



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allan Sekula: *Fish Story, to be continued*

3 July – 27 September 2015

NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore

Block 43 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 109443

Free admission

Exhibition Hours: Tuesdays to Sundays: 12pm – 7pm, Fridays: 12pm – 9pm.

Closed on Mondays. Open on Public Holidays.

NTU CCA Singapore presents ***Fish Story, to be continued***, bringing together for the first time in Southeast Asia an important body of works by the late eminent American artist and photographer, theorist and photography historian, Allan Sekula. The exhibition will juxtapose three chapters from his ambitious project, *Fish Story* (1988 – 1993) alongside video essay, *Lottery of the Sea* (2006) and his last film, *The Forgotten Space* (2010) co-directed with American film theorist, Noël Burch. These core works of Sekula's research on the maritime world underlines his sustained argument that the sea is the "forgotten space" of the contemporary global economy.

The key project, ***Fish Story*** was created over a five-year period and considers global maritime trade as an integral part of capitalist market forces. Blurring the boundaries between academic essay, photography and socio-historical research, the exhibition *Fish Story* is structured in nine chapters, three of which are presented at NTU CCA Singapore. The opening chapter, *Fish Story* (Chapter 1) depicts travels from distant ports, focusing largely on the busy and abandoned harbour areas of California. *Middle Passage* (Chapter 3) charts the connection between the Atlantic and Pacific maritime space, in which millions of people from Africa were shipped to the New World as part of the Atlantic slave trade. *Walking on Water* (Chapter 9) closes the series and consists of slide shows produced in Warsaw during Poland's establishment of the first post-communist government.

Lottery of the Sea, a geopolitical investigation of the contemporary maritime life takes the format of a long video-diary. The title is a reference to Adam Smith's *Inquiry into the Wealth of Nations* (1776) in which he explored the concept of risk drawing examples from seafaring and sea trade. In this fragmentary essay, Allan Sekula explores the maritime economy from different angles. He combines his explorations of the sea with reflections on the effects of neoliberal policies and their resulting socioeconomic conditions. A critical examination of global capitalism, ***The Forgotten Space*** profiles the supporting figures of the global economy: truck drivers in Los Angeles, factory workers in China, and Filipino migrant workers. Both films are conceived as extensions of a wider research on the ocean and global maritime trade to which Sekula has committed during the last twenty years of his artistic practice.

Through its presentation in Singapore and engagement with the maritime histories of Southeast Asia, ***Fish Story, to be continued*** hopes to reflect on the history of Singapore whose port activities contributed vastly to her economical growth – an

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added chapter and continuation of Sekula's important artistic research whose geographical expansion is open-ended.

Fish Story, to be continued will include works from the collections of Fond Regional d'art contemporain Bretagne, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York and Thyssen Bornemisza Art Contemporary (TBA 21), Vienna. The exhibition will be complemented by different events and interventions in *The Lab* and a film programme in *The Single Screen*. *Fish Story, to be continued* is situated under NTU CCA Singapore's narrative of PLACE.LABOUR.CAPITAL. that draws from transdisciplinary research addressing the complexities of a world in flux and the network of connections that such underlying elements define at both local and global scale.

Curated by Ute Meta Bauer, Founding Director and Anca Rujoiu, Curator, Exhibitions.

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

Exhibition de(Tour) led by Anca Rujoiu, NTU CCA Singapore Curator, Exhibitions

Friday 10 July, 7.30 – 9.00pm

Exhibition de(Tour) led by Andrea Nanetti, Associate Professor at the School of Art, Design & Media, Nanyang Technological University

Friday 21 August 2015, 7.30 – 9.00pm

Exhibition de(Tour) led by Tim Bunnell, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, National University of Singapore

Friday 4 September 2015, 7.30 – 9.00pm

Exhibition de(Tour) led by Jegan Vincent de Paul, PhD candidate at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore and the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University

Friday 11 September 2015, 7.30 – 9.00pm

Allan Sekula Symposium

Saturday 26 September 2015, 11.00am – 4.00pm

With contributions from Carles Guerra, Artist, Critic, Independent Curator and Hilde Van Gelder, Director of the Lieven Gevaert Research Centre for Photography, amongst others. Moderated by Ute Meta Bauer, NTU CCA Singapore Founding Director and Anca Rujoiu, NTU CCA Singapore Curator, Exhibitions

Otherwise stated, all programmes take place at NTU CCA Singapore, Block 43 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks.

For updates on the public programme, check the NTU CCA Singapore website and Facebook page.

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ANNEX

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Allan Sekula was born in Pennsylvania in 1951 and he lived and taught at California Institute of the Arts before passing away on 2013. By employing photography and written words, his works critically analysed the economic, political, social and cultural changes brought on by globalisation. His works were included in the dOCUMENTA (11) and (12), Kassel, Germany (2002, 2007), Centre Pompidou (2006, 1996), Sao Paulo Biennial (2010), Whitney Museum (1976, 1993, 2002, 2006, 2014), Foto Institute Rotterdam (1997, 2001), Whitney Biennale (2014), (2010), Istanbul Biennale (2007), Busan Biennale (2006) and many others. He also received fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts National Endowment for the Arts, the Getty Research Institute, and many other prestigious institutions.

Allan Sekula: Fish Story, to be continued is curated by Ute Meta Bauer, Founding Director, and Anca Rujoiu, Curator, Exhibitions of NTU CCA Singapore.

Professor Ute Meta Bauer is the Founding Director of NTU CCA Singapore and Professor at the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) at the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). She was Dean of Fine Art at the Royal College of Art, London (2012/2013); Associate Professor at the MIT, Cambridge, MA and Founding Director of ACT, MIT's Program in Art, Culture, and Technology (2009–2012); Founding Director of the Office for Contemporary Art (OCA), Oslo (2002–2005). In 2015 she co-curated the U.S. Pavilion for the 56th Venice Biennale with Paul Ha, Director of MIT List Visual Art Centre, featuring eminent artist Joan Jonas.

Anca Rujoiu is a Romanian curator currently based in Singapore at NTU CCA Singapore and co-director of *FormContent*, a curatorial initiative in London. Previously, she coordinated the public programme of the *School of Fine Art at the Royal College of Art* (UK). Her recent project with *FormContent*, *It's Moving from I to It* unfolded as a performative script within a nomadic structure testing formats of production and distribution.

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Allan Sekula, *Hammerhead* crane unloading forty-foot containers from Asian ports. American President Lines terminal. Los Angeles harbour. San Pedro, California, *Fish Story*, Chapter 1: *Fish Story* (1992). Frac Bretagne Collection, France © The Estate of Allan Sekula.



Allan Sekula, *The Sea Land Quality* dockside at automated ECT/Sea Land Terminal, Port of Rotterdam, *Fish Story*, Chapter 3: *Middle Passage* (1994). Thyssen-Bornemisza Art Contemporary Collection, Vienna. © The Estate of Allan Sekula.



Allan Sekula. *Fish Story: Walking on Water* (Chapter 9). 1990. Eighty 35mm color slides. Duration variable. The Museum of Modern Art, New York. Acquired through the generosity of Marie-Josée Kravis, 2013. © 2015 Allan Sekula.



Allan Sekula, *Lottery of the Sea* (2006), film still.



Allan Sekula and Noël Burch, *Empty cargo ship, The Forgotten Space* (2010), film still.

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NTU CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART SINGAPORE (NTU CCA SINGAPORE)

The NTU CCA Singapore, opened in October 2013, is a national research centre of Nanyang Technological University, developed with support from the Economic Development Board, Singapore. Located in Gillman Barracks alongside a cluster of international galleries, NTU CCA Singapore operates as a local hub with an international perspective under the leadership of its Founding Director, Professor Ute Meta Bauer. The NTU CCA Singapore embraces academic and scholarly research with contemporary art as knowledge production in its own right, taking a holistic approach towards art and culture by intertwining its three platforms: exhibitions, residencies, and research & education.

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NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (NTU)

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, and Social Sciences. It has a new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, set up jointly with Imperial College London. NTU is also home to 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 and 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 a third campus in Novena, Singapore's medical district.



NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore

Exhibitions:

Block 43 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 109443, T: +65 6339 6503

Office & Research Centre:

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Residencies Studios:

Block 37 & 38 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks, Singapore 109452 & 109441

For updates on the public programmes, visit

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Winner of Prudential Eye Awards 2015 'Best Exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art' for *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia* as part of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative.

