibition and are catered to different age groups. Available for download at the Singapore Art Museum's website.

For more information on public and educational programmes, visit [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)

# EXHIBITION PLAN

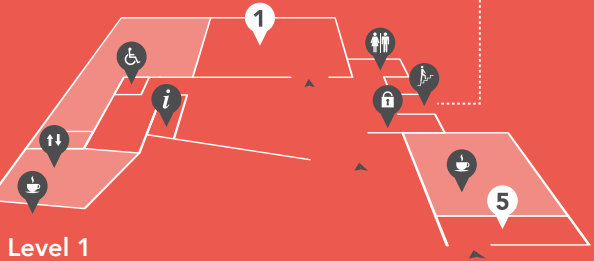
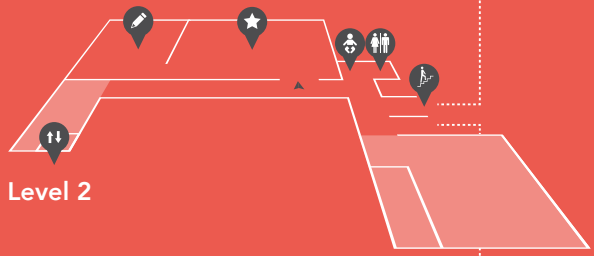
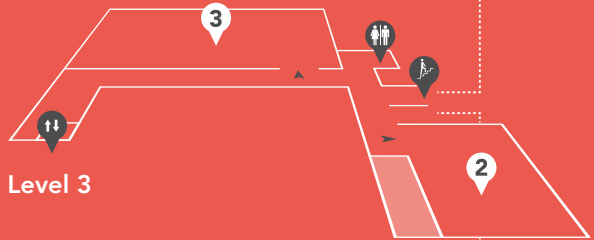
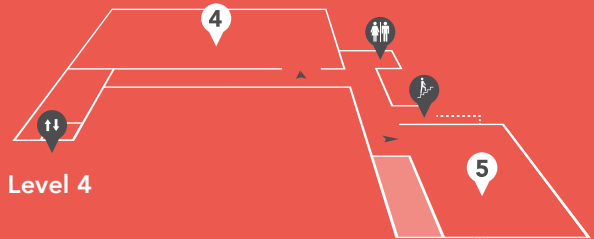
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*Days*

**4 ONG KIAN PENG**  
*Too Far, Too Near*

**5 EZZAM RAHMAN**  
*Allow me to  
 introduce myself  
 Here's who I am,  
 I am what you see*



## LEGEND

- Think&Tinker Room
- Workshop
- Staircase
- Nursing Room
- Washroom
- Locker
- Information & Ticket Counter
- Cafe/Restaurant
- Lift
- Lift  
*Special needs access only.  
 Please approach museum  
 staff for assistance.*

# GENERAL INFORMATION

SAM is located at 71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189555.

SAM's annexe, SAM at 8Q, is located at 8 Queen Street, Singapore 188535.

## OPENING HOURS

Saturdays to Thursdays | 10am to 7pm

(Last admission at 6:15pm)

Fridays | 10am to 9pm

## ADMISSION

Citizen/Permanent Resident Free

## Foreign Visitors

Adult \$10

Student & Senior Citizen (60 & above) \$5

Children under six Free

20% off admission tickets for 20 or more persons.

Visitors can also enjoy free entry to SAM every Friday from 6pm to 9pm and on Open House days.

Tickets can be purchased from the Information & Ticketing counter at Singapore Art Museum and SAM at 8Q or from SISTIC.

## ENQUIRIES

6589 9580 or 6589 9564

enquiries@singaporeartmuseum.sg

## MUSEUM TOURS

### Tours in English

Mondays to Thursdays | 11am & 2pm

Fridays | 11am, 2pm & 7pm

Saturdays and Sundays

11am, 2pm & 3:30pm

### Tours in Japanese

Tuesdays to Fridays | 10:30am

### Tours in Mandarin

Fridays | 7:30pm

Sundays | 11:30am

## GETTING TO SAM

By Bus

SBS 7, 14, 16, 36, 111, 131, 162, 175, 502, 518

SMRT 77, 167, 171, 700

By MRT

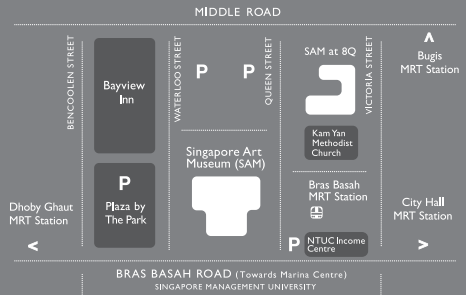
2-minute walk from Bras Basah MRT station.

10-minute walk from Dhoby Ghaut, Bugis

or City Hall MRT stations.

By Car

Carparks are available at Waterloo Street, Queen Street, NTUC Income Centre, Manulife Centre, Hotel Grand Pacific and Singapore Management University.



## WHEELCHAIR ACCESS/LOCKERS

Lifts provide easy access to galleries.

Lockers are available for visitors' use.

## SAM ONLINE

[www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg)

[www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum)

[www.instagram.com/sg\\_artmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/sg_artmuseum)

[www.twitter.com/sg\\_artmuseum](https://www.twitter.com/sg_artmuseum)

[www.youtube.com/samtelly](https://www.youtube.com/samtelly)

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