

PRESS RELEASE



## S.E.A. Focus 2021 to offer innovative integrated art experiences that will broaden horizons for audiences and galleries

*Exclusive in-person and virtual art offerings will offer a borderless experience of the best contemporary art in Southeast Asia*



**S.E.A. Focus**, the meeting point for contemporary art in Southeast Asia, will return from **20 to 31 January 2021** as an anchor event of the annual Singapore Art Week. It will break new ground in its third edition by offering an exciting and complementary blend of digital and in-person art experiences for collectors, artists, galleries and the public. This initiative celebrates the best of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and it is led by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, and supported by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

For the first time, S.E.A. Focus will present twinned offerings – S.E.A. Focus Digital and S.E.A. Focus Curated. **S.E.A. Focus Digital** is an online platform staged exclusively with Artsy, leading global online fine art marketplace and Main Online Partner of S.E.A. Focus 2021. The platform enables S.E.A. Focus to bring contemporary art from Southeast Asia to a global audience, including avid art collectors in Artsy’s extensive database, and offer them a seamless discovery-to-purchase experience.

**S.E.A. Focus Curated**, on the other hand, is an immersive, physical showcase in Tanjong Pagar Distripark where works of art from participating galleries are presented in a space designed by architect Randy Chan of Zarch Collaboratives. The showcase eschews the usual layout of art fair booths for an open, fluid exhibition. The show, titled *hyper-horizon*, is a response to the waves of change and possibility seizing Southeast Asia as it seeks to spur urgent focus on the place and vitality of art in testing times. The bold, non-conventional presentation aims to spark new connections between works of art from Southeast Asia and create opportunities for collectors and audiences to make fresh discoveries. The showcase can also be experienced virtually through the S.E.A. Focus website, [seafocus.sg](http://seafocus.sg).

S.E.A. Focus 2021 will feature leading Singapore and international art galleries, including A+ Works of

Art (Kuala Lumpur) and Gallery Side 2 (Tokyo), which will be taking part for the first time. The returning galleries include: Art Porters (Singapore); Art Seasons (Singapore); CUC Gallery (Hanoi); FOST Gallery (Singapore); Gajah Gallery (Singapore, Yogyakarta); Mizuma Gallery (New York, Singapore, Tokyo); Nova Contemporary (Bangkok); Richard Koh Fine Art (Kuala Lumpur, Singapore); ROH Projects (Jakarta); Silverlens Galleries (Manila); Sullivan+Strumpf (Singapore, Sydney), The Columns Gallery (Seoul); The Drawing Room (Manila); Wei Ling Gallery (Kuala Lumpur) and Yavuz Gallery (Singapore, Sydney).

Isa Lorenzo, co-director of Silverlens Galleries says: “We are returning in 2021 because we believe a platform like S.E.A. Focus is important, not just for Singapore, but for the region. The online and onsite components make sense, and in the hands of a very able team, I have no doubt that those who see the show, in-person or virtually, will be rewarded.”

Can Yavuz, founder and managing director of Yavuz Gallery says: “As a Singaporean gallery, we are always happy to support and be part of a homegrown initiative, especially one as unique and well-organised as S.E.A. Focus. It has a strong programming that appeals to regional collectors, and its intimate scale allows for deeper and more personal encounters with art, the artists, galleries and other collectors.”

The digital platform and curated showcase will be complemented by an engaging line-up of VIP programmes and public talks. These include in-person and virtual visits to artist studios and private art collections, as well as exclusive guided tours of art spaces and exhibitions in Singapore. There will also be a series of panel discussions on contemporary art in the region, headlined by prominent personalities in art. The discussions will be made available online, so that audiences from all over the world can attend the event.

The thought leadership that S.E.A. Focus offers on contemporary art in Southeast Asia will be further bolstered by a new segment on its website featuring new or unpublished essays by art experts to invigorate discourse on art in Southeast Asia. Its editorial offering will also include interviews with participating gallerists, artists and leaders in the industry.

Founder and director of ROH Projects, Junior Tirtadji says: "The previous edition of S.E.A. Focus really brought together, and in conversation, some of the most important voices in the region on art from Southeast Asia. This crucial hub for dialogue also kickstarts the art calendar in January and it is the primary motivation for us to return to exhibit in 2021."

Similarly, Gajah Gallery's director Jasdeep Sandhu says: "Many fairs within the region are set up with a clear commercial interest in mind, with a plethora of galleries and large-scale visual installations to draw crowds. However, S.E.A. Focus takes a very different approach, with the focus being on fostering conversations, education and engagement. The platform has a very strong outreach programme, with many discussions and conversations between prominent artists, patrons, curators, historians and institutions, highlighting Singapore's strength as a hub city for the arts in Southeast Asia."

Project director of S.E.A. Focus and executive director of STPI Emi Eu says: "Pulling off a major showcase of contemporary art in these unprecedented times is challenging, but with the support of the art community in Southeast Asia, we are thrilled to be able to launch a new edition of S.E.A. Focus that pushes boundaries. The integrated onsite and online art experience allows S.E.A. Focus to become a global meeting place where collectors, artists, galleries and the public can engage with one another. We look forward to welcoming visitors, online and in-person, to S.E.A. Focus 2021, and celebrating the best of contemporary art in Southeast Asia with them."

*Visual assets and detailed quotes from select galleries can be downloaded for media coverage via this [link](#).*

# S.E.A. Focus 2021



## **S.E.A. Focus Digital**

Date: From 20 January 2021

## **S.E.A. Focus Curated**

Date: 20 and 21 January 2021 (VIP Preview),  
and 22 to 31 January 2021 (open to all)

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

More details on the digital platform and admission to  
the curated showcase will be available later.





# Contact us

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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](http://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.

