

NEWS RELEASE

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Singapore, 17 January 2013

First public showcase by NTU's Centre for Contemporary Art

Exhibition at Gillman Barracks features nine Singapore contemporary artists with talks at Marina Bay Sands set to challenge, broaden horizons

The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) is presenting its first public showcase in conjunction with Art Stage Singapore: an exhibition of nine Singapore contemporary artists at the Gillman Barracks and a series of talks featuring local and international art personalities at Marina Bay Sands.

A national research initiative of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), the CCA's inaugural events aim to not only explore and push Singapore's contemporary art to the forefront, but to also broaden horizons for Asian contemporary art.

"The Centre for Contemporary Art is still a work in progress, albeit a very exciting one. Art Stage is a major event on Singapore's art calendar, and NTU is happy that it can contribute to it through CCA. This particular exhibition and series of talks reflect the vision of CCA – creating a vibrant art community in Singapore, bringing together the best of Asian and Western art, and engaging the wider public in discourses on contemporary art. I am particularly delighted that the exhibition is featuring the works of talented young Singapore artists, who have so much to offer," said Professor Alan Chan, Dean of NTU's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

"The common theme of this CCA's event celebrates the integration of contemporary art into daily life. It's heartening to see the steady growth of Singapore's art scene, and we look

forward to fostering partnerships with both private and public organisations to make art a central thread in the fabric of Singaporean life and culture,” Professor Chan added.

Engaging Perspectives: New Art from Singapore Exhibition

The inaugural exhibition, **Engaging Perspectives: New Art from Singapore**, features a roster of young, accomplished Singapore artists who were born in the 1980s. It provides an in-depth look at how these artists engage with concepts of the everyday and the interconnected perspectives about daily living within Singapore as well as the wider world.

Curator Eugene Tan said, “The artists in our inaugural exhibition prompt us to consider how attentive we are to the visible and invisible structures and networks that exist in our society, and how enormous an influence these have on our everyday lives.”

The nine artists and collectives, amongst them emerging as well as established artists who have exhibited internationally, will examine the diverse but related ways in which they engage with the everyday. Their works explore the physical structures as well as the invisible structures and networks that govern daily life, the relationship between increasingly urbanised environments and nature, as well as the systems of meaning making that influence the creation of images and signs that exists in society.

For example, the work of Zhao Renhui explores and challenges meaning-making through video and photography made during his three-month artist residency in 2011 at Antarctica, an environment that stands in sharp contrast to the Southeast Asian tropics. Debbie Ding presents her experiences and perspective of cities through various physical markers that populate our urbanised cities, revealing structures and networks that govern our everyday lives.

In an age of digital technology, Black Baroque Committee explores the physical act of image making through an analogue camera, and its relationship to physical violence. The collective stated, “We are bombarded every day with news about war and violence, and all this has made us become somewhat insensitive to acts of violence. This latest work builds on our previous ones by focussing on the mechanical and cold process of taking photos, which is akin to activating the dreaded guillotine during the French Revolution.”

Engaging Perspectives: New Art from Singapore

Venue: Gillman Barracks, Blocks 1, 37, 38, and 39

Date/Time: 26 January to 31 March 2013, 11:00am to 8:00pm, Tue to Sun (Closed on Mon and Public Holidays)

Opening Reception: 25 January 2013 (Friday), 7:00pm

Media Preview: 24 January 2013 (Thursday), 11:00am to 12:15pm, Gillman Barracks, Blk 37, #01-04.

Artists: Ang Song Nian, Black Baroque Committee, Mike Chang, Debbie Ding, Nah Yong En, Bruce Quek, Frayn Yong, Jasper Yu, and Zhao Renhui.

CCA Talks at Art Stage

From 24 to 27 January 2013, the Centre for Contemporary Art will present **CCA Talks at Art Stage**, which features an exciting array of artists, curators, writers, academics and art world personalities. CCA Talks at Art Stage is organised around three platforms:

Friends with Disagreements

Ideally, friends are the people with whom we have our most honest conversations. Friends share references and experiences which provide the basis for a deep sympathy. But as friends, we also have disagreements. And it is often through disagreements between friends where artists, writers, curators and academics sharpen and develop their best ideas and arguments. Speakers include: Joan Kee, Kevin Chua, John Phillips, Tony Wilson, Chus Martínez, Ingo Niermann and Ute Meta Bauer and more.

The Short Forum

The Short Forum is a series of short and sharp panel discussions on some of the more pressing topics concerning contemporary art in Asia. Speakers include: Uli Sigg, Budi Tek, Lekha Poddar, Wim Delvoye, Arne Quinze, Fumio Nanjo, Hammad Nasar, Russell Storer, Apichatpong Weerasethakul, Patrick D Flores, Thomas Berghuis, and Adele Tan.

Art 101

The CCA Talks outreach platform features three projects. *The Tour* will take small groups of audiences on a quirky tour of Art Stage Singapore and brings those experiences from the floor of the art fair into the seminar rooms of CCA Talks.

FAQs will give participants a chance to ask an expert any question about art. In this outreach project, a roster of art experts will be on duty at the art fair for one afternoon, waiting and ready to take questions from the audience, frequently asked or otherwise.

Another highlight is *The Experiment*, a performance and lecture by Ray Langenbach, which involves playing his father's old 78rpm vinyl records.

CCA Talks

Venue: Marina Bay Sands, Seminar Rooms 3D-F, Level 3. Admission is free.

Date/Time: 24 to 27 January 2013, from 1.00pm to 5.00pm

For public enquiries, email: ccatalks@ntu.edu.sg or visit www.facebook.com/CCATalks.

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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

About the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore

The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA), a national research institute of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), in collaboration with the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), is devoted to advancing knowledge in contemporary art through its wide-ranging education, research, exhibition and artist-in-residence programmes.

The CCA aims to bolster Asia's visual arts landscape by fostering cultural exchange and creation, showcasing the best and most innovative art of our time, as well as generating discourse and research.

Located at Gillman Barracks, the up-and-coming destination for contemporary art in Asia, the CCA will further establish Singapore as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art.