

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The National Arts Council commissions Singapore Art Museum as
organiser of the next two editions of the Singapore Biennale**

*Art historian and curator Patrick D. Flores appointed as Artistic Director
for the upcoming edition in 2019*

SINGAPORE, 30 April 2018 – The National Arts Council (NAC) is pleased to announce the re-appointment of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) as organiser of the next two editions of the Singapore Biennale, the country’s premier international contemporary visual arts event. Established in 2006, the Biennale presents and reflects the strength of artistic practices in Singapore, the region and internationally. Through collaborations and engagement with artists, arts organisations and businesses, the Biennale enhances Singapore’s reputation as a creative centre that embraces the visual arts.

2 As a contemporary art museum focusing on art-making and art thinking in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013 and 2016. The re-appointment for both Singapore Biennale 2019 and Singapore Biennale 2022 enables SAM to leverage and build upon their expansive artistic and curatorial networks and collaborative relationships, creating more opportunities to work with curators, artists and the art community over an extended period of time.

3 “As a key cultural institution and leader in contemporary arts, the Singapore Art Museum has successfully presented three editions of the Singapore Biennale. It is well placed to present the next two editions of the Biennale on behalf of the National Arts Council,” says Chief Executive Officer for the National Arts Council Mrs. Rosa Daniel, who co-chairs the Singapore Biennale 2019 Steering Committee with Ms. Jane Ittogi, former Chair of the Singapore Art Museum. “Over the years, the Biennale has not only been instrumental in establishing Singapore as a go-to destination for Southeast Asian contemporary art, but has also proven to be an important developmental platform for art practitioners from Singapore and the region to showcase their works to an international audience. We look forward to the Biennale building upon the meaningful connections established with the many international artists and art institutions, and hope to inspire new and exciting opportunities for the regional contemporary art community and audiences.”

4 Mr Edmund Cheng, Chairman of the Singapore Art Museum, says, “We appreciate the confidence of the National Arts Council in re-appointing the Singapore Art Museum to organise Singapore Biennale 2019 and 2022. As a museum dedicated to the study and presentation of Southeast Asian contemporary art, we look forward to continuing to present the cultural diversity and unique perspectives from this part of the world, and facilitating regional and international dialogue on contemporary art.”



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5 The Singapore Biennale Steering Committee, comprising representatives from the arts community, has appointed Patrick D. Flores the Artistic Director for the 2019 edition of the Singapore Biennale. An established curator, art historian and educator, he is currently a Professor of Art Studies at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines and curator at the Vargas Museum in Manila. He says, “It is a great opportunity to work with the Singapore Art Museum and direct the Singapore Biennale at a time when the art world of Southeast Asia is strongly placed to fulfill the worldly potential of a lively region. I look forward to making the biennale platform more open to engaged forms of interaction with audiences through the public discourse of art. Perhaps the best way to do this is to turn the Biennale into an intersection between a festival and a seminar, a moment to think through what is happening around us and a time to take in the creative energy of the region.”

6 Aside from a rich and diverse display of regional contemporary works across mediums and venues, the Biennale also offers a range of educational programmes and outreach activities, allowing audiences the opportunity to appreciate and be inspired by contemporary art. The Biennale is anticipated by Singaporeans and visitors as a highlight of Singapore’s cultural calendar, for its thought-provoking art and meaningful exchange of ideas. The latest edition in 2016 welcomed over 600,000 visitors, signalling a heightened interest among both local and international audiences in understanding the Southeast Asian region through art.

7 More information on Singapore Biennale 2019, including the curatorial model, title and venues, will be shared in the last quarter of 2018.

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About the National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, we want to develop Singapore as a distinctive global city where the arts inspire our people and connect our communities. 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.

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 and 2016 editions. SAM will continue to do so for Singapore Biennale 2019 and 2022.

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 building along Bras Basah



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Road is currently closed in preparation for a major building revamp, with museum programming continuing at SAM at 8Q and partner venues such as the National Museum of Singapore.

SAM was the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013 and 2016. SAM 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

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Annex A: Singapore Biennale 2019 Steering Committee

Annex B: Singapore Biennale 2019 Artistic Director – Patrick D. Flores



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Annex A
Singapore Biennale 2019 Steering Committee

Name	SC Role	Designation
Mrs Rosa Daniel	Co-Chair	Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council
Ms Jane Ittogi	Co-Chair	Former Chair, Singapore Art Museum
Mr Edmund Cheng	Member	Chairman, Singapore Art Museum
Ms Chong Siak Ching	Member	Deputy Chair; Executive Committee, Singapore Art Museum and Chief Executive Officer, National Gallery of Singapore
Professor Ute Meta Bauer	Member	Founding Director, NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore
Ms Claire Chiang	Member	Board Member, SAM; Senior Vice President, Banyan Tree Holdings Ltd
Mr T. Sasitharan	Member	Co-Founder and Director, Intercultural Theatre Institute
Dr David Teh	Member	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, NUS Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Dr Clare Veal	Member	Lecturer, LASALLE College of the Arts, McNally School of Fine Arts
Dr Ian Woo	Member	Programme Leader, MA Fine Arts, Postgraduate Studies, LASALLE College of the Arts, McNally School of Fine Arts
Dr June Yap	Ex-Officio	Director of Curatorial, Publications and Programmes, Singapore Art Museum
Mr Low Eng Teong	Ex-Officio	Assistant Chief Executive, National Arts Council
Mr Timothy Chin	Ex-Officio	Director (Arts & Heritage), Arts & Heritage Division, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth
Ms Lynette Pang	Ex-Officio	Assistant Chief Executive, Marketing Group, Singapore Tourism Board
Ms Liew Wee Wen	Secretariat	Head, Curatorial Projects, Singapore Art Museum



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Annex B

Singapore Biennale 2019 Artistic Director – Patrick D. Flores

Patrick D. 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.