

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Discover the beautifully bizarre hybrid creatures of Patricia Piccinini's sculptural universe at ArtScience Museum

*Art, science and ethics collide in Patricia Piccinini: We Are Connected – the highly acclaimed artist's first major solo exhibition in Southeast Asia*



Clockwise from L to R: *The Bond*, 2016; *The Welcome Guest*, 2011 (detail); *Sanctuary*, 2018 (detail)  
All images courtesy of the artist and the Institute for Cultural Exchange

**SINGAPORE** (23 June 2022) – ArtScience Museum presents one of its most evocative exhibitions to date – from 5 August, *Patricia Piccinini: We Are Connected* will draw visitors into a strange and wondrous reality where animal-human hybrids exist. Staged in collaboration with the Institute for Culture Exchange, Germany, this exhibition brings together more than 40 important artworks, making this Patricia Piccinini's first major solo showcase in Southeast Asia.

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Regarded as one of the world's leading contemporary artists, Patricia Piccinini has spent the last three decades exploring the evolving relationship between humans and nature, especially in the face of biotechnology advances such as genetic engineering. She represented Australia at the Venice Biennale in 2003 and has had major solo shows around the world. Her menagerie of strange yet alluring sculptures embrace the possibilities of ever-changing human bodies and lifeforms that straddle the artificial and natural, emerging from today's technological age.



Patricia Piccinini in her studio with *Kindred*, 2018  
Photo by Hillary Walker. Courtesy of the artist and the Institute for Cultural Exchange

Her creatures reveal a strong sense of vulnerability and tenderness that evoke empathy, encouraging visitors to reconsider how they relate to others, as well as contemplate kinship and beauty through a different perspective when confronted with the unfamiliar.

“Patricia Piccinini is one of the most important figures working at the intersection of art and science today, and we are thrilled to be opening this major show of her works at ArtScience Museum. For over 30 years, Piccinini’s hyperreal sculptures of hybrid creatures have challenged conventional concepts of beauty, perfection, and the ideal body.

Her work imagines a different relationship between people and nature, one that is more equitable and shared in outlook. Piccinini depicts possible evolutionary leaps and unusual mutations in fibre glass and silicone. Her installations provide us with space to explore anxieties and hopes related to new scientific advances such as genetic engineering and cloning, as well as our interconnected relationship with all living creatures.

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*Patricia Piccinini: We Are Connected* is an exhibition of questions, not answers. It does not tell us what to think, but instead asks how we feel. It invites children as well as adults to encounter Piccinini's tender and surreal creatures, and ponder the possibilities of a future in a diverse world that embraces difference," said Honor Harger, Vice President of ArtScience Museum and Attractions at Marina Bay Sands.

"Much of my work is focused on imagining a sort of artificial nature. However, I am also interested in thinking about naturalised technology. For many of us, technology is a natural part of everyday life. I am not condemning this. I don't think it's that useful to imagine a return to a pre-industrial past. Instead, I'm interested in how we might use the possibilities of our particular hybrid world to create a future that will be better for all of us – including other species rather than at their expense. This will necessarily include technology. We cannot remove technology from humans any more than we can take hives from bees or nests from birds or tools from orangutans," added Piccinini.

The exhibition features works by Patricia Piccinini from the early 2000s through to 2021 and is divided into six main sections presenting a variety of sculptures, installations, videos and collages. One of the artworks included in the exhibition: *The Young Family* (2003), was featured in her show at the Australian Pavilion during the 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale.

Several of the artworks in the exhibition emphasise the bioethical challenges associated with humankind's manipulation of nature, highlighting relevant issues such as existence, climate change and technology. The show explores Piccinini's use of silicone, fibre glass, resin, and unorthodox components like human hair, all woven together to create her hyper-realistic creations. Despite appearing unsettling and alien, the sculptures in the exhibition have a surprising warmth. Piccinini's artworks are juxtaposed in unusual ways, creating intimate narratives depicting her hybrid creatures interacting in loving and empathic ways.

By confronting issues such as DNA editing, cloning, interspecies connections, scientific intervention, evolution, and their roles in our present and future, messages of empathy and care are communicated for not only the creatures and plants that we share this earth with, but also those yet to come.

*Patricia Piccinini: We Are Connected* will run from 5 August 2022 to 29 January 2023.

## **Tickets and Reservations**

Tickets are available for purchase from 23 June at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Due to limited capacity and timed entry of the exhibition, guests are also strongly encouraged to pre-purchase tickets online prior to their visit.

Ticket prices as follows:

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	SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)	STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	SRL TICKET (SGD)
<b>Adult</b>	18	21	14.70
<b>Concession</b>	14	16	11.20
<b>Family</b>	50	58	-

For more information on *Patricia Piccinini: We Are Connected*, visit <https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/exhibitions/patricia-piccinini.html>

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## **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is Asia's leading business, leisure and entertainment destination. The integrated resort features Singapore's largest hotel with over 2,200 luxurious rooms and suites, crowned by the spectacular Sands SkyPark and iconic infinity pool. Its stunning architecture and compelling programming, including state-of-the-art convention and exhibition facilities, Asia's best luxury shopping mall, world-class dining and entertainment, as well as cutting-edge exhibitions at ArtScience Museum, have transformed the country's skyline and tourism landscape since it opened in 2010.

Marina Bay Sands is dedicated to being a good corporate citizen to serve its people, communities and environment. As one of the largest players in hospitality, it employs nearly 10,000 Team Members across the property. It drives social impact through its community engagement programme, Sands Cares, and leads environmental stewardship through its global sustainability programme, Sands ECO360.

For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

## **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum is a major cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. It is the cultural component of Marina Bay Sands. Since its opening in February 2011, ArtScience Museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world's major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as exhibitions that explore aspects of science and technology – including particle physics, big data, robotics, palaeontology, marine biology and space science. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html)

## **About IKA – Institute for Cultural Exchange**

Based in Germany, the Institute for Cultural Exchange is a partner for museums and companies in the fields of art history, cultural studies, graphic design, exhibition scenography and public relations. Since its establishment in 1990, IKA has organised more than 100 exhibition tours internationally and primarily stands out for its interdisciplinary way of collaboration that accentuates the uniqueness of each exhibition project.

## **Media Enquiries**

Julia Tan: +65 8380 4031/ [julia.tan@marinabaysands.com](mailto:julia.tan@marinabaysands.com)  
Sarina Pushkarna: +65 9298 5728/ [sarina.pushkarna@marinabaysands.com](mailto:sarina.pushkarna@marinabaysands.com)

For hi-res images, please click [here](#). (Credit images as indicated in the captions)

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## ANNEX I



### **Patricia Piccinini (b. 1965)**

Patricia is an Australian contemporary artist whose work spans the disciplines of sculptures, photography, installations, videos, and drawings. Best known for her hyper-realistic human-animal hybrid sculptures, her practice seeks to examine the increasingly nebulous boundary between the artificial and the natural as it appears in contemporary culture and ideas.

Patricia represented Australia at the 50<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale in 2003 with her exhibition *We Are Family* and went on to install various museum exhibitions around the world, with notable solo shows in Australia, Japan, Brazil, USA, Korea, and Taiwan, among others. In 2016, Patricia was named the most popular contemporary artist in the world by The Art Newspaper after her show in Rio de Janeiro attracted nearly half a million visitors. Patricia currently works with an in-house team at her studio in Collingwood, Melbourne to create intriguing exhibits that herald a new frontier of museum experience.