

Press Release



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***An Ocean of Possibilities* presents its international showcase at ArtScience Museum**

*Third photography exhibition completes the Season of
Art and Science of Photography at the museum*

Singapore (30 October, 2014) – Rounding up the *Season of Art and Science of Photography* at ArtScience Museum, *An Ocean of Possibilities* will open to the public on 31 October. This exhibition is a special collaboration between Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) and Noorderlicht International Photo Festival in Groningen, Netherlands, in partnership with ArtScience Museum.

This international exhibition, which is making its final stop in Singapore at ArtScience Museum after being presented at Fries Museum in Leeuwarden, Netherlands, consists of over 200 works, including photographs and videos, by 34 internationally acclaimed photographers from 21 countries. They were chosen from an open call process which saw over 1,000 submissions. Two Singaporean photographers, Zhao Renhui and Lim Weixiang, are among the group to have their works showcased at this exhibition.



An Ocean of Possibilities was curated following an international call for photographers to respond to questions such as how we address political and environmental challenges globally. After receiving more than 1,000 entries, a collective narrative began to emerge – that of photographers around the globe articulating alternatives that could help make the world a better place.

Within the exhibition, there are recurring visual narratives that represent endurance and the nature of human resilience drawn from all spheres of social life including politics, economics, humanities, religion and identity. Each artwork selected for the exhibition is an expression of the photographer's exploration process as he or she questions and challenges the context they live within, while searching for unconventional alternatives to address issues they face. Whilst global in its outlook, the issues explored in *An Ocean of Possibilities* are synonymous with those Singaporeans face in their daily lives.

"*An Ocean of Possibilities* is about moving forward, in more ways than one. The exhibition itself is a call to human resilience and the plight of concerned photography in our present age. It also builds on the strong connection that Noorderlicht has with the Asian photography community, starting out with 'Another Asia', the Noorderlicht festival's exploration in 2006. And we are now thrilled to bridge the oceans between the Netherlands and Singapore in this joint endeavour," said Mr. Wim Melis, Festival Director of the 21st Noorderlicht International Photo Festival.

"Singapore is no stranger to the idea of 'sink or swim' situations. While the nation triumphed above numerous odds, victory started with changing the society's mindset and adopting unprecedented solutions in uncharted waters, envisioning a better future. Hence, the ocean signifies a test of our courage, imagination and capabilities to take the path less trodden," said Ms. Gwen Lee, Festival Director of SIPP.

"*An Ocean of Possibilities* is a fitting culmination of the museum's Season of the Art and Science of Photography. Throughout the season, we have been exploring how artists working with the technology of photography are giving us new modes of being able to understand the world we live in. In *An Ocean of Possibilities*, we are confronted by powerful and poignant images which act as windows into the worlds of photographers working around the globe. The exhibition asks us what it means to be a global citizen in the age of the internet. It is a timely and thought-provoking show, which will resonate deeply with our visitors," said Ms. Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

An Ocean of Possibilities is one of three exhibitions, and a series of events, workshops and education spaces, that form the *Season of Art and Science of Photography* at ArtScience Museum. It includes *Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography*, which closes on 2 November, and the recently concluded *Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005*.



Programmes

To further engage visitors and to bring photography to life, ArtScience Museum has lined up a series of activities.

Visitors to *An Ocean of Possibilities* exhibition can explore lenses, light and photography first hand in the activity space, ***Hands On Lenses***, curated by arts scientist Isabella Desjoux. Participants can make their own magnifier, understand how a camera obscura works and use their smart phones to take photos of magnified objects. *Hands On Lenses* will be conducted by Isabella Desjoux on selected weekends: 8 and 9 November, 22 November, 13 and 20 December.

Marina Bay Sands' resident photographers will also be conducting two courses, ***Photographing Stories*** (23 and 30 November) and ***Shooting Travel Photos like a Pro*** (13 December). They will be sharing photography techniques that can help participants to bring their captured images to life.

On 8 November, ArtScience Museum will also be organising a free symposium, ***Digital Frontiers: Exploring the context of Digital Imaging***. Leading academic experts in the art and science field, Dr Vasillios Vonikakis from Advanced Digital Sciences Center and Associate Prof Oh Soon-Hwa from Nanyang Technological University, will explore how digital photography has changed our perception of images today. The session will also include a discussion on how technological advances have spurred greater progress in key areas within the artistic and scientific domains.

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF)

Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) is a biennial gathering of minds from around the world with the common pursuit to advance the art and appreciation of photography. It aims to be a much needed arena for critical thought and academic discourse on photography in Southeast Asia. SIPF will also function as a key platform to discover, nurture, and propel Southeast Asian photographers onto the international stage. Through its satellite programmes, the festival hopes to engage the public and cultivate a larger audience. At



the core of SIPF is a firm belief that photography can be enjoyed by all. For more information, please visit www.sipf.sg or www.facebook.com/thesipf www.twitter.com/sipf

About Noorderlicht International Photofestival

Noorderlicht is a many-faceted and international platform, originally only for documentary photography, but now for any photographer who has a good story to tell. With a sharp eye for new developments, but averse to trends and hype, we devote attention to the photography of the world and to the world of photography. We do this by organising an annual photography festival, programming exhibitions in our photo gallery, organising photographic commissions and arranging discussions, lectures and masterclasses. Noorderlicht provides an educational programme, and also publishes exceptional catalogues and photo books. With its distinctive, cutting-edge programming and outstanding publications, Noorderlicht has built up an international reputation as an institution that is able to couple engagement with visual beauty.

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For Images (Expiring on 30 November 2014):

<https://www.hightail.com/download/UIRUNnFGUnJtNEIsYzhUQw> (Credits to the respective photographers)