

## AMANDA HENG

# WE ARE THE WORLD THESE ARE OUR STORIES

7 January – 25 February 2017

OPENING: FRIDAY 6 JANUARY, 6.30PM – 8.30PM

GUEST OF HONOUR: MS JANE ITTOGI, CHAIR OF THE SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM BOARD & PARTNER AT SHOOK LIN & BOK LLP



*We Are the World - These Are Our Stories* (detail), 2016, Amanda Heng. Produced at STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery © Amanda Heng/STPI

Cultural Medallion recipient Amanda Heng kicks off STPI's 15th year exhibition calendar and Singapore Art Week 2017.

**We Are the World - These Are Our Stories** is a highly unique presentation of a single work comprising twelve personal stories of twelve individuals. This is the performance artist's first-ever solo gallery exhibition unveiling a never-before-seen work; a definitive milestone in her prolific career which spans over two decades. Heng applies her collaborative and process-driven approach to printing and papermaking techniques, pushing the STPI Creative Workshop team to create art beyond the Creative Workshop space, a first for STPI.

The inception of this work began with *Let's Chat*, Heng's iconic performance piece, where she engaged twelve participants from all walks of life in a conversation over cleaning beansprouts. Each person chose a treasured object or heirloom as a starting point of conversation. Through this, Heng drew out values central to the individual and that became the foundation of each story. This close engagement with the public is critical to Heng's practice; her works are noted and celebrated for their universal relevance in highlighting social issues, especially vanishing values and the disintegration of the social fabric in the face of modernity. **We Are the World – These Are Our Stories** embodies the earnest spirit of this pioneer female artist in bringing about social change—through creating art that has meaning for the ordinary man and woman.

For this collaboration, Heng propelled the STPI Creative Workshop team to venture beyond the Creative Workshop space; she wove QR codes into each story to include digital mediums into the work—yet another first for her. As STPI Chief Printer Eitaro Ogawa puts it, this work “extends the territory of collaboration to communities, bringing communication from the artist to the public to another level. It was a different way of working and making artwork (for the STPI Creative Workshop team), and it stretched our ability beyond the knowledge of print and papermaking.”

**We Are the World – These Are Our Stories** is a chef-d'œuvre, packed with break-throughs and bold innovation. This is the first time that both Heng and STPI embark on a project that extends beyond the traditional artist residency and the physical institution itself.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION,  
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We Are the World -These Are Our Stories (detail), 2016, Amanda Heng. Produced at STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery © Amanda Heng/STPI



# ABOUT THE ARTIST

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Amanda Heng is a full-time art practitioner. She adopts an interdisciplinary approach to her art practice, focusing on the issues of history, memory, communication and human relationships in urban condition. She has exhibited in major galleries, festivals and artist-run projects in Singapore and the international scene, including the Asia-Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art, the Havana Biennial, the Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial and the inaugural Singapore Biennale. Hailed as one of Singapore's most important artists by Sean Tobin, the Artistic Director of the Singapore Fringe Festival, her iconic, culturally symbolic performance piece *Let's Walk*, which has been performed extensively across both local and international platforms since 1999, has been chosen to be the theme of the Singapore Fringe Festival 2018, the first in a series of installments themed after celebrated Singaporean artists in honour of their significant contributions in shaping the local art scene.

One of the founding members of The Artists' Village and WITA.SG (Women in the Arts), Heng is a Cultural Medallion recipient who has been a formative figure in the local arts landscape since the 1980s, and she continues to be an important presence, having lectured at Nanyang Technological University and the National Institute of Education, Singapore, and sat on the selection and curatorial committee for the President's Young Talents Exhibition in 2009. She currently supervises Master of Art students at LASALLE College of the Arts.

Heng joined nine other artists, including Wilson Shieh, Yuken Teruya, Navin Rawanchaikul, Lin Tianmiao, Xu Bing and Michael Lin to produce a joint-portfolio at STPI ten years ago, which was then presented at 'Asian Contemporary Art in Print,' a collaboration between Asia Society (New York) and STPI, as part of the Asia Society's 50th anniversary. Prior to her residency at STPI, Heng completed a residency with the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (CCA) in 2015.

## ABOUT STPI

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STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

STPI Creative Workshop is a rigorous incubator for pushing the boundaries of various print and papermaking techniques. Bolstered by specialised facilities and a highly qualified workshop team, STPI Creative Workshop produces unique collaborations with leading international artists to challenge conventions in art, explore new trajectories in their practice and share their experience with the public.

STPI Gallery is an active platform that fosters the exchange of ideas in contemporary art with its diverse exhibitions and public programme. The gallery hosts specially curated exhibitions of works produced in the STPI Creative Workshop and regularly participates in international fairs. This enables it to nurture and sustain local and international interest in both its collaborators and in the mediums of print and paper. The gallery's public programme aims to engage and broaden visitor understanding of contemporary art, while collaborations with a variety of international curators, collectors and gallerists provide a holistic experience for audiences on a global level.

## ABOUT SINGAPORE ART WEEK

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**We Are the World – These Are Our Stories** is part of Singapore Art Week (11 – 22 January 2017). A joint initiative by the National Arts Council, the Singapore Tourism Board and the Singapore Economic Development Board, Singapore Art Week reinforces Singapore's position as Asia's leading arts destination. In its fifth edition in 2017, the twelve-day celebration of the visual arts takes place in venues across Singapore, from galleries and museums to art precincts and non-profit spaces.

Reaching out to both Singapore residents and international visitors to promote art appreciation, Singapore Art Week offers a myriad of quality art experiences which span the visual arts, from traditional to modern to contemporary practices. Audiences can look forward to art fairs, gallery openings, exhibitions, lifestyle events, public art walks, and enriching discussions on art and culture. Singapore Art Week also aims to galvanise the arts sector to launch innovative art and lifestyle concepts and events in conjunction with art events during this period. [www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg)

**SAW**  
SINGAPORE**ART**WEEK

# PUBLIC PROGRAMME AT STPI

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**ARTIST PANEL DISCUSSION: PROCESS AND  
ENGAGEMENT WITH AMANDA HENG, JUNE YAP,  
LOUIS HO & ANCA RUJOIU**

SATURDAY 7 JANUARY, 3.00PM – 4.00PM

**COLLECTOR'S LOUNGE WITH KOH SEOW CHUAN  
& HALLAM CHOW**

SATURDAY 14 JANUARY, 3.00PM – 4.30PM

**MID WEEK FILM SCREENING**

WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY, 7.00PM – 8.00PM

**POETRY & MUSIC RECITAL**

SATURDAY 11 FEBRUARY, 3.00PM – 4.30PM

**WORKSHOP: “COLLABORATION & PARTICIPATION”  
WITH AMANDA HENG**

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY, 3.00PM – 4.00PM

**TALK AND WORKSHOP: “BEAN SPROUTS AND  
PAPERMAKING” WITH AMANDA HENG**

SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY, 3.00PM – 4.00PM

## UPCOMING EXHIBITIONS

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**CARSTEN HÖLLER, TOBIAS REHBERGER, ANRI SALA & RIRKRIT TIRAVANIJA**

18 MARCH – 22 APRIL 2017

**KIM BEOM**

6 MAY – 17 JUNE 2017

**STPI ANNUAL SPECIAL EXHIBITION:**

**MODERN PRINT MASTERS – WORKS FROM THE NATIONAL COLLECTION**

1 JULY – 2 SEPTEMBER 2017

**ALFREDO & ISABEL AQUILIZAN**

16 SEPTEMBER – 28 OCTOBER 2017

**JASON MARTIN**

11 NOVEMBER – 23 DECEMBER 2017

