
For Immediate Release

NUS MUSEUM

presents

Textures, Tones & Timbres Art of Chong Fahcheong

Singapore, 16 January 2013

The exhibition *Textures, Tones & Timbres: Art of Chong Fahcheong* presents the recent works of sculptor Chong Fahcheong and runs from 1 February 2013 to 28 April 2013 at NUS Museum. Mr Tan Boon Hui, Director of Singapore Art Museum, will officially open the exhibition on 31 January 2013 at NUS Museum.

The exhibition presents recent works of sculptor Chong Fahcheong. While the artist's public artworks are characterized by the figurative and shared social memory, this collection of recent works explores his continuing fascination for materials and their potential. Chong's formal approach intertwines personal experiences, both concrete and intuitive, and sense of place; the compositions are informed by journeying, layered with notions of home and impermanency. It is a "process of rambling", finding ways of making sense, constantly negotiating the natural environment and urban sprawl, interacting with materials and encountering a variety of sensations and experiences. Accomplished in stone and wood, the works are simultaneously familiar and abstract, providing glimpses of everyday objects and communicating Chong's reflections on life.

Chong Fahcheong became a professional artist in 1978. Working mainly in stone and wood, and occasionally in bronze, Chong's public sculptures are part of the identity of functionally and visually diverse spaces in Singapore. His marble artworks include "Temu-sek" outside the SMRT Sports and Recreation Club in Bishan, "Bull and Bear" at the Stock Exchange of Singapore, "Mama's Precious One" at Toa Payoh Town Centre, "Holy Family" done for a church in Katong, and "Faculty Sculptures" at the National University of Singapore. Chong has also contributed a number of bronze sculptures which record the social memories of Singapore, the most visible being "First Generation" located in front of the Fullerton Hotel depicting five joyful boys jumping into the Singapore River.

Graduating with a Bachelor of Social Sciences from the University of Singapore in 1971, Chong's interest in art led him to pursue a Diploma in Curriculum Studies in Art and Design at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic in the United Kingdom. After completing the course, he taught art in Singapore schools and was one of the first art lecturers at SIA-LaSalle College of Art and Design (now LASALLE College of the Arts) when it was formed in 1984. In 1989, Chong moved to British Columbia, Canada, where he now lives.



Chong Fahcheong
Dune Seat, 2011
Marble, 175 x 132 x 45 cm



Chong Fahcheong
Sol Invictus, 2012
Teak, 85 x 85 x 15 cm

“Fahcheong’s sense of connection to places is central to his practice. This exploration of an identity that is evolving and anchored to life experiences unfolds in the breadth of artworks on display at the exhibition” observes Ahmad Mashadi, Head of NUS Museum. “The sculptures were conceived amidst encounters, musings and reflections prompted by his constant movement from one place to another. They were executed at a few centres in the region, namely Indonesia, Vietnam and Thailand, resulting in an interplay, at times playful and ironic, between concepts, forms and materials. Imagine a representation of the melting snow using tropical teak as material and working with Southeast Asian artisans. This play of places, memory, and representation is quite remarkable and unique to Fahcheong.”

“We are familiar with Fahcheong’s figurative public sculptures” adds curator Foo Su Ling, “but this exhibition introduces a collection of forms inspired by objects and formations in the natural environment and ordinary articles and symbols of cultural production. The works emerge from the artist’s interest in the idea of ‘the journey’, where the process of rambling allows one to probe, discover, experience and chance upon interesting perspectives and possibilities.” For the Museum, the exhibition of works by Fahcheong complements its permanent display of sculptures by the late cultural medallion recipient Ng Eng Teng, both having contributed to sculpture making in Singapore during the 1980s and 1990s. For Su Ling, “Fahcheong’s works possess similarities and contrast when compared to those by Eng Teng. Beyond this major showing of recent works by Fahcheong, this is a great opportunity for visitors to view the two artists’ works simultaneously.”

An alumnus of the University, Fahcheong has been active in promoting art appreciation and sharing his experiences. Christine Khor, Director of NUS Centre For the Arts, relates the artist’s significance to the University: “An alumnus of NUS, Fahcheong has been actively involved in the public artworks around the campus. While highly dedicated to his profession as a sculptor, Fahcheong has also been consistently committed to teaching and sharing his knowledge in art making. The ‘Faculty Sculptures’ at NUS Shaw Foundation Alumni House were accomplished by Fahcheong in collaboration with staff and students of the University. As part of this exhibition’s programme, he will discuss with students aspects of his artistic practice.”

The exhibition is organised by

NUS MUSEUM

Media Enquires

For more information about the exhibition, media interviews, gallery tours or high resolution images, please contact

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Exhibition Details

Exhibition official opening:	31 January 2013, 7pm
	Guest of Honour: Mr Tan Boon Hui Director Singapore Art Museum
Exhibition period:	1 February 2013 – 28 April 2013
Venue:	NUS Museum University Cultural Centre 50 Kent Ridge Crescent National University of Singapore Singapore 119279
Opening hours:	10am – 7.30pm (Tuesday – Saturday) 10am – 6pm (Sunday) Closed on Monday & Public Holidays
Admission:	Free

About NUS Museum

NUS Museum is a comprehensive museum for teaching and research. It focuses on Asian regional art and culture, and seeks to create an enriching experience through its collections and exhibitions. The Museum has over 7,000 artefacts and artworks divided across four collections. The *Lee Kong Chian Collection* consists of a wide representation of Chinese materials from ancient to contemporary art; the *South and Southeast Asian Collection* holds a range of works from Indian classical sculptures to modern pieces; and the *Ng Eng Teng Collection* is a donation from the late Singapore sculptor and Cultural Medallion recipient of over 1,000 artworks. A fourth collection, the *Straits Chinese Collection*, is located at NUS Baba House at 157 Neil Road.

NUS Museum launched the NX Gallery in 2006. It is conceived as a contemporary art venue to showcase emerging artistic trends in Singapore, Southeast Asia and beyond, as well as to encourage critical curatorial and museum practices. For the NUS Centre For the Arts and the NUS Museum, these aims afford an emphasis in partnerships within the University and beyond, underscored by the recognition that art and culture form a powerful nexus that connect different disciplines and institutional interests. Past exhibitions organized at the NX Gallery include *Picturing Relations: Simryn Gill and Tino Djumini* (2007), *Strategies Towards the Real: S. Sudjojono and Contemporary Indonesian Art* (2008), *Bound For Glory: Wong Hoy Cheong* (2008), *Jendela: A Play of the Ordinary* (2009), *Illuminance | Agus Suwage and Filippo Sciascia* (2010), *Cingondewah | An Art Project by Tisna Sanjaya* (2011), *Writing Power | Zulkifli Yusoff* (2011), and most recently *Semblance/Presence | Renato Habulan and Alfredo Esquillo Jr.* (2012).