



26 October 2013 to 16 February 2014  
Vernissage: 24 & 25 October 2013

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### First Shortlist of Artists for Singapore Biennale 2013 Revealed

**Singapore, 9 May 2013** – The first list of artists shortlisted for the Singapore Biennale 2013 (SB2013), the country's premier biennial contemporary art exhibition, was announced today.

As Singapore's key international platform dedicated to foster artist presentation and discourse in contemporary art, this year's Biennale is focused on harnessing the energy of the Southeast Asia region to build a distinctive Asian identity for itself. Through a bold collaborative curatorial model that combines the expertise and specialised knowledge of 27 co-curators from across Southeast Asia, 52 artists have been identified by the co-curators. This shortlist includes proposals submitted through an open call held from 7 September to 21 December 2012.

The list comprises established as well as emerging artists primarily based in or with links to Southeast Asia, such as Albert Samreth and Svay Sareth from Cambodia; Eko Prawoto and Mahardika Yudha from Indonesia; Marisa Darasavath from Laos; Jainal Amambing, Chris Chong Chan Fui and Zulkifli Yusoff from Malaysia; Po Po from Myanmar; Leslie de Chavez and Siete Pesos from Philippines; Guo Yixiu, Lai Chee Kien and Suzann Victor from Singapore; Nipan Oranniwesna, Prateep Suthathongthai and Nopchai Ungkavatanapong from Thailand; Le Brothers and Oanh Phi Phi from Vietnam. The list also includes President's Young Talents Boo Junfeng and Liao Jiekai, who received the *President's Young Talents Credit Suisse Artist Commissioning Award* to create new works for the Biennale; as well as Erica Lai, Hazel Lim, Tay Bee Aye and ZNC who were announced earlier for their proposals, which involve the participation of local students. Other artists from beyond the region include Francois Roche

An institution of



Supported by



from France and Australia-based Ken and Julia Yonetani. The works proposed by this first batch of artists demonstrate the breadth of art styles and practices within the region, and reveal what audiences can expect at this year's Biennale. For the artist shortlist, please refer to Annex A.

### **CHANGE AND DIVERSITY**

The artists were shortlisted for their proposals that resonate with the title of SB2013 – *If The World Changed*. An invitation to reflect, meditate and envision responses to our changing worlds and the worlds we want to live in, the title is manifested in the works, which comprise both existing works and new commissions, and span various mediums, including:

- **Installations** such as Suzann Victor's technically challenging *Rainbow Circle* (working title) that will create an indoor circular rainbow on a curtain of water in the Rotunda of the National Museum of Singapore; Eko Prawoto's large outdoor installation *Wormhole*, its dramatic bamboo walls invite the public to enter and partake in an intimate and meditative encounter with nature amidst the busy urban cityscape of Bras Basah. Bugis precinct, and Guo Yixiu's ingenious portraits composed by weaving raffia string on fences in the precinct (*title to be confirmed*);
- **Paintings** including Ng Joon Kiat's textural, yet delicate *Lit Cities*, which recreates maps of cities and question the identity of cities in an increasingly globalised world and Jainal Amambing's *My Longhouse Story*, a series of paintings that depict the various aspects of living in longhouses in East Malaysia;
- **Photography** works such as Sean Lee's intimate *The Garden*, which documents the physical changes our bodies undergo as we age, meditating on the transience of human life, and Prateet Suthathongthai's *Stillness of Reflection: 2013* (working title), a site-specific work that plays with visual recognition and illusion, reconsidering the SAM courtyard space through photo collage;
- **Video** works including the Le Brothers' contemplative work *Into the Sea*, which tells the story of separation and unity and more;
- **Collaborative** works co-created with local communities in the region, including the AX(iS) Art Project's *AX(iS): The Halsema Project* (working title), a series of art activities held in collaboration with indigenous communities in Baguio City, to re-ignite an interest and involvement in art among rural settlers; Ahmad Abu Bakar's *Sampan* (working title) and Shirley Soh's *Seeing from the Other*, collaborative works with male and female inmates from Changi Prison respectively, to surface the issue of acceptance and forgiveness in society today and the hopes and dreams of the individual inmates for the future.

According to a statement by the co-curators, “We are excited about the shortlisted artists. As accomplished artists in their respective fields, they are the ones whom we want people all around the world to engage and interact with through their works and projects. Their proposals resonate with the theme of this year’s Biennale, and we hope visitors will also be able to relate to the multiple worlds reflected in their creations. With a focus on Southeast Asia, we also hope many people will come to know the diversity of contemporary art practice and the region better.”

Mr. Tan Boon Hui, Director of Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and co-curator of SB2013 said, “I am tremendously excited by the work of these artists that we have collectively shortlisted for SB2013. SAM is humbled by the dedication and sheer depth of knowledge that our co-curators have brought to the Biennale, identifying, nurturing and opening up the Biennale spaces to diverse artistic voices and shadings that the museum alone would have never been able to conceive. The range of art styles and practices collectively encapsulated by this first group of artists show conclusively that Southeast Asia is an indelible part of the global art arena in all its colourings – whether it be in familiar mediums such as painting and sculpture to new digital forms of photography and video, to large scale public art and spectacular installations. We need not be second to anyone. SAM has, since 2009, been a vocal advocate for the value of contemporary visual art in Southeast Asia. SB2013 is now a crucial platform that allows us, with the collaboration of the co-curators, to foster regional conversations and building capabilities in contemporary art in Singapore.”

### **MY BIENNALE. MY WORLD.**

Besides artists, SB2013 would also like members of the public to participate and engage with this year’s title through a series of *My Biennale. My World.* programmes. To kick off *My Biennale. My World.*, from 9 May to 16 June, the public is invited to respond to the SB2013 title for the chance to have their entries featured on Biennale merchandise and other platforms. Participants simply need to complete the sentence “If The World Changed, ...” by posting their entries through the SB2013 and SAM Facebook pages, the SAM Twitter and Instagram accounts (@IAmASAMbody) or by email to sb2013@nhb.gov.sg. Successful participants whose entries are featured on official SB2013 merchandise will also receive 10 sets of the merchandise item. For full details, please see Annex B.

SB2013 is organised by SAM of the National Heritage Board and is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth and the National Arts Council. It will run from 26 October 2013 to 16 February 2014.

-END-

**For more information, please read on:**

- **Annex A** – Singapore Biennale 2013 Shortlisted Artists
- **Annex B** – *My Biennale. My World.* programme #1

**Please also download and refer to the separate attachment (available at [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/sb2013/shortlistedartistbios.pdf](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/sb2013/shortlistedartistbios.pdf)) for bios of the shortlisted artists.**

### **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 places Singapore's artists within a global context, and fosters productive collaborations with the international arts community. In this way, the Biennale provides new opportunities for local visual artists, arts organisations and businesses, and cultivates deeper public engagement with the arts. 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. As with the 2011 edition, Singapore Biennale 2013 is organised by the Singapore Art Museum of the National Heritage Board, and supported by the National Arts Council.

### **About the Singapore Art Museum**

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) focuses on the creation of art in the present moment. It advocates and presents the contemporary art practices of Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, situating them within the global context of art making today. SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region, and its programming aims to introduce new artistic practices and styles to the public, as well as nurturing discerning audiences for contemporary art. SAM is also organiser of the Singapore Biennale 2013 and the past edition in 2011.

### **About the National Arts Council, Singapore**

NAC was set up to spearhead the development of the arts in Singapore while advancing the country's aspiration to be a distinctive global city for the arts. NAC's mission is to nurture the arts and make Singapore's rich and diverse culture an integral part of people's lives. Anchored on the twin strategies of excellence and engagement in the arts, NAC aims to build a vibrant arts sector by creating a conducive environment where the arts is accessible to all, and artistic talents have the necessary resources and capabilities to excel and achieve long-term sustainability. For more information on NAC's programmes and initiatives, please visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg)

---

*For more information, please contact:*

Eileen Chua  
Ogilvy Public Relations  
DID: 6213 9932  
Email: [eileen.chua@ogilvy.com](mailto:eileen.chua@ogilvy.com)

Kim May  
Marketing & Corporate Communications  
Singapore Art Museum  
DID: 6332 3869  
Email: [kim\\_may@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:kim_may@nhb.gov.sg)

Kimberly Mah  
Ogilvy Public Relations  
DID: 6213 9940  
Email: [kimberly.mah@ogilvy.com](mailto:kimberly.mah@ogilvy.com)

Stephanie Aw Yong  
Marketing & Corporate Communications  
Singapore Art Museum  
DID: 6332 3919  
Email: [Stephanie\\_Aw\\_Yong@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:Stephanie_Aw_Yong@nhb.gov.sg)

ANNEX A

Singapore Biennale 2013 Shortlisted Artists

No.	Artist Name	Gender	Born	Country	Lives & Works
1.	Ahmad Abu Bakar	Male	1963	Malaysia	Singapore
2.	Irwan Ahmett & Tita Salina	Male Female	1975 1973	Indonesia	Jakarta
3.	Jainal Amambing	Male	1968	Malaysia	Sabah
4.	Ang Soo Koon	Female	1977	Singapore	Singapore
5.	<p><b>AX(iS) Art Project:</b>  <b>Artists:</b>  Leonard Aquinaldo,  John Frank Sabado,  Rene Aquitania,  The Mighty Buthens,  Kabunyan de Guia,  Oliver Ollivete,  Guillier Lagac,  Tommy Haffalla,  Bencab,  Kidlat Tahimik,  Rommel Pidazo,  Carlo Villafuerte,  Emmanuel Santos,  Jordan Mangosan,  Joey Cobcobo,  Mark Zero,  Shat Verdun,  Arnel Agawin,  Roberto Villanueva,  Santiago Bose,</p> <p><b>Artisans:</b>  Marion Cadeo,  Rogelio Ginanoy,  Jason Taguyungon,  Chris Atiwon,  Apilis Mahiwo,  Jason Domling,  Santos Bayucca,  Nida Dumsay,  Luds Malucay</p> <p><b>Writers:</b>  Dr. David B. Baradas,  Frank Cimatu,  Gawani Domogo,  Rocky Cajigan,  Dr. Padma Perez,</p>	-	2011	Philippines	Baguio

	Dr. Katrin de Guia				
6.	Boo Junfeng	Male	1983	Singapore	Singapore
7.	Chris Chong Chan Fui	Male	1972	Malaysia	Sabah
8.	Marisa Darasavath	Female	1972	Laos	Vientiane
9.	Leslie de Chavez	Male	1978	Philippines	Tayabas, Quezon
10.	Guo Yixiu	Female	1989	Singapore	Singapore
11.	Iswanto Hartono & Raqs Media Collective	Male -	1972 -	Indonesia India	Jakarta New Delhi
12.	Dusadee Huntrakul	Male	1978	Thailand	San Francisco
13.	Lai Chee Kien	Male	1965	Singapore	Singapore
14.	Erica Lai	Female	1981	Singapore	Singapore
15.	Le Brothers	Male	1975	Vietnam	Hue
16.	Sean Lee	Male	1985	Singapore	Singapore
17.	Liao Jiekai	Male	1984	Singapore	Singapore
18.	Hazel Lim	Female	1975	Singapore	Singapore
19.	Lim Shing Ee & Kazunori Takeshi	Female Male	1976 1979	Singapore Japan	Japan
20.	Nikki Luna	Female	1977	Philippines	Manila
21.	Kumari Nahappan	Female	1953	Malaysia	Singapore
22.	Ng Joon Kiat	Male	1976	Singapore	Singapore
23.	Krit Ngamsom	Male	1983	Thailand	Bangkok
24.	Nguyen Huy An	Male	1982	Vietnam	Hanoi
25.	UuDam Tran Nguyen	Male	1971	Vietnam	Ho Chi Minh City, Los Angeles
26.	Oanh Phi Phi	Female	1979	USA	Hanoi, Spain
27.	Nipan Oranniwesna	Male	1962	Thailand	Bangkok

28.	Po Po	Male	1957	Myanmar	Yangon
29.	Eko Prawoto	Male	1958	Indonesia	Jogjakarta
30.	Anggun Priambodo	Male	1977	Indonesia	Jakarta
31.	François Roche	Male	1961	France	Paris, Bangkok, New York
32.	Rosid	Male	1969	Indonesia	Bandung
33.	Sai Hua Kuan	Male	1976	Singapore	Singapore
34.	<b>Siete Pesos:</b> Oscar "Oca" A. Floirendo, Nicolas "Nick" Aca, Jr., Errol P. Balcos, Michael E. Bacol, Michelle Lua, Jericho Valjusto Vamenta, Ma. Rosalie Zerrudo	Male Male Male Male Female Male Female	1970 1969 1976 1977 1977 1976 1970	Philippines	Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao
35.	Albert Samreth	Male	1987	Cambodia	Phnom Penh
36.	Svay Sareth	Male	1972	Cambodia	Siem Reap
37.	Angie Seah	Female	1979	Singapore	Singapore
38.	Jeremy Sharma	Male	1977	Singapore	Singapore
39.	Shirley Soh	Female	1956	Singapore	Singapore
40.	Speak Cryptic	Male	1980	Singapore	Singapore
41.	Prateep Suthathongthai	Male	1980	Thailand	Bangkok
42.	Talaandig Artists	-	Mid- 2000s	Philippines	Songco, Mindanao
43.	Royston Tan	Male	1976	Singapore	Singapore
44.	Tay Bee Aye	Female	1958	Singapore	Singapore
45.	Chi Too	Male	1981	Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur
46.	Nopchai (Toi) Ungkavatanapong	Male	1959	Thailand	Bangkok
47.	Suzann Victor	Female	1959	Singapore	Australia



48.	Ken Yonetani Julia Yonetani	Male Female	1971 1971	Australia Japan	Australia
49.	Mahardika Yudha	Male	1981	Indonesia	Jakarta
50.	Yusoff Zulkifli	Male	1962	Malaysia	Kedah
51.	Robert Zhao	Male	1983	Singapore	Singapore
52.	<b>ZNC (Zincite Crew):</b> Shah Rizzal, Rozaimie Sahbi, Eman Raharno, Md Khairy Ishak, Jojie Chan, Rahman Alhabshie, Fazli, Shukri Samsuri, Mohamed Rizal Bin, Mohamed Amin	-	1998	Singapore	Singapore

## ANNEX B

### MY BIENNALE. MY WORLD. #1

Tell us – what is your world, and what kind of world would you like to live in?

We want to hear from you! Respond to the SB2013's theme, "If The World Changed" for the chance to be featured on official SB2013 merchandise and platforms.

Simply complete this sentence: "If the world changed, ...". For example, "If the world changed, everyone would be born an artist."

Send in your responses from now till 16 June 2013. The best quote(s) might be featured on official SB2013 merchandise and the winner(s) will receive 10 pieces of it!

#### Terms & conditions

- Contest is now open till 16 June 2013
- Entries should be submitted via
  - SB2013 Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/SingaporeBiennaleSB> - 'like' us before you start posting)
  - SAM Facebook page (<http://www.facebook.com/singaporeartmuseum> - 'like' us before you start posting)
  - SAM Twitter (@IAmASAMbody)
  - SAM Instagram (@IAmASAMbody)
  - Email ([sb2013@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:sb2013@nhb.gov.sg))
- For users submitting on Twitter and Instagram, hashtag your entries with #sb2013. Users must make their profiles public in order for hashtag to be recorded
- Multiple entries are allowed
- Winning entries for feature on SB2013 merchandise will be selected by SAM and the SB2013 co-curators. All other entries may also be featured on other SB2013 platforms eg SB website, Facebook.
- Winners will be notified by 21 June by email and/or telephone. Winning entries will subsequently be posted on SB2013 website, SB2013/SAM Facebook page
- Winners will receive 10 sets of the merchandise item where their entry appears on by 30 November 2013. These items are not transferable and cannot be exchanged for cash or any other goods or services
- The organiser reserves the right to reasonably amend the terms of the contest and contestants and winners agree to be bound by the same
- Winners are selected at the organiser's discretion and the selections are final. No correspondence will be entertained.
- By submitting entries for *My Biennale. My World.*, participants agree to the disclosure of their names and other particulars for publicity purposes and agree to grant the organiser full rights to own and use the quotes in marketing and publicity materials and activities.