

Press Release

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ArtScience Museum introduces powerful programmes as part of *Planet or Plastic?*

An interactive space and a beach clean-up will further engage visitors on environmental issues

SINGAPORE (10 September 2020) – A picture is worth a thousand words and National Geographic has shared many remarkable stories with the world through its striking photographs. Opening on 12 September at ArtScience Museum, *Planet or Plastic?*, an exhibition by National Geographic, tells the story of plastic, from its invention just over a century ago, to the environmental impact brought about by its mass consumption.

Featuring 70 profound images displayed in six thematic sections, the exhibition highlights the fragility of the natural environment, and how it is being impacted by plastic pollution. The show aims to raise awareness of society's dependence on plastic by visually depicting the global plastic waste crisis and highlighting the people who are working on solutions to this urgent problem. The exhibition has a special focus on the devastating effect of plastic waste on the world's oceans. The World Economic Forum has predicted that plastic in oceans could outweigh marine life by 2050.

To complement the powerful message presented in *Planet or Plastic?*, ArtScience Museum has developed a series of programmes, including workshops, film screenings, online events and community activities. One of the highlights is a beach clean-up, where members of the public will be invited to do their part for the environment by removing plastic waste from one of Singapore's local beaches.

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“Plastic pollution is one of the most important global environmental challenges of our generation. But it is an issue that we can all do something about. This exhibition informs us about how we got here, the scope of the problem, and how we can each be a part of the solution. National Geographic has made a commitment to reducing our reliance on single-use plastics and our hope is that after seeing this exhibition, visitors will join us in that commitment,” said Kathryn Keane, Vice President of Public Programming at the National Geographic Society.

"Environmental issues such as plastic pollution are important to ArtScience Museum. We believe that if we work together with our visitors, we can take practical actions in our everyday lives that can make a real difference. That is why the programmes and educational activities for *Planet or Plastic?* focus on encouraging our visitors to get involved. Like our environmental partner, Seven Clean Seas, we were shocked by the volume of plastic washing up onto the beaches in Singapore every day, and we wanted to do something about it. So, we are holding beach clean-ups in December and February 2021, inviting our visitors to join us and do their part for the local environment. We hope the beach clean-up, and our programme of screenings, performances, conferences and workshops inspire visitors of all ages to choose the planet over plastic," said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands.

Feet-First Interaction

Within the galleries, ArtScience Museum has created an educational Interactive Space designed for visitors of all ages. The educational gallery encourages visitors to reflect on their consumption of plastic, including a special focus on how Covid-19 has increased our consumption of single-use plastic, creating new environmental challenges.



Interactive Space at Planet or Plastic?

The Interactive Space also responds to the challenges of Covid-19 by introducing a new method of interaction. Visitors activate the interactive stations within the gallery using their feet, rather than their hands.

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“Our Interactive Space pioneers ArtScience Museum's new 'feet-first' approach to tactile interaction within the gallery, offering visitors a new way of interacting with exhibits, without using their hands. Due to Covid-19, visitors have become more conscious of hands-on touching in public spaces, so we are experimenting with an alternative way of enabling engagement with our interactive displays,” added Harger.

Public Programmes

Further complementing the exhibition are a series of programmes that visitors can participate in from 12 September onwards. The highlight of the Public Programme for *Planet or Plastic?* is the beach clean-up activities on 5 December and 20 February 2021, organised with local environmental organisation, Seven Clean Seas.

Other programmes curated for the exhibition include *ArtScience On Screen: Earth Watch*, a series of film screenings between 12 September and 9 October that depict humanity's troubling relationship with the planet. The online performance, *You're Safe Til 2024: Deep History* on 17 September, creatively explores massive environmental changes taking place around the world. The online conference, *Climate Conversations* on 6 October, illustrates how communities can work together to create a positive impact on the environment, inviting climate scientists and local ecologists to share stories from the frontlines of conservation.

Beyond these film screenings, performances and online talks, visitors can look forward to additional family activities and workshops which will be announced throughout the run of the exhibition.

The full listing of programmes announced to date is as follows:

Event:	Date and time:	Description:	Remarks:
Interactive Educational Space	12 September 2020 - 28 March 2021	<p>The Interactive Space in <i>Planet or Plastic?</i> focuses on how Covid-19 has increased our usage of single-use plastic, especially through the usage of disposable face masks. It includes interactive challenges that reveal the damaging consequences of our increased use of disposable plastic.</p> <p>It also uses ArtScience Museum's 'feet-first' approach to tactile interaction, inviting visitors to activate interactive stations with their feet, instead of their hands.</p>	Included with the exhibition ticket.
Beach clean-up	5 December 2020, 20 February 2021 8am – 11am	ArtScience Museum is organising a beach clean-up to remove plastic waste from Singapore's shoreline.	The complementary event has limited slots available and interested participants are required to pre-book their slots. More details will

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		<p>We invite the public to join us and help clear Singapore’s beautiful beaches from ocean plastic.</p> <p>The beach clean-up is organised with Singapore-based organisation, Seven Clean Seas, which runs many programmes to combat plastic pollution.</p>	<p>be made available closer to the dates on ArtScience Museum’s Facebook page.</p>
<p>Climate Conversations</p>	<p>6 October 2020, 8.30pm</p>	<p><i>Climate Conversations</i> is an online conference that brings together climate scientists and ecologists from the region in a programme of talks that spotlight some of the most profound stories from the frontlines of climate innovation.</p> <p>This online conference opens with a talk by Cynthia Doumbia, the Director, International Exhibitions at National Geographic Society, who will share about how <i>Planet or Plastic?</i> harnesses storytelling and science to tackle the global plastic waste crisis and effect meaningful change.</p> <p>Other speakers in the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandy Barker (photographer and National Geographic Explorer) • Intan Suci Nurhati (senior researcher at the Indonesian Institute of Sciences’ Research Centre for Oceanography and National Geographic Explorer) • Lian Pin Koh (Professor of Conservation Science, Technology and Policy in the Department of Biological Sciences, and Director of the Centre for Nature-based Climate Solutions at National University of Singapore) • Shawn Kaihekulani Yamauchi Lum (President of Nature Society Singapore and Senior Lecturer, Asian School of the Environment) 	<p><i>Climate Conversations</i> is part of <i>ArtScience at Home</i>, ArtScience Museum’s online programme.</p>

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		at <i>Nanyang</i> Technological University).	
ArtScience on Screen: Earth Watch	12 September – 9 October 2020	<p>A series of film screenings will take place at ArtScience Museum throughout September and October. From gigantic potassium mine burrows deep within earth to the final forest frontier floating in space, <i>ArtScience On Screen: Earth Watch</i> contemplates humanity's troubling relationship with planet Earth.</p> <p>Featuring a diverse cinematic mix of Ghibli-esque tales, surrealist documentaries and cult sci-fi goodness, join us as we behold our role in the future of the world – will it be a hopeful one, or terrifying?</p>	<p>Free admission with online pre-booking.</p> <p>Please visit ArtScience Museum's Facebook page for more details.</p>
ArtScience Late at Home: David Finnigan	17 September 2020, 9pm	<p><i>You're Safe Til 2024: Deep History</i>, is a new online performance developed for ArtScience Museum by playwright and performer, David Finnigan.</p> <p>It is a deep time story about the massive changes taking place on our planet, placed against the story of an Australian family during the 2020 summer bushfires.</p>	<p>The performance is part of <i>ArtScience at Home</i>, ArtScience Museum's online programme.</p>

Tickets and Reservations

Planet or Plastic? runs from 12 September 2020 to 28 March 2021.

Tickets to *Planet or Plastic?* are available for purchase at ArtScience Museum's website and box office. Terms and Conditions apply.

Guests are strongly encouraged to pre-purchase tickets online prior to their visit, due to limits in venue capacity and timed entry to exhibitions at ArtScience Museum. Each guest is limited to five tickets per purchase.

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Ticket prices are as follows:

	STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)
Adult	19	16
Concession	14	12
Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	54	45

For more information on *Planet or Plastic?*, please visit <https://marinabaysands.com/museum/exhibitions/planet-or-plastic.html> or download the digital exhibition guide by scanning the QR code below:



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Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, more than 2,500 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.

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

About National Geographic Society

The National Geographic Society is a global nonprofit organization that uses the power of science, exploration, education and storytelling to illuminate and protect the wonder of our world. Since 1888, National Geographic has pushed the boundaries of exploration, investing in bold people and transformative ideas, providing more than 14,000 grants for work across all seven continents, reaching 3 million students each year through education offerings, and engaging audiences around the globe through signature experiences, stories and content. To learn more, visit www.nationalgeographic.org

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