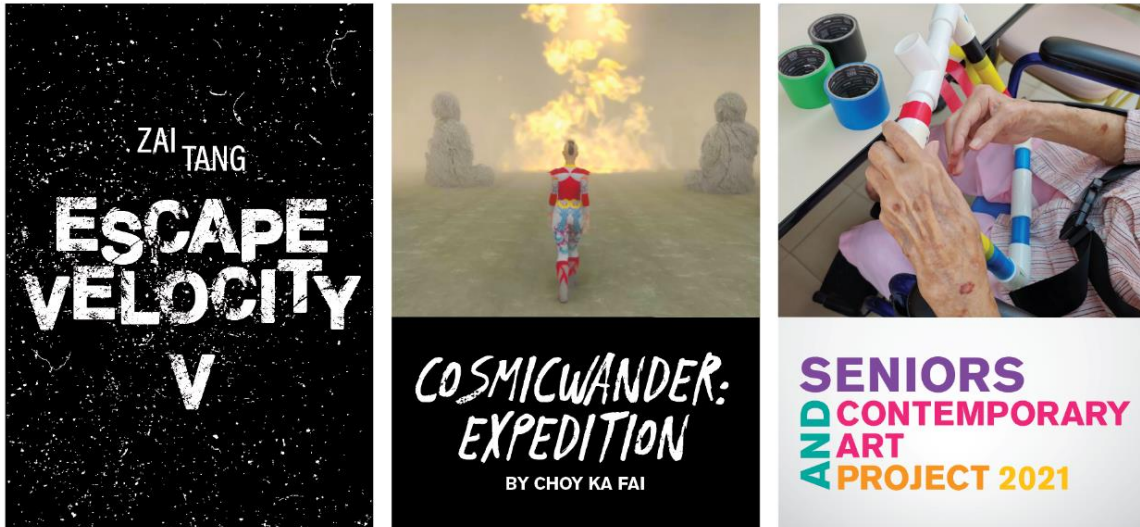


MEDIA RELEASE

SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM KICKSTARTS 2021 WITH MULTI-DISCIPLINARY EXHIBITIONS ACROSS DIFFERENT VENUES DURING SINGAPORE ART WEEK

Immerse in art experiences by SAM this January at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore Botanic Gardens, and National Gallery Singapore



'Escape Velocity V' by Zai Tang at National Gallery Singapore; 'CosmicWander: Expedition' by Choy Ka Fai at Tanjong Pagar Distripark; Seniors and Contemporary Art Exhibition at Singapore Botanic Gardens

Singapore, 5 January 2021 – Singapore Art Museum (SAM) presents three exhibitions: *CosmicWander: Expedition*, *Escape Velocity V*, and *Seniors and Contemporary Art* as part of Singapore Art Week 2021 from 22 to 30 January 2021. Taking place at different venues while SAM's buildings undergo redevelopment, the exhibitions feature multi-disciplinary art practices with the innovative use of technology, multimedia and performance, and showcase SAM's collaborations with the community.

Held at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, the exhibition *CosmicWander: Expedition* by Choy Ka Fai focuses on dance and the body in exploring different states of reality. *Escape Velocity V*, an immersive sound installation by artist Zai Tang presented at the National Gallery Singapore's The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery, questions what it means to listen to nature in a time of ecological crisis. The *Seniors and Contemporary Art* exhibition at the Singapore Botanic

Gardens presents contemporary artworks co-created by local artists and seniors in nursing homes.

CosmicWander: Expedition

Berlin-based Singapore artist Choy Ka Fai presents *CosmicWander: Expedition*, a multi-disciplinary exhibition that takes the body as a conceptual device for explorations into “post-human” choreographic ideas and alternative states of consciousness. His ongoing project, *CosmicWander*, explores shamanistic dance cultures in Asia. Having ventured into the region in search of spectacular trance experiences, the artist has met over 50 shamans and filmed extraordinary dance rituals, from the wilderness of Siberia to the mythological practices in Java.

CosmicWander: Expedition is a work-in-progress presentation of Choy’s research. Set up as an experiential installation, it features the artist’s perspective on humanity’s attempt to connect, to question, and to perceive and interact with different states of reality. Stories and images composed from his invigorating encounters with “altered states” are weaved with the artist’s speculations, resulting in a choreographic sequence of moving images, text and spectacle, inspired by practices observed in Singapore, Indonesia, Siberia, Taiwan and Vietnam.

The exhibition is on from 16 January to 21 February 2021 at Tanjong Pagar Distripark. A virtual gallery of the exhibition with excerpts from the video works will be available online on [SAM’s website](#) from end January. There will also be programmes, including a multimedia performance on 16 January, a lecture by Choy Ka Fai on 22 January and a panel conversation on 30 January 2021. All events will be livestreamed on SAM’s [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#) channels.

Escape Velocity V

Escape Velocity V is an immersive sound installation by artist Zai Tang that evokes places in Singapore where wildlife is threatened by hyper-development. Over the past ten years, Tang has recorded the songs and calls of hundreds of different creatures in Bukit Brown Cemetery, MacRitchie Reservoir, Mandai, the Rail Corridor, and Pulau Ubin – areas rich in biodiversity but under threat from human development. Based on his field recordings, Tang has produced

a sonic composition set to the accelerated tempo of the city, where previously recognisable voices morph into abstract presences and ghostly spectres.

Escape Velocity V will take audiences into an archive of disappearing sounds through an audio-visual experience featuring drawings, shadow play, and digital animation. On a journey from dusk into the night, audiences are invited to dwell in sound and eventual darkness. In this otherworldly atmosphere, Tang asks what it means to listen to nature in a time of ecological crisis, and how we can imagine a different relationship with the wildlife around us.

The exhibition is on from 21 January to 14 March 2021 at The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery, National Gallery Singapore.

Seniors and Contemporary Art Exhibition

The Seniors and Contemporary Art exhibition is presented by SAM and Society for the Aged Sick, with the support of the Agency for Integrated Care, RSVP Singapore and Singapore Botanic Gardens. It is the culmination of the Seniors and Contemporary Art Project, a programme that engages seniors in nursing homes through contemporary art. In its first edition, SAM is pleased to collaborate with Singaporean artists Justin Lee, Zulkifle Mahmud and Tang Ling Nah. Artworks co-created by the artists with seniors from Society for the Aged Sick during virtual art-making workshops will be showcased at the exhibition. These creations are inspired by the artists' artwork adaptations in the SAM Touch Collection.

Extending from his work *East & West*, Justin Lee presents *Light and Lines*, featuring motifs traditionally found during festivals and everyday life. His practice of exploring Western pop art and traditional Eastern imagery is translated into light sculptures designed by the seniors. Zulkifle Mahmud's *Emotional Frames*, echoes his work *Raising Spirits and Restoring Souls*, bringing together 16 frames that reflect the emotions and experiences of the seniors during the pandemic. *Modelling a Neighbourhood* by Tang Ling Nah revisits her installation *An Other Space Within the House II, Scenes I & II*, to create architectural models of neighbourhoods that the seniors have either lived in or imagine living in.

The exhibition is on from 22 January to 28 February 2021 at the Singapore Botanic Gardens.

CosmicWander: Expedition, Escape Velocity V and *Seniors and Contemporary Art* exhibitions are organised by SAM and part of Singapore Art Week 2021. SAM's ongoing exhibitions also include *Time Passes*, SAM Mini Mobile Museum: *The Dream From The Other Side* by Melissa Tan, and SAM Hoarding Commissions *Sub/merged* by Finbarr Fallon and *An Unnatural History* by Darel Seow with Lee Xin Li. A complete calendar of programme details can be found at: <https://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg/art-events>

For more information, please refer to the following annexes:

Annex A: Artist Biographies

Annex B: Exhibition Dates and Venues

Images are available for download at: <http://bit.ly/images-SAW2021>

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For further information, please contact:

Aneesha Shetty

DID: +9710 5989

Email: aneesha@phish-comms.com

Kerissa Ng

DID: +65 9770 5212

Email: kerissa@phish-comms.com

Gwyneth Liew

Singapore Art Museum

DID: +65 6697 9753

Email: gwyneth.liew@singaporeartmuseum.sg

About the Singapore Art Museum

Singapore Art Museum 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. The museum buildings are currently closed for a major building redevelopment, with museum programming continuing at partner venues until the buildings re-open.

SAM is the organiser of the Singapore Biennale in 2011, 2013, 2016 and 2019. 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.singaporeart-museum.sg

Annex A: Artist Biographies

***CosmicWander: Expedition* by Choy Ka Fai**

Choy Ka Fai
b. 1979, Singapore

Choy Ka Fai's multi-disciplinary art practice situates itself at the intersection of dance, media art and performance. At the heart of his research is a continuous exploration of the metaphysics of the human body. Through research expeditions, pseudo-scientific experiments and documentary performances, Choy appropriates technologies and narratives to imagine new futures of the human body. His projects have been presented in major institutions, exhibitions and festivals worldwide, including Escape Routes, Bangkok Art Biennale (2020); Taipei Arts Festival (2019 and 2020); Liveworks Festival, CarriageWorks, Sydney (2019); Kyoto Experiment (2019); Sadler's Wells, London (2016), ImPulsTanz Festival, Vienna (2015 and 2018) and Tanz Im August, Berlin (2013 and 2015). He was the resident artist at tanzhaus nrw in Düsseldorf (2017–19) and Künstlerhaus Bethanien in Berlin (2014–15). In 2010, he was awarded the Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council, Singapore. Choy lives and works in Berlin.

Escape Velocity V

Zai Tang
b. 1984, United Kingdom

Zai Tang is an artist whose practice spans sound, drawing, animation, and performance. He creates immersive affecting experiences that explore notions of awareness and connectivity between human and nonhuman worlds. His process begins with field recordings from wildlife-rich habitats under threat, which are then abstracted and visualised using both analogue and digital techniques. His recent works have been presented at the Busan Biennale (2020), NTT InterCommunication Centre (2020), Lofoten International Art Festival (2020), Singapore Biennale (2019), SGIFF (2019), Yinchuan Biennale (2018), Kuala Lumpur Experimental Film Festival (2018), and the Singapore International Festival of Arts (2017).

Seniors and Contemporary Art Exhibition

Justin Lee

b. 1963, Singapore

Justin Lee was awarded Mont Blanc Young Artist World Patronage Project 2006, Hamburg, German. He was also awarded the Lasalle Scholarship (Master of Fine Art), NAFA Scholarship for his BA degree course in Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore in 2005 and the National Art Council-Georgette Chen Arts Scholarship for his Diploma in Fine Arts from the Lasalle-SIA College of the Arts, Singapore which he completed in 1999. In 2000, he was selected to complete a 6-month intensive training programme at the Tyler Print Workshop in New York, under Mr. Ken Tyler's supervision. He returned to Singapore and was an apprentice with the Singapore Tyler Institute in the first two years after his return.

Zulkifle Mahmud

b. 1975, Singapore

Zulkifle Mahmud is one of Singapore's leading sound artists. ZUL has been at the forefront of a generation of sound-media artists in Singapore's contemporary art development - one of the genres of international contemporary art-making that has been garnering interest for its interdisciplinary approach and experimental edge. ZUL represented Singapore with a Sound Art Performance at the Ogaki Biennale in 2006, and was Singapore's first sound artist with a full-on sound sculpture at the Singapore Pavilion of the 52nd Venice Biennale 2007.

Tang Ling Nah

b. 1975, Singapore

Tang Ling Nah is a Singapore-based artist and independent curator. She is inspired by urban transitional spaces, and her art practice explores buildings, places and architectural spaces as communicators of stories about life. Her works traverse a range of media including charcoal drawings, book art, installations, performances, films and videos. In 2008, Tang represented Singapore in the 2nd Singapore Biennale and exhibited in the Singapore Pavilion at the 11th International Architecture Biennale in Venice. Her awards include the Singapore National Arts Council's Young Artist Award (Art) 2004, the Juror's Choice, Philip Morris Singapore-ASEAN Art Awards 2003, and the Della Butcher Award 2000. Tang is also Artistic Director of the Drawing Out Conversations exhibition series, which explores contemporary drawing and has been presented in Hong Kong, Singapore and Taipei.

Annex B: Exhibition Dates and Venues

Exhibition Title	Date	Venue
<i>Time Passes</i> bit.ly/SAM-timepasses	4 Sep 20 – 21 Feb 21	Singtel Special Exhibition Gallery B, National Gallery Singapore
SAM Mini Mobile Museum: <i>The Dream from the Other Side</i> by Melissa Tan bit.ly/sammmm-melissa	16 Dec 20 – 31 Jan 21	Jurong Regional Library
SAM Hoarding Commission: <i>Sub/merged</i> by Finbarr Fallon bit.ly/Sub-merged	18 Dec 20 – 6 Jun 21	Singapore Art Museum Hoarding along Bras Basah Road
SAM Hoarding Commission: <i>An Unnatural History</i> by Darel Seow with Lee Xin Li bit.ly/SAM-AnUnnaturalHistory	18 Dec 20 – 6 Jun 21	SAM at 8Q Hoarding along Queen Street
<i>CosmicWander: Expedition</i> by Choy Ka Fai bit.ly/CosmicWander-Expedition	16 Jan 21 – 21 Feb 21	Tanjong Pagar Distripark, #01-02 to 04
<i>Escape Velocity V</i> bit.ly/EscapeVelocityV	21 Jan 21 – 14 Mar 21	The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery, National Gallery Singapore
Seniors and Contemporary Art Exhibition bit.ly/SeniorsandContemporaryArtProject	22 Jan 21 – 28 Feb 21	Singapore Botanic Gardens Art Exhibition: Tanglin Green Pavilion & Nassim Gate Visitor Centre Exhibition Process: People's Gallery (Tanglin, Nassim and Bukit Timah Gates)