

# Press Release



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **ArtScience Museum peers into the future with a new major exhibition for Singapore's bicentennial**

*2219: Futures Imagined explores 200 years of possible futures for Singapore*

**SINGAPORE (9 October 2019)** – Step into *2219: Futures Imagined* and explore how our world might change over the next 200 years in a major exhibition developed by ArtScience Museum, as part of the Singapore Bicentennial commemoration.

This immersive and experiential exhibition is a journey into imaginary future worlds, featuring over two dozen artists, architects, filmmakers, writers and theatre companies from Singapore and around the world.

Throughout 2019, the Singapore Bicentennial has been examining Singapore's rich history since the arrival of Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819, as well as the 500 years before. The Bicentennial not only prompts reflection on the past two centuries, but also invites speculation on the 200 years that lie ahead. *2219: Futures Imagined* explores the 200 years between now and 2219 - the year Singapore will commemorate its Quadricentennial.

Unfolding over five Acts, the exhibition places visitors in scenarios that explore how our future lives may be impacted by climate change and loss of the planet's biodiversity. The show provides a contemplative space for visitors to consider the global context that Singapore is part of, and how larger environmental forces will impact our home.

"This new exhibition shifts the focus of the Singapore Bicentennial from the past to the future. But rather than being a set of predictions of how the future may unfold, *2219: Futures Imagined* presents speculative ideas by more than 25 visionary artists from around the world. They will create 'experiential futures', immersive installations, theatrical sets, meditative spaces, interactive artworks, films, prints and sculptures that allow audiences to step into, and be part

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of, possible futures. The exhibition deliberately resists the utopian and dystopian futures we often see in science fiction, and instead focuses on 'small futures' - intimate and enduring stories and traditions which are passed down from generation to generation. *2219* invites visitors to reflect on what kind of future they want for Singapore, and what actions they may take now to bring that future into being," said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

## **Participants of 2219: Futures Imagined**

The exhibition features thought-provoking works by over two dozen artists and makers, including major names in contemporary art and design. Exhibiting in Asia for the first time are UK artists Larry Achiampong and John Akomfrah, while Rimini Protokoll (Germany) and Superflux (UK) will be making their Southeast Asian debuts at *2219: Futures Imagined*. Gordon Cheung (UK), Shan Hur (Korea) and Lisa Park (Korea) will also be showcasing their works in Singapore for the first time.

Works by many Singapore-based artists are also presented including Sarah Choo, Finbarr Fallon, Ho Tzu Nyen, Adeline Kueh, Zarina Muhammad, Alvin Pang and Robert Zhao Renhui.

Participants of the exhibition will present artworks and environments that convey a future which contains many familiar aspects of Singapore today. Industrial structures, such as shipping containers echo Singapore's historical importance as a port, whilst domestic constructions, such as an HDB apartment, act as settings to scrutinise the city of tomorrow. Throughout the exhibition, graphics and films depicting scenarios for Singapore's future - such as the development of green-buildings and the expansion of vertical farms – remind visitors of the city-state's continual process of preparing for the future.

## **Experience 2219: Futures Imagined**

The exhibition is organised into five Acts, echoing the structure of *From Singapore to Singaporean: The Bicentennial Experience*, at Fort Canning. Each Act aims to immerse visitors in settings which show how life may be impacted by changes in the Earth's environment. The five Acts explore how Singapore's society, culture and traditions may evolve when faced with global changes.

**Act I** articulates some of the worldwide transformations which are already occurring due to environmental degradation – desertification in some places, flooding in others - as visitors transition from 2019 into the world of the future.

In **Act II**, visitors will step into a possible future located in a public housing apartment set in the midway in the 21st century. Through cleverly designed interiors and strategic placement of various household items, the apartment enables visitors to experience the lived consequences of climate change, showing how Singaporeans may adapt to a changed environment. This section also includes artworks that show how Singapore, and its neighbouring nations, may acclimatise to a world which is beginning to be reshaped by rising sea-levels, and disruptions to global trade.

**Act III** explores a possible new subterranean world, created by the necessity to migrate underground. The centrepiece is a detailed speculative architectural proposal for large-scale

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underground living environment. Singapore's mastery of critical infrastructure is highlighted, suggesting that the island-state is well-placed to adjust to such a dramatic change. *Act III* also investigates how our relationship with nature may change, if we moved away from the surface where much of life is sustained.

**Act IV** presents a dramatic immersive installation that aims to evoke a sense of urgency, encouraging us to take steps towards environmental conservation to protect all our futures. Visitors are invited to take part in a piece of participatory theatre which explores a future in which the oceans have adapted to support certain marine life, but the planet has become hostile for people.

No matter how dramatically the world around us will change, the qualities that make Singapore unique will remain, as it moves towards its Quadricentennial. The final section of the exhibition, **Act V**, meditates on how cultures and traditions persevere, suggesting it is through collective memories, and shared customs, that we will be able to create the links between the past, present and future.

## **Donate a book to *The Library of Necessary Books***



*Designer's impression of The Library of Necessary Books*

At the heart of 2219: *Futures Imagined* is *The Library of Necessary Books*. From literary cannon to DIY manuals of utilitarian know-how, *The Library of Necessary Books* is a collection of books that have been lovingly handed down for generations, from the past into the future.

Visitors are invited to submit books to the Library for display in the exhibition. The Library is accepting donations of books that may hold a special meaning to visitors, or books that donors deem important for future generations of Singaporeans. When they make their book submission at ArtScience Museum, donors will be encouraged to write a message that they would like to convey to the library users of the future. The Librarian of Necessary Books will take receipt of the books in special sessions at ArtScience Museum, and curate a selection for display in the exhibition. The first book donation event will happen on 21 November, and subsequently on every first Saturday of each month throughout the run of the exhibition.

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*2219: Futures Imagined* is curated by ArtScience Museum, based on an idea by Alvin Pang, with support from curatorial advisors Annie Jael Kwan and Adriel Luis. It is co-produced by SPACElogic.

*2219: Futures Imagined* will run from 23 November 2019 till 5 April 2020.

Tickets are available for purchase from 1 November 2019 at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Terms and Conditions apply.

Ticket prices as follows:

	<b>STANDARD TICKET (SGD)</b>	<b>SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)</b>
<b>Adult</b>	19	16
<b>Senior (65 years and above)/ Student/ Child (2-12 years)</b>	14	12
<b>Family package (2 kids &amp; 2 adults)</b>	54	45

For more information, please visit <https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html>.

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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, a theatre and an outdoor event plaza. 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 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)

## **About SPACElogic**

A one-stop solution provider that specialises in interior, permanent gallery and museum fit-out projects, SPACElogic has built a strong foundation of trust and an excellent track record to deliver high standard services. SPACElogic collaborates with experts from various disciplines to co-create spatial stories, integrating visual aesthetics with technology and functionality to craft out meaningful and engaging experiences for its customers. As thinkers and doers, SPACElogic thrives on ideas and solutions to create enthralling encounters in museums, commercial and artistic environments.

## **Media Enquiries**

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**For hi-res images, please click [here](#).**





(Credit to respective artists as indicated in the captions)

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## APPENDIX

	<p><b>Adeline Kueh</b> <i>Everything But Gold</i> (1965 -ongoing) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>
	<p><b>Finbarr Fallon</b> <i>Subterranean Singapore 2065</i> (2016) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>
	<p><b>Gordon Cheung</b> <i>Jan davidsz. de heem I (new order)</i> (2014) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>

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	<p><b>Larry Achiampong</b> <i>Relic Traveller 0,1 and 2</i> (2017-2019) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>
	<p><b>Lisa Park</b> <i>Blooming</i> (2018) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>
	<p><b>Rimini Protokoll</b> <i>win &gt;&lt; win</i> (2017) © CCCB 2017 Photo: Martí E. Berenguer</p>
	<p><b>Superflux</b> <i>Mitigation of Shock</i> (2017-2019) Image: Courtesy of artist</p>

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**Robert Zhao**  
*The Bizzare Honour*  
(2017)  
Image: Courtesy of artist