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**SAVE THE DATE: ART TAKES OVER IN JANUARY
FOR SINGAPORE ART WEEK 2021**

The much anticipated annual gathering of the Singapore visual arts community is set to return in January 2021. Singapore Art Week 2021 will span across both physical and digital realms, featuring a new SAW Digital page accessible from today (25 November).

Singapore, 25 November 2020 - Singapore Art Week (SAW), Singapore's annual festival and the pinnacle of Asia's visual arts calendar, is set to take over the island when it returns from 22 to 30 January 2021. A joint initiative by the National Arts Council (NAC), Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), SAW 2021 will celebrate the

coming together of our vibrant artist community once again, celebrating their resilience, innovation and solidarity as we have seen in these unprecedented times.

Staying true to SAW's theme of "Art Takes Over", SAW 2021 – the ninth edition of SAW – will be presented in a complementary blended format for the very first time, with over 100 programmes threading across both physical and digital platforms, allowing audiences from around the world to discover and experience Southeast Asian art. This year's edition showcases the largest number of commissioned works to date, with over 40 outstanding Singapore-based projects reflecting the diverse capabilities of Singaporean artists and curators. Going beyond the confines of the physical into the digital space, SAW will bring the visual arts to everyone and everywhere - from arts and cultural institutions such as National Gallery Singapore and arts spaces within Gillman Barracks; to unconventional public spaces and neighbourhoods including Bras Basah Complex, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, national parks, bus stops and more. With over 300 artists from Singapore, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, The Netherlands, UK and USA involved this year, a plethora of exciting arts programmes await, with something suitable for arts enthusiasts of all ages.

"*Art Takes Over*' takes on a whole new meaning this year, as SAW 2021 not only crosses the walls of galleries into streets and homes, but also transcends time and space in the digital realm. This is also a reflection of the larger evolving arts scene, where audiences are increasingly able to enjoy art anywhere and everywhere, and are no longer confined to a physical location or the conventional white cube," said Tay Tong, Director of Sector Development (Visual Arts) at NAC.

"Navigating the uncertain waters of the pandemic has showcased the resilience of our artists, as they have quickly adapted to these extraordinary times, experimenting with new technologies such as augmented reality and virtual reality so that they may continue presenting art and creations in a fresh and innovative manner. Beyond the works itself, what is essential for SAW 2021 is to ensure opportunities for our artists through our commissions. Additionally, we have seeded the possibilities to build new capabilities and encouraged new modes of creation through the digitalisation of the arts as an alternative platform not only to reach audiences but as a canvas

for artworks. With that, we look forward to SAW's ninth edition with great hope and anticipation," Tay adds.

Familiar art programmes and unlikely collaborations



From left: Creative Unions by Neighborhood; The Hours After by Ren Zi and Eugene TYZ; Inner Like The OutAR by Tulika Ahuja (MAMA MAGNET)

Signature SAW events and crowd favourites are set to return in January including the well-loved **Light to Night Festival 2021** based on the new theme of “____-In-Progress”; **State of Motion 2021: [Alternate/Opt] Realities** by Asian Film Archive; **ARTWALK at Little India** by LASALLE College of the Arts; and **S.E.A. Focus 2021** by STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery.

Alongside familiar programmes, festival goers may look forward to new offerings that present a refreshed look at the visual arts, such as Singapore's very first mall-wide art activation **Creative Unions** by Neighborhood - an art-meets-retail programme that brings unexpected crossovers by pairing local artists with fashion, food and lifestyle tenants at Funan. They may also dive into experimental art presentations with **The Hours After** by Ren Zi and Eugene TYZ, an international collaboration across five time zones culminating in an after-hours gallery experience turned art treasure hunt beyond Gillman Barracks; or immerse themselves in **Inner Like The OutAR** by Reza Hasni and curated by Tulika Ahuja, a first-of-its-kind large scale interdisciplinary installation to use Web AR, or augmented reality via smartphone browsers, to re-create an audio-visual simulation of our natural world.

Exploring the dichotomy between physical and digital mediums



*From left: **Networked Bodies** by Supernormal; **Shifting Between** by Our Softest Hour; **Otherworlds: Non/digital realities** by INSTINC*

With the entanglement between online and offline platforms this year as a result of the pandemic, SAW 2021 invites audiences to explore and dissect the impact of digital mediums on human connection through the visual arts. For instance, **Networked Bodies** by Supernormal is an exhibition that investigates communication and intimacy through the internet, with digital works, media installations and works housed on social media. **Shifting Between** by Our Softest Hour plays on the seams of the digital and physical realms, inviting audiences to explore the shifts in how they engage with and experience intimacy and vulnerability; and **Otherworlds: Non/digital realities** by INSTINC invites artists in Singapore and Hong Kong to look into the issue of translating works from reality to virtual reality (VR), and vice versa.

Driving conversations and building connections in Southeast Asia



From left: SAW Art Symposium by National Arts Council; POWWOW by Art & Market in partnership with SAW; Asian Art in the 21st Century – Narratives of History and Curation by Sotheby's

Each year, SAW also welcomes an international audience, drawing in art collectors, enthusiasts and artists from around the world. As the peak visual arts event in Asia, SAW 2021 will continue to take the lead in bridging connections and conversations across Singapore and our global partners through **SAW Art Symposium**, featuring a series of curated talks, panel discussions and fireside chat topics. Join the conversation with SAW stakeholders at **POWWOW** organised in partnership with Art & Market to discuss new ideas and networks for the future of art and explore how exhibitions can comfortably inhabit both virtual and physical spaces. In the spirit of encouraging critical discourse on Asian art history and curating, art enthusiasts can also look forward to **Asian Art in the 21st Century – Narratives of History and Curation** by Sotheby's, a panel discussion led by art historians and curators.

Access digital programmes in the lead up to SAW

Starting from today, festival goers may already get a teaser of programmes to come for SAW 2021. Housed on the [SAW Digital page](#), audiences can enjoy a myriad of digital offerings that supplement January's physical programmes. A notable highlight on the website is the 360° view function which will allow visitors to explore virtual exhibitions from the comfort of their homes, presenting the visual arts in new and experiential ways that may be accessed anytime and anywhere.

For more information on SAW 2021 programmes, please refer to artweek.sg.

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About Singapore Art Week 2021

Singapore Art Week (SAW), the pinnacle of Singapore’s visual arts scene, returns in its 9th edition from 22 to 30 January 2021. Singapore’s signature visual arts season will celebrate the coming together of our vibrant artist community in unprecedented times as we simultaneously navigate new modes of artmaking, presentation and look forward to new possibilities for the future. Keeping to the theme of “Art Takes Over”, SAW 2021 will present over 100 arts events across both physical and digital spaces, featuring new works, transnational collaborations and virtual art experiences. Offering a diverse range of works from our arts and cultural institutions, private galleries, non-profit arts organisations, independent artists and curators, audiences can enjoy SAW 2021 through physical presentations complemented by digital programmes accessible from the comfort of their homes.

SAW continues to be a spotlight, gathering and launchpad for the arts community in Singapore, in line with the larger #SGCultureAnywhere campaign, sounding a call towards the creation of new networks, shared knowledge and connectivity both locally and regionally.

SAW 2021, a celebration of Singapore’s vibrant art landscape, is a joint initiative by the National Arts Council (NAC), the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB).

Visit www.artweek.sg for the full SAW 2021 event line-up.

About the National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future.

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, visit www.nac.gov.sg.

About Singapore Tourism Board

The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) is the lead development agency for tourism, one of Singapore's key economic sectors. Together with industry partners and the community, we shape a dynamic Singapore tourism landscape. We bring the Passion Made Possible brand to life by differentiating Singapore as a vibrant destination that inspires people to share and deepen their passions.

For more information, visit www.stb.gov.sg or www.visitsingapore.com. Follow us on Facebook (@STBSingapore), Instagram or Twitter (@STB_sg).

About the Singapore Economic Development Board

The Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), a government agency under the Ministry of Trade and Industry, is responsible for strategies that enhance Singapore's position as a global centre for business, innovation, and talent. We undertake investment promotion and industry development, and work with international businesses, both foreign and local, by providing information, connection to partners and access to government incentives for their investments. Our mission is to create sustainable economic growth, with vibrant business and good job opportunities for Singapore.

For more information on EDB, please visit www.edb.gov.sg.