

gallery tours

Free daily tours
Explore the rich history of our buildings and collections by joining one of our guided tours led by trained docents.

To reserve a slot, register online or proceed to Visitor Services at Level B1 at least 30 minutes before the tour starts. Limited slots are available on a first come, first service basis. Tour participants should obtain or purchase admission tickets prior to joining a tour.

Building Highlights
English | Thursday-Sunday | 1:00pm
Mandarin | Saturday-Sunday | 10:30am

DBS Singapore Gallery Highlights
English | Thursday-Sunday | 1:00pm
Mandarin | Saturday-Sunday | 12:00pm

Highlights of Proposals for Novel Ways of Being
English | Saturday | 2:00pm
Mandarin | Saturday | 1:30pm

Highlights of Suddenly Turning Visible: Art and Architecture in Southeast Asia (1969-1989)
English | Friday | 2:00pm

director's message



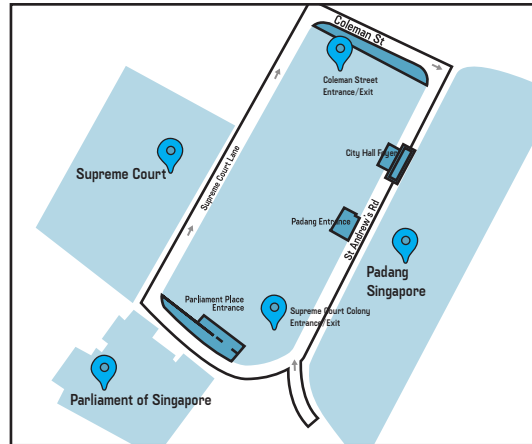
This November marks five years since the Gallery officially opened its doors in 2015. During these challenging and unprecedented times, we have planned our anniversary programmes around the twin pillars of inclusivity and solidarity. We hope that our line-up in the coming year will not only introduce you new ways of accessing and engaging with art, but also be a source of relief and comfort.

A key event in our commemorative 5th year line-up is the opening of our latest special exhibition: Georgette Chen: At Home in the World. It features some of her most significant works alongside a wealth of newly discovered archival material, tracing the fascinating story of this key figure in Singapore art.

Throughout a life marked by war, revolution and loss, Chen prioritised "a creative existence." She was dedicated to her profession, and was committed to representing the landscapes and peoples of Singapore and the region. In fact, she is noted for her contributions to the development of the well-known Nanyang Style, which synthesises Eastern and Western painting techniques and approaches.

We hope to welcome you to the Gallery, where you will be able to get a glimpse into what's in store for the museum, and the opportunity to participate in a dialogue about the future of this institution. Let art embrace you.

Eugene Tan



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Sponsors and Partners

Development Partner: Tote Board

Founding Partners: DBS, Far East Organisation, Keppel, Singtel and UOB

Partner: Ngee Ann Development Pte Ltd

Innovation Partner: Accenture

Supported by:
Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth



National Gallery Turns Five November-December 2020



ticketing information

Tickets are required for admission into all exhibition galleries (including Law of the Land in the Chief Justice's Office & Chamber) except the ArchGALLERY and Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Gallery.

General admission + Free Guided Tours

Singaporean - Free

Standard \$20

General admission ticket admits one to these galleries:

DBS Singapore Gallery

UOB Southeast Asia Gallery

Level 4 Gallery

Wu Guanzhong Gallery

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Concourse Gallery

Koh Seow Chuan Concourse Gallery

City Hall Chamber

Chief Justice's Chamber & Office

Opening hours

Daily 10am to 7pm

General ticket sales

end 30 minutes

before closing time.

2 Resonates With

Every Saturday

2:30pm-3:00pm

Our monthly concert series invites young and professional musicians to musically respond to the themes found in our artworks and exhibitions. A livestream of the sessions will also be available on our Facebook page.

21 November | Nita Aartsen for Between Declarations and Dreams

28 November | Yong Siew Toh Conservatory for Wu Guan Zhong Gallery

12 December | Coke Bolipata for Between Declarations and Dreams

26 December | Composers Society of Singapore for Small Big Dreamers

3 Art in 90 Seconds

Every Wednesday

6:00pm

Streamed on the Gallery's Facebook,

Instagram and Youtube page

Art in 90 seconds brings you personal stories about the works of National Gallery of Singapore, told by humans of the Gallery. At times funny, at times raw, and at times maybe even a bit spooky, these vignettes are a heartfelt, present-day take on the Southeast Asian art that hangs on our walls.

performances and talks



Art + Live

Art + Live is a series of online programmes focusing on movement, music and literature. All programmes will be streamed on the Gallery's Facebook page.

a. Ekphrastic Series with

Chenenne Alexandria Phillips

7-8 November | Saturday, Sunday

2:30pm-3:00pm

Join writer Chenenne Alexandria Phillips on this intimate tour of our special exhibition Suddenly Turning Visible: Art and Architecture (1969-1989). Receive a creative writing prompt at the end of the programme to create your own ekphrastic responses to the artworks on display.

b. Somatic Series with

Vincent Yong

14-15 November | Saturday, Sunday

2:30pm-3:00pm

Parents and children (aged 6 and above) are invited to join this special edition of our children's festival Small Big Dreamers. Movement educator and art therapist Vincent Yong will guide participants in translating Sudjana Kerton's painting Gamelan Orchestra into a bodily experience.

Georgette Chen

Georgette Chen: At Home in the World
Opens 27 November | City Hall Wing, Level 4
Gallery and Wu Guanzhong Gallery



Georgette Chen, Lotus Symphony, 1962. Oil on canvas, 55 x 144 cm. Collection of Long Museum

Uncover the fascinating story of Georgette Chen (1906-1993), a key figure in the development of modern art in Singapore. The first major museum retrospective of the artist in more than 20 years, Georgette Chen: At Home in the World will feature her most significant works alongside a wealth of newly discovered archival materials.



Georgette Chen, Self Portrait, c. 1934. Oil on canvas, 35 x 27 cm. Gift of Lee Foundation. Collection of National Gallery Singapore

Born in Zhejiang, China, Chen lived and worked in Shanghai, Paris and New York before arriving in Southeast Asia in the early 1950s.

Her exceptional life experiences studying and working around the world shaped her practice in profound ways. While much of her life was marked by war and revolution, she remained dedicated to her profession as an artist. Her academic training and success in the annual salon circuits in Paris translated into significant solo exhibitions in France, China and the USA, and eventually, Malaysia and Singapore.

In Singapore, Chen established her name as a painter and teacher. Working for many years at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, she was an active influence in the art community, serving as a mentor and supporter of other artists.

A rare opportunity to encounter the range of Chen's practice, this exhibition critically re-examines her unique contributions to the artistic landscape of her time.

Proposals for Novel Ways of Being



Ongoing
City Hall Wing, Level 3 Singtel
Special Exhibition Gallery C
as well as various locations,
including ADM Gallery at NTU
School of Art, Design and
Media, Coda Culture, Grey
Projects, Lasalle College of
the Arts Institute of
Contemporary Arts
Singapore, National Museum
of Singapore, The Substation
and STPI

How can art imagine new possibilities for the future and inspire hope during these times? Proposals for Novel Ways of Being brings together 12 local art institutions, independent art spaces and collectives with over 170 local artists and cultural workers to present exhibitions and programmes that explore new ways of living in a world changed by the pandemic.

Through a series of exhibitions and programmes, Proposals for Novel Ways of Being lets art and artists show us possibilities for the future and imagine alternative ways of living.

Works featured include:

after life, reverse rituals (2020)
Fajrina Razak



Station 13010 (2020)
Kin Chui



Sekali Lagi, Siapa Nama Aku (2019-2020)
Norah Lea



Suddenly Turning Visible (1969-1989) Art and Architecture in Southeast Asia



Closing on 29 November 2020
City Hall Wing, Level 5,
The Ngee Ann Kongsi
Concourse Gallery

Set amidst one of the region's most transformative periods, Suddenly Turning Visible: Art and Architecture in Southeast Asia (1969-1989) illuminates the lesser-known links between art and architecture, and the role of institutions in the development of art in the region. The title references an expression coined in 1981 by Filipino artist and curator Raymundo Albano, who used "suddenly turning visible" to describe the rapid transformation of Manila's urban landscape. The driving force behind these changes was a desire for economic development, in which art play a critical role.



Centred around three influential art institutions in Bangkok, Manila and Singapore, the show reflects upon the rapid modernisation of the region during this period; a time when artists and architects articulated new approaches that freely reinvented international art movements such as abstraction, realism and conceptual art in dialogue with folk and vernacular traditions. It traces this story through a series of artworks from the period alongside restaged and a plethora of archival materials.

Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Commission: Cao Fei



Ongoing
City Hall Wing, Level 5,
Ng Teng Fong Roof
Garden Gallery

A ship sits amidst the gleaming landmarks of Singapore's Civic District. The ocean, which would normally surround this vessel, now fills its interior. The work's title refers to a Chinese fable about a raft that traverses both the Milky Way and the sea, suggesting distance journeys in uncharted waters.

Bridging reality and fantasy, 浮槎 uses nautical imagery to allude to the historical and contemporary flows of peoples and cultures which have contributed to Singapore's identity as a port city with numerous diasporic and migrant communities. Cao Fei's family history is similarly storied with many links to Nanyang, the southern seas, a term that may also refer to geographical Southeast Asia as well as its regional art styles and cultural movements. She was born and raised in Guangzhou, a historic centre of foreign trade and commerce and the political and cultural heart of the Pearl River Delta Region.



Cao Fei (b. 1978, China) is one of China's foremost contemporary artists. Her practice uses moving image, photography, installation and performance to explore the daily lives of people navigating accelerated changes in social, political and technological landscapes.

Special Exhibitions