



Image: Alwar BALASUBRAMANIAM, *Gravity* (detail), 2009, India
wood and acrylic, 61.0 x 58.4 x 10.2 cm, courtesy of Talwar Gallery,
New York and New Delhi

Media Release

Beyond the self: Contemporary portraiture from Asia is a touring exhibition from the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra, presented by the Samstag Museum of Art and Adelaide Festival Centre's 2012 OzAsia Festival.

Beyond the self: Contemporary portraiture from Asia brings a wealth of contemporary portraiture from across Asia to the Samstag Museum of Art in August and September, exploring the representation of the self in current South and Southeast Asian visual art practice. *Beyond the self* will provide audiences with a deeper understanding and appreciation of the contemporary cultures of our regional neighbours.

Bringing together painting, photography, sculpture, drawing, installation and media works, *Beyond the self* looks at the transformative possibility of portraiture through art from the early 2000s to the present, created by artists from Indonesia, India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The use and manipulation of the artist's own image has become prevalent in contemporary art practice across the Asian region. The world inhabited by these artists is one of increased global awareness, mobility, and altered economic and technological possibilities, providing the impetus to use self-portraiture to navigate between new and existing cultural boundaries, and challenge traditional positions of identity.

***Beyond the self: Contemporary portraiture from Asia* opens Friday 3 August and continues until Sunday 30 September 2012.** Opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 11–5pm, Saturday and Sunday 2–5pm.

For further information contact Erica Green, Director, Samstag Museum of Art T 08 8302 0872, M 0438 821 239 or visit unisa.edu.au/samstagmuseum

***Beyond the self: Contemporary portraiture from Asia* Events**

- OzAsia Celebration Event **6–8pm Thursday 13 September**
- Be a part of our Indian cultural celebrations at the Samstag Museum of Art from **3pm Saturday 15 September**, in conjunction with Adelaide Festival Centre's 2012 OzAsia Festival. Bring your family and friends along to enjoy a cultural experience of visual arts, music and food, with a floor talk from curator Christine Clark.