



## Samstag Museum of Art presents the Australian premiere of *After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art*

22 September – 1 December 2017

Samstag Museum of Art presents the Australian premiere of *After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art*, a major exhibition co-curated by Singapore Art Museum's (SAM) Siuli Tan and Louis Ho. The exhibition will draw from the SAM's extensive permanent collection of contemporary Southeast Asian art, as well as encompass pieces from private collections, new works and a site-specific commission.

Presented as part of the 2017 OzAsia Festival, *After Utopia* comprises installation, moving image, painting and sculpture. From across the Southeast Asian region (including Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam), the exhibiting artists examine humanity's eternal search for paradise, playing on the gnawing sense that the present and its realities are not enough.

*After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art* expands upon a 2015 exhibition staged at the Singapore Art Museum. In an exciting partnership between SAM and the OzAsia Festival, this new iteration has been expressly curated for the Samstag Museum of Art and will feature the inclusion of recent works by **Kamin Lertchaiprasert** (Thailand) and **Miti Ruangkritya** (Thailand). Key to the Samstag exhibition will be a site-specific wall drawing by Indonesian artist **Maryanto**, who will travel to Adelaide to complete the large-scale re-interpretation of his dystopic mural *Pandora's Box* ahead of opening night.

### ARTIST LIST

**Chris Chong Chan Fui** (Malaysia), **Donna Ong** (Singapore), **Geraldine Javier** (Philippines), **Ian Woo** (Singapore), **Kamin Lertchaiprasert** (Thailand), **Kawayan de Guia** (Philippines), **Maryanto** (Indonesia), **Miti Ruangkritya** (Thailand), **Shannon Lee Castleman** (USA), **Svay Sareth** (Cambodia) and **The Propeller Group** (USA and Vietnam).

**Image credit:** Kawayan DE GUIA, *Bomba* (detail), 2011, installation comprising eighteen mirror bombs, 'Sputnik' sound sculpture, dimensions variable. Singapore Art Museum collection.

Further exhibition artworks include: **Kawayan de Guia's** (Philippines) large-scale installation of glittering mirror bombs raining down (pictured), resonating with the zeitgeist of contemporary times—heady excess - and creation - amongst catastrophic violence and destruction; **Shannon Lee Castleman's** (USA) video work of Singaporean residents going about their daily domestic tasks, filmed on 16 video cameras in apartment blocks facing one another—both a nod to constant public surveillance and to barriers breaking down between strangers living so closely together; and **Donna Ong's** (Singapore) installation comprising a colonial study desk strewn with paraphernalia alluding to themes of voyage, discovery and study, as well as projections of 18th and 19th century lithographs of nature landscapes, inspired by Ong's interest in gardens and narratives of exploration and conquest.

Ms Siuli Tan, Curatorial Co-Head, Singapore Art Museum, says:

*"We are really thrilled to have this opportunity to introduce contemporary art from Southeast Asia and from the Singapore Art Museum's collection to new audiences in Australia. From my previous visit to Adelaide as well as from conversations with different people, I get the sense that audiences here are not very familiar with Southeast Asian contemporary art yet, and my colleagues and I hope that the exhibition at Samstag will be a compelling introduction to the breadth of art practices and approaches to art-making today in this very dynamic and complex region."*

*"While a lot of the artworks were created in response to quite specific contexts, they do also have a universal resonance, as does the theme of the exhibition. We presented this exhibition at the Singapore Art Museum two years ago, and two years on, I'm seeing new connections that can be made between the artworks and emerging global issues – issues that are urgent, and that impact us all. Apart from enjoying the diversity of artistic practices on show, we're also hoping that visitors will find meaning in the questions raised by the artworks and the exhibition, and see parallels with their own situations and interests."*

Erica Green, Director, the University of South Australia's Samstag Museum of Art, says:

*"We are delighted to partner with the Singapore Art Museum and the Adelaide Festival Centre's OzAsia Festival to present this exhibition. Through the diverse and compelling practices of artists from across Southeast Asia, **After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art** gives visitors the opportunity to contemplate the universal human yearning for an ideal world. It is a great privilege to offer this glimpse into one of the largest collections of such work in the world."*

## EXHIBITION INFORMATION

***After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art***

**Friday 22 September - Friday 1 December 2017**

Samstag Museum of Art

55 North Tce, Adelaide 5000

Open Tues – Fri 10am – 5pm | Sat 2pm – 5pm | **FREE entry**

## EXHIBITION LAUNCH

**Thursday 21 September, 5 - 7pm**

## MEDIA CONTACT

***For more information and high resolution images contact:***

**Erica Green**

Director, Samstag Museum of Art, University of South Australia

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***After Utopia: Revisiting the Ideal in Asian Contemporary Art*** is a Singapore Art Museum exhibition curated by Siuli Tan and Louis Ho, presented at the Samstag Museum of Art as part of the 2017 OzAsia Festival.