

ARTS

BOOKS

Book Launch By Inez Tan

Inez Tan, a poet and fiction writer based in Southern California and Singapore, will be launching her debut short-story collection about home and belonging titled *This Is Where I Won't Be Alone: Stories*. From the 1990s to a future where people access information through chips implanted in their heads, from the Singaporean heartland and London to San Francisco and the moon, these stories hold in tension the strangeness of displacement and a person's deep yearning for connection in the relentless search for who and what to call home. **WHERE:** Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20 Ngee Ann City, 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 4pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** www.kinokuniya.com.sg

CONCERTS

Toy Symphonies

Cultural Medallion recipient and Queen of the Toy Piano Margaret Leng Tan will perform two starkly different Toy Symphonies. The cast of Crazy Rich Asians will make an appearance too. **WHERE:** Yong Siew Toh Conservatory Hall, 3 Conservatory Drive **MRT:** Kent Ridge/Clementi **WHEN:** Today, 8.15pm **ADMISSION:** \$28 - \$38, various discounts available **INFO:** resoundcollective.org

Garden Sounds

Pack your picnic mat and basket and enjoy the tunes from Mayday, Adele, Spice Girls and more at the Botanic Gardens' Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage. **WHERE:** Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Sept 22, 5.30 - 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.nparks.gov.sg

NUS Wind Symphony

The National University of Singapore Wind Symphony, conducted by Francis Tan, will perform tunes from Disney and Pixar, in an evening specially dedicated to the NUS Centre for the Arts' supporters and friends who have journeyed with it through the years. **WHERE:** Shaw Foundation Symphony Stage, Singapore Botanic Gardens, 1 Cluny Road **MRT:** Botanic Gardens **WHEN:** Sept 23, 6pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** nusartsfestival.com

Parangpara – Songs Of The Sitar

Usman Khan has performed in most major music centres and music festivals in India and other countries. He was the chosen sitar player for the 24-hour Raga Session in Paris in April 1985 and the only instrumentalist from the East to give a full concert at the International Guitar Festival in Marseilles in 1986. **WHERE:** Victoria Theatre, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Sept 23, 6pm **ADMISSION:** Donations are welcome & invitations are available at Temple of Fine Arts, 01-01 Central Square, 20 Havelock Road; e-tickets (after online donations) at tinyurl.com/ftasitarconcert **TEL:** 6535-0509 **INFO:** E-mail admin@tfasg.org

DANCE

Maya Yatra

Inspired by Maya Angelou and her poem, *Still I Rise*, Maya Yatra (*The Journey Of Maya*) follows the struggles and growth of a young woman in today's modern yet essentially patriarchal society. Each stage of Maya's life is paralleled by legendary female characters from Indian epics such as Mahabharata's Shakuntala, Ramayana's Sita and Silapathikaram's Kannagi. Under the direction of artistic director Santha Bhaskar, this dance is a poignant yet powerful portrayal of the resilience and strength of women across time, retold through the language of Bharatanatyam. In celebration of its 40th anniversary, the National University of Singapore Indian Dance group presents this landmark production that celebrates womanhood in the predominantly female troupe's history of achievements in Indian classical dance. **WHERE:** University Cultural Centre Theatre, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent **MRT:** Kent Ridge **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$25 (\$15 for full-time students) **INFO:** nusartsfestival.com

Anwasha & Pancha: Earth

In this double-bill presented by Maya Dance Theatre, social topics are

Arts Picks

Olivia Ho recommends



CROSSFADES AND DRAWN FORMS

This double exhibition by Pearl Lam Galleries presents works by Iranian artist Golnaz Fathi and Chinese artist Lan Zhenghui.

Fathi's practice is rooted in traditional Persian calligraphy and she draws from the calligrapher's warm-up exercise, shiah mashgh (black practice), in which letters are repeated until the page is saturated with black ink.

She also deconstructs the drawn medium in black

plexiglass lightboxes as well as a video projection titled *Seasons Changing*.

Lan's monumental ink landscapes include his 6m-long painting E04 (above). He launched the "power brush" movement with fellow artists in 2000, promoting a natural sense of motion and opposing contrived methods of expression.

WHERE: Pearl Lam Galleries, 03-22 Gillman Barracks, 9 Lock Road **WHEN:** Till Nov 11, 11am to 7pm (Tuesdays to Saturdays), noon to 6pm (Sundays) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.pearllam.com

MUSICAL BENTO BOX

Nibble on mooncakes and listen to Chinese orchestral music at this evening riverfront concert by the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) and Si Chuan Dou Hua Restaurant in celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival.

The orchestra, conducted by SCO resident conductor Quek Ling Kiong, will play familiar tunes such as Luis Demetrio and Pablo Beltran Ruiz's *Sway* and Yellow Submarine's *Lemon Tree*, as well as Sulwyn Lok's *Bossa Nova Rousing Clouds Chasing The Moon*.

Guests can buy bento boxes that include dishes such as stir-fried French beans with minced meat and housemade beancurd with wolfberry. **WHERE:** UOB Plaza Atrium, 80 Raffles Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Wednesday, 6.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, bento boxes cost \$16 each



TIGER OF MALAYA

Teater Ekamatra turns an old propaganda film on its head in this new play by Alfian Sa'at, which re-enacts scenes from a 1943 film about Japanese "Robin Hood", Tani Yutaka, who lived in Malaya.

The film portrays the bandit as a heroic figure, leading his band against British imperial forces and "evil" Chinese capitalists. But the play, directed by Teater Ekamatra's artistic director Mohd Fared Jainal, means to interrupt, intervene and subvert.

WHERE: Drama Centre Black Box, Level 5 National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** Bugis/Bras Basah **WHEN:** Today to Sunday and Tuesday to Sept 23, 8pm (Tuesday to Friday), 3 and 8pm (Saturdays and Sundays) **ADMISSION:** \$40 from Sistic (call 6348-5555 or go to www.sistic.com.sg), tickets selling fast **INFO:** In English, Malay, Japanese and Mandarin, with English surtitles

The cast members of Teater Ekamatra's Tiger Of Malaya include (from left) Farez Najid, Rei Kitagawa, Yuya Tanaka, Siti Khalijah Zainal and Rei Poh.

PHOTOS: TEATER EKAMATRA, SAMUEL BEY, PEARL LAM GALLERIES

THE SOUND OF DRUMS

This percussion concert with the Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra brings together East and West, as well as traditional and contemporary.

It is conducted by Apo Hsu from Taiwan and features Indonesia-born Australian percussionist Robert Oetomo on marimba and India-born, Singapore-based tabla player Nawaz Mirajkar (left).

WHERE: Singapore Conference Hall, 7 Shenton Way **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Sunday, 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$19 and \$21 from Sistic

put forth for audiences to ponder. Anwasha (*Beyond The Darkness*) highlights people with mental-health issues who are not given a chance to voice their plight. Pancha (*Flowers Don't Bloom All The Time*) follows the journey of survivors of domestic sexual abuse.

WHERE: SMU Arts & Culture Centre, Basement Concourse, School of Social Sciences and Economics, 81 Victoria Street **MRT:** Bras Basah/City Hall **WHEN:** Sun, 8 - 9.15pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at peatix.com

Legendary Looks – A Second Glance At China's Four Beauties

Beauty was never just skin-deep in ancient China. Beyond looks, women were valued for their artistic talents, in particular, their mastery of dance and music. This performance, which combines narratives, fashion and Chinese dance, reimagines the four legendary beauties and dances from their era. **WHERE:** Moonfest Tea Room, Esplanade Annexe Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Sept 23, 6.45pm (English), 7.45pm (Mandarin) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Travel Light By Dionisio & Welbart

In conjunction with Philippine Art Trek 2018, Singapore's One East Asia Gallery will be featuring the joint exhibition by Abigail Dionisio and Welbart (Joel Rodriguez Bartolome) titled *Travel Light*. The two artists are known for their realistic oil paintings.

WHERE: One East Asia Gallery, 09-03 Thong Teck Building, 15 Scotts Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** 6.30 - 9pm (Sept 25), noon - 6pm (Sept 26 - Oct 10, Mon - Fri, except public holidays, Sat by appointment only) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** E-mail info@oneeastasia.org

Latin-American Art Series: Fernando Botero

Corcovado Arts' Latin-American Masters Series will start with a talk (Sept 24, 6.30pm, \$40) on the art of Colombian artist Fernando Botero by his eldest son, Fernando Botero Zea, and Professor Ruben de la Nuez, an art theorist and critic specialising in contemporary visual arts. Also featured will be talks on William Turner and John Constable (Tuesday, 7pm, \$25) and Eugene Delacroix (Sept 25, 7pm, \$25) in the Great European Masters series. **WHERE:** The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane **MRT:** City Hall/Raffles Place **WHEN:** Tue & Sept 24 & 25 **ADMISSION:** \$25 - \$40 **TEL:** 6332-6900 **INFO:** E-mail courses@corcovadoarts.com

Echoing Fragments: Solo Exhibition By Lim Tiong Ghee

Echoing Fragments features the artist's trademark collage motif that he has used in his decades-long exploration of imprinting his personal experiences on his works. The collage paintings feature batik elements' interaction with floral motifs, weaving what appears to be the cultural and physical through the use of negative space. The luminous colours in the works could possibly reflect the warmth he experienced in Indonesia. **WHERE:** The Private Museum, 02-06,

51 Waterloo Street **MRT:** Bencoolen/Bras Basah **WHEN:** Till Sept 23, 10am - 7pm (Mon - Fri), 11am - 5pm (Sat & Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6738-2872 **INFO:** theprivatemuseum.org

Ikebana Exhibition

Ikebana International Singapore Chapter 135 presents Ikebana In Retrospect: Dialogue With Singapore Artists, in which fellow ikebanists will create pieces based on their interpretations of the artworks exhibited as part of the National Gallery Singapore's collection, *Siapa Nama Kamu?* Art In Singapore Since The 19th Century. These artworks are created by local artists in the past 50 years and this ikebana exhibition will also kick-start Ikebana International Singapore Chapter 135's 50th Golden Celebration. **WHERE:** Japan Creative Centre, Embassy of Japan in Singapore, 4 Nassim Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** 10am - 6pm (Thu - Sept 22) **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 8726-1357 **INFO:** E-mail i135svp@gmail.com

EXHIBITIONS (SHOWS)

Coming Together As One Through Art – No Money, No Talk

This is a series of four pop-up art installations by Singapore National Co-operative Federation (SNCF) to raise awareness of the societal issues of yesteryear that continue to exist, and to showcase the impact when people in the community band together for a common goal. The first one will look at the topic of money and related social issues. **WHERE:** Outside Mandarin Gallery, 333A Orchard Road **MRT:** Somerset

WHEN: Till Sept 30, noon - 9pm (Tue - Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** sncf.coop/coopsiol

THEATRE

Empire Of The Son

Father and son Akira and Tetsuro are public-radio broadcasters for Japan and Canada respectively. Each has millions of listeners, but they have never spoken to each other. When Akira's health falters, Tetsuro begins their last conversation. Based on a series of interviews, the play combines live cinematography and miniatures to conjure entire worlds – from the aftermath of Hiroshima's atomic bomb attack to present-day Vancouver, marshalling the tiniest of objects to focus on life's biggest questions.

WHERE: University Cultural Centre Dance Studio, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent **MRT:** Kent Ridge **WHEN:** 7.30pm (today), 3 & 7.30pm (tomorrow) **ADMISSION:** \$25 (public; \$15 for full-time students) **INFO:** www.nusartsfestival.com

Mr & Mrs Perfect

The play is a satire on marriage and takes a look at an imperfect marriage. What happens when Mr and Mrs Perfect decide to look deeply into their marriage? And what happens when the furniture and props surrounding them have their own opinions on this imperfect relationship? Is there going to be an apocalypse of sorts or will it just be a precursor to a happier life?

WHERE: Black Box, Goodman Arts Centre, 90 Goodman Road **MRT:** Mountbatten **WHEN:** 8pm (Oct 4 & 5), noon & 4pm (Oct 6) **ADMISSION:** \$35 **INFO:** www.eventbrite.sg