

MEDIA RELEASE

Envisioning a better future with Singapore Biennale 2019 exhibitions at LASALLE College of the Arts

Singapore, 22 November 2019

Thirteen international artists and collectives will showcase new and existing works at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts, as part of the Singapore Biennale 2019 (SB2019).

Themed *Every Step in the Right Direction*, SB2019 employs the medium of art to examine how change can be made for a more humane world. The four-month long event will be held at 11 venues, including LASALLE's ICA Singapore from 22 November 2019 to 22 March 2020.

Selected by SB2019 artistic director Patrick Flores and his curatorial team, the thirteen exhibiting artists at the ICA Singapore extend their research into subjects such as nationhood, racial politics, identity, the environment and indigenous communities. From videos, sound, installations, data visualisations and speculative fiction, these 'activated' works provide varied, reflective narratives and lenses on the world.

"We are proud to partner with the Singapore Biennale for the third time. With the Biennale at our iconic city campus, not only will our students have the invaluable learning opportunity to witness contemporary art in action, it also contextualises the significance of the arts and this year's theme *Every Step in the Right Direction* through questions we ask every day here at LASALLE. What can artists do to shape the future? How do we constantly think about a range of issues in our work? This is so important to our ethos as an arts college and I look forward to the vibrant conversations and exchange of ideas that will no doubt arise from this remarkable exhibition," said Professor Steve Dixon, President of LASALLE.

Debuting at LASALLE's ICA Singapore are several exciting commissions – **Arnont Nongyao** investigates the act of listening in social situations through audio recordings of Thailand's vibrant marketplaces; **Gary-Ross Pastrana** explores the nature of objects to take on different meanings in a performance against a theatre set; The **Centro Audiovisual Max Stahl Timor-Leste (CAMSTL)** offers insight into the fraught history of the young nation-state through archive footage. A re-visit of

Soyung Lee's and **Miljohn Ruperto's** work also opens up timely questions about human's relationship with nature.

SB2019's Artistic Director Patrick Flores says, "We are delighted to collaborate with LASALLE and the works sited in the College's galleries speak to the interest of the context in constant learning and engaged investigation. This interest links up well with the desire of the Biennale to generate a festival-seminar atmosphere, and the spaces allow the Biennale to activate the works and release them from their supposedly final form or appearance. This curiosity and this sense of inquiry lie at the heart of LASALLE's principles as a contemporary space and an institution of creative and critical agents."

Several LASALLE fine arts alumni are also exhibiting at other locations for SB2019. Cultural Medallion recipient **Amanda Heng** invites members of the public to take a stroll with her. This new iteration of her renowned *Let's Walk* series aims to spark reflection on our relationship to the outside world. Another alumnus **Dennis Tan** employs a traditional Southeast Asian sport, *kolek* racing, to discuss the importance of oral history. Such accessible, entry points enable individuals to deepen their relationship with art and society, and is one of the goals of the biennale.

Joining Amanda and Dennis are other LASALLE alumni, including Young Artist Award recipient **Kray Chen**, who welcomes visitors to rehearse for a wedding by going through traditional rituals, **Khairullah Rahim**, who blurs private and public spaces with four installations, and the late **Juliana Yasin**, who shares the joy of collaboration through two music albums.

In conjunction with SB2019, Baby Tropical Lab (BTL) – jointly organised by LASALLE College of the Arts, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with Singapore Art Museum – will open at Gillman Barracks on 22 November 2019. The exhibition showcases artworks that are the culmination of what students learned from BTL, which consisted of a series of talks and workshops by Singapore Biennale artists and curators as well as in-situ art-making facilitated by LASALLE Senior Fellow Milenko Prvacki.

Event information

Title: Singapore Biennale 2019 – Every Step in the Right Direction
Exhibition period: Fri, 22 Nov – Sun, 22 Mar 2020
Opening hours: Mon – Sun, 10:00am – 7:00pm, including Public Holidays
(Closed from Tue 24 Dec 2019 – Wed 1 Jan 2020 for College-wide maintenance)
Location: Gallery 1 and Earl Lu Gallery, Institute of Contemporary Arts
Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts, 1 McNally Street,
Singapore 187940

Annex

Annex A: Exhibiting artists' profiles

About LASALLE

LASALLE College of the Arts is Asia's leading tertiary institution in contemporary arts and design education and practice. The college offers 30 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fine arts, design communication, interior design, product design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, arts pedagogy and practice, art therapy, Asian art histories and creative writing.

LASALLE provides an interdisciplinary learning environment to inspire the next generation of forward-looking, globally engaged artists, designers and leaders of creative industries.

Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence.

Founded in 1984 by the late de la Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a non-profit, private educational institution. LASALLE receives tuition grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

About LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore

The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Singapore is the curatorial division of LASALLE College of the Arts. Situated at LASALLE's dynamic city campus, the ICA Singapore's five galleries present a programme of curated international exhibitions alongside exhibitions organised with students, academic staff and alumni. The institute provides curatorial expertise and resources in the areas of exhibition development, display and mediation, publishing and education, and manages the LASALLE College of the Arts Collection.

Founded as the Dr Earl Lu Gallery in 1986, the ICA Singapore is committed to exchange between artists and LASALLE students. Through experimental art projects and publications, the institute fosters public appreciation, debate and critical viewing of contemporary art. Projects are realised in close collaboration with artists. They reflect Southeast Asia's cultural diversity, and connect with new directions in international art.

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 (SAM) to organise the 2011, 2013, 2016, and 2019 editions.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Sabrina Zhang
Division of Communications
LASALLE College of the Arts
6496 5221
sabrina.zhang@lasalle.edu.sg

Theodore Woon
Pinpoint PR
9155 3507
theo@pinpointpr.sg

Annex A

Soyung Lee (Korea) is interested in reflecting the aspects of how the culture and lifestyle of a region are related in an individual's sensibilities. She obtained her MA from Korea National University of Arts in 2004 and a PhD in visual arts from Yonsei University in 2015. Her solo exhibitions include presentations at Sewoon Electronic Plaza (Seoul, 2017), Cattle Depot Artist Village (Hong Kong, 2016) and Titanik Gallery (Turku, Finland, 2008). Lee's selected group exhibitions include: Seoul Mediacity Biennale (2018) and 'Final Fantasy' at HITE Collection Gallery (Seoul, 2017). She lives and works in Seoul, South Korea.

Prapat Jiwangsan (Thailand) often incorporates a variety of media in his practice, especially the slide projector, photography and video, in order to investigate and represent the relationships between history, memory and politics in Thailand, particularly on the theme of migration. In recent years, his practice has focused on researching the experience of migrant workers outside of their home countries. His installations have appeared in Bangkok, Brussels, Gwangju, Hong Kong, London and Tokyo, while his videos have been screened at film events such as the International Film Festival Rotterdam and the Onion City Experimental Film and Video Festival in Chicago. He lives and works in Bangkok, Thailand.

Arnont Nongyao (Thailand) is a sound artist with a particular interest in vibration. Most of his works are experimental and research-driven; they are a search for a relationship between things such as objects, human beings and society. His works often use low-fi or analogue-based methods and are created from a limitation of technology rather than its advancement. Arnont has presented his work widely at exhibitions and festivals locally and internationally. His groundbreaking solo exhibition was 'Another Sound,' a co-work with Khvay Loeung, at Sa Sa Art projects (Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 2018). Arnont is also the Co-Director of Chiang Mai Collective (CMC). He lives and works in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Gary-Ross Pastrana (Philippines) obtained his BA in Painting from the University of the Philippines in 2000. He received the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Thirteen Artists award in 2006. Selected exhibitions include: the New Museum Triennial (New York, 2012), Busan Biennale (2008), 'Sydney Contemporary' at Carriageworks (Australia, 2017), as well as solo shows at Silverlens Galleries (Manila, the Philippines, 2018) and Vargas Museum (Manila, the Philippines, 2014). In 2004, he co-founded the art space Future Prospects in Manila. He has also organised and curated shows for Silverlens Galleries (Manila and Singapore), g23 Gallery (Thailand) and the Kyoto Art Center (Japan). He lives and works in Manila, the Philippines.

Hafiz Rancajale (Indonesia) is an artist, curator and one of the founders of the collective ruangrupa. Hafiz often works in video, using the form of the documentary; for him, film or cinema is not just entertainment, but can be seen as a product of culture, education and visual knowledge. Some of his films include: 'Syuhada' at the Indonesian Film Festival (2005), 'Dongeng Rangkas' at the Yogyakarta Documentary Film Festival (2011) and 'Angry at Bumi Lambu' at the Indonesian Film Appreciation (2014). In 2003, Hafiz spearheaded 'Forum Lenteng,' a community engaged in alternative education and the development of audio-visual media knowledge. He lives and works in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Tracey Rose (South Africa) works across performance, photography, video and installation. Often based in performance, Rose's work considers – and forces the viewer to reconsider – the formation of identity and racial politics, and her practice explores cultural stereotypes imposed on Africans, women, and African women. Her work has been exhibited extensively in South Africa, including at the 2nd Johannesburg Biennial (1997); other selected exhibitions include documenta 14 (Athens, Greece and Kassel, Germany, 2017), ZKM | Center for Art and Media (Karlsruhe, Germany, 1999) and the New Museum (New York, 1999). She currently lives and works in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Miljohn Ruperto (Philippines) received his BA from the University of California, Berkeley in 1999 and an MA in sculpture from Yale University in 2002. His work has been exhibited at several venues, notably at the Whitney Biennial (New York, 2014), 'Made in L.A.' at the Hammer Museum (Los Angeles, 2012) and Shenzhen and Hong Kong Bi-City Biennale of Urbanism / Architecture (Shenzhen, China, 2007). He has presented his projects such as 'What We Know that We Don't Know' at KADIST (San Francisco, 2017) and 'Nervous Systems' at Haus der Kulturen der Welt (Berlin, 2016). He lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.

Marie Voignier (France) studied at the Ecole nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon, and received a degree in Physics from the Technical University of Berlin as well as a degree in Gender Studies from Humboldt University of Berlin. She directed and presented 'Hearing the Shape of a Drum' at Berlin Biennale (2010), 'Hinterland' at Prix des médiathèques FID (Marseille, 2009) and 'Le Bruit du Canon' at Prix du court-métrage – Cinéma du Réel (Paris, 2007). Her works have been shown at Nordart (Germany, 2019), Venice Biennale (2017) and Berlin International Film Festival (2017), amongst others. She lives and works in Paris, France.

Centro Audiovisual Max Stahl Timor-Leste (CAMSTL) (Timor Leste) is the world's leading archive on audio-visual material pertaining to Timor-Leste's history, culture and traditions. The archive is currently home to more than 6,000 hours of material. Its collection on Timor-Leste's struggle for independence, collectively titled 'On the Birth of a Nation: Turning Points,' was inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2013.

Desire Machine Collective (India) was founded by Sonal Jain and Mriganka Madhukaillya. They create films, videos, photography, sound and multi-media installations that consider space and time, with particular reference to human habitation, natural environments and their occupation. Many of their works are based in remote parts of India, including Kashmir and their home state of Assam. Their work has been widely shown: including at the New Museum (New York), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum (New York), Musée d'art contemporain de Lyon (France), Deutsche Guggenheim (Berlin) and 54th Venice Biennale (2011). They live and work in Guwahati, India.

The Mamitua Saber Project (MSP) (Trans-regional) looks into the artistic and cultural custodianship of Mamitua Saber, a Muslim sociologist and educator who co-founded the Aga Khan Museum of Islamic Arts, and Mindanao State University. Through three projects by artists and collectives (Bakudapan Food Study Group, Mark Sanchez, and •• PROPAGANDA DEPARTMENT), Saber's work on marginal leaders and the formation of cultural institutions will be expanded.