

MEDIA RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**Explore Earth's watery realms at Singapore Art Museum's
Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea exhibition**
SAM's much-loved children's contemporary art exhibition returns for its sixth edition at SAM at 8Q



Singapore, 14 April 2016 – Calling all deep sea explorers! The sixth edition of Singapore Art Museum's annual contemporary art exhibition for children returns to SAM at 8Q with ***Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea***. From **14 May to 28 August 2016**. Adventurers of all ages are invited to explore the watery realms of our Earth through immersive and interactive artworks from Singapore and beyond.

Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea is a whimsical introduction to the many stories and ideas that surround seascapes. It presents tactile and interactive works that encourage discovery through exploration and play. Featuring site-specific adaptations and specially

commissioned artworks, the exhibition inspires reflection about the impact humans have on the natural world and the importance of preserving the oceans' ecosystems.

The Artworks

Beginning at the bottom of the sea at SAM at 8Q, explorers will encounter *Underwater Labyrinth*, an installation by Singaporean chef Janice Wong. *Underwater Labyrinth* offers a peek into the intricacies of a re-created deep seabed of luminescent crystalline colonies of 'corals', composed of more than 1,300 kilograms of isomalt sugar, chocolate and confectionery inspired by coral reefs.

Moving into the first floor of SAM at 8Q, visitors will make the acquaintance of mysterious underwater wonders at *Dimana Mogus? (Where is Mogus?)*, a tactile underwater seascape laboriously crocheted from yarn, by Indonesian artist Mulyana. An imaginary octopus monster known as Mogus inhabits the colourful coral seabed along with his underwater friends, and these soft, tactile sculptures encourage play, imagination and exploration.

Making our way further up from the seabed, we meet *ADA* by Germany-based Polish artist Karina Smigla-Bobinski. *ADA*, a free-floating giant sphere with charcoal studs affixed to her surface, is an interactive art-making creature that glows with the bio-luminescence of denizens of the deep. Requiring the help of visitors to move around the darkened gallery, she leaves indelible marks along the walls, ceiling and floors, highlighting the consequences of the visitor interaction and similarly, our relationship with the seas.

Moving closer to the surface, we are greeted by Thai artist Krit Ngamsom's three kinetic sculptures – *Damien, I'm Famished (After Damien Hirst)*, *Bryde's Fountain (After Marcel Duchamp)* and *Surrealism Spiced (After Salvador Dali)*. Playful references to iconic ready-made artworks by artists Damien Hirst, Marcel Duchamp and Salvador Dali, these sculptures are a commentary on contemporary art-making practices and the differences between the rural populace and metropolitan elites in Thailand, and at the same time, an exploration of issues concerning the sea.

Finally, at the surface, explorers will be confronted with the issue of ocean pollution and witness the transformative power of art. Singapore illustrator and installation artist Tan Zi Xi recreates the Great Pacific Garbage Patch with *Plastic Ocean*, where explorers will walk

through a sea of 14,000 pieces of non-biodegradables to experience the sensation of floating in a sea of trash as sea creatures might.

Many coastal cities have thrived with the help of the seas. Papermoon Puppet Theatre's *Suara Muara (The Sounds of the Estuary)* brings audiences on an aural journey of Lasem River and Lasem, the tiny town that was once an important trading port between India and China. The secrets and stories of this coastal town will also be brought to life with scheduled puppetry performances.

Spread across the three-storied stairwells of SAM at 8Q are a series of wall murals by Thai-born Japanese artist Yuree Kensaku, titled *Apex Predator*. Kensaku's surreal and intricate illustrations highlight mankind's exploitation of the oceans for resources and food, and ponder the possibility of nature's survival given humanity's seemingly insatiable greed.

"With *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea*, we welcome new and returning explorers to discover ideas, stories and issues surrounding seascapes, as interpreted by contemporary artists from Singapore and beyond. Through this interactive exhibition and its accompanying public and educational programmes, we hope that our young visitors, as protectors of the future, will be inspired to reflect on our relationship with and the impact we have on the natural world. At the same time, we hope that our visitors will leave inspired by the creative and transformative power of contemporary art" says Ms Tan Siuli, Curatorial Co-Head, Singapore Art Museum.

Public and Educational Programmes

Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea will be accompanied by a series of public and educational programmes that take place throughout the exhibition period.

Young adventurers may take a breather during their exploration of the exhibition at the *Imaginarium* programmes room, named the Submaroom. Extending the exhibition themes of nautical exploration and discovery, interactive activities in the Submaroom include an origami folding console, periscope stations, and an International Code of Signals board provided by the Republic of Singapore Navy.

Available for sale at SAM at 8Q and Supermama are *Imaginarium* Diver's Logbooks, which are interactive activity guidebooks that help young visitors chart their exploration of the exhibition. Other programmes that complete the *Imaginarium* experience include daily

screenings of short films inspired by marine adventures at the Moving Image Gallery, special curator tours of the exhibition for the whole family, and engaging storytelling sessions taking place throughout the exhibition period. Visitors are also invited to join in the various hands-on knitting and illustration workshops, led by the Imaginarium artists Mulyana and Tan Zi Xi respectively.

Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea will be held at SAM at 8Q from 14 May 2016 to 28 August 2016. Find out more about the exhibition and its programmes online at www.singaporeartmuseum.sg.

For high-resolution images, please download them at <http://bit.ly/1NyAiJo>. Image use guidelines apply.

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About the Singapore Art Museum

The Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is a contemporary art museum which focuses on art-making and art thinking in Singapore, Southeast Asia and Asia, encompassing a worldwide perspective on contemporary art practice. SAM advocates and makes accessible interdisciplinary contemporary art through research-led and evolving curatorial practice. Since it opened in January 1996, SAM has built up one of the most important collections of contemporary art from the region. It seeks to seed and nourish a stimulating and creative space in Singapore through exhibitions and public programmes, and to deepen every visitor's experience. These include outreach and education, research and publications, as well as cross-disciplinary residencies and exchanges.

SAM occupies two buildings: the old St Joseph's Institution on Bras Basah Road, built in 1855 and now a National Monument; and SAM at 8Q, a conservation building across the road on Queen Street that was the old Catholic High.

In 2011, SAM was the venue organiser of the Singapore Biennale, becoming the main organiser in 2013 and 2016. SAM was incorporated as a Company Limited by Guarantee on 13 November 2013, operating under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. To find out more, visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg

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Annex A

Exhibition Synopsis – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea*

Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea

14 May 2016 to 28 August 2016

SAM at 8Q

Explorers of the world! How far and wide have we ventured into the depths of the oceans?

Delving into the deep, *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea* – the sixth edition of SAM’s children-focused annual exhibition – invites adventurers of all ages into the watery realms of the Earth, as seen through the eyes of contemporary artists.

Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea is a whimsical introduction to the many stories and ideas that surround seascapes, and presents tactile and interactive works that encourage discovery through exploration and play.

The origins of both life and civilisation have been inextricably bound to the sea – we still draw much of our food from the oceans, and many of the world’s greatest cities were founded as coastal settlements. Despite their importance to our survival, the oceans and seas remain susceptible to abuse and degradation.

At SAM at 8Q, adventurers can navigate underwater realms where wonders roam, and make the acquaintance of mysterious denizens of the deep. We hope that, as protectors of the future, our visitors will also think about the impact we have on the natural world, and of how, through inventive and wise ideas, we can save the Earth and its awe-inspiring oceans.

Annex B

Artists and Artworks – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea*

Mulyana (Indonesia)



Mulyana, Yono and Xiao Huang on *Batu Tangkuban Perahu* (detail), 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.

Dimana Mogus? (Where is Mogus?)

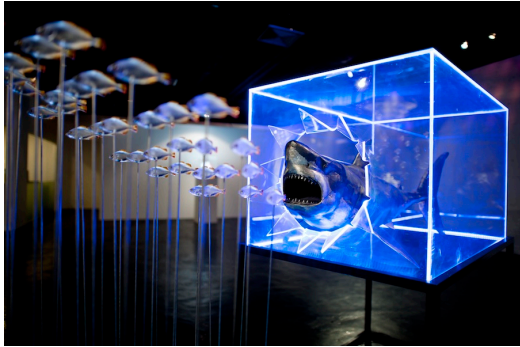
2016

Mixed media installation with new yarn, cotton, felt, synthetic fur, vulcanised copper wire and new dacron filing

Dimensions variable

The Mogus, an imaginary octopus monster, is artist Mulyana's alter ego. Laboriously crocheted from yarn, *Dimana Mogus?* invites the young and young at heart to frolic amidst whimsical sea monsters set in a colourful dream seascape. Through this installation, Mulyana hopes to create an environment in which visitors can interact with Mogus and his underwater friends; his soft, tactile sculptures encourage play, imagination and exploration.

Krit Ngamsom (Thailand)



Krit Ngamsom, *Damien I'm Famished (After Damien Hirst)*, 2016. Images courtesy of the artist and Number 1 Gallery.

Damien, I'm Famished (After Damien Hirst)

2016

Steel, acrylic, polyester resin, LEDs, dynamo

200 × 500 × 150 cm

Edition 3 of 3



Krit Ngamsom, *Bryde's Fountain (After Marcel Duchamp)*, 2016. Images courtesy of the artist and Number 1 Gallery.

Bryde's Fountain (After Marcel Duchamp)

2016

Fibreglass, steel, ceramic, cement, water pump

200 × 300 × 150 cm



Krit Ngamsom, *Surrealism Spiced (After Salvador Dali)*, 2011. Images courtesy of the artist and Number 1 Gallery.

Surrealism Spiced (after Salvador Dali)

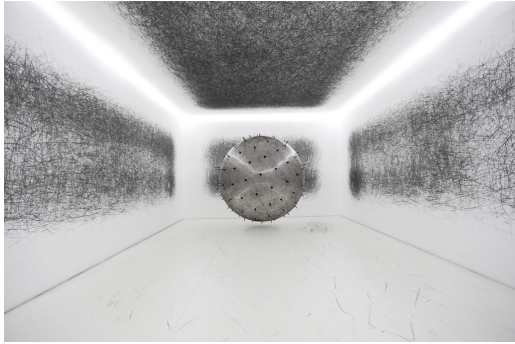
2011

Fibreglass, acrylic, light box

45 × 49 × 45 cm

Paying homage to artists Marcel Duchamp, Damien Hirst and Salvador Dali, Krit Ngamsom's kinetic sculptures are playful, tongue-in-cheek references to infamous artworks that changed definitions and assumptions about art through their use of ready-made objects. Krit's sculptures are imbued with a childlike naivety, and combine his observations of differences between Thailand's rural populace and the metropolitan elite, with commentary on contemporary art-making practices. These versions, made especially for *Imaginarium*, have also been adapted to explore issues concerning the oceans.

Karina Smigla-Bobinski (Poland/Germany)



Karina Smigla Bobinski, *ADA*, 2010. Image courtesy of the artist and Caitlind R. C. Brown.

ADA

2010

Installation with PVC balloons, helium, charcoal, foil, tape

235 × 235 × 235 cm (each balloon)

ADA is an interactive art-making machine, although she does not operate in the way we would normally imagine. A post-industrial “creature” that glows with the bioluminescence of denizens of the deep, *ADA* floats freely and is the sole light source in her confined space. While *ADA* requires animation from visitors, it quickly becomes clear that we hold little sway over her. A giant sphere with charcoal studs affixed to her surface, she moves through the room, making indelible marks along the walls, ceiling and floor of the gallery. These marks are only apparent when *ADA* moves near them, shedding light and highlighting the consequences of visitor interaction and similarly, our relationship with the sea.

Tan Zi Xi (Singapore)

Plastic Ocean

2016

Installation with plastic, nylon string, reflective vinyl, wooden pedestals

Dimensions variable



Tan Zi Xi, *An Effort Most Futile*, 2008. Image courtesy of the artist.

An Effort Most Futile

2008

Inkjet on acid-free paper (set of 5)

Dimensions variable

Garbage... garbage galore! What happens when we heedlessly throw away that much garbage? 269,000 tons of plastic debris floats on the surface of our world's oceans, creating hazardous living environments for marine life. In *Plastic Ocean*, artist Tan Zi Xi tackles the issue of pollution head-on with her recreation of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. Comprising approximately 14,000 pieces of non-biodegradables, her installation invites viewers to experience the sensation of floating in a sea of trash. At the same time, the artwork embodies the wonders of recycling and repurposing, and the transformative power of art.

Yuree Kensaku (Thailand/Japan)



Yuree Kensaku, *The Finale Fin of Shark's Fins*. From the series 'Apex Predator', 2016. Image courtesy of the artist and 100 Tonson Gallery.

The Finale Fin of Shark's Fins

From the series 'Apex Predator'

2016

Acrylic on wall

371.5 × 458.4 cm



Yuree Kensaku, *Don't They Know It's the End of the Whale?* From the series 'Apex Predator', 2016. Image courtesy of the artist and 100 Tonson Gallery.

Don't They Know It's the End of the Whale?

From the series 'Apex Predator'

2016

Acrylic on wall

371.5 × 458.4 cm



Yuree Kensaku, *Apex Predator*. From the series 'Apex Predator', 2016. Image courtesy of the artist and 100 Tonson Gallery.

Apex Predator

From the series 'Apex Predator'

2016

Acrylic on wall

371.5 × 458.4 cm

In accordance to the grand design of nature, animals live and feed off one another in an endless cycle known as the food chain. Meanwhile, the human's intelligence has placed it at the top of this hierarchy, and excessive greed has led to exploitation of the oceans to satiate its hunger. Majestic creatures such as great white sharks and blue whales are now reduced to exotic dishes for the appetites of the wealthy. In three spectacular wall murals, artist Yuree Kensaku ponders the possibility of nature's survival given humanity's seemingly insatiable greed.

Papermoon Puppet Theatre (Indonesia)



Papermoon Puppet Theatre, *Suara Muara (The Sounds of the Estuary)*, 2016. Image courtesy of the artist.

Suara Muara (The Sounds of the Estuary)

2016

Mixed media installation

Dimensions variable

Lasem, a tiny town on the northern part of Java island, is where the Lasem River meets the Java Sea. Once an important port where vessels berthed to transport a bevy of treasures to places around the world, Lasem today is like a lonely old man, who keeps his secrets quietly. While the fishermen tend their nets and children play around little wooden boats, one can still find ancient shards of Chinese porcelain buried beneath its sandy beaches. *Suara Muara*, or *The Sounds of the Estuary*, brings audiences on an aural journey, where the sounds of the past still exist, in unison with the lapping of the waves.

Janice Wong (Singapore)



Janice Wong, *Underwater Labyrinth*, 2011. Image courtesy of the artist.

Underwater Labyrinth

2011, recreated in 2016

Installation with isomalt, chocolate, fixative, wooden tables, acrylic stands, LEDs

Dimensions variable

Sparkling in the day and luminescent at night, artist-chef Janice Wong's *Underwater Labyrinth* features compact colonies of 'corals' composed of approximately 1,100 kilograms of isomalt sugar and 200 kilograms of chocolate. This installation of confectionery is inspired by the 'rainforests of the sea'; chocolate moss and marshmallows rest on beds of vibrantly stained 'corals' that encrust the sides of the gallery or cascade down its walls. *Underwater Labyrinth*, as the title alludes, invites visitors to discover the wonders of a re-created deep-seabed.

Annex C

Public Programmes – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea*

SUBMAROOM

Date: Saturday, 14 May – Sunday, 28 August 2016

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Level 2

What would you do to keep yourself occupied on a journey over the ocean and under the sea? Craft up a storm and try your hand at the various interactive stations within the Submaroom! There is something for everyone here – from origami-making to exploring with periscopes, and learning the International Code of Signals (used by vessels to communicate) with the Republic of Singapore Navy!

Visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg for more information

ARTIST PERFORMANCE

***Suara Muara (The Sounds of the Estuary)* by the Papermoon Puppet Theatre**

Date: Friday, 26 August 2016

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Join us for this special night at SAM at 8Q as the exhibits come alive with a performance by Papermoon Puppet Theatre, a contemporary puppet theatre in Indonesia. *Suara Muara* takes audiences on an aural journey of Lasem, a tiny town on the northern part of Java island, and the estuary upon which it sits.

Ticketed event. More details will be available at a later date. Visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg for details.

ARTIST-LED WORKSHOPS

Make Your Own Monsters with Mulyana

Date: Sunday, 15 May 2016

Time: 1pm – 3pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, *Imaginarium* Workshop Space (Level 2)

\$35 (no concessions, excludes *SISTIC* booking fees)

Cloud Corals with Mulyana

Date: Sunday, 15 May 2016

Time: 4pm – 6pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, *Imaginarium* Workshop Space (Level 2)

\$40 (no concessions, excludes *SISTIC* booking fees)

Immerse yourself in a fantasy world under the sea as you participate in these hands-on art-making workshops with Indonesian artist, Mulyana! Get up close with Mogus, a friendly octopus who follows Mulyana wherever he goes, and join them as they guide you through techniques of knitting and sewing, so that you too may go home with your very own sea monsters and cloud corals.

Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC.

Plastic Ocean – Illustration workshop with Tan Zi Xi

Date and Time: Saturday, 30 July | 2pm – 3.30pm

Tuesday, 9 August | 10.30am – 12pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q, *Imaginarium* Workshop Space (Level 2)

Singaporean artist and illustrator Tan Zi Xi constantly seeks new ways of sharing her creative illustrations. Taking inspiration from her artworks *An Effort Most Futile* and *Plastic Ocean*, participants reflect on their daily plastic consumption, wastage and its repercussions on environmental pollution, while jointly creating a mural painting with Zi Xi and learning to find beauty in the everyday.

Workshop fees apply. More details will be available at a later date. Visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg for details.

Edible Art Workshop

Date: Saturday, 14 May 2016

Venue: SAM at 8Q, *Imaginarium* Workshop Space (Level 2)

Unleash your inner artist and create your own masterpiece... with chocolate! Conducted by the team behind 2am:dessertbar, 2am: lab and the sweets boutique, JANICE WONG, join us for an afternoon of making art fun, experimental and edible!

Workshop fees apply. More details will be available at a later date. Visit www.singaporeartmuseum.sg for details.

STORYTELLING SESSIONS

The Totally Awesomely Amazing Story of Sri Tri Buana – Descendant of the Sea

Date and Time: Friday, 17 Jun | 11:00am

Saturday, 18 Jun | 11:00am

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Join Rosemarie Somaiah, otherwise known as 'Aunty Rose', for an imaginative and fun-filled day out with the family at the Singapore Art Museum. Through engaging, interactive storytelling sessions, she will share the legends of a King who fell in love with the Princess of the Sea, and their life in the underwater kingdom.

\$10 per adult, \$5 per child.

BEYOND THE DEEP BLUE – SHORT FILMS SCREENING

Date: Saturday, 14 May – Sunday, 28 August 2016

Venue: Moving Image Gallery, SAM at 8Q

Sit back and relax in the Moving Image Gallery while enjoying a special selection of local and short international films inspired by marine adventures and aquatic tales of and about the ocean.

Museum admission fees apply.

CURATOR-LED TOUR: FAMILY NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Date: Wednesday, 1 June 2016

Time: 7pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Join us for a night of fun and parent-child bonding at the museum as *Imaginarium* co-curator, Andrea Fam, introduces you to the artworks and brings you on a journey of discovery around *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under the Sea*.

\$12. Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC. Each ticket admits one child from age 7 – 15 years old or one adult.

EDUCATORS' WORKSHOP

CREATIVITY AND VISUAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2016

Time: 2.30pm

Venue: SAM at 8Q

In partnership with the British Council, the Creativity and Visual Literacy Workshop provides a comprehensive look at the role of Visual Literacy in the MOE English Language Curriculum with the use of selected artworks from *Imaginarium*. The 2 hours workshop supports the philosophy and pedagogy of teacher and learning of participants through Object and Image-based Inquiry. No prior background in Art is required.

\$50. Tickets available at SAM and SISTIC.

PHOTOBOOTH

The Original Selfie Machine

Date: Saturday, 14 May – Sunday, 28 August 2016

Venue: SAM at 8Q, Level 2

The Original Selfie Machine has landed on the sandy shores of SAM at 8Q! What is this magical contraption that can capture your likeness so well?

\$4 (for 2 printouts)

EDUCATIONAL MERCHANDISE

Diver's Logbook

Date: Available from Saturday, 14 May 2016

Venue: SAM at 8Q

Travel over the ocean and explore under the sea with this interactive diver's logbook as you make your way through *Imaginarium's* aquatic landscape. Suitable for all ages, the logbook is filled with beautifully detailed illustrations waiting to be brought to life by you through sketching and colouring.

\$2. Available for sale at SAM at 8Q front desk.
