

S.E.A. Focus 2021 offers borderless experience of the best contemporary Southeast Asian art to art lovers around the globe

The new integrated S.E.A. Focus to nurture appreciation of the region's art with a curated onsite experience, insider tours and virtual travels to international art spaces, and expert discourse in its third edition



Rirkrit Tiravanija, *untitled 2016 (nothing)*, 2016. Saffron dyed cotton, thread, metal grommets. Dimensions variable.

© Rirkrit Tiravanija. Photo by Jens Ziehe, courtesy of the artist and neugerriemschneider, Berlin.

08 January 2021, Singapore – S.E.A. Focus, the meeting point for contemporary art in Southeast Asia, presents a diverse range of engaging programmes that facilitates cultural exchanges that celebrate, promote and provoke dialogue about Southeast Asian art amongst collectors, artists, galleries and the public. An initiative led by STPI – Creative Workshop and Gallery and supported by the National Arts Council, S.E.A. Focus is an anchor event of the annual Singapore Art Week. This third edition returns as a progressive physical and online showcase with its twinned offerings, S.E.A. Focus Digital and S.E.A. Focus Curated. This provides a new integrated experience for local and international audiences to encounter and deepen their appreciation of Southeast Asian art.

Audiences can look forward to an exciting blend of digital and in-person art experiences including *hyper-horizon*, the physical exhibition of S.E.A. Focus Curated. The show at Tanjong Distripark will present a curated selection of works as a seamless exhibition experience, unlike the typical art fair presentation with segregated booths. This unconventional presentation encourages collectors and audiences to explore and uncover fresh perspectives of Southeast Asian art in a manner that is both inviting and accessible.

Audiences can also anticipate intimate tours of artists' studios and renowned art spaces around the region such as artists Faris Nakamura and Melissa Tan's studios in Singapore, Korakrit Arunanondchai's studio in Bangkok, and Museum MACAN in Jakarta; and illuminating conversations on critical issues within the international art community featuring prominent personalities such as Don & Mera Rubell, and Prof. Dr Apinan Poshyananda, Chief Executive and Artistic Director of the Bangkok Art Biennale. S.E.A. Focus is delighted to have leading resource of art and culture, Frieze on board as Exclusive Media Partner, who will be co-presenting a talk segment as part of S.E.A. Focus' public programmes.

Project director of S.E.A. Focus and executive director of STPI Emi Eu says: "In such a critical time, I am truly grateful that we have been able to organise the third edition of S.E.A. Focus in this meaningful hybrid format. The knowledge that audiences, artists and other stakeholders on a global level are able to experience and appreciate the digital and in-person offerings brings me great joy and encouragement. This dynamic showcase would not have been possible without the collaborative spirit of the participating galleries and artists, as well as the dedication and commitment of my team; I owe a great debt of gratitude to them. We will continue to work hard on realising the project in its entirety."

Encounter the best of contemporary Southeast Asian art

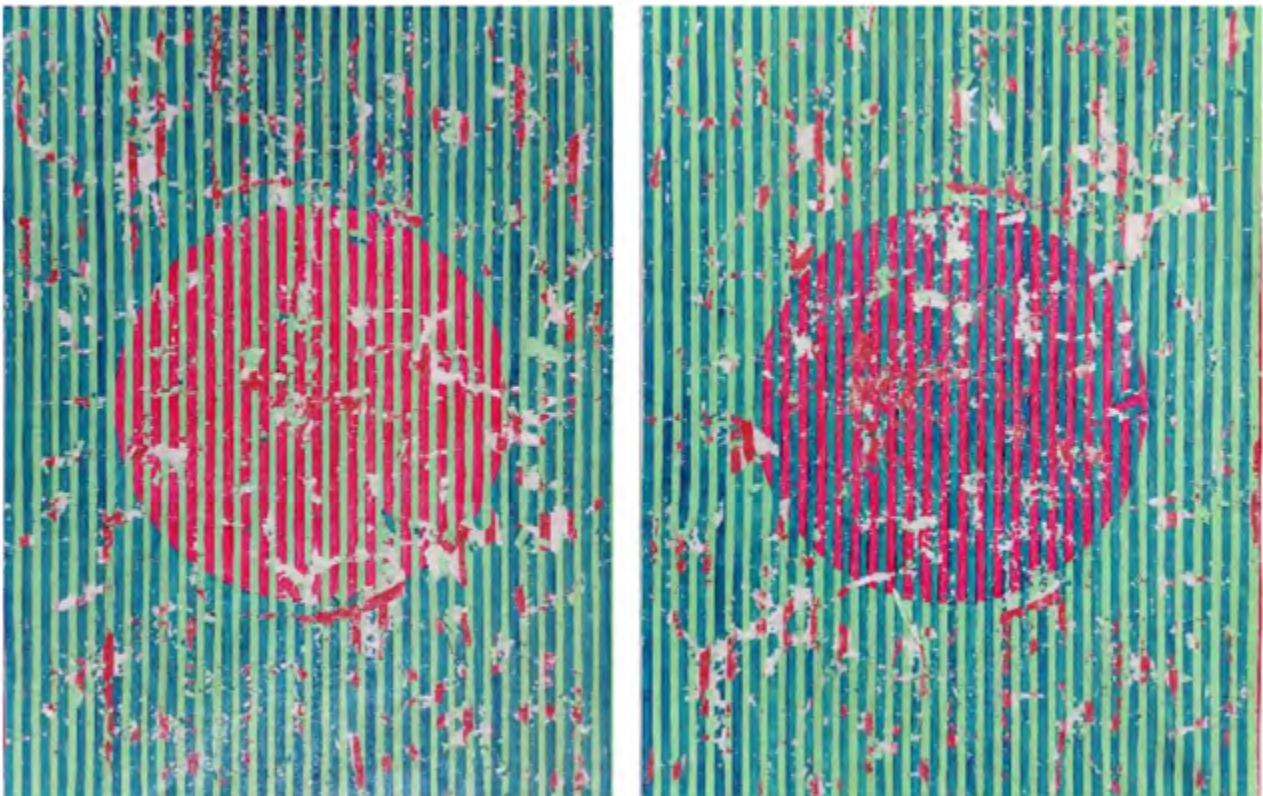
27 leading local and international art galleries, including Lehmann Maupin (New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, London) and Edouard Malingue Gallery (Hong Kong, Shanghai), which will be taking part for the first time, will be presenting works by artists connected to the Southeast Asian region. This year's edition is notable for bringing together emerging artists from Singapore such as Jamie Tan and Jamie Teo, Ian Tee, and Ashley Yeo alongside established artists, such as art and design collective PHUNK, Jimmy Ong and Ho Tzu Nyen. Other notable artists from the region who will be presenting their works include Indonesian artist Syaiful Garibaldi, Thai video artist Kawita Vatanajyankur, Vietnamese artist Hà Ninh Pham who explores the concept of territory, and up-and-coming Filipino artist Pow Martinez, as well as London-based Malaysian artist Mandy El-Sayegh.

Audiences can look forward to encountering a plethora of works by participating artists that encompasses diverse forms, mediums, genres, and countries in the Southeast Asian region either in-person at *hyper-horizon*, or through the S.E.A. Focus Digital online platform staged exclusively with Artsy, a leading global online fine art marketplace and Main Online Partner of S.E.A. Focus 2021. From site-specific installations to miniscule portraits, the array of artworks on display will appeal to all art enthusiasts – both new and seasoned collectors alike.

Among the major presentations at *hyper-horizon* this year, audiences will be greeted with Thai contemporary artist Rirkrit Tiravanija's monumental, site-specific tapestry installation, "untitled 2016 (nothing)". Other artwork highlights include Ho Tzu Nyen's "The Critical Dictionary of Southeast Asia", a major video work which will debut in its entirety at S.E.A. Focus; PHUNK's "Control Chaos", a large-scale painting produced for the 25th year anniversary of the art-and-design collective; performance artist Ana Prvacki's video trilogy that tackles issues related to the pandemic, with a dose of humor and irony; Indonesian artist Iwan Effendi's installation "The Visitor" comprising 12 puppets that will greet guests as they tour the exhibition; and Hà Ninh Pham's "Institute of Distance", an amalgamation of art and technology that takes the form of a digital game and intricate drawing.



Mulyana, *Coral Island Harmony #5*, 2016. Synthetic yarn, synthetic cotton, plastic web. 200 x 200 x 38 cm. Photo courtesy of Art Porters Gallery.



Kristoffer Ardeña, *Ghost Painting (Cracked Category)*: National Bookstore, 2020. Elastomeric paint on canvas, 176 x 306 cm. Photo courtesy of the artist and Tropical Futures Institute.



Ashley Yeo, *Marigold*, 2019. Hand-cut paper, 5 x 15 x 15 cm. © Ashley Yeo. Photo courtesy of the artist and Mizuma Gallery.



Tromarama, *Remind me later*, 2019. Single-channel video, sound, 4 min 59 sec. Sound by Riar Rizaldi. Photo courtesy of the artists and Edouard Malingue Gallery.



Dusadee Huntrakul, *Monument for Mothers, Monument for Regenerative Labor Practice, Monument for Regenerative Agriculture, Monument for Waste Management and Consumption, Monument for Biodiversity*, 2020, Bronze, 420 x 7.5 cm; 26.5 x 10.5 cm; 19.4 x 9.5 cm; 28 x 10.8 cm; 22.5 x 6.2 cm. Edition of 3. Photo courtesy of the artist and BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY.

Facilitating cultural exchange and dialogue around the art of Southeast Asia

In addition to the digital platform and curated showcase, S.E.A. Focus 2021 will offer a series of VIP programmes and public talks that will be available both in-person and online, providing audiences a truly dynamic platform to connect and engage with artists, galleries, fellow collectors and enthusiasts.

VIP Programmes

VIP guests will enjoy exclusive access to the preview of *hyper-horizon*, as well as advanced screenings of webinars by participating galleries on the opening weekend for S.E.A. Focus 2021. Prior to the preview, guests will be treated to a raw and unfiltered behind-the-scenes glimpse into the daily life and work of participating artists as part of a special 24-hour countdown video available on the S.E.A. Focus VIP Portal.

Throughout the event's run, guests will also be able to travel around Southeast Asia virtually for exclusive studio visits of local and international artists, as well as guided tours around local and international art spaces such as CosmicWander at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Museum of Contemporary Art and Design Manila, as well as Primz Gallery and the Singapore Management University's art collection.

Other in-person activities for VIP guests include themed tours for collectors in partnership with organisations such as Straits Clan and Art Galleries Association Singapore (AGAS). The latter will see leading galleries in the country host a series of meaningful experiences in their spaces aiming to connect and provide resources for young or aspiring collectors.

Public Programmes

S.E.A. Focus' thought leadership platform, SEASpotlight, will return with a series of talks and panel discussions by prominent art personalities from all over the world, focusing on topics that explore the value of art in our society, especially in these times:

- Indonesian collector Wiyu Wahono and tech artist Eugene Soh will make their personal predictions on art-to-come in an increasingly digitised world in the talk titled "Digital Horizons".
- Phillips Auction's Sandy Ma, Gajah Gallery's Jasdeep Sandhu, and notable collector and member of the S.E.A. Focus Advisory Committee Jim Amberson will discuss the value of art in the panel "How much for that banana duct-taped to the wall?".
- Art collector Michelangelo Samson, artist Jackson Tan from the collective PHUNK, and visual artist and lecturer Ginette Chittick will muse on what it means to be a collector and supporter of creative culture beyond the conventional definition of art collecting in "Off the Walls".
- The renowned Rubell family, ranked amongst the world's Top 200 art collectors, will share insights on their art collecting practice and journey in a highly-anticipated talk segment.
- *frieze* Magazine will be partnering S.E.A. Focus in presenting "Bye-Bye Biennial? Large-scale exhibitions in the post-pandemic world", a provocative talk that questions the value of large-scale exhibitions and imagines the future of exhibition-making.

S.E.A. Focus 2021 will be running from 22 January to 31 January 2021, with 20 & 21 January as VIP Preview days. S.E.A. Focus Curated tickets are available for purchase at <https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/sea0121>. For more information on admission, public programmes and VIP access, please visit seafocus.sg.

Press images and captions can be downloaded for media coverage via this [link](#).



S.E.A. Focus 2021



S.E.A. Focus Digital

Date: From 20 January 2021

Link to be shared on seafocus.sg and via emailer soon, click [here](#) to subscribe and stay up to date with S.E.A. Focus

S.E.A. Focus Curated

Date: 20 January 2021 (Media Preview and Vernissage),
21 January 2021 (VIP Preview),
and 22 to 31 January 2021 (Public Days)

Venue: #01-05, 39 Keppel Road, Tanjong Pagar
Distripark, Singapore 089065

Tickets are available for purchase at
<https://www.sistic.com.sg/events/sea0121>





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About S.E.A. Focus

S.E.A. Focus is a showcase of contemporary art from Southeast Asia. It aims to bring together a curated selection of some of the finest galleries to foster a deeper appreciation of contemporary art and artists in the region. A meeting point for artistic vision and vigour, S.E.A. Focus provides a platform to propel diverse cultural exchanges which celebrate, promote and provoke dialogue about Southeast Asian art.

S.E.A. Focus is an initiative led by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

About STPI

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is a not-for-profit organisation 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.

About Singapore Art Week

Singapore Art Week (SAW), the pinnacle of Singapore's visual arts scene, returns in its 9th edition from **22 to 30 January 2021**. Singapore's signature visual arts season will celebrate the coming together of our vibrant artist community in unprecedented times as we simultaneously navigate new modes of artmaking, presentation and look forward to new possibilities for the future. Keeping to the theme of "Art Takes Over", SAW 2021 will present over 100 arts events across both physical and digital spaces, featuring new works, transnational collaborations and virtual art experiences. Offering a diverse range of works from our arts and cultural institutions, private galleries, non-profit arts organisations, independent artists and curators, audiences can enjoy SAW 2021 through physical presentations complemented by digital programmes accessible from the comfort of their homes.

SAW continues to be a spotlight, gathering and launchpad for the arts community in Singapore, in line with the larger #SGCultureAnywhere campaign, sounding a call towards the creation of new networks, shared knowledge and connectivity both locally and regionally.

SAW 2021, a celebration of Singapore's vibrant art landscape, is a joint initiative by the **National Arts Council (NAC)**, the **Singapore Tourism Board (STB)** and the **Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB)**.

Visit www.artweek.sg for the full SAW 2021 event line-up.

About Artsy

Artsy is the leading global online marketplace for buying, selling, and discovering fine art. Artsy connects its 4,000+ international partners – including galleries, auction houses, art fairs, and institutions – spanning 100+ countries with its 2+ million global art collectors and art lovers across 190+ countries. Artsy expands the entire art market by using best-in-class, mobile-first technology to effectively connect supply and demand at a global scale. Launched in 2012, Artsy is headquartered in New York City with offices in London, Berlin, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Los Angeles.

About Frieze

Frieze is a media and events company that comprises three publications, frieze magazine, Frieze Masters Magazine and Frieze Week; and four international art fairs, Frieze London, Frieze Los Angeles, Frieze New York and Frieze Masters; regular talks and summits, led by frieze editors; and frieze.com – the definitive resource for contemporary art and culture.





2021

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- Annex B: SEAspotlight Talks Programme
- Annex C: List of Galleries
- Annex D: List of Artists

Annex A: About hyper-horizon

The sea is never still. Yet the waters – however choppy or calm – always meet the sky at the horizon line. It is an image of infinity that holds constant, no matter where we look, from any shoreline.

Great change seized Southeast Asia in 2020, as it did every part of the world. The arrival of a global pandemic upturned life as we knew it, but the tumult also spurred urgent focus on what is vital and essential, as well as the place of art in testing times. But even as artworks offered respite or a means to connect with others, art too, finds itself changed. Yet adjusting to ‘new normal’ has also catalysed new ways of doing things, prompting uncharted pathways and fresh prospects. And across all fields and sectors, there has been an accelerated move to the digital realm and the online world – to hyperspace.

Indeed, the “hyper” gestures to a space that lies above and beyond, one of multiple dimensions, but the term also signifies the bridging points or nodes within an entity, like a network. In bridging with the horizon, the hyper–horizon compels us to look past what is immediately visible or familiar – pointing to a realm where something unexpected or unpredicted can be discovered.

This curated section of SEA Focus is a space for connections to be renewed, and more: it is a moment for collectors and audiences to light upon something fresh or surprising. Southeast Asia is home to ancient cultures and a confluence of manifold histories but the region is also ever-dynamic; in constant flux, its waters never rest still. Southeast Asian contemporary has garnered attention internationally in recent years, and even amidst challenging circumstances, the power of its art to elicit wonder and excitement has not diminished.

Out of uncertainty and ambiguity, opportunity can be fashioned and crafted.

In looking beyond restive waters and waves, the eye casts towards an infinite edge.

The *hyper–horizon* is potent with possibility.

Annex B: SEASpotlight Talks Programme

Digital Horizons

Thursday, 28 January 2021
3.00PM – 4.00PM

COVID has accelerated the move of art into hyperspace, as more artists produce digital artworks, as well as gallery and museums putting presentations and collections online. In the vast array of digital art, works can range from video to VR and AR, gaming, and art transmitted via social media. Even as new opportunities are opened up, there has been a displacement of creative labour. What does this portend for art-to-come – a promising future, or one that may see a greater return for the ‘real’? Speakers include art collector Wiyu Wahono and artist Eugene Soh, among others.

***Bye-Bye Biennial?:
Large-scale exhibitions in
the post-pandemic world***
Thursday, 28 January 2021
6.00PM – 7.00PM

Long before the Covid-19 pandemic, artists, critics and organizers were questioning the value of large-scale exhibitions in terms of their economic, environmental and social impact. With many biennials postponed due to the global health crisis and restrictions to international travel forcing a renewed focus on local audiences and ecologies, could Covid-19 be the end of the international biennale as we have come to know it? What are the new ideas for the future of exhibition making? Speakers include Prof. Dr Apinan Poshyananda (Chief Executive and Artistic Director, Bangkok Art Biennale), Reem Shadid (independent curator and researcher), and Natasha Ginwala (Co-curator, 2021 Gwangju Biennial and COLOMBOSCOPE 2019), moderated by Amy Sherlock (Deputy Editor, *frieze* Magazine).

***How much for that banana
duct-taped to the wall?***
Friday, 29 January 2021
3.00PM – 4.00PM

This talk takes a closer look at a topic that all facets of the art world have, throughout history and until today, wrestled with – the value of art. It examines how art is valued in the art market and how it is collected, that seems to fly in the face of the common sense of the general public. This discussion also positions the topic in light of art history, from the time of Dada pioneer Marcel Duchamp until now, touching on notions of conceptual art. Speakers include Sandy Ma (International Specialist and Associate Director of 20th Century & Contemporary Art, Phillips), Jasdeep Sandhu (Director, Gajah Gallery) and Jim Amberson (Art Collector and S.E.A. Focus Advisory Committee), moderated by Elaine Ng (Editor and Publisher, ArtAsiaPacific).

Off the Walls

Saturday, 30 January 2021

3.00PM – 4.00PM

Collecting art is conventionally regarded as having a trove of fine art and artefacts, such as paintings, sculptures, or perhaps installation or video. Yet artistic practice has long transcended narrow definitions, and crossed over to other creative fields such as architecture, design, fashion and wearables, visual culture, tech and others. Such cross-disciplinary projects and collaborations also increasingly feature in major commissions. In an expanded field of artistic and creative practice, what might collecting 'look' like? How can one collect, support and be a patron of artistic production 'beyond' walls? Speakers include collector Michelangelo Samson, art and design collective PHUNK's Jackson Tan, and design lecturer and visual artist Ginette Chittick, among others.

The Rubells: On Collecting

Saturday, 30 January 2021

8.00PM – 9.00PM

In this highly anticipated talk, gain invaluable insights from the collecting journey and practice of renowned collectors Don and Mera Rubell. The Rubell Family Collection, first established in 1964 and now formally renamed as The Rubell Museum, is one of the most internationally acclaimed private collections of contemporary art. It features 7,200 works by over 1,000 artists, and represents a new kind of institution serving as an advocate for a diverse mix of contemporary artists and a resource for both the public and art world to engage in dialogue with them.

Annex C: List of Galleries

1. A+ Works of Art (Kuala Lumpur)
2. Art Porters (Singapore)
3. Art Seasons (Singapore, Beijing)
4. Artinformal Gallery (Manila)
5. Baik Art (Los Angeles, Seoul)
6. Bangkok CityCity Gallery (Bangkok)
7. CUC Gallery (Hanoi)
8. Edouard Malingue (Hong Kong, Shanghai)
9. FOST Gallery (Singapore)
10. Gajah Gallery (Singapore)
11. Gallery Side 2 (Tokyo)
12. Lehmann Maupin (New York, Hong Kong, Seoul, London)
13. Mizuma Gallery (Tokyo, Singapore, New York)
14. neugerriemschneider (Berlin)
15. Nova Contemporary (Bangkok)
16. Ota Fine Arts (Tokyo, Singapore, Shanghai)
17. Richard Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur, Singapore)
18. ROH Projects (Jakarta)
19. Silverlens (Manila)
20. STPI (Singapore)
21. Sullivan+Strumpf (Sydney, Singapore)
22. The Columns Gallery (Seoul, Singapore)
23. The Drawing Room (Manila)
24. Tropical Futures Institute (Cebu)
25. Wei-Ling Gallery (Kuala Lumpur)
26. Yavuz Gallery (Singapore, Sydney)
27. Yeo Workshop (Singapore)

Annex D: List of Artists

1. Albert Yonathan Setyawan (Indonesia)
2. Alvin Zafra (Philippines)
3. Ana Prvacki (Serbia/Germany)
4. Apichatpong Weerasethakul (Thailand)
5. Ashley Yeo (Singapore)
6. Budi Agung Kuswara (Indonesia)
7. Chen Wei Meng (Malaysia)
8. Cian Dayrit (Philippines)
9. Dusadee Huntrakul (Thailand)
10. Eddy Susanto (Indonesia)
11. Gerardo Tan (Philippines)
12. Gregory Halili (Philippines)
13. Guo-Liang Tan (Singapore)
14. Hà Ninh Pham (Vietnam)
15. Hilmi Johandi (Singapore)
16. Ho Tzu Nyen (Singapore)
17. Hu Qiren (Singapore)
18. Ian Tee (Singapore)
19. Ibrahim (Indonesia)
20. Irfan Hendrian (Indonesia)
21. Iwan Effendi (Indonesia)
22. Jamie Tan (Singapore)
23. Jamie Teo (Singapore)
24. Jet Pascua (Philippines)
25. Jimmy Ong (Singapore)
26. Kawita Vatanajyankur (Thailand/Australia)
27. Korakrit Arunanondchai (Thailand)
28. Kristoffer Ardeña (Philippines)
29. Mandy El-Sayegh (Malaysia)
30. Mulyana (Indonesia)
31. Nadiah Bamadhaj (Malaysia)
32. Nguyen Thanh Truc (Vietnam)
33. PHUNK (Singapore)
34. Pow Martinez (Philippines)
35. Rirkrit Tiravanija (Thailand/Germany/USA)
36. Russel Wong (Singapore)
37. Sarah Choo Jing (Singapore)
38. Syaiful Garibaldi (Indonesia)
39. Tobias Rehberger (Germany)
40. Tromarama (Indonesia)
41. Udomsak Krisanamis (Thailand)
42. Yeo Chee Kiong (Singapore)
43. Zean Cabangis (Philippines)