

MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM ROLLS OUT A SERIES OF FAMILY FRIENDLY PROGRAMMES TO CONNECT ART TO DIFFERENT COMMUNITIES

Featuring both physical and digital programmes, SAM reimagines meaningful ways of connecting with their young audiences this school holiday.



CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, *Childhood*, 2020; image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum

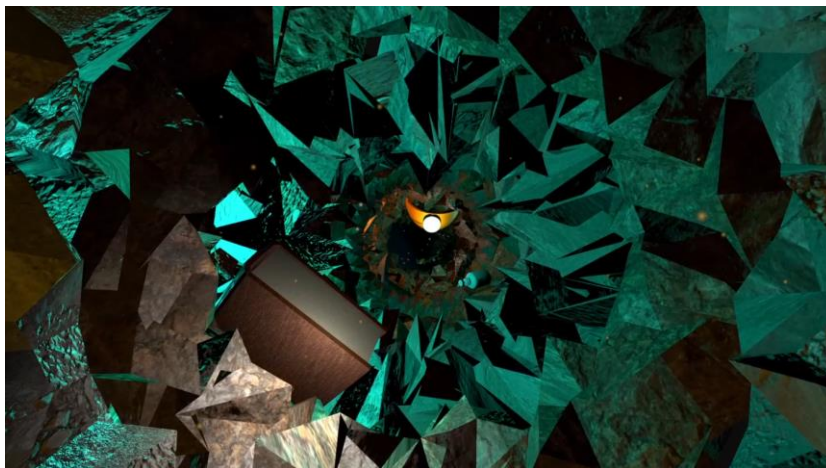
Singapore, 27 October 2021 – Families and young audiences will get a chance to let their creative juices flow through a series of upcoming exhibitions and programmes organised by Singapore Art Museum (SAM). SAM will be offering family-friendly art exhibitions and activities in collaboration with artists and the wider community across physical and virtual spaces this school holiday. These include a new community-based initiative ***Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong***, SAM's first ever fully virtual exhibition ***Between the World and Us – A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition***, as well as ***The Explorer Project*** featuring a new imaginative comic inspired by the iconic sculpture, *The Explorer*.

“SAM is always exploring ways to instil curiosity and the love of art in children and the young at heart. This school holiday, we will be presenting a variety of immersive programmes in both physical and virtual spaces. Working together with multiple partners to co-curate impactful art and experiences, our new multi-year programme, *Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong*, celebrates Jurong as a community playground where people live, work, and play. This

is also the first time that we are bringing our signature student programme, *Think! Contemporary*, online for audiences to enjoy artworks inspired by our collection,” says Dr Lim Chye Hong, Head of Education, Access and Programmes at SAM.

Co-creating artworks with students and communities in Jurong

Furthering the museum’s active collaboration with its constituents, SAM has introduced a new initiative ***Art in the Commons***, which features a series of community-based, participatory art programmes developed together with community partners. To kick off this initiative, SAM has partnered Science Centre Board on ***Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong***, to explore community interests within the Jurong district. The initiative, supported by Tote Board Singapore, will take place over a period of three years. It invites communities to co-create artworks with local artists and explore the intersection between the arts and the sciences, with each annual edition featuring a different artist.



Debbie Ding, rendered impressions for *Data Mining Jurong*, 2021; image courtesy of the Artist

The inaugural edition is a collaboration with Singaporean artist and Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) lecturer Debbie Ding. Alongside her students from NYP’s School of Design and Media, the works feature the changing identity of Jurong – from an industrial estate to a vibrant hub of industry, commerce and residential units. Ding and her students – sketched out an alternate reality – based on ideas gleaned from public consultations with the communities in Jurong. The culminating exhibition will open on 26 November 2021 at the Science Centre Singapore.

“We took reference from a photograph captured of the groundbreaking ceremony for the Jurong Rock Caverns in 2007, which featured an incredible man-made model of the caverns as its centrepiece,” says Ding. “We then imagined the process of collecting data from the public to be akin to taking an expedition through an ancient, mysterious cavern.”

Ding's artwork, *Data Mining Jurong*, surfaces questions of what Jurong is, was, and might become. It represents Jurong's past through the imagined discovery of oil buried in deep time and consists of two projections. The first provides the narrative for an alternate reality of Jurong, in which the imagined past haunts the present realities of Jurong. The second is an interactive work where audiences can take a slow descent down a mysterious, cavernous mine shaft. Objects embedded in the rock strata are created based on an online public consultation conducted with the residents of Jurong and commuters who either work in or frequent Jurong.

In going through the repository of objects contributed by Jurong locals, Ding's artwork provokes deep reflections on the neighbourhood as visitors discover the different things that made, and make, Jurong. For families with young children, *Data Mining Jurong* gives the younger ones a glimpse of the transformation of their neighbourhood, while encouraging them to imagine the future of Jurong.

Nurturing an appreciation for art in schools



St Anthony's Primary School, Primary 4 students, *Our HDB Corridors*, 2020;
image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum

In partnership with CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace, Geylang Methodist School (Primary), Haig Girls' School, Mayflower Primary School and St. Anthony's Primary School, SAM presents ***Between the World and Us – A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition.*** This ninth edition of the Think! Contemporary Programme is the museum's first virtual showcase, exhibiting 18 artworks on the diverse experiences of Primary Four students in the

time of the pandemic. Opening on 18 November 2021, the exhibition is spread across four sections: The Stories, The Spaces, The People, and The Hope.

SAM's signature Think! Contemporary Programme integrates school curriculum with museum visits and uses artworks from SAM's exhibitions as primary resources for classroom teaching. It is part of the museum's efforts to co-develop programmes with partner schools and encourage an appreciation for the arts among the younger generation. In this particular edition, students were invited to take inspiration from two past exhibitions, *Once Upon This Island* from SAM's Learning Gallery and *Singapore Biennale 2019: Every Step in the Right Direction*. Lessons were conducted virtually for the first time in this edition, challenging students to push their creative boundaries and to experiment with various digital mediums for their artworks.

Sharing his learnings from the programme, Ian Koh Rui Feng from St Anthony's Primary School says, "I used to think art was about drawings and paintings. But I now realise that it can be anything and everything around us. I like how an "ordinary" image can tell a much deeper story if we only give it a chance to speak to us." Crystal Anne Wan from Haig Girls' School also shares, "I learnt that art is about how you express yourself, not verbally but through the creative use of colours. For example, my group's artwork *We Are Family* used different mediums which looked very nice when pieced together."

Accompanying programmes include a virtual art hunt with prizes to be won, as well as an online talk, *Thinking Contemporary Art in the Classroom: A Sharing by Teachers* on the ideas behind the artworks and navigating this museum-based learning programme during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bringing art into homes through interactive virtual programmes

Young ones can also stretch their imagination and try their hand at creating their own art through a series of child-friendly art workshops. ***The Explorer Project*** features a series of programmes inspired by the relocation of *The Explorer*, a sculpture by artist and Cultural Medallion recipient Ng Eng Teng, to Science Centre Singapore.



Annuendo, Illustration of *The Explorer* comic, 2021; image courtesy of Singapore Art Museum

Central to the project is the launch of a new intergalactic comic by SAM, *The Explorer*, on 20 November 2021. To encourage a more holistic educational approach incorporating Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics (STEAM), accompanying programmes for children and families include online talks and workshops conducted over Zoom on illustration, interactive storytelling as well as sculpture making.

For the full calendar and details of upcoming exhibitions and programmes, please refer to Annex A or visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/.

Media assets can be accessed via bit.ly/SAM-Family-Offerings.

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About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore. Known as SAM, the museum presents contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious.

SAM's mandate as a non-profit arts institution is to build one of the world's most important public collections of Southeast Asian contemporary art, to preserve, research, exhibit and connect the art and the artists to the public and future generations through thought-provoking exhibitions and meaningful programmes.

SAM is redefining the idea of the museum by presenting art in multiple spaces including Tanjong Pagar Distripark, and two heritage buildings along Bras Basah Road and Queen Street that are slated to re-open by 2026.

As Singapore's national contemporary art museum, SAM is proud to be the organiser of the Singapore Biennale – a festival that celebrates contemporary art from all over the world across the island-city of Singapore. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg.

ANNEX A: Calendar of Exhibitions and Programmes

Programme	Date/Time	Venue	Description
<i>Between the World and Us—A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition</i>			
<i>Between the World and Us—A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition</i>	18 November 2021 – 31 March 2022	SAM Website	<i>Between the World and Us—A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition</i> takes a look at the diverse experiences of Primary Four students during the Covid-19 pandemic. This exhibition reflects upon our chance experiences and choice encounters in the world through the eyes of these students, revealing their thoughts on the issues happening around them.
<i>Virtual Art Hunt</i>	18 November 2021 – 10 December 2021	SAM Website	Are you up for the challenge? Join the virtual art hunt and complete quests as you explore <i>Between the World and Us—A Think! Contemporary Primary School Virtual Exhibition</i> . You also stand a chance to win prizes for our holiday giveaway!
<i>Thinking Contemporary Art in the Classroom: A Sharing by Teachers</i>	February/March 2022	Zoom Pre-registration is required	Join SAM Educator Gabrielle Lee and our Think! Contemporary Programme partner school teachers as they discuss their collaborative working process, the ideas behind the artworks and the challenges of navigating this museum-based learning programme during the COVID-19 pandemic.

<i>The Explorer Project</i>			
<i>The Explorer comic</i>	20 November 2021	Singapore Art Museum's Facebook page	<p>Follow Shaun, a black-naped oriole, in this exhilarating adventure across our sunny island and find out more about the strange creature he meets along the way. Shaun helps out his newfound friend in need as they travel across Singapore and beyond.</p> <p>This new intergalactic comic by Singapore Art Museum was inspired by the relocation of <i>The Explorer</i>, a sculpture by Cultural Medallion recipient Ng Eng Teng.</p> <p>Learn more about the inspiration behind the comic with Annuendo, the illustrator of this enchanting comic.</p>
<i>Storytime: The Explorer</i>	20 November 2021	Zoom Pre-registration is required	Get ready to stretch your imagination with storyteller Kiran Shah as she brings you on an adventure without ever leaving your home! Come prepared with paper and drawing materials for this interactive storytelling session conducted on Zoom.
<i>Fun with Sculptures (for children)</i>	27 November 2021	Zoom Pre-registration is required	Join us for this digital workshop and create your own story and sculpture! Conducted by visual storyteller Darel Seow, participants will learn how to let their imaginations run wild and experiment with different materials that are commonly found at

			home.
<i>Art & Nature, featuring Annuendo & Sabrina Tang</i>	December 2021	Zoom Pre-registration is required	<p>Do you know that the black-naped oriole is one of the most common birds in Singapore? It is also a key character called Shaun Singapore Art Museum's <i>The Explorer</i> comic.</p> <p>Learn more about it in this engaging talk that blends art and nature with Sabrina Tang from NParks' Biodiversity Centre and Annuendo, the illustrator behind the comic. Learn tips and tricks from Annuendo who will demonstrate how to draw Shaun, the black-naped oriole, and share other artful tips and tricks!</p>
<i>Sculpted Stories (for adults)</i>	11 December 2021	Zoom Pre-registration is required	Revitalise materials lying around your home by using them to make your own sculpture! Conducted by visual storyteller Darel Seow, participants will learn how to bring their ideas to life.
<i>Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong</i>			
<i>Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong</i>	26 November 2021 – 30 January 2022	Science Centre Singapore Hall A	<i>Art in the Commons: Data Visualising Jurong</i> is a new initiative by SAM to commence a series of community-based, participatory art programmes to uncover community interests within the Jurong district. Working with selected artists and partners like Science Centre Singapore, this initiative seeks to co-create artworks with communities in Jurong

			<p>and aims to provide an intersection between the arts and the sciences.</p> <p>Cycle 1 – Debbie Ding <i>Data Mining Jurong</i></p> <p>For this presentation, SAM invited artist Debbie Ding to consider the changing identities of Jurong. Through an alternate reality sketched out by the artist, Jurong’s past – represented here in the imagined discovery of oil buried in deep time – comes to encounter the neighbourhood’s present as a petrochemical hub. What surfaces from all this are questions of what Jurong is, was, and might become</p>
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