

## THE SEA IS A FIELD

SIMRYN GILL  
& CHARLES LIM YI YONG

TANJONG PAGAR DISTRI PARK  
12.01.24 – 21.04.24

# LEARNING RESOURCE

This learning resource is suitable for children aged 12 and up.

## THE EXHIBITION

*The Sea is a Field* reveals the inner workings of the collaboration between artists Simryn Gill and Charles Lim Yi Yong as part of the inaugural SAM Fellowship programme.

The collaboration started during the pandemic years. Hailing from different countries the artists questioned how they could travel between where they lived in Port Dickson, Malaysia and Singapore by sea.

As it turns out, there is no simple route. The question that they put forth became the basis of this exhibition, and focuses on their journey. In the process, stories of everyday crossings, migrations and borders unfold, each connecting to the deep cultural and political history of the region.

## THE ARTISTS



Image courtesy of the artist.

Charles Lim Yi Yong (b. 1973, Singapore; lives and works in Singapore) is a former competitive sailor whose practice stems from his bodily engagement with the natural world, which is mediated and informed by field research and experimentation with various media. Since 2005, he has developed an ongoing body of work entitled *SEA STATE*, which explores Singapore's political, biophysical and psychic contours through the lens of its relationship with the sea.

Simryn Gill (b. 1959 Singapore; lives and works in Port Dickson, Malaysia and Sydney, Australia) was born in Singapore, raised in Malaysia, and educated in India and the United Kingdom. Gill is a tinkerer who alters mundane objects and sites. In her works, there is a fine line that separates what is found and what is made: manual "photocopies" of plants are made through ink rubbings and small sculptural critters are constructed with engine parts and debris. Like shards of glass washed ashore, Gill's works are worn down by movement.



Image courtesy of the artist.

## THE ARTWORKS



### ***Sumatra by the Side* (Charles Lim)**

2023–2024

Three videos, HD, single-channel (on loop) with output to LED screen, 32:9 aspect ratio, 1 hr 05 min (Singapore to Sekupang); 8 hr 11 min (Sekupang to Dumai); 2 hr 30 min (Dumai to Port Dickson); 3D-printed clocks with raspberry pi computer

Collection of the artist

### ***Shallow* (Simryn Gill)**

2023–2024

Inkjet print on paper with handwritten annotations

Collection of the artist

Typography by Ruud Ruttens and Jeroen Wille, editing by To Melick



### **Did You Know?**

- SAM's Fellowship programme is a new way by which the museum provides long-term support to artists. This exhibition marks the start of a unique collaboration between the two renowned Singaporean artists.
- Port Dickson is a coastal town in Malaysia more than 300km away from Singapore. It was a popular beach destination in the 1980s and 1990s and welcomed many visitors from Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

 **Think!**

According to digital maps found online, it takes close to five hours to drive from the heart of Singapore to Port Dickson. The duration could be longer if you take into consideration massive traffic jams or unfavourable weather conditions like thunderstorms. To journey from Singapore to Port Dickson by sea, you would have to take three ferry rides, which translates to more than 12 hours of travelling!

- What are other modes of transport available for a journey between these locations?



- Who would benefit the most if there were a direct ferry route from Singapore to Port Dickson?



- Why do you think there is no direct route between these two places?



## Activity!

Look at Lim's artistic rendition of their possible journeys below. There are many different routes one can take to travel between Singapore and Port Dickson.

Which route do you think the artists took? Trace over the dotted lines on the map.

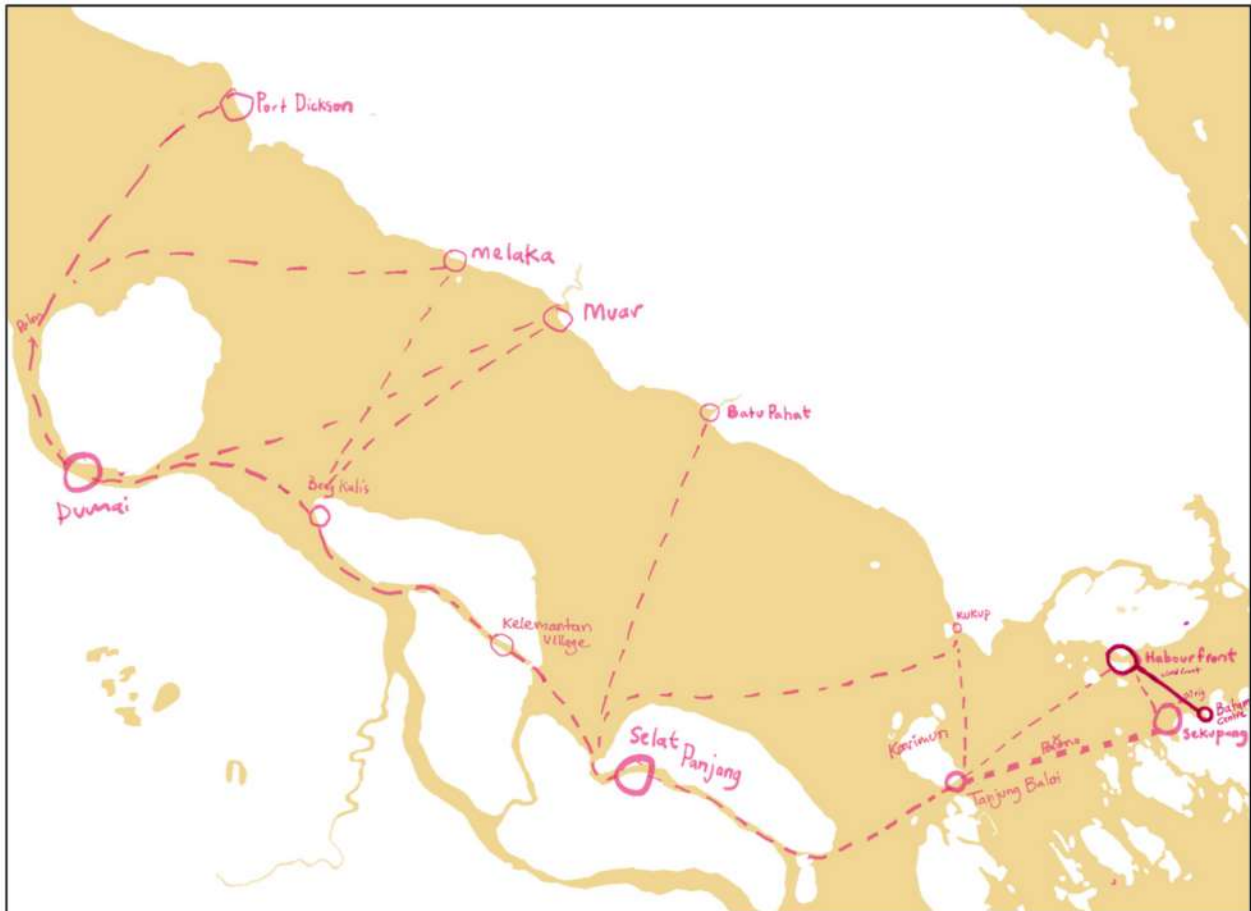


Image courtesy of Charles Lim Yi Yong.

After completing the activity, you may scan this QR code to uncover the route taken by the artists.



The information is accurate at the time of print.

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