

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 18 JULY 2018

## **Redefining the Archaic**

## The Art of Lim Tze Peng

Redefining the Archaic: The Art of Lim Tze Peng celebrates 70 years of the visual artistry of Singapore's most esteemed living artist, Lim Tze Peng. Born in 1921, Lim Tze Peng became a full-time artist after retiring as the principal of Sin Min School in 1981. Over the years, he has enjoyed critical and commercial success with his nostalgic ink compositions of Old Singapore landscapes and an innovative body of calligraphy work that defies the centuries-old traditions of Chinese ink art. For his invaluable contribution to Singapore's artistic heritage, the 98-year-old artist was conferred the Cultural Medallion by the Singapore government in 2003 and the Meritorious Service Medal in 2016.

This curated feast of over 60 exhibits provides a retrospective look on Lim Tze Peng's lifetime body of work in an art journey that spans almost seven decades from 1060s to 2018. The prodigious display of works includes his oil paintings from 1960s - 2000s; his ink paintings of Kampongs and Old Singapore scenes from 1970s – 1980s, and 2009 - 2013; his travel series on Bali and Paris from 1990s – mid-2000s; his semi-abstract trees-inspired ink and oil paintings from mid-2000s – early 2010s; and his progressive body of traditional, abstract and colour calligraphy from mid-2000s to the present.

The exhibition captures Lim Tze Peng's growing forays and aesthetic transformations over the decades and provides an important window into understanding his continual experimentations in painting and calligraphy. Many featured works are on exhibit for the first time, including a handful of recently-completed colour calligraphy works accomplished by the artist. On special display will be 2 mural-sized ink and colour paintings of abstract trees, the largest being *Untitled No. 21 (Trees)* measuring 264.2 x 538.5 cm.

Redefining the Archaic: The Art of Lim Tze Peng will be officially opened by distinguished Guest-of-Honour, Mdm. Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore on Saturday, 28 July 2018, 10.30am - 12pm. The opening features a special fundraising event for President's Challenge & Sian Chay Medical Institution, with the aim of raising \$500,000 in total. \$250,000 will be donated to President's Challenge, while the other half of the sum will go to Sian Chay Medical Institution.

In conjunction with this milestone exhibition, there will be an **official book launch** of a new comprehensive publication on Lim Tze Peng's life and art on **Friday**, **10 August 2018**, **7 - 7.45pm**. Sharing the same title as the exhibition, the book is **authored by young historian**, **Tan Yong Jun**, who currently holds a B.A. Hons. (Cantab) in History from the University of Cambridge. The book comprises 11 chapters of study and 200 artwork images covering the different periods of Lim Tze Peng's artistic trajectory. It will be **officially launched by Guest-of-Honour**, **Mr. Koh Seow Chuan**, **Founder of DP Architects and Founding Chairman of National Gallery Singapore**, as well as a long-time friend and patron of Lim Tze Peng.

Two sessions of Guided Exhibition Tour with Curator Tan Yong Jun will be held on Saturday, 28 July 2018, 12 - 12.45pm, and Friday, 10 August 2018, 7.45 - 8.15pm. Admission is free!



**Official Opening** 

Date: 28 July 2018 (Saturday)

Time: 10.30am - 12pm

By Guest-of-Honour, Mdm. Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore. The opening features a special fundraiser for Sian Chay Medical Institution & President's Challenge.

Official Book Launch

Date: 10 August 2018 (Friday)

Time: 7 - 7.45pm

By Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Koh Seow Chuan, Founder of DP Architects Pte Ltd & Founding Chairman of National Gallery Singapore.

**Guided Tour (1) with Curator Tan Yong Jun** 

Date: 28 July 2018 (Saturday)

Time: 12 - 12.45pm

**Guided Tour (2) with Curator Tan Yong Jun** 

Date: 10 August 2018 (Friday)

Time: 7.45 - 8.15pm

**Exhibition Period** 

Date: 28 July - 12 August 2018

Time: 12pm – 7pm daily

Venue: Artspace @ Helutrans, 39 Keppel Road, Singapore 089065

## **Contact Information**

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Here are the images to some of the artworks on exhibit:



Singapore River, Ink and colour on paper, 243.8 x 488 cm



Composition, 2006, Ink and colour on paper, 275 x 480 cm





Untitled No. 21 (Trees), 2007, Ink and colour on paper, 264.2 x 538.5 cm



Clark Quay, 2007, Oil on canvas, 110 x 208 cm





Chinatown Market Scene, Ink on paper, 103 x 103 cm



Muddled Calligraphy, Chinese ink on paper, 101 x 104 cm





Fruit Stall, Ink and colour on canvas, 1989, 66 x 92 cm

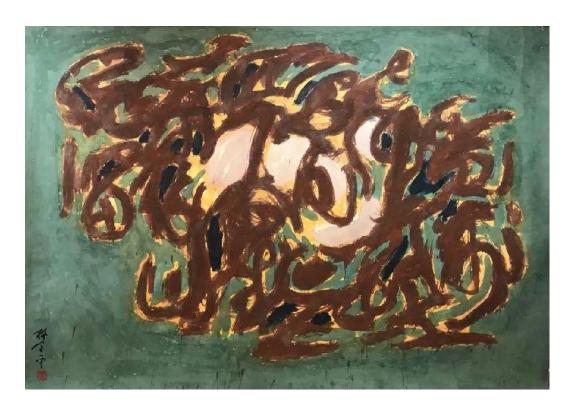


Beneath the Tropical Fruit Trees, 1972, Ink and colour on paper, 45 x 65 cm





Untitled (Bali Village), c. 1960s, Oil on canvas, 75 x 102 cm



Untitled (Abstract Calligraphy), 2018, Ink and colour on paper, 150 x 216 cm