

**NHB Academy--Institute of Policy Studies Symposium**



*Wednesday, 13 July 2011  
Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, Galleries 1 & 2 (B1-04/06),  
LASALLE College of the Arts*

**PROGRAMME**

*(As at 8 July 2011)*

- 8.30 am – 9.00 am      **Registration**
- 9.00 am – 9.15 am      **WELCOME REMARKS**
- Mr Koh Seow Chuan  
Chairman  
The National Art Gallery, Singapore  
&  
Board Member  
National Heritage Board
- Mr Janadas Devan  
Director  
Institute of Policy Studies  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore
- 9.15 am – 10.00 am      **OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
- Professor Partha Mitter  
Emeritus Professor (Art History)  
University of Sussex, UK
- Moderator:**
- Mr Kwok Kian Chow  
Director  
The National Art Gallery, Singapore
- Question & Answer**
- 10.00 am – 10.30 am      **Tea Break**

10.30 am – 12.00 pm **PANEL I: What Makes a ‘Great’ Art Museum in Singapore?**

What makes for a ‘great museum? Would a ‘great’ museum sited in the reality of Singapore and Southeast Asia, be different from those where the traditional great civilisations were founded? Is it possible for The National Art Gallery to be a great museum if its focus is primarily on Southeast Asian art, presuming that there the idea of ‘Southeast Asian art’ means more than art from Southeast Asia? What else goes into the making of a ‘great’ museum beyond its collection and shows? Does the audience matter, and how so?

**Speakers:**

Professor Dr Apinan Poshyananda  
Director-General  
Department of Cultural Promotion  
Ministry of Culture, Thailand

Mr Wayne Modest  
Head, Curatorial Department  
Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam

Mr Oscar Ho Hing-kay  
Programme Director  
MA Programme in Cultural Management  
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Moderator:**

Mr Arun Mahizhnan  
Deputy Director  
Institute of Policy Studies  
Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy  
National University of Singapore

**Question & Answer**

12.00 pm – 1.00 pm **Lunch**

1.00 pm – 2.30 pm **PANEL II: Whither Modernity in Southeast Asian Art?**

Asian art has often been presumed to become ‘modern’ only after its encounters with Western art. The extent and ways in which the different traditions of Asian art could be considered ‘modern’ even before those interactions have not been well examined. Did these interactions lead to a wholesale incorporation of Western ideas of modernity, or result in new notions of what can be considered modern that were Asian in character? How then can we speak of modernism in Southeast Asian art? Does modernity always mean change and disruption?

**Speakers:**

Associate Professor Flaudette May V Datuin  
Department of Art Studies  
College of Arts and Letters  
University of the Philippines

Professor Adrian Vickers  
Director  
Australian Centre for Asian Art and Archaeology  
The University of Sydney

Professor Nora A Taylor  
Alsdorf Professor  
South and Southeast Asian Art History  
&  
Director  
Graduate Programme in Modern and Contemporary  
Art History, Theory and Criticism  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago

**Moderator:**

Dr Charles Merewether  
Director  
Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore

**Question & Answer**

2.30 pm – 4.00 pm

**PANEL III: Building and Belonging to an Art Ecology**

The international art landscape has grown increasingly more striated and at the same time interconnected. The collection, exhibition and research on art production take place in distinct realms (art markets and cultural entrepreneurs; university departments; museums; biennales etc.) that impact on each other. How would a new art institution be able to fit in this ecology and use the knowledge networks and high-quality scholarship to its advantage? How do we begin to build and strengthen such ecology in the Singapore context? What kind of resources and commitments are required, and from which stakeholders?

**Speakers:**

Ms Gridthiya Gaweewong  
Curator and Co-founder  
Project 304  
&  
Artistic Director  
Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok

Mr Amir Sidharta  
Curator/Director  
Museum Universitas Pelita Harapan  
&  
Director  
Sidharta Auctioneer, Indonesia

Mr Jean-Francois Hubert  
Senior Consultant for Vietnamese Art  
Christie's

**Moderator:**

Dr Eugene Tan  
Programme Director (Special Projects)  
Lifestyle Programme Office  
Singapore Economic Development Board

**Question & Answer**

4.00 pm – 4.30 pm

**Tea Break**

4.30 pm – 5.30 pm

**PANEL IV: "If I were the Museum Director..."**

In this panel, we ask thought leaders to speak on what they would like to see in a museum. In particular, we will ask these speakers to focus their imaginative energies on The National Art Gallery, Singapore that is slated to officially open in 2015. The Gallery is envisioned to be a civic and creative space, established for the enrichment, enjoyment, and engagement of Singaporeans and visitors from all over the world. What then should go onto the walls, and other spaces, of the museum to bring about this vision?

**Speakers:**

Mr Huzir Sulaiman  
Creative Director  
Studio Wong Huzir, Singapore

Mr Ong Keng Sen  
Artistic Director  
TheatreWorks, Singapore

**Moderator:**

Dr C J Wee Wan-ling  
Associate Professor of English  
Nanyang Technological University

**Question & Answer**

5.30 pm – 6.15 pm     **Plenary Dialogue**

**Speakers:**

Professor Partha Mitter

Mr Wayne Modest

Professor Nora A Taylor

Mr Amir Sidharta

Mr Huzir Sulaiman

**Moderator:**

Mr Kwok Kian Chow  
Director  
The National Art Gallery, Singapore

**Question & Answer**

6.15 pm – 6.30 pm     **CLOSING REMARKS**

Mr Kwok Kian Chow

6.30 pm                 **END OF PROGRAMME**

**NB: The symposium is open to media coverage**