

## Activity Sheet



The exhibition *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas* explores the origins of life, physical as well as non-physical journeys, the increasing advancement of science and technology and where such explorations will take us.

Embark on this journey as we contemplate human nature and our enduring relationship with the ocean.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_



## Who are they?

Homer (c. 800 BCE – c. 701 BCE) was a Greek poet who wrote the epic poem *The Odyssey*, which described the travels of Odysseus, King of Ithaca, during his ten years of wandering after the fall of Troy.

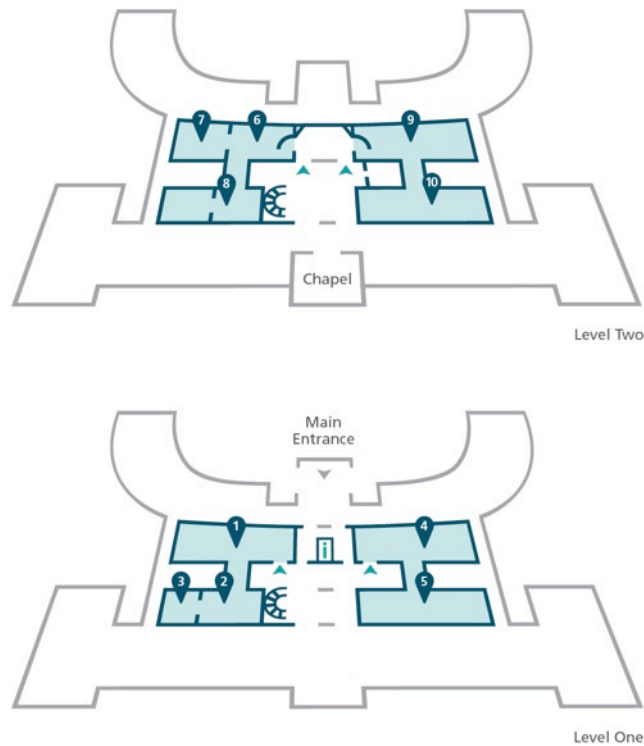
Read an abridged version of Odysseus's adventure at <http://www.britannica.com/topic/Odysseus>.

1. Odyssey is not only the name of the poem mentioned above, it could also denote a long wandering or voyage marked by many changes of fortune. What are other synonyms for the word 'odyssey'? List five of them:

2. In his journey back to his hometown Ithaca, Odysseus had many opportunities to display his talent for deception and tricks, but at the same time, his courage, loyalty and generosity were evident. He was known to be an eloquent speaker and an ingenious and cunning man. What are some traits that may be helpful if one wishes to embark on an odyssey?

3. Is there someone you know who possesses such traits? In what ways can you learn from this person?

The map below indicates artwork placement for *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas*. For questions henceforth, refer to this page to locate the artworks.



#### Level One

- 1 **The Research Room**
- 2 **Wyn-Lyn Tan**  
*Adrift*  
2013  
Single-channel video with sound  
1:31 mins  
Collection of the Artist
- 3 **Pratchaya Phinthong**  
*Algahest*  
2012  
Acrylic on canvas, moveable acrylic window enclosing sand, water and air  
360 x 500 cm (canvas)  
75 x 120 cm (moveable window)  
Singapore Art Museum collection
- 4 **Entang Wiharso**  
*Breathing Together*  
2016  
Acrylic, car paint and oil on canvas, resin, aluminium, plastic, thread, fabric, light bulbs and electric cable  
400 x 1700 x 30 cm  
Collection of the Artist

- 5 **Richard Streitmatter-Tran**  
*A Short History of Man and Animal*  
2015  
Wood, iron and unfired clay  
100 x 160 x 70 cm  
Collection of the Artist  
  
*The Cerumen Strata*  
2015  
Wood, beeswax and charcoal  
Dimensions variable  
Collection of the Artist


- 8 **Ashley Yeo & Monica So-Young Moon**  
*Ocean's Room*  
2016  
Mixed media installation  
Dimensions variable  
Collection of the Artists
- 9 **Alfredo & Isabel Aquilizan**  
*Passage III: Project Another Country*  
2009  
Used transport cargo boxes and wood  
Dimensions variable  
Collection of the Artists

#### Level Two

- 6 **Sally Smart**  
*The Exquisite Pirate: Odyssey*  
2016  
Painted canvas and fabric, metal, embroidery and pins  
Dimensions variable  
Collection of the Artist
- 7 **Rashid Rana**  
*Offshore Accounts-1*  
2006  
C-print, Diasec  
300 x 600 cm  
Collection of the Artist

- 10 **Choe U-Ram**  
*Ultima Mudfox*  
2002  
Metal machinery, acrylic, CPU board, sensor, motor and lightbulb  
65 x 150 x 55 cm  
Collection of the Artist  
  
*Una Lumino Callidus Spiritus*  
2016  
Metal machinery, CPU board, motor, LEDs and polycarbonate  
283 x 741 x 75 cm  
Collection of the Artist



Referring to the map on Pg. 3, head to  at Level 1:

Observe the image closely:



4. What is going on in the artwork? Name at least two materials used in this work.

5. The title of this artwork by Thai artist Pratchaya Phinthong is *Algahest*. Where do you think this landscape might be? Do you think there are life forms in this place? Why do you say so?

6. Now imagine you are able to travel out of this landscape. Give the frame a gentle push and observe the image at the back. What do you see?

7. What do you think you have just 'discovered'? Why do you say so?

8. Spin the frame again and brainstorm a list of five questions you may have about your 'discovery'. E.g.:

- What if...?
- How would it be different if...?
- Why would...?
- Where will...?
- When did...?

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_



### Discussion Time

Pick the most interesting question in your list and discuss it with your group.  
What new ideas or questions did you have about your 'discovery'?

9. What you have just 'discovered' is Kepler-22B, a planet very far away that is very similar to Earth. Scientists have detected traces of liquid H<sub>2</sub>O on this planet.  
What is H<sub>2</sub>O and what does the presence of this element suggest?

10. Do you know the planets in our Solar System? List all of them here.

 **Did you know?**

Scientists have recently discovered a new planet in our Solar System. “Planet Nine”, as scientists are calling it, is about 5,000 times the mass of Pluto and about ten times the mass of Earth. Furthermore, in the late 1990s, astronomers began debating about classifying Pluto as a planet or dwarf planet.

What does that suggest about the ‘facts’ we learn?

Kepler-22B is 2.4 times the size of Earth, with a surface temperature of 22°C and exists in the ‘habitual zone’ where liquid H<sub>2</sub>O exists on the planet’s surface. Scientists are still unsure what Kepler-22B is made of – it may be rocky like Earth, gaseous and covered entirely by water, like Neptune, or it may have an atmosphere that traps a lot of heat like Venus. Located about 600 light years away, it would take 23.4 million years for Men to reach it with a space shuttle.

11. What are some similarities and differences between Earth and Kepler-22B?

12. Imagine you were a scientist who had found a special way to reach Kepler-22B. What is your special mission to this planet? Upon successfully reaching this planet, what actions will you take? What does this say about human nature, or about you? Pen this down in your logbook entry:

DAILY LOG		DATE:
DEPARTURE:	TIME:	TEMPERATURE:
ARIVAL:	TIME:	WEATHER:
MISSION:		ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE:
		GRAVITATIONAL FIELD:
NOTES:		HUMIDITY:
		WATER LEVEL:
		GASEOUS MAKEUP:
CREW:		
		LOGGED BY:



### Did you know?

The title of this artwork *Algahest* alludes to the chemical name Alkahest, a **hypothetical** universal solvent sought by alchemists. This solvent is capable of reducing all materials to their base elements.

If Alkahest can dissolve everything, how would you contain this solvent?

### abc What do they mean?

**Habitual zone:** the region surrounding a star (e.g. the Sun) in which a planet (e.g. Earth) can possess liquid water on its surface and possibly support life. For a star to host a planet, the star must survive long enough for its planets to develop life, and the planet exists in a region that is a proper distance from the star for that planet to have water remain liquid. This zone looks like a ring around the star and is not always static but moves as the star changes and evolves.

**Hypothetical:** imagined as an example for further thought; suggested but not necessarily real or true



Referring to the map on Pg. 3, head to the other gallery on the same level, to **5**.

Look for this artwork:



13. Observe a *certain portion* of this artwork in pairs. Make sure you and your classmates observe different sections of the artwork, and list down some of the things you see.

14. What are the materials used in this artwork?

15. Throughout history, Man has always had an intrinsic relationship with animals. It may be argued that the technological progress of the Industrial Revolution has **exacerbated** the idea that Man is superior to animals. Do you agree with this **anthropocentric** statement? Why do you say so?

16. Man is also constantly inspired by nature. For example, the early designs for flight by the Italian **polymath**, Leonardo DaVinci, were adaptations of bat-like wings. Observe the size and length of the ‘bones’ in this artwork. What animal do you think the artist was inspired by in the invention of this vessel?

17. What are some similarities between the ‘bones’ and the vessel?

18. What are some differences between the boat and the animal that inspired its design? How has Man adapted the design of the boat to mimic characteristics of the animal?



## abc What do they mean?

Exacerbate: to make (a problem, situation or feeling) that is already bad even worse

Anthropocentric: considering human beings as the most significant entity of the universe

Polymath: someone who knows a lot about many different things

19. The suffix '-ologist' is used to replace '-ology' at the end of nouns in order to form other nouns that refer to people who are concerned with a particular science or subject. Can you guess these professions?

A          **OLOGIST** is one who specialises in the science of society, social institutions, and social relationships; specifically the systematic study of the development, structure, interaction and collective behaviour of organised groups of human beings. [SOCIOLOGIST]

An **A**       **H**    **OPOLOGIST** is one who studies the science of human beings; especially the study of human beings and their ancestors through time and space and in relation to physical character, environment and social relations and culture. [ANTHROPOLOGIST]

An **O**       **OLOGIST** is one who studies or maps reliefs, especially of mountains. [ONTOLOGIST]

An       **F**    **C**    **OLOGIST** is a medical specialist in the sense of smell or the study of smells. [OLFACTOLOGIST]



## Discussion Time

Biomimicry is an approach to innovation that seeks sustainable solutions to human challenges by emulating nature's time-tested patterns and strategies. Can you name some inventions inspired by nature? Do you think this is a good approach? What are the pros and cons?

Free response. E.g. spider silk is one of the strongest in nature, yet it is lightweight and flexible and has inspired a new type of medical tape; burdock plants inspired the invention of Velcro; shark's skin inspired athletic wear in its ability to reduce drag yet maintain movement; fireflies inspired glow sticks etc.

Next, move on to this artwork *The Cerumen Strata* in the same gallery space:



20. What are the two main colours in the artwork? How many shades can you identify?

21. What is the material of this artwork?

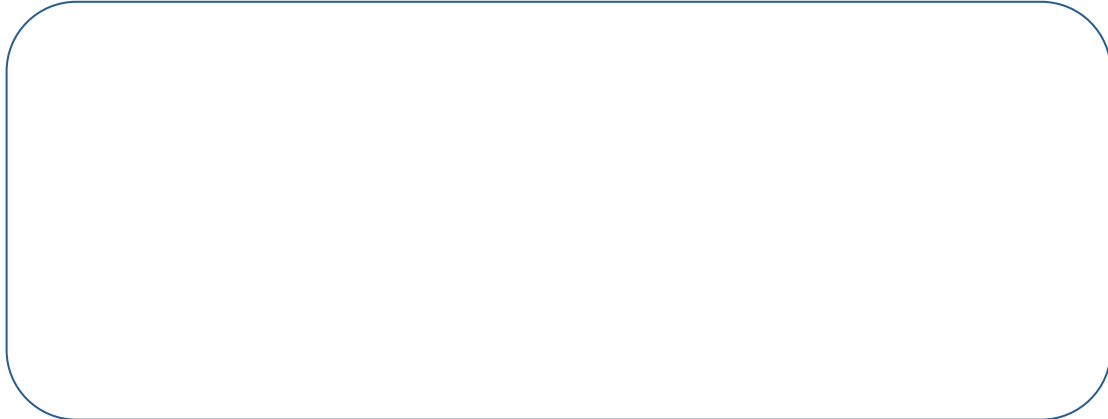


### Did you know?

“In 2013, a group of scientists published a detailed account of their attempt to reconstruct a lifetime chemical profile of an individual blue whale through examining its cerumen, or what we commonly call earwax. It was discovered that the lipophilic compounds preserved in the earwax can reveal not only the biogenic physiological changes in the whale, but also the anthropogenic contaminants it was exposed to throughout its life. In blue whales, earwax accumulates continuously from birth and forms alternating dark and light layers correlated to periods of feeding or migration.” (Le Vi & R. Streitmatter-Tran, 2015)

22. What do you think the artist is trying to depict?

23. What does this imply about our relationship between man and nature/animal?



24. Can you think of any forms in nature that exhibit such an intrinsic relationship between Man, nature and the surroundings?

Hint: you see many of them lining the streets of Singapore.




### Let's try this

Head over to SAM Level 2 Lobby as you begin your journey through *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas*! Have a think about these questions:

- a) What is your Quest?
- b) How will you navigate your expedition?
- c) Who or what will you bring with you on your adventure?

Pen down your thoughts at ECHO and share them with your friends today on social media, using the hashtag #odysseysg.



Referring to the map on Pg. 3, head to the second floor to  .

Look for an artwork with this imagery:



25. What is the title of this artwork?



### Did you know?

*Exquisite Corpse* began as a collaborative poetry game that traces its roots to the Parisian Surrealist Movement. To write a poem, players should agree on a sentence structure beforehand. For example, each sentence could be structured “Adjective, Noun, Verb, Adjective, Noun”, where each player will write a word based on the structure agreed.

The Australian artist, Sally Smart, was inspired by the method of a popular parlour game, *Exquisite Corpse*, to create her artworks and this series initiated from a question ‘Were there any women pirates?’.

26. What do you think are some characteristics of female pirates that Smart is trying to portray?



### Did you know?

There were indeed female pirates in history, and China had its share of female pirates. Ching Shih or Cheng I Sao, a former courtesan who married a powerful, notorious Chinese pirate, was one of the most feared pirates of Southeast Asia and South China region and ruled with an iron fist. She eventually accepted an amnesty offer from the Chinese government and retired with her dignity and plunders. She may be considered as one of history's most successful pirates!

27. Smart uses the metaphor of female pirates to explore issues of gender identity, and to subvert the historical perception of piracy as a male domain. Are there any professions that seem to be dominated by one gender?

28. Why do you think it is so? What are some general differences between the male and female dominated industries you have listed above in terms of economic, financial and social status?



### Who are they?

Keumalahayati was the first woman admiral in the world. Born of noble blood, she came from a line of admirals, where her father and grandfather were also navy admirals. Her great-grandfather was the founder of the Sultanate of Aceh Darussalam circa 1530 – 1539 AD. After her husband was killed in battle with the Portuguese, Keumalahayati formed and commanded a women's naval unit staffed by war widows like her. Keumalahayati not only proved to be a courageous admiral and Navy Commander of the Sultanate of Aceh Darussalam, she was also a clever diplomat. An agreement between Britain and Indonesia opened the English trade route to Java, and Banten became the centre of British trade in Indonesia until 1682.

29. Apart from the imagery of female pirates, the imagery of ships is also of importance. What do you associate with the image of ships in this context?

30. What else do you think the image of the ship can represent today?  
Hint: in what situations will people need to travel by ship across continents?

31. What do you understand about the term piracy in today's cyberspace era?

32. What are some similarities between cyberspace piracy and maritime piracy?



### Let's try this

**Surrealist** artists also played a collaborative, chance-based game, typically involving several players, based on the concept *Exquisite Corpse*. Get into groups of five (Players 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) and try your hand at this now! Each player must not be aware of what the other players are drawing, and will be given a specific body part to draw.

- 1) Player 1 would draw an image of a **head** on a sheet of paper (see *Fig. 1* below) until the dashed line (\_\_\_\_). Fold the paper partially to the dotted line ( - - - ) closest to where you drew to conceal your drawing except for the two guidelines and pass it on to the next player.
- 2) Players 2, 3, 4 and 5 would draw an image of a/an **upper body, lower body, legs** and **feet** respectively until the dashed line (\_\_\_\_). Fold the paper partially to the dotted line ( - - - ) closest to where you drew to conceal your drawing except for the two guidelines and pass it on to the next player.
- 3) After player 5 has finished drawing, reveal the final composite image.

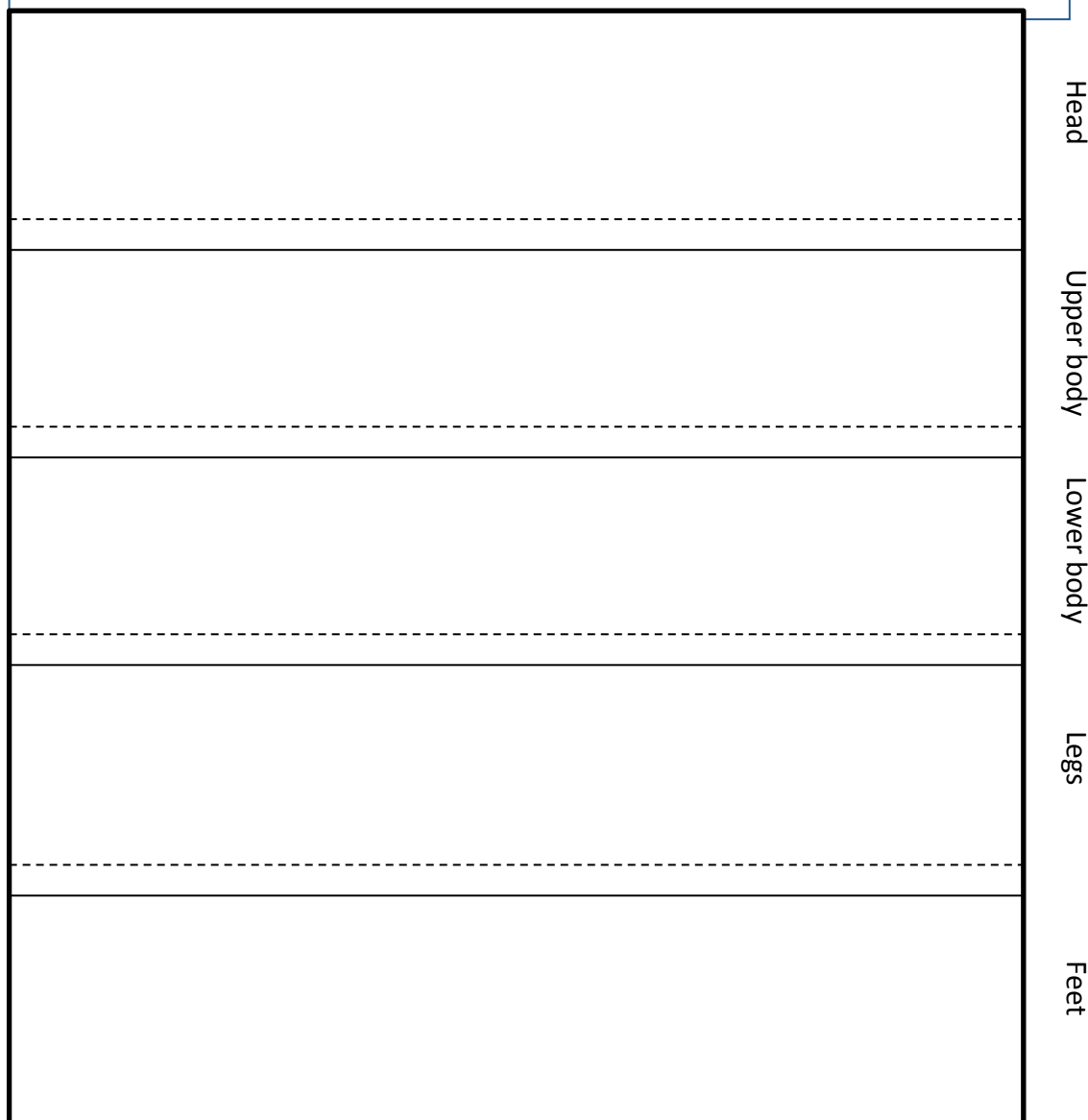


Fig. 1

## abc What do they mean?

*Surrealism* is a cultural movement that was expressed through art, literature and politics, and combined elements of preceding movements, Dadaism and Cubism, to show the inner workings of the mind. By using dream imagery, artists created artworks in a variety of media as a means to unlock the power of the imagination and these images may or may not have a meaning for interpretation.



Referring to the map on Pg. 2, head to the other wing on the same level to **9**.

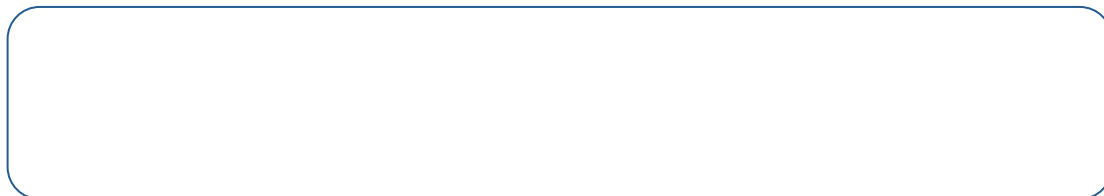
Look for a sculpture that looks like this:



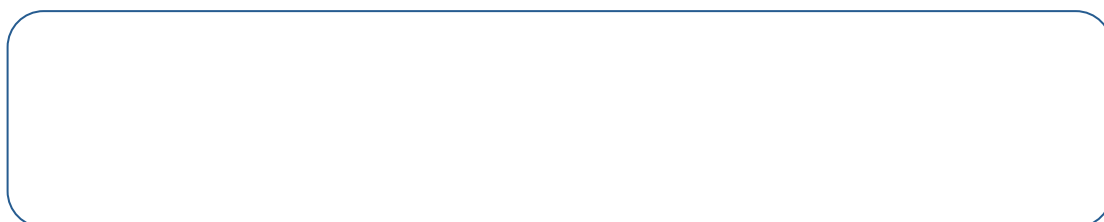
33. What is the title of this artwork?



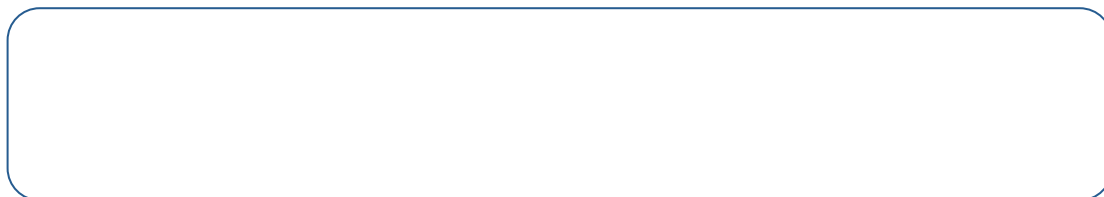
34. The husband-and-wife team, Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, and their five children moved from the Philippines to Australia in 2006. What do you think the ship here represents with reference to the artwork title?



35. How does this representation differ from that of Sally Smart's *The Exquisite Pirate*?

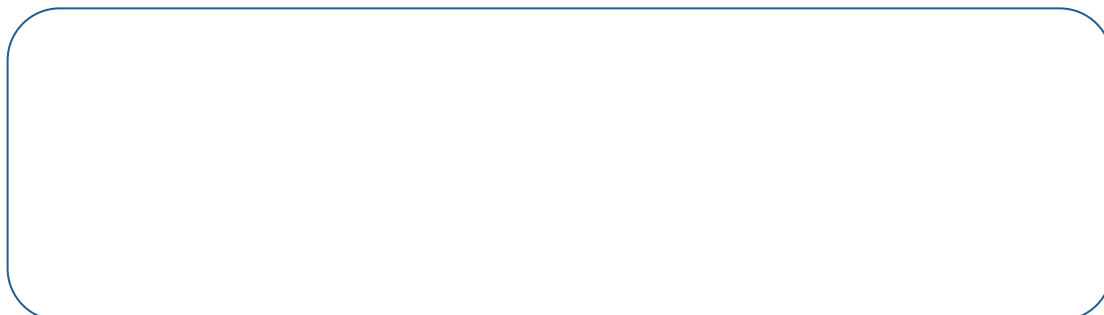


36. What is the ship supporting? How do you feel looking at the artwork?



This artwork is a reiteration of *In-Habit: Project Another Country*, which was inspired by the lives of the marginalised Badjao people, who live scattered across several islands of the Sulu Archipelago in southwest Philippines. Living mainly in stilt houses on the margins of the ocean, this gypsy community does not conform to modern notions of citizenry or to demands of a liberal economy.

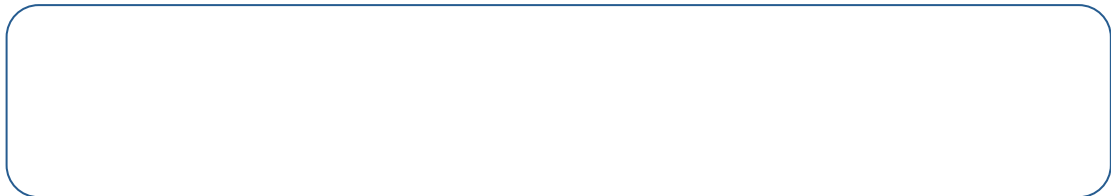
37. Pick two houses that are opposite of each other. How are they different or the same?



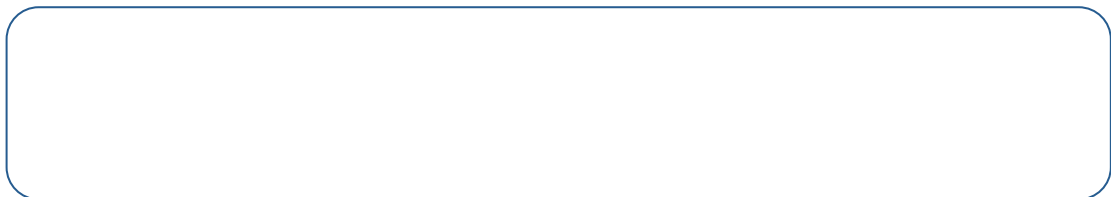
38. Compare the house you have chosen to the home you live in now. If you were to relocate to this place, how will your home express your **cultural identity**? Draw or write it here:



39. What is the material used here? Why do you think they chose this material?



40. The 7 members of the Aquilizans family were each given a **balikbayan** box to pack all their belongings into for their relocation to Australia. The use of everyday objects in this artwork reflects their own experience. If you were to build your own dwelling, what recycled materials would you use?



### *abc* What do they mean?

Cultural identity is how a person identifies with their culture or subcultural categories, and how that relationship impacts their lives. These categories could include nationality, language, religion and gender.

Balikbayan: a Filipino citizen who has been continuously out of the Philippines for at least a year e.g. a Filipino overseas worker, a former Filipino citizen, a Filipino family that has been naturalised in a foreign country


41. What are some recurring themes and ideas in this artwork? Observing the magnitude of this artwork, what do you think the artist duo is saying about community?



### Discussion Time

The Badjao people often live in impoverished circumstances and the Philippine government has been trying to relocate them into land-based communities. What are some pros and cons of the Badjao resettling to land-based communities?



Referring to the map on Pg. 3, head to  at the back of this gallery.

Observe this artwork *Ultima Mudfox* by the Korean artist Choe U-Ram below:



42. Observe the skeletal structure of this artwork. What animal in nature does this artwork resemble?

Choe imagines his creature, the *Ultima Mudfox*, to have the ability to float freely in dense mud.

43. What is the Ultima Mudfox made up of? What does it appear to be doing?

Now observe the other artwork in the same gallery space from afar:



44. What do you think this artwork resembles?

45. The artwork is titled *Una Lumnio Callidus Spiritus*. Una Lumnio means “illuminate together” and *Callidus Spiritus* means “crafty soul” in Latin. Walk closer to the artwork and observe what happens to the light. Describe your observations here in this logbook:

Scientific Name: Anmopista avearium cirripedia Uram

Shells: yes/ no \*

Type: flowering/ non-flowering \*

Weed: yes/no \*

Native: yes/ no \*

Colour: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of petals: \_\_\_\_\_

No. per colony: \_\_\_\_\_

Short description: \_\_\_\_\_

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\* delete accordingly

46. Why do you think this happened?

47. How did you feel when interacting with the artwork?

48. According to Choe, these entities have the same form and movement as that of the sea acorn. Observe these units carefully and describe their components and how they work?

49. What do you think the artist is trying to express through his work?

50. What are some technological gadgets you use daily?

51. What are some other technological gadgets you or your parents and elders have used in the past 5 years? How have they evolved over the years?

52. Are there any technological gadgets or apps you feel you are unable to live without?

53. Spend some moments to reflect on the extent of your dependency on technology in your life today. What are some pros and cons of advancements in technology?

54. Choe believes that machines are evolving much faster than human beings and that humans will one day be consumed by their desire for technological advancements. If this were to materialise, how will you envision humans in future? Sketch or write your idea here:



## My day at SAM...

Complete this page and pass it to your teacher to deposit at the SAM Front Desk

Name	School	Age	Exhibition title

**I found the activity sheet...**

Very easy     Quite easy     Okay     A little difficult     Very difficult

**I found the activities in the worksheet...**

Very interesting     Quite interesting     Okay     Not so interesting     Not interesting at all

**I would like future activity sheets to have...**



**3 things I have learnt...**



**2 things I would like to find out more about...**



**1 thing I hope I can see more of at the museum...**

**\*For Teachers to note:**

Please collect all the pages as a single bundle and deposit them at the SAM Front Desk.