



**Dawn Ng**

From left to right

*Mamashop*

2012

Archival inkjet print collage, edition 3/3

160 x 120 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

*HDB Corridor*

2012

Archival inkjet print collage, edition 3/3

160 x 120 cm

Singapore Art Museum collection

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## Pre-SAM

**TASK:** Discover the unique characteristics of Singapore.

**SUBJECT(S):** Art, National Education

Get students to imagine they have a friend living abroad who wants to know more about life in Singapore. Let them select a neighbourhood and ask them to take photographs of places and scenes that are distinctly Singaporean. Students can explore the following:

- Residential areas
- Transitory places
- Recreation areas
- Places where people have their meals
- Spaces where people mingle or congregate

Alternatively, conduct a sketching trip for the students around a neighbourhood. Plan a route with 3 to 4 sketching locations. Reference materials:

- Urban Sketchers – Our Neighbourhood: We Love Little India, Our Neighbourhoods: We Love Tiong Bahru, Our Neighbourhoods: We Love Toa Payoh, Our Neighbourhoods: We Love Bedok, Our Neighbourhoods: We Love Katong, Our Neighbourhoods: We Love Queenstown
- An Illustrated Life: Drawing inspiration from the Private Sketchbooks of Artists, Illustrators and Designers.

## In-SAM

**TASK:** Analyse the interplay between words and images.

**SUBJECT(S):** Art, National Education

Before entering the gallery, get students to work in groups to imagine themselves in the roles of the following people or any other individuals.

- Father with 2 young daughters
- Mother with a son serving National Service
- Grandmother living with 9 family members
- Secondary School student

Get each group to come up with a list of what they need in their daily lives.

In the gallery, have the students examine **Dawn Ng's** *Mamashop* and read the tagline. Introduce the idea behind mamashops to the students. Ask them to look at the items in the mamashop and see if they can purchase the items on their list.

Next, have the class share their opinions on **Dawn Ng's** *Mamashop* in response to the following questions:

- What do you think the artist is trying to imply by pairing the taglines with the images?
- Do you think the tagline is appropriate for the image? Why?
- Do you think the tagline is still relevant to our current times? If not, come up with your own taglines.
- Do you think the artwork is representative of Singapore?

Extend the same questions to **Dawn Ng's** *HDB Corridor*. Some additional questions:

- What do you notice about the spaces in *HDB Corridor*?
- Who is the intended recipient of the message?
- Which artwork do you think is more representative of Singapore? Why?

## Post-SAM

**TASK:** Document scenes and places that are disappearing from Singapore

**SUBJECT(S):** Art, National Education

The mamashop depicted in the artwork is an example of a place that is disappearing from Singapore's landscape. What other scenes and places are experiencing the same fate?

Plan a heritage trail that includes elements of:

- Way of life
- People's pastimes
- Culture, heritage, tradition
- Green spaces

Alternatively, take photographs of the scenes and places that are distinct to Singapore and create a unique tagline to match the image. Capture and upload it on Instagram, using the hashtags:

#AfterDawnNg #SingaporeArtMuseum #LearningGallery #SAMLearningGallery

## SOVA supplement

**TASK:** Draw links between the Study Of Visual Arts (SOVA) and contemporary artwork in the museum.

**ARTWORK(S):** Takashi Murakami, *And then, and then, and then... (Original Blue) Edition 300, Signed, numbered, 2008*

Takashi Murakami's *And then, and then, and then...* features a character, Mr DOB. The letter D, O and B are integrated into the character's face. The letters DOB are the first three letters from the transliteration of the nonsensical Japanese phrase, "Dobojite, dobojite, oshamanbe". Task the students to find out and collate their research on the different ways words can be integrated into art.

Get the students to display their research and conduct a gallery walk. Include both Murakami's and Ng's artworks. Discuss the following with them:

- Where do you think the artists get inspiration for the words used in their artworks?
- Which do you think comes first, the words or the image?

Give the following task to the students: Imagine that they are artists commissioned by the museum to participate in an art exhibition titled: *Wordplay*. Allocate them a space in the exhibition for their artwork and have them propose an artwork for display. Students can use Heman Chong's text-based art as a reference:

- *One Hundred Years Of Solitude*, 2008
- *Forer Effect*, 2008

## Further Readings:

Dawn Ng's website

<http://dawn-ng.squarespace.com/>

Talk by Dawn Ng on CreativeMornings Singapore

Available [here](#).

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