

**STPI honours frontline healthcare and social workers in Singapore by sharing art**

STPI collaborates with renowned photographer Russel Wong to gift artworks to NCID and FSCs across the country



Russel Wong, *Pink Phalaenopsis*, 2020, 4-colour lithograph on paper, 60 x 60 cm, Edition of 48

Coinciding with Singapore Art Week this year, STPI and One Dream have partnered with renowned Singaporean photographer and artist Russel Wong to create a total of 49 print-based works centred on two compositions of the orchid, the iconic national flower of Singapore and a symbol of love, beauty, perseverance and strength. One of the works will be gifted to the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID) as a token of gratitude for being at the forefront of Singapore's outbreak efforts against COVID-19, while 48 other works will be gifted to Family Service Centres (FSCs) across Singapore, as a gesture of appreciation and encouragement for their essential support and services to the families of Singaporeans particularly during this challenging time.

Titled “Art for our Nation”, this is the second iteration of the One Dream initiative, following the successful pilot project “Art for our HOMES” (Hopes and MEMories) launched in 2017 where specially created artworks by Cultural Medallion Award winner and eminent watercolourist Ong Kim Seng were gifted to selected new homeowners in the Jurong Spring community. The initiative endeavours to enhance the emotional, experiential, evaluative and economic well-being of Singaporean citizens through the gifting and sharing of works of art. The founder of One Dream, Peter Ong, believes that a gift beyond the basics, like a work of art, can truly elevate personal well-being and contribute to them living a flourishing life. Such a sentiment rings true in this unprecedented time, and art continues to be a uniting and uplifting force amid the tides of change and transformation felt across the world.

Titled *Purple Phalaenopsis* and *Pink Phalaenopsis*, the artworks by Wong are part of his most recent artist residency with STPI, where Wong worked closely with STPI’s Creative Workshop team to create a series of print-based works applying the evocation of portraiture to the subject of tropical flowers. Minimally composed with a remarkable sense of light, depth and timelessness, the photographic images are translated into three-colour photolithographic prints that capture qualities and details of the flowers in layers. Masterfully isolated and set against negative space which characteristically features as an element in most of his pictures, Wong sensitively composes a sculptural, graphic presentation of each floral stalk. Intricate patterns and washes of colour on floral petals and stamens are memorialised at close range, infused with vitality and strength. These species of flowers – *Phalaenopsis*, *Orchidaceae*, *Heliconia*, *Chrysanthemum* – are unique to the tropics, and the series of prints points to the variegated richness of greenery and life near the equator.

On this collaboration between One Dream and STPI, STPI’s Executive Director Emi Eu says,

“We are very pleased and humbled to be working with Peter on this initiative once again. For this second iteration, we felt that it would be most appropriate to honour our colleagues working in the frontline healthcare and social welfare sectors, for all their hard work during this critical time. This is very much aligned with the ethos of the project, which is to bring art to every individual in Singapore – it is especially important this year as we face various challenges brought about by the pandemic and look to art as a source of and comfort, inspiration and hope. We are delighted to welcome Russel back to STPI’s Creative Workshop for this meaningful project, following his previous residency with us in 2004. It is also an absolute privilege to have Minister Masagos Zulkifli grace the unveiling ceremony this year as our Guest of Honour.”

Minister Masagos Zulkifli, Singapore's Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health, will join STPI and One Dream at an unveiling ceremony of the artworks by Russel Wong, taking place at STPI Gallery on **Wednesday, 27 January 2021**. Members of the press are cordially invited to attend this ceremony, with further RSVP details below:

### **Unveiling Ceremony**

Date: 27 January 2021

Time: 3.45PM – 4.30PM\*

Venue: STPI Gallery, 41 Robertson Quay,  
Singapore 238236

\*Guests to arrive by 3.30PM to complete temperature screening ahead of time

Programme: Speech by Minister Masagos

Speech by Chair of STPI

Speech by Artist Russel Wong

Special video segment of Artist's creative process and collaboration with STPI

Unveiling and presentation of artworks

Media Q&A

Guests welcome to remain to view current exhibition at STPI, *Strange Forms of Life*

Please [click here](#) to **RSVP by Wednesday, 20 January** if you are interested to attend the Unveiling Ceremony. Please note that capacity is highly limited for this event; your attendance will be secured only upon receiving a confirmation email from STPI.

**For more details and interview requests, please contact:**

STPI Communications | [communications@stpi.com.sg](mailto:communications@stpi.com.sg)

(+65) 6336 3663 (ext. 128)

## About the Artist



**Russel Wong (b. 1961, Singapore)** is one of the most prolific fashion and portrait photographers in Singapore and Asia. Wong enjoys the acclaim of being the first Singaporean to break into the notoriously difficult Hollywood movie industry. He is also one of an elite group of photographers assigned to photograph covers for Time magazine, 17 to date.

Wong has also worked with Oscar-winning directors like Ang Lee and Zhang Yimou, and have created images for their posters and publicity on movies like the Oscar winning Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Hero, House Of Flying Daggers and the Venice Golden Lion winner in Venice Lust Caution.

Popularly noted for his photographs of celebrities like Richard Gere, Jackie Chan, Michelle Yeoh, Zhang Ziyi and Isabella Rossellini, Wong has nevertheless developed a strong portfolio of lesser known but no less compelling subjects. Still-life compositions, architecture, nudes, landscapes, and conceptual pieces are as much a part of his practice as are his celebrity portraits and his prints have been sold at the prestigious Christie's auction house.

# About the One Dream

One Dream is an all-volunteer societal improvement group founded by Peter Ong in 2010. Working with volunteers from all industries and sectors, One Dream dreams, designs, leads and executes Societal Improvement Initiatives with a twist.

Innovative CSR projects which One Dream have led and completed include:

- HOME for CNY/National Day/Hari Raya (2010-2019) outfitted low-income Singaporean families with high quality clothes that provided comfort and confidence for special occasions
- Art for our HOMES (2017), a joint project with STPI, gifted 300 beautifully produced hand-signed and individually numbered lithographs by top Singaporean water colourist and Cultural Medallion Winner Ong Kim Seng to 300 families living in new 2-room flats in Jurong GRC
- One Dream Prize (2011-2016) for Normal Stream students recognized for their behaviour and academic improvements with intention to empower them with the ability to treat their families with a nice meal from participating restaurants
- The Dream Journal (2015), an SG50 co-funded initiative, where a journal was designed and gifted to secondary and tertiary students to encourage them to draw and pen down their career aspirations and life dreams

More about One Dream can be found at this weblink:  
<http://peterong.wixsite.com/rested-edge-advisory/one-dream-initiative>

## 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.

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.