

NHBUZZ

PI Child's Play!

This May, the National Museum of Singapore stages its first ever *Children's Season*, a festival dedicated to both the young and young-at-heart. Counting exhibitions, performances, short films and workshops among its many activities, *Children's Season* promises something for everyone!

Mozart: A Child Prodigy

1 May - 6 Jul 2008

Experience a day in the life of young Mozart at the National Museum! Organised by ZOOM Children's Museum and Da Ponte Institute from Austria, *Mozart: A Child Prodigy* presents an interactive exhibition inspired by the musical genius' childhood during the Rococo period in 18th century Europe.

With 11 themed rooms, young visitors aged six to 12 can try their hand at the very same tasks Mozart performed as a child. Dress up as an aristocrat, have a go at making paper wigs, or cook up a storm with herbal remedies from age-old recipes! Facilitators will be at hand to assist as children explore the similarities and differences between everyday life in the past and present.



TOP and LEFT: Doll up as the aristocrats did in this interactive exhibition.

Courtesy of Ausstellung "Wolfgang Amadé - ein ganz normales Wunderkind": ZOOM Kindermuseum / Matthias Woelfle.





Enjoy Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* – Korean style!

A Midsummer Night's Dream from the East
15 May & 16 May 2008
16 May & 17 May 2008

Be transported into a world of whimsical fantasy through dance, movement and percussion. A dynamic theatre production where fantasy and dreams meet Korean mythical folklore, *A Midsummer Night's Dream from the East* by Yohangza Theatre Company (Korea) presents a visual spectacle depicting classic Shakespeare with an oriental twist. A wacky production suited for both adults and children!

The Murmurs Playground
1 May - 6 Jul 2008

Designed to induce speech through action, *The Murmurs Playground* presents a spread of fun activities for



The Murmurs Playground offers children the ideal spot to play and learn in.

young tikes between two and four years. Curated by local artist anGie seah, this interactive installation houses four interesting tasks for toddlers to explore.

Have fun creating sounds with various utensils and cutlery in *Musical Chef*. Or if you are looking for some action, embark on an exploratory journey through a twinkle-lighted tunnel in *Mazzy Tunnel*, and take a "quick dip" in a fun ball pit at *Amphitheatre*. *Lolli-poppy*, the final adventure, hones one's hearing and motor skills through a series of soft lollipop-like sculptures which create sounds when pressed.

Imprint

1 May - 31 Aug 2008

Rooted in the belief that art should always provoke an experience, local artist Twardzik Ching Chor Leng's *Imprint* encourages young visitors aged five to 12 to feel and play with objects often deemed taboo to touch. Pin art, a highly interactive object consisting of thousands of movable pins, will be blown up into a life-size sculpture for young ones to experiment with.



Make your mark with our human-size pin art installation!

Young Cinema

1 May 2008
24 May - 27 May 2008

Enjoy a selection of some of the best short films made for children at the National Museum! Be inspired and entertained by thought-provoking movies such as *Journey to Mars*, *Roberto the Insect Architect* and *The Usher*. A must-see for children aged six to 12!

Young Cinema's many entertaining films promise a feast for the eyes!



Windows to a Child's Mind

Art Interactive 24 May & 25 May 2008 | Film Therapy 24 May & 25 May 2008

In collaboration with the Child Guidance Clinic of the Institute of Mental Health, *Windows to a Child's Mind* features two workshops – *Art Interactive* and *Film Therapy* – to help parents better comprehend the psyche of children.

In *Art Interactive*, discover how art serves as a window to the minds and well-being of young children. Aside from facilitated drawing sessions for the kids, the workshop will include discussions with educational and behavioural specialists on how drawings can offer insights into the self-perceptions, emotions and feelings of children. *Art Interactive* is specially created for children aged six to nine, their parents and care-givers.

Come enjoy award-winning local director Sun Koh's much lauded short film, *My Secret Heaven*, which offers both comic relief and candid insights into the stress experienced by parents and children in Singapore. Psychologists from the Child Guidance Clinic will facilitate an interactive discussion of the movie, and offer tips to parents and care-givers on creating meaningful relationships with children.

Men of Steel
24 May & 25 May 2008
26 May & 27 May 2008

Winner of the Festival Directors' Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival, *Men of Steel* is object theatre at its inventive best. Known for its exquisite puppetry coupled with a sense of humour, this stage comedy features three mad chefs animating various objects in a puppet extravaganza of epic proportions. Best suited for children aged three to eight.

The antics of Tamara, Hamish and Sam will tickle you pink in this exhilarating performance!



For more information on the National Museum's Children's Season, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

VIETNAM FESTIVAL

APRIL - JULY 2008

CATCH THE COLOURS OF VIETNAM IN SINGAPORE

Organised by National Heritage Board
www.vietnamfestival.sg

VIET NAM! FROM MYTH TO MODERNITY
Asian Civilisations Museum
21 May - 30 September 2008

Journey through 2500 years of Vietnam's history, as seen through more than 180 artefacts on loan from museums in Vietnam, private collections and from the collection of the Asian Civilisations Museum.

POST-DOI MOI: VIETNAMESE ART AFTER THE 1990s
Singapore Art Museum
12 May - 28 September 2008

Calling all art enthusiasts! Be inspired by the beauty of modern and contemporary Vietnamese art from the last 15 years. Take this rare opportunity to deepen your understanding of the artworks by attending workshops, art talks and our guided tours.

FROM WAR TO NATIONHOOD - AN EXHIBITION OF VIETNAMESE FILM POSTERS
Presented by National Archives of Singapore & Vietnam Film Institute
20 May - 10 September 2008

Take a fascinating journey through Vietnam's history, as depicted in a showcase of rare film posters from the Vietnam Film Institute. Gain interesting insights into Vietnamese society while marvelling at the artistry of this unique medium.

JOURNEY THROUGH THE LAND OF LOTUS
Singapore Philatelic Museum
22 May - 28 September 2008

Experience Vietnamese culture through a collection of interesting stamps, miniature dolls, water puppets and traditional Vietnamese outfits, like the Ao Dai.

04 A Master of Illusions

Title: Matthew Ngui: Points of View
Date: 28 May - 29 Jun 2008
Venue: National Museum of Singapore

One of Singapore's most internationally recognised artists, Matthew Ngui is known for creating playful and interactive settings that toy with one's perceptions and perspectives. Challenging the validity of fixed meanings and truths, Ngui's *Points of View* highlights the fluidity and unpredictability of life. It showcases his signature use of anamorphosis – an art form depicting fragmented images meeting at a single point. A master of illusions, Ngui's works have travelled the world to momentous art events such as the Sao Paulo Biennial in 1996, and the Venice Biennale in 2001.

Visitors keen to explore the combination of new media and art can look forward to Ngui's clever use of digital media in many of his masterpieces. His seamless weaving of digital media into breathtaking artforms will certainly leave viewers impressed. This solo exhibition combines works spanning two decades and features creations specially commissioned for this exhibition. *Points of View* has travelled widely to renowned museums in Australia, such as the Museum of Contemporary Art in Sydney and the John Curtin Gallery in Perth.



The ingenious masterpieces of Singapore artist Matthew Ngui will leave you mesmerised.

The Making of David

Title: Surrounding David by Titarubi
Date: 6 Mar - 11 Aug 2008
Venue: National Museum of Singapore

From the looks of Michaelangelo's David at the National Museum of Singapore, size certainly does matter! An astounding 8.5 metres in height, *Surrounding David* by Indonesian artist Titarubi drew inspiration from the ancient Greek architectural form of the rotunda while mimicking the typical European piazza and its anchor-statue.

All fabulous in red and pink, this fibre-glass replica of David at the centre of the National Museum's Rotunda injects much snazz and pizzazz into its pristine white surroundings. Join us on a pictorial journey through the colossal task of making David!



Crew members draping parts of the installation in vibrant Peranakan kebaya fabric.



Easy does it! Balance and agility were certainly important in putting the pieces together.



So daunting was the task that putting in place a single limb required the strength of three men!



Slowly but steadily, the pieces came together.



Adding the finishing touches to this enormous work of art.

Voilà! Presenting David in all his pink splendour!



Honouring Our Patrons 05

The National Heritage Board (NHB) paid tribute to 51 individuals, companies and foundations for their exemplary acts of heritage philanthropy at the second Patron of Heritage Awards on 15 April 2008. In the past year, cash sponsorships, in-kind donations and long-term loans totalling more than S\$11 million were received. Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, graced the ceremony as its Patron and Guest of Honour at the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM).



Guests gathered in the River Room at ACM for the awards ceremony and dinner.



Mr Michael Koh, CEO of NHB, played host for the night.



Dr Lee Boon Yang presenting Mr Koh Poh Tiong, Trustee and Chairman of the Advisory Committee at Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation, the highest accolade of the night – the Distinguished Patron of Heritage award.



Winners all!



Professor Tommy Koh, Chairman of NHB, proposing a toast to the guests.



The creators behind the awards, potters Thomas Cheong and Suriani Suratman.



A performance by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra ended the ceremony on a melodious note.

60 Seconds with Selina Halim

The Heritage Doctor



Selina doing what she does best – giving artworks a fresh lease of life.

You can't stop the ravages of time – or so the saying goes. But don't tell that to Selina Halim.

An Assistant Conservator (Painting) at the National Heritage Board's Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC), Selina's job involves tenderly restoring and preserving artworks and artefacts. Together with her colleagues who are also true blue art lovers, she breathes new life into old and damaged paintings.

As art is created to be enjoyed for all times, a conservator's job is to keep these priceless works in good condition. Sometimes they get "sick" and it is up to the conservator to help them recover. Indeed, conservators are not unlike doctors in their dedication to prolong life.

While art conservation dates back centuries, its arsenal of "weapons" – infrared cameras, X-ray machines and even laser guns – are often state-of-the-art! Despite the modern techniques available, there are limitations to what conservators can and should do as Selina readily admits: "We have a code of ethics which dictates the degree of intervention permitted in treating a damaged object. An object may be so badly damaged that there's nothing we can do to salvage it without crossing the ethical line."

Her most challenging project to date is work on a painting by well known pioneer artist Liu Kang: "It was flaking so badly that to treat it, I had to first remove a coating of polyvinyl acetate (PVA) adhesive which was causing the damage. Unfortunately, the PVA coating could not be seen under ultraviolet light and wasn't removable with normal solvents. I had to peel it off labouriously with a tweezer!"

Selina's love for art began in childhood and she longed to be an artist. Indonesian by birth, she left Jakarta for Melbourne at 14 to pursue her studies in the arts. Down Under, she attended the Victorian College of Arts and graduated with a bachelor's degree in the fine arts. Upon graduation, the desire for greater job security took precedence over her artistic ambitions and this led Selina to choose the career of art conservation.

"I fell in love with how the profession combines knowledge in art, history and science. Moreover, friends in the industry pointed out the demand for trained painting conservators. Putting two and two together, I thought, why not?" recalls Selina. She went on to pursue a master's degree in Cultural Materials Conservation at the University of Melbourne, choosing to specialise in how a tropical environment affects the conservation of materials.

In 2007, she visited HCC while on a trip to Singapore and was impressed. "I saw a lot of potential in the institution, particularly in the development and advancement of the conservation profession in Southeast Asia. With conservation practice and research generally centered in Western countries, HCC represents the future of conservation in the region!" Selina was also drawn to HCC's dynamic, open and sharing work-culture.

Despite her hectic schedule, Selina continues to pursue her childhood ambition of becoming an established artist. While painting is done mostly as a leisure activity these days, Selina is happy to be where she is at. "Juggling both art and conservation is no mean feat, but I am optimistic that it'll all work out in the end. With true passion, I can overcome all odds," she asserts.

06 How Museums Engage Children in Asia

Ms Tresnawati Prihadi, General Manager of the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM), attended the first Asian Children's Museum Conference held in Manila, Philippines, between 23 and 26 February 2008. With the theme "Children's Museums as Bridges of Peace", the inaugural event attracted more than 120 participants including museum staff, policymakers, educators and parents.

Guest speakers from different children's museums were invited to share their expertise on best practices adopted by children's museums the world over. The Tropenmuseum Junior in the Netherlands impressed many with its remarkable recreation of daily life in Mumbai, India. The highly interactive exhibition enabled young visitors to experience life in the bustling Indian city. The importance of social etiquette was highlighted by the Kids Plaza in Osaka, Japan. Through a mock-up settlement known as "Barrier Town", the children learned to be more considerate towards the handicapped as they manoeuvred themselves around in wheelchairs.

Ms Prihadi herself presented on how stamps, which capture the heritage and culture of different countries, can act as "bridges of peace". Challenged to view stamps as "windows to the world", participants were introduced to SPM's cultural-themed stamp exhibitions and fringe programmes like open house day activities and school programmes.

Apart from knowledge gleaned from lessons and experiences shared during the conference, SPM forged many new friendships with like-minded counterparts around the world.



Ms Prihadi shared more about SPM's programmes while engaging cultural performances provided much entertainment during the conference.

Food For Thought

Title: Life & Living – Food & Culture Series
Date: Apr - Dec 2008
Venue: National Museum of Singapore

Calling all connoisseurs of cuisine! Check out the National Museum of Singapore's *Life & Living – Food & Culture Series* as it returns with a delectable spread of programmes for all to savour and enjoy. Embark on a gastronomic adventure and learn about delicacies from all over the world through the lens of history and culture. Witness how food is indelibly linked to life today despite being steeped in history. Marrying the best of food and history, the National Museum's *Food & Culture Series* promises a feast for the senses!

popularity throughout Europe and the Americas in *An Enlightened Age: Chocolate in the 18th Century*. Find out how the first chocolate bar was made as guest presenter, Vincent Bourdin, regional pastry consultant of leading chocolate producer Valrhona, takes you on a tantalising journey through the history of chocolate.

A History of Austria's Golden Age through its Desserts
21 Jun 2008



And if you are looking for something more adventurous to satisfy your sweet tooth, have a go at some Austrian treats such as the *Sacher Torte*, *Gugelhof* and *Esterhazychnitten*. Strange as they may sound, these famous Austrian desserts represent important periods in Austria's history. Tickle your tastebuds with

an array of enticing Viennese pastries while learning about the country's past through its cuisine.

Brain Food
14 Jun 2008



If desserts aren't your cup of tea, learn more about the effects of healthy eating in *Brain Food* presented by dietician and nutritionist Breda Gavin. Discover how certain foods affect the way children develop and grow, and find out what is best for your own budding genius in this educational seminar.

For more information on other programmes, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg. Admission tickets can be purchased at www.nationalmuseum.sg or the National Museum's Visitor Services Counter.

June Holiday Specials at SPM!



Spice Adventure
17 May & 18 May 2008, 9.30am - 11am
7 Jun & 8 Jun 2008, 9.30am - 11am
Singapore Philatelic Museum

Did you know that Sir Stamford Raffles started the first botanical garden in Singapore at Fort Canning Park? *Spice Adventure* by the Singapore Philatelic Museum unravels the fascinating history of herbs and spices. Discover many types of interesting plants at Fort Canning Park, and savour tasty snacks flavoured with herbs and spices. Treat your family to a day of fun and discovery as you embark on this educational trail guaranteed to stimulate the senses.

Night at the Museum
29 May 2008, 6pm, till 30 May 2008, 9am
Singapore Philatelic Museum

If you have children aged seven to 10, sign them up for a one-of-a-kind adventure at the Singapore Philatelic Museum (SPM)! Gather your young ones for a sleepover at SPM, tour the Museum's galleries in the dark of the night, and come face-to-face with the mysterious talking stamp. Be entertained by a magician and his bag of tricks, and embark on a search for gems in an exciting treasure hunt. Kids can get creative with balloons in a balloon sculpting workshop, and even orchestrate their very own puppet show! All participants will also get to take home their very own personalised stamp as a keepsake!



End the day with a cosy sleepover among stamps at SPM!

For more information on registration and charges, please call 6337 3888.

The Glory of Giacometti

07



Title: Seeing. Feeling. Being.
: Alberto Giacometti
Date: 1 May - 15 Jun 2008
Venue: Singapore Art Museum

For the first time in Southeast Asia, the Singapore Art Museum, together with the Alberto Giacometti Foundation, will present a milestone exhibition featuring prominent works by renowned artist Alberto Giacometti.

Known for his unique vision of the human figure, Alberto Giacometti has been helmed alongside the masters of European art history. The exhibition showcases his drawings, sculptures, as well as works from his Paris Sans Fin lithographs. *Seeing. Feeling. Being.* will also include a special section of photographs depicting the Swiss sculptor

Giacometti hard at work – courtesy of Swiss photographer and personal friend, Ernst Scheidegger.

at work by Ernst Scheidegger, eminent Swiss photographer and personal friend of Giacometti. Highlighting contradictions between reality witnessed and experienced, *Seeing. Feeling. Being.* invites you to explore Giacometti's unique representations of man and his world in post-war Europe.

Watch out for a series of public programmes ranging from exploring Giacometti's art in the context of European art history, to gleaning the parallels between Giacometti's vision and Buddhist philosophy.

Peranakan Treasures

Title: Junk To Jewels: The Things that Peranakans Value
Date: 26 Apr - Aug 2008
Venue: Peranakan Museum

Enjoy intimate and fascinating stories linked to treasured Peranakan family heirlooms in this inaugural exhibition at the National Heritage Board's new Peranakan Museum. Curated by Peter Lee, a renowned Peranakan art historian, this exhibition featuring everyday objects and finely crafted works of art brings together loans from over 20 Peranakan families.

As proud custodians of their living heritage, the Peranakans have always held personal belongings of their families and ancestors close



Uncover the stories behind treasured Peranakan heirlooms.

Tell Their Stories

to their hearts. Ranging from finely crafted works of art to commonplace utensils, these treasures express the unique identity and heritage of a community caught between cultures.

Junk To Jewels at the newly opened Peranakan Museum will feature an extensive range of Peranakan artefacts – from books to clothes, jewellery, porcelain, handicrafts and furniture. Visitors can look forward to rare Peranakan exhibits such as family recipe books handed down through generations, wedding shoes from the 1900s and even celebrity Peranakan items like Dick Lee's Cultural Medallion! These treasures, along with their personal stories, provide a glimpse into the fascinating world of Peranakan culture past and present.

Viva La Paris!

Singaporeans may soon be able to enjoy the best exhibitions and shows from renowned French museums including the Louvre, Musée d'Orsay, Musée du quai Branly and Centre Pompidou right here at our doorsteps!

Recently appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA), Mr Chan Yeng Kit, led a delegation from MICA and the National Heritage Board (NHB) to Paris to foster closer cultural collaboration between Singapore and France. The fruitful trip resulted in a stronger formalisation of ties between Singapore and French museums, as well as between NHB and its French counterpart Réunion des musées nationaux (RMN).

As part of the trip, the delegation visited many of the city's world class museums and galleries and met with key government and museum officials. In the pipeline are plans for both French and Singapore agencies to sign MOUs sealing their partnership, as well as curatorial exchanges between NHB museums and their French counterparts.

Museum-goers from both countries will benefit greatly from the exchange of exhibitions. This includes the possibility of staging the Asian Civilisations Museum's Peranakan Legacy exhibition at the Musée du quai Branly in Paris, as well as bringing in works by Post Impressionist Masters to Singapore.



Calendar of Events

It's all about
Coalition by
Eko Nugroho
(Indonesia)



Glass Atrium
93 Stamford Road

National Museum of Singapore
17 Apr 08 - 30 Jun 08

This art installation of life-sized bronze sculptures resembling part-man-part-robot creatures tells an ironic tale of how modernity has made us into thoughtless and soul-less robots. Black and white murals painted on glass panels and surfaces of the National Museum of Singapore's Visitor Services Counter at the Glass Atrium further illustrate the detachment and loneliness of modern life.

Việt Nam!
From
Myth To
Modernity



Special Exhibitions
Gallery
1 Empress Place

Asian Civilisations Museum
21 May 08 - 30 Sep 08

Explore Vietnam's cultural identity through 2,500 years of art and history! Witness how it absorbs and adapts both Eastern and Western cultures. Important archaeological materials, sculptures, textiles and ethnographic objects from national museums in Vietnam, private collectors and the Asian Civilisations Museum will be showcased in this exhibition.

Post-Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art
After 1990s



SAM Galleries 2.7 - 2.9, 3.7 & 3.8
71 Bras Basah Road

Singapore Art Museum
12 May 08 - 28 Sep 08

Gain insights into the amazing world of Vietnamese art and how it has progressed in the last 15 years. A commemoration of close relations between Singapore and Vietnam, this show highlights the sensation and drama of modern and contemporary Vietnamese art, which has since earned international recognition.

Journey through
the Land
of Lotus



23-B Coleman Street

Singapore Philatelic Museum
20 May 08 - 23 Nov 08

Experience Vietnam's unique history and culture through an engaging showcase of Vietnamese stamps at the Singapore Philatelic Museum! Unravel interesting stories of the country's heritage and admire Vietnamese traditional outfits such as the *Ao Dai*, a display of water puppets, as well as miniature dolls representing the large number of minority groups in Vietnam.

IMD'08 Open House Day



NHB museums
31 May 08

Explore the diversity of museums in this annual cultural extravaganza spearheaded by the National Heritage Board (NHB). In a bid to celebrate active ageing, International Museum Day 2008 (IMD'08) will feature exciting activities specially catered to senior citizens. What's more, gather family and friends and enjoy free entry to NHB museums on 31 May!

Public Information Meeting



Special Exhibitions Gallery
1 Empress Place

Asian Civilisations Museum
14 May 08, 10am - 12pm

Interested to be a guide at Singapore's national museums? Sign up for a series of docent training programmes with the Friends of the Museums (Singapore). To learn more, join us at the Public Information Meeting on "Becoming a Guide" on 14 May and gather useful insights into guiding at the museums.

*For more information, please visit
www.fom.sg or call 6337 3685.*

Editorial Team

Advisor: Walter Lim
Managing Editor: David Miller
Editor: Lynn Xu
Contributors: Sybil Chiew
Selina Halim
Jocelyn Lee
Samantha Liew
Mishelle Lim
Lily Samuel
Joice Toh

For any feedback, drop us an email
at nhb_feedback@nhb.gov.sg.

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National Heritage Board
140 Hill Street
#03-02 MICA Building
Singapore 179369

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging collaborative partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

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