

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ArtScience Museum to open *Hope from Chaos: Pandemic Reflections*

Exhibition marking the second anniversary of the Covid-19 pandemic examines the art and science of epidemics



Luke Jerram, *Coronavirus – COVID-19*, 2020, glass sculpture. Courtesy of Luke Jerram.

SINGAPORE (6 January 2022) – The ongoing Covid-19 pandemic has changed life for everyone, perhaps forever. To document the pandemic's indelible impact on the world, ArtScience Museum's new exhibition will examine the science of epidemics and present an intimate, unique look into the lives and practices of visual artists as they lived through and with Covid-19.

Opening on 12 February 2022, *Hope from Chaos: Pandemic Reflections* investigates how epidemics work and how this pandemic has impacted the world. Visitors to the exhibition will begin their journey with a free introductory display from The Smithsonian Institution, USA titled *Outbreak: Epidemics in a Connected World*. This part of the exhibition explores how pathogens can spread from wildlife to humans and why some outbreaks become epidemics.

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Hope from Chaos continues with a ticketed display, curated by ArtScience Museum, that features emotive artworks by artists from Singapore, Asia, Africa, North America, and Europe.

The artists showing in the ticketed component of the exhibition include Cao Fei (China), Heman Chong (Singapore), Luke Jerram (UK), Ivetta Sunyoung Kang (Canada/South Korea), Eun Vivian Lee (Singapore/New York/South Korea), Pierre le Riche (South Africa) and Nonzuzo Gxekwa (South Africa). Their work is shown alongside prototypes by materials scientists from Nanyang Technological University (Singapore).

By combining objective insights from the scientific world with a sense of embodied engagement with the work of artists, *Hope from Chaos* offers an environment of reflection for its visitors.

“As we mark the second anniversary of Covid-19’s arrival in Singapore, ArtScience Museum is taking an opportunity to reflect on its impact on all of us,” said Honor Harger, Vice President of Attractions, Marina Bay Sands.

“*Hope From Chaos* begins with a free introduction into the history of outbreaks, developed by the Smithsonian. It continues by giving our visitors a deeply evocative, emotional, and personal encounter with the lives, stories and practices of artists. Through installations, films and sculptures, the artists in our exhibition explore the pathology of the SARS-Cov2 virus, the rituals of isolation and care that have become so familiar to us, the anguish and shock of falling ill with Covid-19, and the rites and practices that have helped artists deal with living in the age of the pandemic.

“*Hope from Chaos* also launches the *Season of Mental Wellbeing* at ArtScience Museum, which will focus on mental health and wellbeing during this tumultuous time.”

Season of Mental Wellbeing 2022

The year-long *Season of Mental Wellbeing* at ArtScience Museum will include a series of projects throughout 2022 which delve into the distress of the Covid-19 pandemic and the societal anxiety it has caused.

Through thoughtfully curated exhibitions, education activities and public programmes, the Museum will raise awareness and initiate conversations on mental health and wellbeing. By drawing on the understanding generated by science and the emotional impact of artists’ work, this season aims to create a climate of healing for the public, after a difficult two years of living in the age of a pandemic.

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Key highlights at *Hope from Chaos: Pandemic Reflections*

***Isle of Instability*, 2020 by Cao Fei**



Cao Fei, *Isle of Instability*, 2020. Commissioned by Audemars Piguet Contemporary. Courtesy of the artist, Vitamin Creative Space and Sprüth Magers

Isle of Instability is a collection of home videos, drawings, and sculptures created by multimedia artist Cao Fei while she was in lockdown with her family in Singapore. Similar to her early low-tech DIY pieces, this multi-media installation is a documentation of the artist's quarantine period. The artist reflects on the global pandemic and the limitations it imposed on our daily lives. *Isle of Instability* presents audiences with a personal, yet provocative, perspective and will be the first presentation of the work in Singapore.

Born in Guangzhou, Cao Fei (b. 1978) is one of the most innovative Chinese artists to have emerged on the international scene. Her work spans new media, digital media, photography, video and installation.

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Coronavirus – COVID-19 and Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine, 2020, by Luke Jerram



Luke Jerram, *Coronavirus – COVID-19, 2020*, glass sculpture. Courtesy of Luke Jerram.



Luke Jerram, *Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine, 2020*, glass sculpture. Courtesy of Luke Jerram.

Jerram caught the world's attention in 2004 with his beautifully seductive glass sculptures of, often deadly, bacteria and viruses which now form a series of works he calls *Glass Microbiology*. Eight weeks prior to the Covid-19 pandemic being announced, Jerram had been commissioned by an American university to create a piece of work that reflected on the University's current and planned research and learning in health. He produced a glass sculpture of the Coronavirus which, at 23cm in diameter, is approximately two million times larger than the actual virus. The sculpture has since been used internationally to help visualize and communicate the science of the pandemic.

A few months later, Jerram tested positive for Covid-19. After his recovery, Jerram went on to create a sculpture of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, marking the 10 millionth vaccination in the UK and paying tribute to the work of scientists and healthcare workers across the world. The artworks are made using the same techniques and materials as medical and scientific glassware. The glass sculptures, *Coronavirus – COVID-19, 2020* and *Oxford AstraZeneca Vaccine, 2020*, are presented for the first time in Asia.

Luke Jerram (b. 1974) is a multidisciplinary artist from the UK who makes sculptures, installations and live artworks that explore art and science.

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***Circuit Breaker Paintings, 2020* by Heman Chong**



Heman Chong, *Circuit Breaker Paintings, 2020*, exhibition view at Heman Chong: *Peace Prosperity And Friendship With All Nations, 2021*, at STPI Gallery. Courtesy of the artist and STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, Singapore.

At a time when many have turned to everyday tasks to cope with the anxiety that the pandemic has caused, Chong continued to paint. The 56 paintings shown here were created during Singapore's Circuit Breaker from 7 April – 1 June 2020. During that period, the artist also contributed to an Instagram page that collected images of hazard tape used to mark and reinforce social distancing measures in Singapore ([@tape_measures](#)). Chong painted the motif of the 'tape' across his existing paintings. Producing one painting a day, he would then photograph and post his images on Instagram.

Chong's Covid-19 paintings are a re-examination of the last 12 years of his painting practice. All the paintings in this series are defined by a formula: the same size of canvas, the same habit of painting every day and the same upcycling of artwork.

Heman Chong (b. 1977) is an artist whose work is located at the intersection between image, performance, situations, and writing.

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***The Mask Project*, 2020 by Nonzuzo Gxekwa and Pierre le Riche**



Nonzuzo Gxekwa, (left to right) *Untitled 04*, *Untitled 02*, *Untitled 06*, 2020, part of *The Mask Project*.
Courtesy of the artist and THK Gallery, South Africa.

The Mask Project is a collaboration between artists Nonzuzo Gxekwa and Pierre le Riche established during the Covid-19 lockdown in South Africa. Johannesburg-based artist, Nonzuzo Gxekwa, worked remotely with Cape Town-based artist Pierre Le Riche, to create a body of work incorporating the ubiquitous medical mask (or reusable fabric mask) with decorative elements from African culture. Employing bright textiles and fabrics, the artists created a series of extraordinary photographic portraits that demonstrate the resilience and creativity of the arts in Africa during one of the strictest lockdowns in the world.

Hope from Chaos marks the debut presentation of *The Mask Project* in Asia.

Nonzuzo Gxekwa (b. 1981) is a photographer who explores the human condition through her street photography and studio work. Pierre le Riche (b.1986) is a conceptual artist who primarily works in sculpture and installation, most notably having gained recognition for his dynamic use of string and textile work.

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***Diary of 2020, 2020* by Eun Vivian Lee**



Eun Vivian Lee, *The Diary of 2020, 2020*, exhibition view at Hearth Art Space, Art Outreach SG October 2021.
Courtesy of the artist and Art Outreach SG.

From January 2020, Eun Vivian Lee worked on a 10-metre paper installation using paint made from seashells. The work was her response to the uncertainty and fear she felt during the pandemic. The installation was first presented as part of the HEARTH art programme developed by Art Outreach Singapore – a non-profit organisation supported by Marina Bay Sands' community engagement programme, Sands Cares.

A video of Lee discussing *Diary of 2020* and eloquently articulating the importance of her artistic practice to her mental health at that time will be presented alongside the work in the exhibition.

Originally from Seoul, Eun Vivian Lee is a Singapore/New York-based contemporary artist whose current body of work involves painting thousands of dots on paper creating a meditative visual language of serenity and pastoral imagery. Her work is process-orientated and labour-intensive and strives for particular aesthetic of beauty.

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***Tenderhands*, 2020 by Ivetta Sunyoung Kang**



Ivetta Sunyoung Kang, screen capture from *Tenderhands Video Performance Instruction #39*, 2020 – current.
Courtesy of Ivetta Sunyoung Kang.

Throughout the pandemic artist Ivetta Kang has been reflecting on the amount of time many of us have spent alone, isolated from the world around us. Kang found herself focusing on her hands and as a result produced a series of poetic handwritten instructions on Post-it® notes. The instructions evolved depending on the global, national and local responses to the virus and as public sentiment changed. *Tenderhands* therefore exists in several different presentation formats including installation, Instagram live, video performance and as a subscription-based email project.

The series of instructions titled *Tenderhands: Instructions for Anxious Hands* is presented at *Hope from Chaos* as a video performance where Kang goes through some of the processes she devised to focus and calm the mind. This will be the first presentation of the work in Asia.

Ivetta Sunyoung Kang (b. 1986) is a South Korean interdisciplinary artist based in Canada. Her practice is concerned with cinematic thinking, video installations, text, and performative/participatory works that propose future-oriented and reparative perception and movement.

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Nanotech antimicrobial mask by Nanyang Technological University



An KN95 certified mask made with dielectric nanofibre fabric alongside bottles of copper nanoparticles that add antimicrobial properties, Courtesy of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



The scientific team behind the new mask (clockwise from front right) Prof Lam Yeng Ming, Assoc Prof Liu Zheng, Dr Teddy Salim and Dr Rui Goncalves, Courtesy of Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

As the pandemic spread, wearing a mask became a necessity and an important step in preventing the spread of disease. Materials scientists at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore developed a reusable 'nanotech mask' that virtually eliminates 99.9 per cent of bacteria, viruses, and particulates.

The nanotech mask is made with two key components: an antimicrobial coating made from copper nanoparticles developed and patented by Professor Lam Yeng Ming, applied to a non-woven fabric mask invented by Associate Professor Liu Zheng, which has unique static-electric properties. Together, these innovations draw and trap both nanoparticles and germs.

The nanotech mask will be displayed for the first time to the public at *Hope from Chaos*.

Tickets and Reservations

Tickets to *Hope from Chaos* will be available from 20 January at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and on the website. Due to the limited capacity and timed entry to the exhibition, guests are strongly advised to purchase tickets online in advance of their arrival.

Ticket prices as follows:

	TICKET PRICE (SGD)
Adult	6
Child	6
Family (Two adults and two children)	18

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For more information on *Hope from Chaos*, visit <https://www.marinabaysands.com/exhibitions/hope-from-chaos-pandemic-reflections.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, 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

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