

Media Release

For Immediate Release

SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2016 DATES ANNOUNCED

Singapore Biennale 2016 to be organised by Singapore's contemporary art museum

Singapore, 29 July 2015 – The Singapore Art Museum today announced the dates for the 2016 edition of the Singapore Biennale, the country's pre-eminent platform for international dialogue in contemporary art. Commissioned by the National Arts Council, the Singapore Biennale will return for its fifth edition from 27 October 2016 to 26 February 2017. Singapore Art Museum will once again take on the role of organiser of the Biennale.

Established in 2006, the Singapore Biennale presents and reflects the vigour of artistic practices here in Singapore, the region and internationally. Through productive collaborations and deep engagement with artists, arts organisations and businesses, the Biennale enhances Singapore's reputation as a creative centre that embraces the visual arts. At the same time, the Biennale is anticipated by Singaporeans and visitors as a highlight on the city's cultural calendar, for its thought-provoking art and a meaningful exchange of ideas.

In 2013, the Singapore Biennale titled *If the World Changed*, attracted a record number of more than 560,000 visitors over a four month period, surpassing those of earlier editions. Beyond having 82 artists and art collectives from 13 countries presenting works at the Biennale, a number of outreach and education programmes were also held. With a total of 38 engaging programmes and activities, the 2013 edition actively engaged over 2,000 people in talks and workshops with artists, curators and academics.

Singapore Biennale 2016 will be organised by the Singapore Art Museum and commissioned by the National Arts Council.

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About the Singapore Art Museum

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is a contemporary art museum which focuses on art-making and art-thinking in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, encompassing a worldwide perspective on contemporary art practice. SAM advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice. Since it opened in January 1996, SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region. It seeks to seed and nourish a stimulating and creative space in Singapore through exhibitions and public programmes, and to deepen every visitor's experience. These include outreach and education, research and publications, as well as cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges.

SAM occupies two buildings: the old St Joseph's Institution on Bras Basah Road, built in 1855 and now a National Monument; and SAM at 8Q, a conservation building across the road on Queen Street that was the old Catholic High School.

In 2011, SAM was the venue organiser of the Singapore Biennale, becoming the main organiser in 2013. SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013, operating under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and is no longer part of the National Heritage Board. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

About the National Arts Council, Singapore

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, we want to develop a distinctive global city for the arts. With a nod to tradition and an eye to the future, we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, please visit www.nac.gov.sg