

Press Release



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Local artists to take center stage at Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012

*Singapore students and artists to benefit directly through
auction of artworks*

Singapore (January 11, 2012) A total of 20 emerging and established Singaporean artists will be exhibiting their best works of art at Marina Bay Sands this month, as part of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize Singapore (SAAP) 2012. This event will benefit both these local artists and students in Singapore through the ArtOutreach program which promotes art literacy and art appreciation among primary and secondary school students.

Aged between 22-59 and boasting diverse backgrounds, these 20 Singaporean finalists were chosen from an initial pool of 400 artists, winning over a jury with their works depicting topics such as Singapore's national identity, land-reclamation in Changi to hot-button issues like foreigners in the midst of an ever-changing island.

The free exhibition, which is held at Sands Expo and Convention Center from 10-13 January, also features 30 other art pieces from artists coming from countries such as Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, The Philippines, Lebanon, Bangladesh, and Myanmar.

Visitors to the free public exhibition can view all of the artworks that are presented on various mediums such as archival piezo-graphic print, photography, digital print, oil on canvas, silkscreen on linen and acrylic paint on lamda print mounted on aluminum. Visitors can expect to see artworks that reflect on the artist's inspiration that range from war, death, to mobile phones and even Singapore condominium signage.

During the duration of the public exhibition, visitors can participate in the Marina Bay Sands Art Path tours which will further enhance the art appreciation experience. The tours, organized by Art Outreach, will be conducted twice daily at 11am and 3pm. The tour will cover the importance of art and how each art piece located at Marina Bay Sands adds shapes, moods, and interior space with the property.

The public exhibition will culminate in a private gala dinner on 14 January where all 20 local artists' artworks will be auctioned to raise funds. Half of the night's auction proceeds will be given to the 20 artists and the remaining half will be donated to Art Outreach Singapore.

This is the second year that Marina Bay Sands is sponsoring the SAAP Singapore, underlying its commitment to the development of visual art in Singapore and the region. Initiated in Hong Kong in 2003, SAAP has recognized many important artists in the Asia Pacific region. This time, SAAP Singapore will coincide with another premier international art fair, ArtStage Singapore 2012, which is also taking place at Marina Bay Sands. With the large turnout expected during the week, the local artists have the opportunity to showcase their works for an international art audience.

Ms. Denise Tan, 22, is the youngest Singapore artist featured in the exhibition. With her strong interest in portraiture, the student at the Lasalle College of the Arts is presenting the art work titled “**Bob 2**”, a series of paintings that brings to focus the role of the stranger. Ms Tan said, “I am truly grateful for this wonderful opportunity and I would say that the Sovereign Asian Art Prize has given the opportunity to local artists like myself to take part in a great charitable cause by doing what we love to do the most. This is a enriching and fulfilling experience for me. At the same time, this exhibition also serves as a platform for us to bridge our works to a wider audience of art collectors and galleries.”

Another Singaporean artist who will be benefiting from the exhibition and the auction is Ms Quek Kiat Seng, 40, a part-time lecturer at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Her specialty lies in using Chinese ink medium and she has adopted this to create her piece, titled “**Tanglin Barrack 1**”. She said, “The beneficiary of the auction of the works is none other than the Art Outreach. I personally feel that this is a very important charity to support as it has a very big task of educating the next generation about art. Although the art appreciating population has increased over the years, we are still lagging far behind major cities with vibrant art scenes such as London, New York and Paris. As a Singaporean artist, I hope that more people will understand and appreciate art in Singapore. I feel honored to be supporting an organization that is committed to help more people do that.”

Mr. Nick Dixon, Executive Director, ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, said, “With the growing arts and cultural sector in Singapore, we are committed to supporting and providing local artists and arts organizations the opportunity to showcase their works at a venue such as Marina Bay Sands. An example would be our recent partnership with Lasalle College of the Arts and how we’ve supported them with a site specific art installation at the ArtScience Museum during Christmas.

“Art plays an important role for Marina Bay Sands. Apart from our ArtScience Museum, we have integrated a range of world-class art installations throughout our property - popularly known as the Art Path - for our guests to enjoy. The SAAP event is yet another platform for us to contribute to the local and regional arts scene and we look forward to more meaningful ways to engage and develop this community,” he added.

Ms. Mae Anderson, chairman of Art Outreach added, “Art Outreach is not only grateful that Marina Bay Sands is the presenting sponsor of the Art Outreach Program but also appreciates Marina Bay Sands for their kind sponsorship of the Sovereign Asian Art Prize (SAAP) Gala Dinner and Auction. The SAAP events afford the opportunity for emerging Singapore artists to gain exposure and participate in an international platform. We applaud Marina Bay Sands’ commitment to the arts and education and we believe that their support will pay dividends in cultivating awareness and support for local art talents.”



Adding its weight to this important cause is Christie's Fine Art Storage Services and Christie's, the leading auction house, coming on board as the Exhibition Sponsor and Official Auctioneer. Standard Chartered Private Bank has also chosen to generously support the cause as Corporate Patron.

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, a casino, Paiza Club for premium players and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theaters showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com