

IPS Closed-Door Discussion
Southeast Asia via Singapore: Musings on a New Museum

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ABSTRACT

Southeast Asia via Singapore: Musings on a new Museum

Kwok Kian Chow
Director
The National Art Gallery Singapore

In a regional landscape already populated with national art institutions, the formation of The National Art Gallery, Singapore (TNAGS) seeks to present a new museological standard that deviates from the bounded imagination of the nation-state by aiming at becoming an international platform for elevating the visual arts discourse of Southeast-Asia.

The geopolitical situation of Singapore has meant that it has now become a useful nodal point (via the museum) to re-stage the question of “What is art (for) in Southeast Asia?” and to ask again what is the significance of thinking Singapore within the context of Southeast Asia and vice versa. This Closed-Door Discussion attempts to get at the principles and museological underpinnings that will set the foundation for TNAGS’ self-definition and its relationship to its Southeast Asian neighbours and the world.

TNAGS will be presenting its overarching institutional ethos and the curatorial strategies it intends for its Singapore and Southeast Asia Permanent Collection Galleries. The presentation advances on comments received from earlier curatorial consultations, and the session will be seeking the critical views and opinions of discussants and other participants so as to further the critical shaping of TNAGS’ museological picture and its greater role within the contemporary socio-cultural milieu of Singapore and the region.
