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**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **NTU to drive Singapore's new contemporary art centre at Gillman Barracks**

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) will spearhead the development of Singapore's contemporary art centre at Gillman Barracks, the new contemporary art destination in Asia. Named the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), it is a key initiative to bolster the visual arts landscape in Asia through its international artist residency, research, and exhibition programmes.

The CCA will be a focal point at Gillman Barracks, which is being heralded as Asia's up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. With a total of 13 art galleries from 10 countries, and more to come, Gillman Barracks will distinguish itself as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art.

The CCA aims to be a world renowned centre for the production, presentation and interpretation of contemporary art and it will build research capabilities and thought leadership to bolster Singapore's standing as an Asian arts hub. CCA is supported by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), and is expected to be fully operational in the second half of 2013.

"The Centre for Contemporary Art is an exciting initiative for Singapore and NTU. CCA seeks to provide a vibrant environment in which the understanding of art and creativity will flourish, and where Asian and Western traditions can meet and find novel expressions. It will attract top international artists and scholars to our shores, showcase the work of emerging, home-grown talent, and make art a central thread in the fabric of Singaporean society," said Professor Alan Chan, Dean of NTU's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

"Given NTU's strengths in science and engineering, there will be ample opportunities for innovative research in diverse areas such as authentication of paintings or new materials and media for art production," Professor Chan highlighted.

CCA will have three key programming aspects – international artist residency, exhibition, and education and research – and will collaborate with top international art institutions, galleries, curators and collectors.

The international artist residency programme will facilitate the production and creation of works by established and emerging international and Singaporean artists. CCA is expected to host up to nine artists at any one time.

CCA will also have an exhibition centre in Gillman Barracks which will embrace an international and multi-disciplinary approach towards the presentation of contemporary art and will feature works by resident artists, as well as special projects and commissions.

The CCA will be housed in customised infrastructure within Gillman Barracks, with a total floor area of more than 2,200 square metres and more than half of that space will be devoted to exhibitions.

“Gillman Barracks boosts Singapore’s standing as an Asian arts hub and CCA is a key to its identity as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art,” said Dr. Eugene Tan, Programme Director, Lifestyle Programme Office, EDB. “I am particularly excited about the artist residency programme because it will foster cultural exchange between the local and the international arts community, as well as become a platform for the production of the best and most innovative art of our time.”

CCA will work closely with NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) and leverage its strengths and expertise to establish graduate programmes with an emphasis on Asian art history in the context of world art histories. There will also be contemporary art research initiatives such as fellowships, curatorial residencies, conferences and public talks.

Commenting on CCA’s potential impact on young, aspiring contemporary artists and students, NTU’s Professor Vibeke Sorensen, Chair of ADM said, “We are very much looking forward to welcoming high-profile artists and scholars to engage with our students at the new Centre for Contemporary Art.

“Students will enjoy the benefit of being fully immersed in an environment of fine contemporary artwork, created by both established artists and emerging talents, in close proximity to their studios. This will give them additional valuable opportunities for direct contact with these talented artists, enabling our students to deepen their understanding of the content and context of the artistic process and production, as well as their knowledge of contemporary art,” Professor Sorensen added.

The establishment of the Centre for Contemporary Art comes at a time when Singapore’s arts and culture scene is set for a grander stage. The Singapore Government is increasing spending in the arts and cultural sector to an annual average of \$365 million over five years from 2011. Come 2015, a 60,000-square-metre National Art Gallery, will officially open, making it the largest visual arts venue in Singapore and one of the largest in Asia.

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**Media contact:**

Feisal Abdul Rahman  
Senior Assistant Director (Media Relations)  
Corporate Communications Office  
Nanyang Technological University  
Tel: (65) 6790 6687; Mobile: (65) 9675 1517  
Email: [feisalar@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:feisalar@ntu.edu.sg)

***About Nanyang Technological University***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has 33,500 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the colleges of Engineering, Business, Science, and Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences. In 2013, NTU will enrol the first batch of students at its new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, which is set up jointly with Imperial College London.

NTU is also home to four world-class autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Earth Observatory of Singapore, and Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) and the Institute on Asian Consumer Insight (ACI).

A fast-growing university with an international outlook, NTU is putting its global stamp on Five Peaks of Excellence: Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road, and Innovation Asia.

Besides the main Yunnan Garden campus, NTU also has a satellite campus in Singapore's science and tech hub, one-north, and is setting up a third campus in Novena, Singapore's medical district.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)

***About Gillman Barracks***

Gillman Barracks (GB) is Asia's up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. It will be distinguished as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art. Named after British general Sir Webb Gillman, GB is set amid lush greenery and was once a stronghold to the First Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. The conserved colonial barracks will house galleries and creative businesses, as well as the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA). The international galleries will feature diverse and ever-

changing contemporary art exhibitions, while CCA will bolster the region's visual arts landscape through its international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes. By fostering cultural exchange and creation, showcasing the best and most innovative art of our time, as well as generating discourse and research, CCA will establish Singapore as an important centre for contemporary art in Asia. More information on GB can be found at [www.gillmanbarracks.com](http://www.gillmanbarracks.com).

**FACTSHEET**

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**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THE CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**

**1. When will CCA officially open?**

The Centre for Contemporary Art's grand opening is scheduled for the second half of 2013, but it will be operational from January 2013 onwards. The public should expect the first CCA programme during the ArtStage period (24-27 January 2013).

**2. Who will govern or lead the new CCA?**

A Governing Council will be appointed to oversee the Centre. The council is expected to comprise members of the arts fraternity, academics, and government representatives. The Council will, in turn, appoint the Director. The Director is expected to be a world leader in his or her field, with extensive academic, curatorial or equivalent experience, and will be appointed as a professor of NTU. The search is now on for the Centre's new director, and the appointment will be announced in due course.

**3. What is the artistic vision of the CCA collaboration and how will it add value to the existing arts infrastructure in Singapore?**

The CCA programmes shall be relevant to the needs of the growing visual arts community and industry in Singapore. Apart from training art professionals, the CCA shall collaborate with top international academic institutions, galleries, curators, collectors, and organise conferences, publish research papers *et cetera* that can advance the sophistication of and build depth in the sector in Singapore.

CCA is an important investment in international contemporary art practice and research, with a specific emphasis on Asian Art. It will complement and leverage NTU's School of Art, Design and Media (ADM)'s efforts to expand the School's higher degree programmes that include its current Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme and a new Master of Arts (MA) programme in art history, which will fill an important gap in Singapore education.

CCA will also respond to an oft-expressed demand for qualified curators and writers on contemporary art in Singapore institutions, museums, galleries and education institutions.

Through its Artist Residency Programme, the CCA will facilitate the production of works by established and emerging artists from both at home and abroad.

**4. Where within Gillman Barracks will CCA be located?**

The CCA will be housed in customised infrastructure within Gillman Barracks in the following locations: Block 7 Lock Road (#01-13) for the Education and Research Programme, Block 37, 38 and 39 Malan Road for the Artist Residency Programme and Block 43 Malan Road for the Exhibition Centre. The total gross floor area is more than 2,200 sqm.

**5. Will CCA have any special sections or galleries (e.g. studios for PhD students, or galleries for specific art forms, e.g. interactive media, film & video, etc)?**

**6. How many exhibitions will there be each year?**

The CCA will have an Exhibition Centre in Gillman Barracks, where it will present at least four exhibitions annually. These exhibitions will feature world class work from international, regional and local artists of international repute – this will be the first priority. CCA will work closely with EDB, NAC, and other organisations, and leverage NTU faculty's professional networks to attract top quality works from renowned and upcoming artists.

The exhibitions will embrace an international and multi-disciplinary approach towards the presentation of contemporary art and showcase first-in-class works that are benchmarked against international standards. They will include but are not limited to the following types: exhibitions featuring works from the CCA Artists-in-Residence, solo or thematic exhibitions, special projects and commissions.

Also, the CCA's Artist Residency Programme will facilitate the production and creation of works by established and emerging international and Singaporean artists to establish Singapore as an important art production centre in the region.

**7. How many artists in residence will there be each year and what are the selection criteria?**

The CCA International Artist Residency Programme will facilitate the production of works by established and emerging artists, both internationally and locally. At full capacity, it will have about 20 artists participating in 4-month, 6-month or 1-year residencies per year. At any given time, up to 9 artists may be hosted concurrently. These artists will be top performers in their field at the peak of their careers, and they will be selected by an official selection

committee. We can expect close interaction between these leading artists, researchers, local artists and students. The artists may also be commissioned to produce new work.

An international advisory board will be formed, comprising prominent international academics, curators, museum directors, and/or artists to advise the selection of the artists.

#### **8. How will CCA complement Gilman Barracks?**

The dynamic and lively presence of artists from Singapore and around the world, as well as top-notch faculty and students from NTU will complement the commercial and developmental aspect of Gillman Barracks. We foresee plenty of dialogue and discussions between these three clusters.

#### **9. What is the relationship between the CCA and the commercial galleries at Gilman Barracks?**

The CCA runs independently and is distinct from the galleries at Gilman Barracks. But we anticipate a vibrant flow of dialogue and inspiration between the commercial galleries and CCA. For instance, international artists represented by the galleries may participate in the artist residency programme or showcase their works in the Exhibition Centre. Also, there could be collaboration between CCA and the galleries in the organisation of talks, seminars and workshops on contemporary art.

#### **10. Will CCA acquire its own permanent art collection, or only present temporary exhibitions?**

The CCA will not house any permanent art collections, as it is not a museum. It is intended to be a dynamic space that continually presents refreshing new works.

#### **11. Will CCA have any synergies with NTU, NIE or other art schools in Singapore?**

NTU's School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) will be the main driver for CCA's Education and Research programme. CCA will complement and leverage ADM's efforts to expand the School's higher degree programmes that include its current Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) programme and a new Master of Arts (MA) programme in art history.

Existing Bachelor of Fine Arts students will benefit immensely through the interactions with experts and artists who will reside at CCA and participate in the exhibitions throughout the year. College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, the NTU Museum and the National Institute of Education's art education area are also expected to contribute and mutually benefit in many ways.

**12. Who will get to work and do research at the Centre? Who would be the students pursuing an MA or a PhD?**

Graduate student intake and the hiring of academic faculty at CCA will be the responsibility of NTU. Top academic faculty and higher degree students will be invited to join CCA through the School of Art, Design and Media at NTU.