

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## ArtScience Museum breaks new ground with its first in-house touring exhibition

*SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed* is the museum's first show to travel abroad, opening at Science Gallery Melbourne



**SINGAPORE** (19 July 2024) – ArtScience Museum has reached a new milestone with its first in-house curated exhibition set to embark on a journey overseas. Originally called *New Eden: Science Fiction Mythologies Transformed*, the show is traversing other worlds, opening on 3 August at Science Gallery at the University of Melbourne with the new title – *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed*.

First presented at ArtScience Museum from 21 October 2023 to 3 March 2024, *New Eden* uncovered fresh perspectives on the male-dominated genre of science fiction through the lens of Asian women artists and collectives. Curated by Gail Chin, Joel Chin, Adrian George and Honor Harger of ArtScience Museum, the exhibition featured 70 contemporary artworks, historical artefacts, and films which traced connections between science fiction and Asian philosophy and mythology.

# Press Release



For its next iteration, co-produced with Science Gallery Melbourne, *New Eden* has undergone a metamorphosis, expanding in scope to encompass the Asia Pacific region, and weaving in Australian artists whose practices draw on rich cultural traditions.

"Touring ArtScience Museum's in-house curated exhibitions has always been a dream, so we are thrilled to be working with Science Gallery Melbourne on the presentation of our first travelling exhibition this August. *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed* uses science fiction as a starting point to explore diverse worlds and inclusive futures envisaged by some of the most prominent artists working today. Rarely is science fiction approached from the perspective of the Asia Pacific region, and through the work of women. ArtScience Museum and Science Gallery Melbourne wanted to change the narrative of science fiction as a Western and male-dominated genre by making connections between Asia Pacific and the West, as well as focusing on women and alternative voices. We have drawn synchronicities between speculative ideas in science fiction, such as parallel universes, interdimensional travel, and transcendence, and ontological concepts embedded in Asian spiritual frameworks such as Buddhism, Taoism and Shintoism, alongside cultural belief systems from Australia and the Pacific. The show we have made together moves between ancient mythology, contemporary art, literature and post-modern cinema, suggesting that some science fiction tropes may have their origins in Asia," said Honor Harger, Vice-President of ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands.

"We are delighted to be collaborating with ArtScience Museum on this important exhibition, bringing fresh perspectives on science fiction to Melbourne for the first time. *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed* presents a series of works by predominantly women artists and collectives from across the Asia Pacific whose practices are inspired by the region's history and culture, presented at Science Gallery Melbourne alongside works by First Nations artists whose practices also draw on rich cultural tradition," said Dr Ryan Jefferies, Director, Science Gallery at the University of Melbourne.

## **ArtScience Museum and Science Gallery Melbourne's Second Partnership**

This is the second collaboration between ArtScience Museum and Science Gallery Melbourne following *MENTAL*, which opened at Science Gallery in January 2022, before coming to Singapore in September of the same year. *MENTAL: Colours of Wellbeing* at ArtScience Museum showcased both Australian and Southeast Asian art-science collaborations that explored new approaches to mental health and wellbeing.

The new exhibition, *SCI-FI: Mythologies Transformed*, is a collaboration between the ArtScience Museum curatorial team, and Science Gallery Melbourne's curators, Bern Hall and Tilly Boleyn. It weaves together narratives found in the Western literary and cinematic genre of science fiction and ideas inherent in Asian and Pacific spiritual traditions that have evolved over millennia. In addition to the artworks displayed in the first iteration in Singapore, this new version of the show features a range of works by Asian-Australian artists and First Nations artists. They include *Mok Mok Murrup Yakuwa* by Paola Balla, an immersive film installation referencing the Wemba

# Press Release



Wemba story of Mok Mok – a devil woman and sovereign goddess. Also featured is *GUÀI* by Mindy Meng Wang and Monica Lim which melds artificial intelligence and augmented reality to transform viewers appearance into fantastical creatures from Chinese mythology.

Meanwhile, previously displayed works that have been carried over to this iteration include *Miko No Inori* by Mariko Mori, a seminal video work where Mori invites the viewer to traverse between realms, and Patty Chang's *Mountain (Shangri-La)* which dazzles viewers in the form of a three-dimensional artwork that rotates like a prayer wheel to reflect light and emit 'energy' into the surrounding space. The new version of the show also includes one of the highlights of the Singapore iteration – the dramatic installation *Red Silk of Fate – The Shrine* by award-winning Japanese artist, Sputniko! and Napp Studios, which takes inspiration from the East Asian belief in the "Red thread of fate".

Adding to this diverse slate of artists are Morehshin Allahyari, Lynda Barry, Cao Fei, Kara Chin, Chok Si Xuan, Club Ate, Claire G. Coleman, Debbie Ding, Fei Yi Ning, Etsuko Ichihara, Corin Iletto, Shilpa Gupta, Tristan Jalleh, Joy Li, Moon and Jeon, Xin Liu, Nguyen Trinh Thi, The House of Natural Fiber, Jen Rae, Astria Suparak and Saya Woolfalk whose works combine to open a portal for visitors to encounter dream worlds, futuristic visions and fantastical realities.

## **ArtScience Museum – Curating Cutting Edge Exhibitions and Programmes**

ArtScience Museum opened its doors in 2011 as Asia's first museum dedicated to exploring the intersection of art, science, and technology. Since its inception, the Museum has captivated millions of visitors with a dynamic and ever-evolving slate of programmes, collaborating with world-renowned museums and institutions to bring major exhibitions to the region.

While considered a relatively young cultural institution, ArtScience Museum has emerged as a cultural leader within the local and international arts scene, establishing a strong reputation for showcasing engaging exhibitions that reflect shifting trends, new challenges and bold ideas. It has explored alternative points of view on art, science, and technology by holding exhibitions by some of the greatest artists of all time, including Leonardo da Vinci, Andy Warhol and M.C. Escher, showing work by contemporary artists such as John Akomfrah, Olafur Eliasson, Anish Kapoor, Mariko Mori, and Lynette Wallworth, and showcasing in-depth explorations of scientific topics including particle physics, natural history, marine biology, cosmology, space exploration and climate change.

ArtScience Museum's curatorial team has researched and developed many in-house exhibitions, with *New Eden: Science Fiction Mythologies Transformed* being one of the most recent. Its repertoire also includes major shows such as *The Universe and Art* (2017), *All Possible Paths: Richard Feynman's Curious Life* (2018), *Minimalism: Space. Light. Object* (2018) *2219: Futures Imagined* (2019), *Orchestral Manoeuvres: See Sound. Feel Sound. Be Sound* (2021), *Notes From*

# Press Release



*the Ether: From NFTs to AI (2023)*, and most recently, *Laid Bare: Frida's Inner World* as part of this year's *Frida Forever* season.

ArtScience Museum also provides a platform for Singaporean and regional talent to shine through both its exhibitions and programmes, including the current *ArtScience Encounters* showcase by Mark Chua and Lam Li Shuen, and past collaborations with artists such as Robert Zhao, Donna Ong, Zul Mahmod and more, as well as scientists including Dr. Neo Mei Lin, Dr. Shawn Lum, Professor Kok-Khoo Phua and more.

###

## **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is Asia's leading business, leisure and entertainment destination. The integrated resort features Singapore's largest hotel with approximately 1,850 luxurious rooms and suites, crowned by the spectacular Sands SkyPark and iconic infinity pool. Its stunning architecture and compelling programming, including state-of-the-art convention and exhibition facilities, Asia's best luxury shopping mall, world-class dining and entertainment, as well as cutting-edge exhibitions at ArtScience Museum, have transformed the country's skyline and tourism landscape since it opened in 2010.

Marina Bay Sands is dedicated to being a good corporate citizen to serve its people, communities and environment. As one of the largest players in hospitality, it employs more than 11,500 Team Members across the property. It drives social impact through its community engagement programme, Sands Cares, and leads environmental stewardship through its global sustainability programme, Sands ECO360.

For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

## **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum is a major cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. It is the cultural component of Marina Bay Sands. Since its opening in February 2011, ArtScience Museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world's major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as exhibitions that explore aspects of science and technology – including particle physics, big data, robotics, palaeontology, marine biology and space science. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html)

## **Media Enquiries**

Julia Tan: +65 8380 4031/ [julia.tan@marinabaysands.com](mailto:julia.tan@marinabaysands.com)  
Sarina Pushkarna: +65 9298 5728/ [sarina.pushkarna@marinabaysands.com](mailto:sarina.pushkarna@marinabaysands.com)

**For hi-res images, please click [here](#).** (Credit images as indicated in the captions)