

Media Release

22 August 2017

Dr June Yap to Join Singapore Art Museum as Director of Curatorial, Programmes and Publications

1 The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is pleased to announce that Dr June Yap will join the team at SAM as Director of Curatorial, Programmes and Publications with effect from 1 September 2017.

2 Dr Yap joins SAM with a decade and a half of local and international curatorial experience, including a two-year curatorial residency at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York. No stranger to SAM, she has spearheaded new media exhibitions as a curator with the museum in 2003 and 2004, and has since also supported the museum as a member on the Acquisitions Committee and the recent Singapore Biennale 2016 Advisory Committee.

3 This role will see Dr Yap overseeing SAM's content creation, adding her expertise and experience to the SAM curatorial team in the lead up to SAM's revamp, future programming and planning.

4 Dr Yap will report to Ms Chong Siak Ching, who is Deputy Chair of the SAM Executive Committee of the Board and Head of the Visual Arts Cluster overseeing the National Gallery of Singapore, Singapore Art Museum, and STPI. Ms Chong has served on the SAM Board of Directors since 2013.

5 Reflecting on her new role, Dr Yap says, "SAM has come a long way since it first opened in 1996. This period of rejuvenation and improvement of its buildings presents a great opportunity for reflection upon the museum's historic moments, as well as to forge its future path. I look forward to working with the team at SAM, and to sharing with our audiences and public our upcoming programmes and offerings."

6 Ms Jane Ittogi, Chair of the SAM Board, says "SAM is at a major milestone in its journey. MCCY and SAM are working closely on the revamp of SAM's buildings, to realise our ambitions as a leading Asian contemporary art museum. I have no doubt that Dr June Yap's coming in to lead SAM's team of highly capable curators will take our research and programming of contemporary art into new territory."

7 SAM corporatised on 13 November 2013, and is widely recognised as an art museum that champions the contemporary art practices of leading and emerging artists from Singapore and the region. SAM will continue to focus and present interdisciplinary contemporary art practices of Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia within a global perspective. For more information about our programming, please visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

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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.

In 2011, SAM was the venue organiser of the Singapore Biennale, becoming the main organiser in 2013 and 2016. SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013, operating under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

About Dr June Yap

Dr June Yap is a Singapore-based independent curator; her prior roles include Guggenheim UBS MAP Curator (South and Southeast Asia), Deputy Director and Curator at the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, and curator at the Singapore Art Museum.

Amongst exhibitions she has curated are *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia* as part of the Guggenheim UBS MAP Global Art Initiative, *The Cloud of Unknowing* at the 54th Venice Biennale with artist Ho Tzu Nyen (Italy), the video programme *You and I, We've Never Been So Far Apart: Works from Asia* in VideoZone5 for the Center for Contemporary Art in Tel Aviv (Israel), *The Future of Exhibition: It Feels Like I've Been Here Before* at the Institute of Contemporary Arts (Singapore), *Das Paradies ist Anderswo / Paradise is Elsewhere* at Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (ifa) (Germany), *Bound for Glory* with artist Wong Hoy Cheong at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Museum, *MATAHATI* at Galeri Petronas (Kuala Lumpur), media art exhibitions *Interrupt* and *Twilight Tomorrow* at the Singapore Art Museum, and *Dear Painter* at Sundaram Tagore (Singapore). She is the author of *Retrospective: A Historiographical Aesthetic in Contemporary Singapore and Malaysia* (2016).