

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Animaris Ordis at ArtScience Museum

Theo Jansen's world-renowned Strandbeests land in Singapore

Dutch artist opens his first Southeast Asian exhibition at ArtScience Museum

SINGAPORE (22 June 2018) – 13 large-scale beasts, each with unique characteristics, will 'beach' at ArtScience Museum from 23 June. *Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen's Strandbeests* is the first Southeast Asian exhibition of Jansen's world-famous moving sculptures. Intricately constructed from everyday objects, these magnificent wind-powered machines bring together art, science and performance.

In the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci, Jansen trained as a physicist, before focusing on art. He has applied his background in both art and science to create dozens of self-propelled Strandbeests that utilise wind power to walk in a startlingly lifelike fashion. They have been exhibited in major galleries and museums around the world, and seen by millions of viewers online. Over the years, the Strandbeests have become popular culture sensations, even featured in an episode of *The Simpsons*.

Originally conceived as a solution to combat rising sea level due to global warming, the Strandbeests (Dutch for 'beach animals') were designed by Jansen to roam the beaches, pushing and piling sand on the shore to form dunes to protect the coastline. Through over two decades of experimentation and development, the Strandbeests have evolved in design and

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function to respond, interact and adapt to changing environmental conditions to ensure their survival. Their capabilities include storing of wind power, navigating the shore through changing tide direction and anchoring themselves ahead of oncoming storms.

“There are few people working today who embody the intersection of art and science as beautifully as Theo Jansen. For nearly 30 years, he has combined his understanding of science, with his artistic skill, to engineer mechanical animals that appear startlingly alive. *Wind Walkers* invites visitors to get up close and personal with these larger-than-life creatures, by walking with them in the galleries, and experiencing their extraordinary naturalistic movement, first-hand. The show vividly enacts Jansen's personal philosophy that the walls between art and engineering exist only in our minds,” said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

“It is with great anticipation and excitement that the Strandbeests are making their Southeast Asian debut at ArtScience Museum. I hope that visitors to *Wind Walkers* will enjoy interacting with the Strandbeests as much as I have creating them. While I have spent the past 28 years developing new version of the Strandbeests, I dream that one day they will be able to roam the beach freely and surviving on their own,” added Jansen.

Presented in four sections, *Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen's Strandbeests* begins by charting Jansen's imaginative vision and the origin of Strandbeests, while unfolding the science behind their unique locomotion, and the creative processes that have driven their evolution. As well as showcasing 13 extraordinary Strandbeests in Singapore for the first time, *Wind Walkers* features films, prints, artist sketches, and prototypes, an immersive environment that recreates Jansen's workshop, and interactive educational activities for all-ages that explore the creativity of Jansen's engineering.

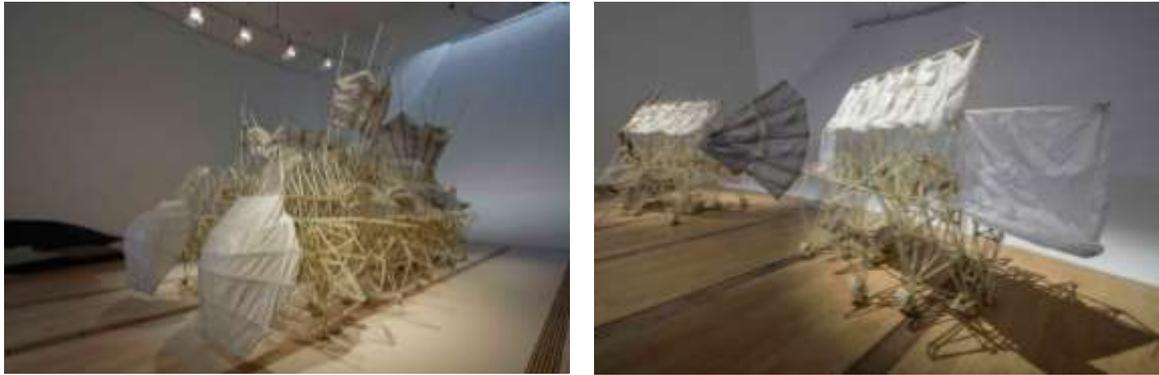
New commission by Singapore-based artist

The exhibition concludes with a new installation by Singapore-based artist, Isabelle Desjeux, commissioned by ArtScience Museum for the exhibition. Desjeux's installation, *Backyard Lab*, is inspired by Jansen's creative process, and his use of simple, everyday objects. Like Jansen, Desjeux trained as a scientist before becoming an artist, and uses her understanding of biology to create artworks that feel like scientific experiments. Her artworks question the scientific method and the objectivity of science. *Backyard Lab* is a quasi-laboratory where visitors can follow the process of creation from sketching to prototyping, through trial, error and experimentation.

Meet the Beests

Wind Walkers presents different generations of Strandbeests, classified into time periods similar to geologic eras, with each Strandbeest having a Latin name reflective of its characteristics. Notable Strandbeests on show in *Wind Walkers* include the massive *Animaris Siamesis*, which weighs over 200kg and has 72 legs. It is the largest Strandbeest Jansen has made. As its name, *Siamesis* (Latin for ‘twins’) suggests, it has two bodies anchored onto each other for stability. At the other end of the scale is the small and mobile *Animaris Ordis*. It moves with the wind generated through its sails and can be pulled along beaches or across gallery floors. *Ordis* is one the most versatile Strandbeests and functions as the walking unit of several other larger Strandbeests.

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(L-R) *Animaris Siamesis* and *Animaris Ordis* at *Wind Walkers*

Also on show is the intriguing *Animaris Burchus Primus*, which bears an uncanny resemblance to a caterpillar. Unlike its predecessors, it is not wind-driven, but is instead pulled across the beach, or the gallery floor, by hand.



Animaris Burchus Primus at *Wind Walkers*

Visitors will be invited to walk with Strandbeests in the galleries, during special sessions where the creatures will be “reanimated” by assistants. These reanimations will be held at various timeslots throughout each day of the exhibition.

Programmes

In conjunction with *Wind Walkers*, visitors can attend a series of complementary programmes from 23 June. During the opening weekend, Theo Jansen will be leading guided tours of *Wind Walkers*. He will also be the key speaker at the *Conversations* event which will be held on the opening day of the exhibition.

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Event:	Date and time:	Venue:	Description:	Remarks:
Conversations: Theo Jansen	23 Jun (Sat), 2pm – 4pm	Expression Gallery, Level 4	Join the Dutch artist as he talks about the union of art, engineering, imagination and reality in his creatures, and shares his insights on new ideas of existence. Singapore-based artist, Isabelle Desjeux, will also take part, speaking about her new commission for <i>Wind Walkers</i> .	
Insights Tour (60 Mins)	23 June (Sat), 11.30am – 12.30pm, 5.00pm – 6.00pm 24 June (Sun), 11.30am – 12.30pm, 5.00pm – 6.00pm	Exhibition Entrance, Level 3	Theo Jansen will lead a guided tour of <i>Wind Walkers</i> . This will be an unmissable opportunity to hear from Jansen as he explains the creation, fossilisation, reanimation and evolution of his creatures.	Complimentary for ticket-holders of <i>Wind Walkers</i> . Up to 40 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration stickers will be given out 30 minutes before tour begins at exhibition entrance. Due to crowding of the galleries timed entry might apply.
Minibeest Meetup	30 Jun (Sat), 3pm – 4pm	Education Classroom, Basement 1	An opportunity for fans of Strandbeests to gather and assemble their very own minibeest, whilst learning about the role of Jansen’s so-called ‘holy numbers’ in making them move. Finish the session with a minibeest race and make sure to capture the moment when your minibeest crosses the finish line!	Complimentary with purchase of Theo Jansen minibeest kit, available in Museum Shop B2. Up to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

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				Registration stickers will be given out five minutes before tour begins at exhibition entrance.
Playmaking Session	Family Fridays: 6, 13, 20 July, 24, 31 August, 4.30pm – 5.30pm	Workshop Space within the Exhibition, Level 3	Inspired by the Strandbeests which are made from ordinary materials, the Playmaking sessions allow participants to create their designs and experiment with bold and simple engineering theories.	\$5 per participant. Up to 20 participants on a first-come, first-served basis.
Public Guided tour (45 Mins)	Family Fridays: 6, 13, 20, 27 Jul, 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 Aug, 3pm – 3.45pm Saturdays: 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul, 4, 11, 18, 25 Aug 5pm – 5.45pm Sundays: 8, 15, 22, 29 Jul, 5, 12, 19, 26 Aug, 5pm – 5.45pm	Exhibition Entrance, Level 3	Join us for a fascinating tour of <i>Wind Walkers</i> , featuring animations of Theo Jansen's famed Strandbeests and rich insights into how mathematical formulas and seemingly-ordinary materials create extraordinary life-like creatures.	Complimentary for ticket-holders of <i>Wind Walkers</i> . Up to 25 participants on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration stickers will be given out five minutes before tour begins at exhibition entrance.
Mandarin Guided Tour (45 Mins)	30 June (Sat), 2.30pm – 3.15pm, 4.00pm – 4.45pm 7, 14, 21, 28 Jul, 4, 11, 18, 28 Aug 2.30pm – 3.15pm, 4.00pm – 4.45pm			

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Tickets are available at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. Terms and Conditions apply. Tickets prices as follows:

	STANDARD TICKET (SGD)	SINGAPORE RESIDENT (SGD)
Adult	19	16
Senior (65 years and above)/ Student/ Child (2-12 years)	14	12
Family package (2 kids & 2 adults)	54	45

Audemars Piguet is the Sponsor for *Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen's Strandbeests*. Media Force Ltd is the Worldwide Agent of the exhibition.

Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen's Strandbeests will run from 23 June till 30 September.

For more information on the exhibition, please visit
<https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/theo-jansen.html>

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About Theo Jansen

Theo Jansen (born 1948, the Netherlands) studied physics at Delft University of Technology, but left to pursue a career in art. He started out as a landscape painter, but shot to prominence in 1980 when he flew a "UFO" – made of plastic sheeting on a light frame – across the skies of Holland. His engineering background and keen interest in physical science have continually shaped his art. Jansen's most renowned works are his Strandbeests, which he continues to build on the Dutch seaside. Jansen has exhibited his work internationally, including at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts, USA; the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo, Japan; Cité des Sciences and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France; the Reina Sophia in Madrid, Spain; the Institute for Contemporary Art in London, UK; and the Stedelijk Museum: Prinsenhof in the Netherlands. He has been profiled by The New Yorker, The New York Times, the BBC and Wired amongst others and his TED talk has attracted over four million online views. For more information, please visit www.strandbeest.com

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, a theatre and an outdoor event plaza. 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 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 which 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

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Audemars Piguet and Art

Audemars Piguet has always sought to integrate creative vision with superb artistry and technical mastery. Pursuing its commitment to ingenuity, innovation, and a spirit of independence, Audemars Piguet formed a partnership with Art Basel in 2013, supporting the world's premier contemporary art shows in Hong Kong, Basel and Miami Beach. Since then, Audemars Piguet has presented innovative concepts at all three Art Basel shows, inviting artists to creatively interpret Audemars Piguet's heritage and origins.

Audemars Piguet supports annual projects that give artists the freedom to create works that offer their own, highly personal interpretation of the company's cultural and geographical origins. These projects are emblematic of the company's most deeply held values and testify to the deep and fertile dialogue between two areas of creative endeavour that have much to say to each other. For Art Basel's 2014 show in Miami Beach, Audemars Piguet co-presented Theo Jansen's Strandbeest, animal-like kinetic sculptures which harnessed wind power to walk along the seashore in Miami Beach. For Audemars Piguet, these complex and compelling creatures evoke the essence of watchmaking in a language that could only have been developed by an artist. For more information, please visit <https://www.audemarspiguet.com/en/experience/>

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For hi-res images:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=195PgZLU2DdQnD_1lxOEKofwgWmU_UExv (Credit to Media Force and Marina Bay Sands as indicated)