

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ArtScience Museum presents the *Art and Science of Sustainability*** *Spotlight on environmental conservation through a series of interesting exhibitions and programmes*

**Singapore (9 September, 2015)** – ArtScience Museum will be casting the spotlight on the *Art and Science of Sustainability* in the entire month of October, as it kicks off a season of eco-themed exhibitions and programmes.

Starting 10 October, it will unveil two new exhibitions – *Living Yangtze by Eric Valli for Swarovski Waterschool* and *Sensing States: Healing Spaces, the final presentation of The Substation Art and Science Open Call*. Together with *The Deep*, these multi-media and immersive exhibitions aim to raise awareness on the urgent need to protect the environment. The museum has also curated a series of sustainability-themed activities, talks and workshops throughout the month.

“There is a growing recognition that art and science can help us find creative solutions for global challenges such as environmental sustainability. We are therefore excited to present this season, which brings viewers through a thought-provoking journey of exploration and discovery on a topic that’s getting more pressing by the day,” said Ms. Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum. “Through moving photos, documentaries, immersive experiences and stimulating dialogues, we hope to elevate the profile of sustainability and highlight the urgent need to conserve precious natural resources.”

### **Living Yangtze by Eric Valli for Swarovski Waterschool 10 October – 27 October 2015**

*Living Yangtze by Eric Valli for Swarovski Waterschool* is a multi-media project narrating the stories of seven communities living along the great Yangtze River in China as documented by Eric Valli, a distinguished film director, photographer and author. Eric Valli was commissioned by Swarovski to spend six months documenting the lives of communities around the locations of the Yangtze River.

The extensive body of work showcased at *Living Yangtze by Eric Valli for Swarovski Waterschool* portrays the magnificent landscapes and dignified faces of the people Eric met on his way. Home to 480 million people, the Yangtze River is the third largest river in the world and supports one-third of the Chinese population.

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Featuring 96 photographs and seven short documentary films, the exhibition aims to use film as a positive medium to generate empathy and awareness about the importance of clean, sustainable water sources.

“*Living Yangtze* started with a basic observation: as human beings we have a tendency to forget numbers, data and things we don't like to hear about, but we remember what emotionally touches us – beauty, tenderness, passion, and harmony – for the rest of our lives. So instead of bombarding people with data and gloomy statistics, we decided to do the opposite. We wanted to make them aware of the beauty of their own heritage and traditions; to make them proud; to motivate them to act rather than discouraging them with guilt,” said Eric Valli.

## ***The Substation Art and Science Open Call presents Sensing States: Healing Spaces*** **10 October – 27 October 2015**

*Sensing States: Healing Spaces* is a three-part exhibition experience – *A Familiar Forest*, *Seeing a Rainbow* and *Contemplating a Plant* – that explores the harmony between mankind and nature. By engaging visitors' sense of sight, sound, touch and smell, the immersive exhibition seeks to reconnect visitors with nature.

The installations, which see natural elements being extracted and reconstructed, are based on the collaborative work of recipients of The Substation Art and Science Open Call – Zen Teh and scientific advisor Ching Jianhong.

Transporting visitors to the quietness and calmness of the forest, *A Familiar Forest* is an artificial forest constructed to recreate the feeling of being in an actual forest. Combining sound, the scent of leaves and a visual forest landscape, the installation aims to provide a space for visitors to experience being in harmony with the larger environment.

A key focus of *Seeing a Rainbow* is highlighting the important medicinal value of plants. Part of the installation is a rainbow colourscape created through projecting light on the extract of seven common plants/herbs. On display are also apparatus that showcase techniques of plant extraction for pharmaceutical usages.

*Contemplating a Plant* will present a 5m x 1m drawing of a mature tree that is typically found in the primary forest. To reconnect the visitor with nature, seeds will be on display for guests to pick up and grow at home.

“The Substation's Open Call programme has supported emerging artists since 2008, showcasing experimental work that pushes the boundaries. In embarking on our first collaborative project with an artist and science professional in the Art and Science Open Call, we hope that this exhibition will serve to showcase the possibilities of interdisciplinary practice,” said Ms Annabelle Aw, Programme Manager for The Substation.

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***The Deep***  
**6 June 2015 – 27 October 2015**  
**Ticketed admission**

Bringing together the largest collection of deep-sea creatures ever displayed in Southeast Asia, *The Deep* provides visitors with a unique opportunity to encounter the deep sea first-hand. The exhibition reveals the richness and the extreme vulnerability of the deep sea environment to the public through striking information, images and deep-sea specimens. *The Deep* embodies a commitment to the preservation of this fragile environment, specifically targeting young visitors to encourage them to understand the problems facing the deep sea and the need to protect it.

## **Sustainability-themed programming for the Season**

In conjunction with the season, ArtScience Museum has also lined up a series of complimentary sustainability-themed activities including talks, curator tours and film screenings. There are also several hands-on activities that visitors can participate in within the exhibitions. One such activity within *The Deep* exhibition invites visitors to create deep-sea creatures using recycled materials.

<b>Film screenings</b>	
<b>3 October, 2pm:</b> <b><i>An Inconvenient Truth</i></b> Expression Gallery, Level 4 Free admission	<i>An Inconvenient Truth</i> is a 2006 documentary film by filmmaker Davis Guggenheim who followed Al Gore on the lecture circuit, as the former presidential candidate campaigned to raise public awareness of the dangers of global warming. The documentary has been credited for re-energizing the environmental movement.
<b>11 October, 2pm:</b> <b><i>Himalaya</i></b> Expression Gallery Level 4 Free admission	Directed by Eric Valli, creator of multi-media exhibition <i>Living Yangtze</i> for Swarovski Waterschool, <i>Himalaya</i> is an award-winning movie that depicts the lifestyle of the upper Dolpo people of the mid-western uphills of Nepal and their traditional customs. The film narrates both the traditions and the human struggle against the harsh and extreme environment of the Himalayas.
<b>Conversations</b>	
<b>10 October, 2pm – 5.30pm</b> Expression Gallery, Level 4 Free admission	Themed <i>From the Endangered to the Sublime: Global Ecosystems</i> , this <i>Conversations</i> event brings together leading researchers, artists and scientists who will share their thoughts on the fragility of our planet and suggest ways we can start contributing to sustainable developments. Host Kevin Teng, Director of Sustainability at Marina Bay Sands will be joined by a group of notable speakers including Eric Valli and eminent scientists and researchers such as Michael Aw (author, explorer and conservation photographer). The event will highlight a number

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	of exciting areas of research into marine science and environmental management.
<b>Curator Tours during opening weekend</b>	
<b>10 October, 11.30am:</b> 'Insights' Guided Tour by Eric Valli ( <i>Living Yangtze</i> )	Join Eric Valli, Zen Teh and Ching Jianhong as they share their experiences and fascinating insights on the creative ideas behind their works on display at <i>Living Yangtze</i> by Eric Valli and <i>Sensing States: Healing Spaces</i> respectively.
<b>10 and 11 October, 5pm:</b> 'Insights' Guided Tour by Zen Teh and Ching Jianhong ( <i>Sensing States: Healing Spaces</i> )	
<b>25 October, 5pm:</b> 'Insights' Guided Tour by Andreas Schlegel ( <i>Sensing States: Healing Spaces</i> )	Join Andreas Schlege – artist, programmer, explorer, teacher and consultant for the Substation Art & Science Open Call 2014/2015 – as he shares stories from behind-the-scenes.

Tickets are priced at \$5 for entrance to both exhibitions: *Living Yangtze* by Eric Valli for Swarovski Waterschool and *Sensing States: Healing Spaces*. Tickets will be available soon at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. For more information on the exhibitions, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/artsciencemuseum](http://www.marinabaysands.com/artsciencemuseum).

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#### About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

#### About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of history's most important artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

#### About Swarovski Waterschool

Water has always been a key element in the production of Swarovski crystal, but it also runs through the company's culture and philosophy, which from the earliest days 120 years ago demanded a respect for human and

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environmental values. The objectives of the Swarovski Waterschools are to create awareness of the fact that water is essential to our survival; to teach the principles of sustainable water management; and to provide clean drinking water and water sanitation in schools and surrounding communities where the Waterschool program is active.

Fifteen years ago the first Swarovski Waterschool was established on Austria's Inn River. Since then Swarovski has set up Waterschools around the globe on the world's greatest rivers – in India's Ganges Delta, on China's Yangtze River, in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, and in the Amazon Forest of Brazil. The program has reached 200,000 children and their families and been taught in 2,655 schools worldwide. Around 1,470 teachers have been trained and 264,995 community members have been involved in various water projects. [www.swarovskiWaterschool.com](http://www.swarovskiWaterschool.com)

## **About Eric Valli**

Renowned photographer, film director and author Eric Valli was born in 1952 in Dijon, France. He originally trained as a cabinet-maker, but has spent most of his career working on the relationship between man and nature. Since 1981 Eric has captured on camera some of the most inaccessible locations in the world, working for titles such as National Geographic, Life, GEO, Paris Match, Stern and Smithsonian magazines, and The Sunday Times of London. Eric specializes in mountain scenery and is an expert on the Himalayas, in particular Nepal, Tibet and Afghanistan. In 1987, his photo story Honey Hunters – documenting the cliff-climbing Gurung tribesmen of west-central Nepal – won a World Press Award. In 1990 Eric shot Shadow Hunters, which captures the gathering of birds' nests for soup in a vast cave in western Thailand. The film received an Academy Award nomination for best documentary. In 1999 he directed the adventure story Himalaya – a tale of survival in the mountain region – which became the first Nepalese film to receive an Academy Award nomination for best foreign film. Eric has published 14 books to date, including in 2006 The Sky Will Be My Roof, a memoir of adventure and travel. In total, his photography has been recognized with three World Press Awards. In addition he has shot commercial work for Hermès and Louis Vuitton. In 2012 he directed the film Himalayan Gold Rush (co-produced by state broadcaster China Central Television), which was seen by 600 million viewers in China alone. For the Living Yangtze Eric spent six months travelling across China portraying the river through the people living in harmony with it.

## **About The Substation Open Call**

Since its inception in 2008, Open Call has consistently showcased the work of emerging artists. It is an important platform in the local contemporary art scene for spotting and supporting the work of promising artistic talents who often go on to create a strong body of new artistic work.

Open Call was first initiated to support and realise critical and rigorous visual arts proposals. In 2010, the programme expanded to include an incubation programme for performance. In 2011, a sound art component was introduced.

In 2014 and 2015, Open Call focused on a collaboration between a photographer, Zen Teh and a science professional, Ching Jian Hong. Their installation at ArtScience Museum has received support from a panel of consultants, which consists of Robert Zhao (artist/founder of Institute of Critical Zoologists), Andreas Schlegel (artist/lecturer in Media Arts at LASALLE College of the arts), Chris Lee (Creative Director and Founder of ASYLUM), Adeline Seah (science professional), and Lee Weng Choy (advisor).

## **For Media Enquiries**

Sarah Tang (+65) 6688 0206 / [sarah.tang@marinabaysands.com](mailto:sarah.tang@marinabaysands.com)