

ARTS

BOOKS

Book Launch: When I Was A Kid 5

Malaysian comic-book artist Cheeming Boey will launch volume 5 of the autobiographical graphic novel series *When I Was A Kid*, which explores the lives of Gor Ko (Boey's dad) and Ah Pui (Boey's mum) as they overcome challenges to come together.

WHERE: Kinokuniya Singapore Main Store, 04-20/21 Ngee Ann City (Takashimaya Shopping Centre), 391 Orchard Road **MRT:** Orchard **WHEN:** Jan 26, 2pm **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-5021 **INFO:** kinokuniya.com.sg

Arthur Conan Doyle's The Adventure Of The Final Problem

In *The Adventure Of The Final Problem*, first published in 1893, detective Sherlock Holmes' supposed last case is recounted by his friend and assistant, Dr John Watson. Dr Gwee Li Sui explores the significance of this story, with its themes for the modern time. The event is part of the National Library Board's *How To Fall In Love With Classics (Short Stories)* lecture series. **WHERE:** Programme Zone, Central Public Library, Basement National Library Building, 100 Victoria Street **MRT:** City Hall/Bugis **WHEN:** Thu, 7-8.30pm **ADMISSION:** Free, register at nlb.gov.sg/golibrary **INFO:** E-mail enquiry@nlb.gov.sg

CONCERTS

SSO Subscription Concert: Lan Shui's Farewell

In his final concert as music director of Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Shui directs Mahler's monumental *Resurrection Symphony*, a work close to his heart.

WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 25 & 26, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15 - \$88 (30 per cent discount for students, full-time national servicemen, seniors & persons with disabilities) **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Cheng San Chinese Orchestra: Greatest Chinese Classics

The Cheng San Chinese Orchestra, led by Wilson Neo and featuring guest singer He Mi Ya, will perform Chinese classics from the 1980s and 1990s, such as *Spring Suite* by Gu Guan Ren, *Dream Of The Red Chamber*, *Yellow River* and Liu Wenjin's *Unforgettable Water Sprinkling Festival*.

WHERE: Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 27, 5pm **ADMISSION:** \$15, \$8 concession for students, full-time national servicemen & seniors **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

VCH Organ Series: Thomas Trotter - Arrival, 1819

Be astounded by British virtuoso organist, Thomas Trotter, in an evening recital of organ greats. Myriad organ colours from Bach to Ginastera give way to a celebration of familiar and famous British tunes, including Holst's *Jupiter* and Elgar's *Land Of Hope And Glory*.

WHERE: Victoria Concert Hall, 9 Empress Place **MRT:** Raffles Place **WHEN:** Feb 15, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 **TEL:** 6348-5555 **INFO:** www.sistic.com.sg

DANCE

Q&A (The 36 Questions)

Can a series of 36 questions make you fall in love with a stranger? Would you like to be famous? When did you last sing to yourself? Or to someone else? What is your most terrible memory? Psychologist Arthur Aron has put together 36 questions that pairs of strangers may ask each other. His belief is that by placing strangers in positions of vulnerability and openness, it fosters openness to another person, leading to them falling in love. **WHERE:** Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Jan 25 & 26, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$27 (\$19 for students, national servicemen & seniors) **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Yajnaseni - The Eternal Flame

Does dharma take priority over emotions? This is a question Draupadi, heroine of the *Mahabharatam*, silently faced. Yajnaseni gives voice to this private struggle, exploring the shades of grey between what is right and what feels wrong and between one's duty and feelings. **WHERE:** Esplanade Theatre Studio, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Feb 1 & 2, 8pm **ADMISSION:** \$35 (\$25 for students & seniors) **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

Dance Appreciation Series: Introduction To Don Quixote

Singapore Dance Theatre's classic ballet *Don Quixote* has been condensed into an hour-long special for young audiences. Told through

narration and dance excerpts, the production tells a story of love, betrayal and eternal devotion. **WHERE:** Esplanade Concert Hall, 1 Esplanade Drive **MRT:** Esplanade/City Hall **WHEN:** Feb 9, 4pm **ADMISSION:** \$14 **INFO:** www.esplanade.com

EXHIBITIONS (GALLERIES)

Monumenta: In Lightness

Gajah Gallery presents a group exhibition featuring paintings, sculptures and installations of a monumental scale, created by 14 South-east Asian artists who explore the relationship among art, light and life.

WHERE: Gajah Gallery Singapore, 03-04 Tanjong Pagar Distripark, 39 Keppel Road **MRT:** Tanjong Pagar **WHEN:** Wed - Feb 10, 11am - 7pm (Mon - Fri), noon - 6pm (Sat, Sun & public holidays) **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-4202 **INFO:** gajahgallery.com

Mind(less) Wilderness

Singapore-based artist Nandita Mukand's solo exhibition mixes observations of how plants grow in the forest with the workings of the urban mind. Drawing on diverse resources such as neuroplasticity, quantum physics, contemporary Buddhist texts and ancient Vedic literature, she presents paintings and sculptures using synthetic and organic materials.

WHERE: Miaja Gallery, Level 2 APS Building, 9 Muthuraman Chetty Road **MRT:** Fort Canning **WHEN:** Till March 2, 10am - 7pm (Mon - Fri), Sat & Sun by appointment only **ADMISSION:** Free **TEL:** 6737-8865 **INFO:** E-mail info@miajagallery.com or go to miajagallery.com

Mapletree Business City Guided Art Tour

During Singapore Art Week, Mapletree Investment will host four guided art tours at Mapletree Business City as part of the Mapletree-NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore Public Art Education Programme. There are also artist talks, workshops and conferences.

WHERE: Meet at Alexandra Retail Centre (main entrance, taxi stand), 460 Alexandra Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Wed & Thu, noon - 12.45pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** www.MapletreeArts.sg

Solo Exhibition By Lindy Lee

Celebrated Australian artist Lindy Lee's first solo exhibition in Singapore is part of Gillman Barracks' Art After Dark celebrations and held in conjunction with Singapore Art Week. Her practice explores her Chinese ancestry through Taoism and Ch'an (Zen) Buddhism - philosophies that see humanity and nature as inextricably linked.

WHERE: Sullivan+Strumpf, 01-06 Gillman Barracks, 5 Lock Road **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Fri -

Feb 24, 11am - 7pm (Tue - Sat), 11am - 6pm (Sun) **ADMISSION:** Free

THEATRE

Hello, Dali!

Delta Force Improv presents the debut performance of this interactive, fully immersive theatre experience. Scenes will be inspired by audience suggestions as well as Spanish artist Salvador Dali's most famous works.

WHERE: The Merry Lion, 8B Circular Road (Level 3) **MRT:** Clarke Quay/Raffles Place **WHEN:** Wed, 7.30pm **ADMISSION:** \$15, tickets & more information at helledali.peatix.com

Homesick

This Alfian Sa'at play, presented by King Edward VII Hall Play 18/19, is set in 2003 Singapore, when the Sars outbreak forcefully brought together the Koh family, who have otherwise been detached for years. It tackles the issue of immigration, ultimately leaving the audience to ponder the true meaning of belonging, in modern-day Singapore.

WHERE: NUS University Cultural Centre Theatre, 50 Kent Ridge Crescent **MRT:** Kent Ridge **WHEN:** Fri, 7pm; Jan 26, 1.30 & 7pm **ADMISSION:** \$20 a ticket (\$85 for five tickets) **TEL:** 8139-6748 (Natalie)/9370-3816 (Kezia)/8138-7092 (Megan) **INFO:** facebook.com/KEhallplay

Arts Picks

Melissa Sim Assistant Life Editor recommends



S.E.A. FOCUS

South-east Asian modern and contemporary art will take centre stage at this boutique art fair's inaugural edition, which is part of Singapore Art Week. Twenty six galleries are taking part, with more than 186 artworks on display. Not to be missed are the talks on a

wide range of topics, including the opportunities and challenges of art-making in Singapore and the development and future of the South-east Asian art market.

Organised by STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery, with United Overseas Bank (UOB) as the lead partner and sponsor, the exhibition will also have a UOB Art Space to

showcase artworks by winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competition, such as *Angst* (2018, above) by Indonesian artist Suci Wahyudianto.

Executive director of STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery Emi Eu says the programmes underscore the "commitment to provide varied entry points to appreciate art in a

relaxed ambience".

WHERE: Gillman Barracks **MRT:** Labrador Park **WHEN:** Thursday to Jan 27, opening hours vary **ADMISSION:** Four-day pass: \$20; day pass: \$15; day pass (senior citizens over age 60 and national servicemen): \$10; student pass: free; identity checks will be carried out on site **INFO:** seafocus.sg/

PRINT ROOM: COLLECT

Established and emerging Singapore photographers are featured in this exhibition, which looks at the process of artists who seek, source and gather materials and data for their artworks.

Hanging Heavy On My Eyes by Ang Song Nian, 35, documents the haze situation in Singapore; *With Nature And A Camera* by Robert Zhao Renhui, 35, involves the observation of unnatural animal behaviour in an urban environment; and *Ways To Tie Trees* (right) by Woong Soak Teng, 25, explores how nature has been subjected to manipulation.

This is the inaugural edition of a quarterly showcase organised by Deck, a non-profit art organisation dedicated to photography.

The series hopes to nurture the appreciation of photography and advocate for the medium's place in contemporary art collections.

Artist Ang says that "in comparison with other mediums, in the context of contemporary art collections, photography is just a very young medium".

However, he adds that today, photography is very much present in everyday lives and "there are many ways to use it and, most importantly, many ways to look at it, like art".

WHERE: Deck, 120A Prinsep Street



MRT: Rochor **WHEN:** Till March 30, gallery hours: noon to 7pm (Tuesdays to Saturdays), noon to 5pm (Sundays) **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** deck.sg

PHOTOS: UOB, VERY SPECIAL ARTS SINGAPORE, WOONG SOAK TENG/DECK



MY JOURNEY - FEEL THE HOPE, EMBRACE THE SHINE

Cultural Medallion recipient Chng Seok Tin showcases paintings, sculptures, prints and literature, which have never been exhibited before. She taught at Lasalle College of the Arts before losing

her eyesight, but that did not stop her from creating art. Currently recovering from lung cancer, she is an inspiration to many artists here.

In conjunction with this exhibition, there will be two print-making workshops conducted by Chng. Participants will be blindfolded and encouraged to engage their senses during the workshop's activities.

The exhibition is presented by Very Special Arts Singapore, a charity which provides access for people with disabilities through the arts.

EXHIBITION

WHERE: Galleries 1 and 2 and Blue Room, The Arts House, 1 Old Parliament Lane **MRT:** City Hall/Raffles Place **WHEN:** Till Jan 21, 10am to 10pm **ADMISSION:** Free **INFO:** tinyurl.com/yc2vqxo2

WORKSHOPS

WHERE: Gallery 1, The Arts House **MRT:** City Hall/Raffles Place **WHEN:** Tomorrow, 11am to 12.30pm (session 1), 2 to 3.30pm (session 2) **ADMISSION:** \$40 **INFO:** www.vsa.org.sg/product-category/concert-tickets

Bookmark This! A library on fire, haunting by a woman in black



ST PHOTO: ERNEST LUIS

Join Life reporters Toh Wen Li and Olivia Ho (both left) in this monthly podcast by The Straits Times, in which they talk about books in the headlines and recommend new reads.

In this episode, they chat about *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, an investigation into the 1986 Los Angeles Public Library fire and a love letter to libraries everywhere; and *Melmoth* by Sarah Perry, a neo-Gothic novel in which the guilty are haunted through history by a woman in black.

Produced by: Olivia Ho, Toh Wen Li and Ernest Luis **Feedback to:** podcast@sph.com.sg **Download ST & BT podcasts for offline listening:** str.sg/stbtpodcasts **On website:** str.sg/stpodcasts **On Spotify:** str.sg/oeGg **On iTunes:** str.sg/oeXN **On Google podcasts:** str.sg/oeLG