

NHB BUZZ

New Museum on the Block!

The auspicious number 8 was all the rage in August 2008 as 8Q sam – the new contemporary wing of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) – opened with a bang on 15 August at 8 Queen Street. Singapore's newest museum featured for the first time the work of eight curators and eight artists in its inaugural exhibition, 8Q-Rate: School.

Occupying the former Catholic High Primary School, 8Q sam houses the growing contemporary art collection of SAM and provides a space for local audiences to interact and engage with new art forms. Apart from six galleries showcasing changing exhibitions, 8Q sam features a children's gallery and experimental art spaces.

The opening of 8Q sam on 15 August was officiated by Guest of Honour RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts. In conjunction with the launch was the announcement of Ms Jane Ittogi as the new Chair for SAM. A lawyer by training, Ms Ittogi was chosen for her passion in visual arts and its role in community engagement.

A contemporary art space with multi-disciplinary and interactive programming, 8Q sam provides candid insights into the historical, social and cultural contexts of modern day Singapore. Visitors can immerse themselves in the diversity of contemporary art practices – from painting, sculpture, installation, film and video, photography, new media, to performance and sound art.



Guest of Honour SMS Lui Tuck Yew was a great sport in his school-inspired outfit.



Guests were treated to nostalgic snacks and enjoyed live music by Zouk's DJ Tony Tay.

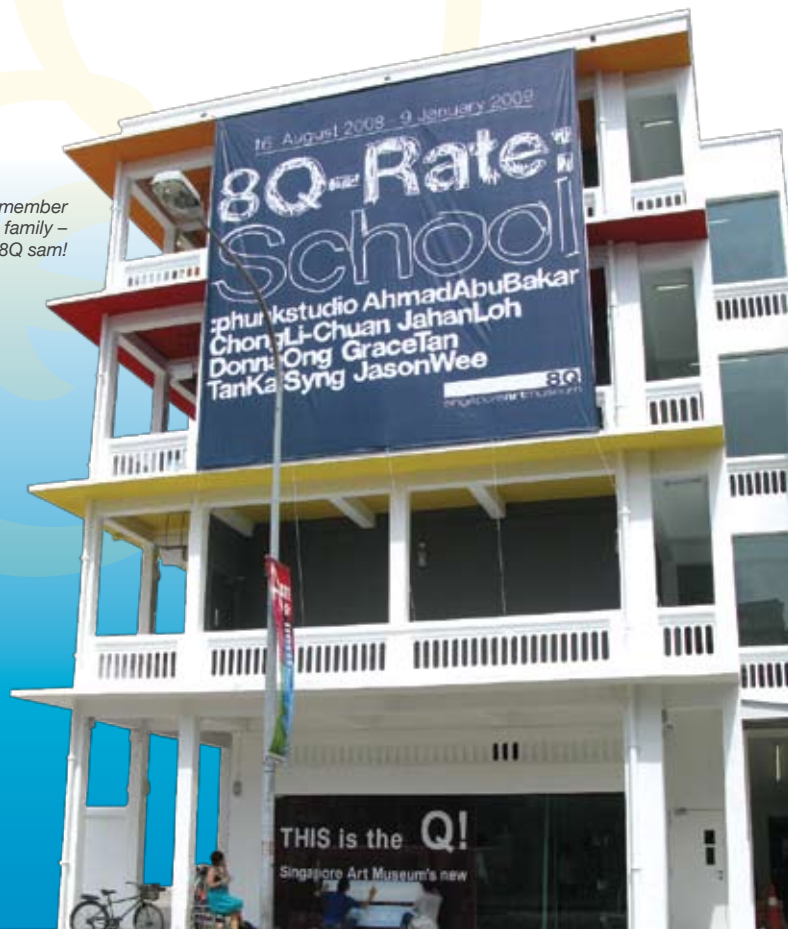


The preppy look ruled as the staff of SAM relived their good old school days.

The newest member of the NHB family – 8Q sam!



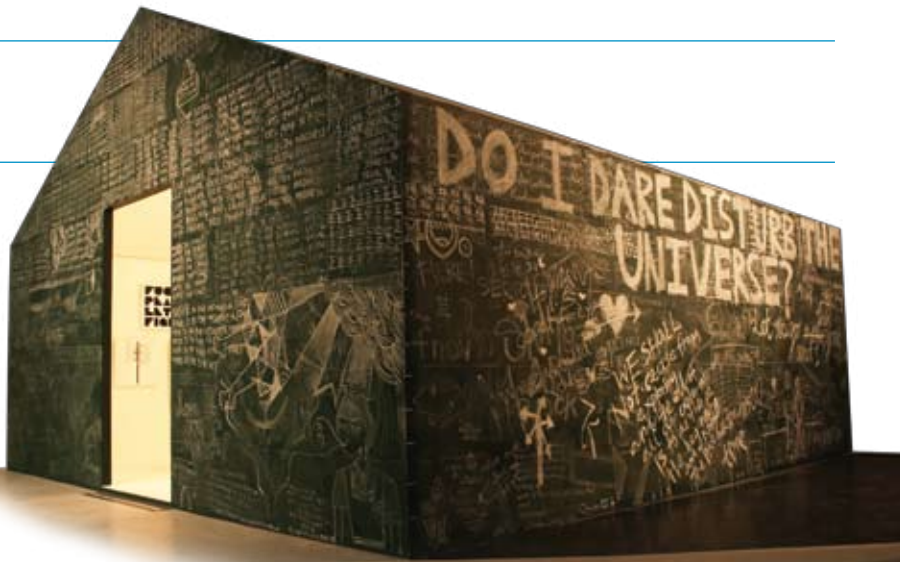
The exhibits at 8Q-Rate: School transported guests back to the classroom.



02

What's up @ 8Q sam

Title: 8Q-Rate: School
Date: 16 Aug 2008 - 9 Jan 2009
Venue: 8Q sam



From the Bottom of My Pencil Case (2008), by :phunk studio. Collection of the artist.



Kicking off at 8Q sam is its inaugural exhibition *8Q-Rate: School*, a collaboration between eight curators and eight young contemporary Singapore artists – Donna Ong, Tan Kai Syng, Jason Wee, :phunk studio, Jahan Loh, Grace Tan, Ahmad Abu Bakar and Chong Li-Chuan. The exhibition focuses on the concept of “school” and the artists’ responses to the museum’s site which was once the Catholic High Primary School. Unconventional masterpieces specially created by these budding artists run the spectrum from installations to sound works, new media and street-inspired art.

School (2008), by Jahan Loh. Collection of the artist.

Title: Masriadi: Black is My Last Weapon
Date: 23 Aug 2008 - 9 Nov 2008
Venue: 8Q sam

Next up at 8Q sam is *Masriadi: Black is My Last Weapon* – the first regional and international solo exhibition by celebrated contemporary Indonesian artist I Nyoman Masriadi. One of the most influential artists to have emerged from Southeast Asia in the last decade, Masriadi’s distinction as an artist lies in his dedication to painting. This exhibition will feature over 30 selected works from private collections in Indonesia, Singapore and Hong Kong, encompassing both Masriadi’s early works and most recent works.



Squeezed (Dikancangan) (2007), by I Nyoman Masriadi. Private collection.

Opened to the public on 23 August 2008, *Masriadi: Black is My Last Weapon* highlights the artist’s striking visual images. Strongly influenced by anime, cyber-gaming and comics, they reveal his thoughts on being an artist. Divided into four thematic sections – *Hitam Adalah Senjata Terakhir Aku* (Black Is My Last Weapon), *Geli-Geli* (Ticklish), *Saya Yang Dapat!* (I Got It!) and *Memperjuangkan Lukisan* (Fighting to Paint), the artworks are accompanied by specially commissioned soundscapes, interactive flash games and a documentary video.

Survivor (2006), by I Nyoman Masriadi. Collection of Mr Soelstijo Wangsawidjaja.



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Singapore Art Museum

Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art

Jointly presented with the National Art Museum of China

30 August to 26 October 2008

Mon - Sun: 10am - 7pm, Fri: 10am - 9pm

(Free admission from 12pm - 2pm on weekdays and 6pm - 9pm on Fridays)

Get up-to-date on the latest in the Chinese art-world with a showcase of internationally renowned Chinese contemporary artists.

Asian Civilisations Museum

Seeing Red: Propaganda and Material Culture in China (1966 - 1976)

From now till 23 November 2008

Mon: 1pm - 7pm, Tue - Sun: 9am - 7pm (Fri: 9am - 9pm)

Gain insight into the revolutionary spirit that drove the Chinese Cultural Revolution.



Singapore Philatelic Museum

Dragons, Treasures and Masterpieces

From now till January 2009

Mon: 1pm - 7pm, Tue - Sun: 9am - 7pm

Admire a display of Chinese stamps depicting the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, as well as various aspects of China's cultural heritage.

National Museum of Singapore



Looking for Zhongguo: A Journey of Music and Dance - Block 33

by Tang Quartet

4 to 6 September 2008, 8pm

Fees: \$30

Enjoy a sensory overload of music and multi-layered movement theatre.



Youth in Chinese Films After 49

A programme of the National Museum Cinematheque

18 to 25 September 2008

Tickets: \$9 (adult); \$7.20 (concession)

See China's social and historical changes through the eyes of its youth and children in cinema.



Ancient Chinese Food

Presented by Chef Chan Chen Hei and Lianhe Zaobao's Alan Ng

20 September 2008, 4pm

Fees: \$10

Conducted in Mandarin and Cantonese. Get a taste of the rich culinary history of China, with recipes dating back 5,000 years!

Visit www.nationalmuseum.sg or call 6332 3659 for bookings and enquires.

Jointly organised by:



04 Victory for Singapore in Regional Art Prize

Title: Asia Pacific Breweries Foundation Signature Art Prize
Date: 10 Oct - 16 Nov 2008
Venue: Singapore Art Museum

Congratulations to two of Singapore's artists – S. Chandrasekaran and Yeo Chee Kiong! Fighting hard against an impressive field, they emerged as finalists in the *Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation Signature Art Prize*. This hallmark of distinction is awarded triennially to artists whose works represent a significant development in contemporary art. S. Chandrasekaran and Yeo Chee Kiong are among the 10 artists whose artworks have been shortlisted for the prestigious art prize organised by the APB Foundation and Singapore Art Museum (SAM).

From 34 contemporary artworks spanning diverse themes and mediums, 10 finalists hailing from nine different countries – Cambodia, China, India, Malaysia, Mongolia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam – were handpicked by a panel of international jurors for their creativity and ingenuity. Only Singapore managed to qualify with two artists in the finals! From 10 October to 16 November 2008, visitors to SAM can admire the masterpieces of all 10 finalists in a special exhibition.

Bleeding Angel by S. Chandrasekaran documented the creation of a "living sculpture" through immersion in wine and bacteria. Yeo Chee Kiong's mixed media installation, *A Day Without A Tree*, created the illusion of melting columns at the National Museum of Singapore's Rotunda to illustrate the devastating effects of global warming.



Bleeding Angel (2006), by S. Chandrasekaran.



A Day Without A Tree (2007), by Yeo Chee Kiong.

In mid October, the 10 finalists will be judged for five awards – a People's Choice Award, three Juror's Choice Awards and a Grand Prize of S\$45,000. The People's Choice Award is the only award determined by public votes – visit <http://www.nhb.gov.sg/sam/signatureartprize/vote.html> to cast your vote now! Visitors to the exhibition can also cast their votes at SAM from 10 to 12 October 2008.

Stay tuned for the results in our next issue!

NHB's First Heritage Gala a Success!

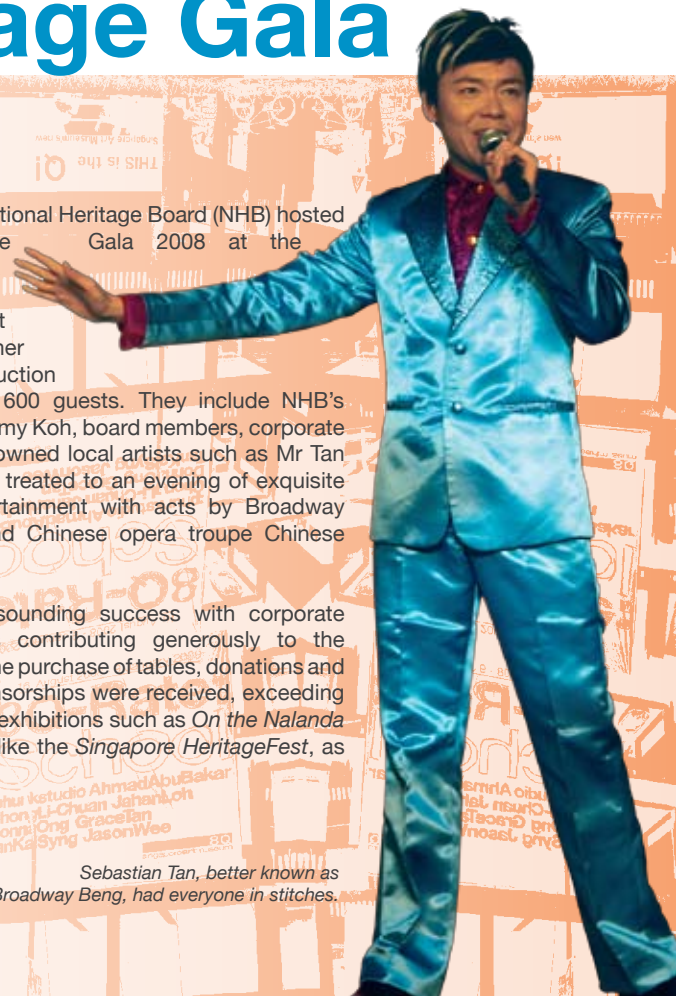


Guests were treated to a captivating cultural performance by Chinese opera troupe, Chinese Theatre Circle.

On 27 June 2008, the National Heritage Board (NHB) hosted its inaugural Heritage Gala 2008 at the Ritz-Carlton, Millenia Singapore. Graced by His Excellency President S R Nathan, the dinner and fund-raising auction was attended by over 600 guests. They include NHB's Chairman Professor Tommy Koh, board members, corporate captains, as well as renowned local artists such as Mr Tan Swie Hian. Guests were treated to an evening of exquisite cuisine and great entertainment with acts by Broadway Beng Sebastian Tan and Chinese opera troupe Chinese Theatre Circle.

The evening was a resounding success with corporate donors and individuals contributing generously to the heritage cause through the purchase of tables, donations and a silent auction. More than S\$700,000 in cash and over S\$300,000 in in-kind sponsorships were received, exceeding the initial target of S\$500,000. The funds raised will go towards developing quality exhibitions such as *On the Nalanda Trail* and *Greek Masterpieces from the Louvre*, community outreach programmes like the *Singapore HeritageFest*, as well as museum developments and scholarships.

Sebastian Tan, better known as Broadway Beng, had everyone in stitches.



Chinese Contemporary Art Comes to SAM

05

Title: Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art
Date: 30 Aug - 26 Oct 2008
Venue: Singapore Art Museum

With 2008 being the year of the Beijing Olympics, the Singapore Art Museum (SAM), National Art Museum of China and Credit Suisse are proud to present *Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art* – a major exhibition showcasing the latest in contemporary Chinese art. Gracing the launch of the exhibition on 29 August 2008 as Guest of Honour was the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Singapore, Ms Zhang Xiaokang.

Featuring more than 20 new works by internationally renowned Chinese artists such as Xu Bing, Miao Xiaochun, Wang Qingsong and Lin Tianmiao, *Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art* demonstrates the excellent range and depth of artworks from China. Highlighting the country's fast and rapid growth, the exhibition showcases some of the most interesting and important Chinese contemporary artworks in recent years. These critique societal structures and knowledge while expressing new dimensions of humanity and realism.

Accelerate: Chinese Contemporary Art is part of the Credit Suisse Innovation in Art Series – a long-term partnership between SAM and Credit Suisse to bring inspiring art shows to local audiences over three years.

Clock (series of 12) (2008), by Chen Ke. Collection of the artist.

Museums Come Alive at the Night Festival

50,000 visitors, 13 electrifying events, one wildly successful Night Festival! Singapore's first ever Night Festival – jointly organised by the National Museum of Singapore and Singapore Management University (SMU) – ended on a jubilant note.

Thousands gathered to witness the dazzling airborne acrobatic feat of *The Dancing Sky*, and snapped countless photos of the spectacular light installations at both the National Museum and Singapore Art Museum. Party goers jived to rousing performances by Bloco Singapura and Zouk's The Beatnik Picnic at SMU, while a bustling night bazaar and open-air cinema screenings transformed the National Museum's Stamford Green into a magical street carnival for both the young and young-at-heart.



A fiery dance at SMU turned the heat up by several notches.



Flying acrobats were a highlight of the Festival.



Pulsating performances by Bloco Singapura got the crowds grooving.



Visitors relived the yesteryears at a nostalgic night bazaar.

Who says museums can't be funky? Here, the National Museum paints the town red!

NIGHT FESTIVAL

06

We are 15!

Turning 15 on 1 August 2008, the National Heritage Board (NHB) celebrated its birthday with a host of festivities and events. Tracing its humble origins back to 1 August 1993, NHB has certainly come a long way with 10 national museums and institutions under its wing.

To thank the public for their support over the last 15 years, a gamut of exciting promotions and activities were organised across eight NHB museums and institutions. They range from 15 days of free entry from 1500 hours, free family museum passes for all born on 1 August 1993, to an online contest featuring NHB's 15 milestones.

Visitors admired NHB's 15 star artefacts and participated in a treasure hunt for these national treasures. They include the Sir Frank Athelstane Swettenham portrait at the National Museum of Singapore – the highest valued artefact in the whole of NHB's collection, and the Singapore Philatelic Museum's only known Straits Settlements envelope in the world. Three lucky participants of the treasure hunt walked away with attractive prizes such as a pair of air tickets to Hong Kong and a Nintendo Wii.

Members of the NHB family also gathered to celebrate NHB's 15th birthday at the annual National Day Observance Ceremony on 7 August 2008 at the Asian Civilisations Museum. Graced by NHB's Chairman Professor Tommy Koh and renowned local filmmaker Mr Jack Neo, the ceremony kicked off with a friendly round of games, followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. Awards were presented to NHB staff for outstanding work done in the past year. The ceremony ended on a high note with a rousing choir performance of popular National Day songs.

Kudos to all who have made the last 15 years possible! We certainly look forward to many more successful years ahead!



NHB's CEO Mr Michael Koh, Mr Jack Neo, Professor Koh and long-serving staff of NHB blowing out the candles on the birthday cake.



NHB staff having a ball of a time competing in games like "Win, Lose or Draw".

Ode to Singapore's Heroes

Singapore HeritageFest 2008 (SHF 2008), which ran from 12 July to 27 July 2008, attracted a record-breaking 1.6 million visitors – the best ever in its five-year history! Celebrating the heroes of Singapore, SHF 2008 boasted 16 exciting outreach events, 10 of which were brand new! Here's more ...



SHF 2008 was launched by RADM (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, at Causeway Point.



The "Who's Your Hero?" anchor exhibition at the Festival Hub celebrated the many heroes who made Singapore what it is today.



SHF 2008 presented two satellite hubs – one at Compass Point featuring life on the Singapore River, and another at HDB Hub on street food and entertainment of the past.



1,200 people participated in "Fun on Foot, the Heritage Marathon!" which featured the longest treasure hunt route ever in SHF's history.



Participants of the "Expedition 'H'" bus tours learnt more about Singapore's World War II heroes during a tour of Pasir Panjang.



40 vintage cars participated in the "Vintage Car Grand Prix and Concours" with motoring hero Sonny Rajah gracing the event.



"Sound Stories 1" at Zouk saw fans dancing to performances by some of Singapore's music legends.



SHF 2008 also organised other concerts such as "Sound Stories 2", a hugely popular Mandarin "xinyao" concert, an 80s Tamil concert and a Malay concert.

East Meets West

Title: Neither East Nor West – Asians in Monochrome
Date: 23 Oct 2008 - 1 Feb 2009
Venue: Asian Civilisations Museum

Friendship knows no boundaries, and *Neither East Nor West – Asians in Monochrome* at the Asian Civilisations Museum illustrates just that. Beginning 23 October 2008, the exhibition of exquisite black-and-white portraits features important Asian dignitaries who played significant roles in bridging the gap between the East and West. These treasured portraits – reproductions of the original glass negatives housed in London's Victoria & Albert Museum – reflect the camaraderie between two distinct cultures despite underlying differences in race, religion and geography.



Wellington Koo was a famous diplomat for his close associations with the United States.



Viscountess Hayashi was wife to ambassador Hayashi Tadasu, who signed the Anglo-Japanese Alliance Treaty in 1902.

Singapore's longest surviving photo studio, G.R. Lambert & Co. One can look forward to the portraits of prominent diplomats such as Thailand's King Chulalongkorn, Japan's Viscountess Hayashi, and former Chinese Ambassador to London Wellington Koo – also a founding member of the United Nations. Much like today, having your photo taken at a high-end studio in the late 19th and early 20th century was an expensive luxury, and the sitters often donned elaborate outfits and costumes.

Interact with your favourite portraits as the exhibition space transforms into a "photography studio". Don't miss the opportunity

Taken at London's famous Lafayette Studio on Bond Street, the 40 framed photographic prints will be displayed alongside 12 images from local photography studios, including

to experience the best of the East and West at the ACM this October!

Stamps Tell Their Tales

Title: National Stamp Collecting Competition 2008
Date: 5 Sep - 7 Sep 2008
Venue: The Plaza, National Library

Discover the diversity of stamps at the *National Stamp Collecting Competition 2008*, a special exhibition showcasing the philatelic creations of our nation's young talents. The possibilities are endless and range from Christmas stamps to Olympic-themed stamps, Chinese zodiac stamps to stamps showcasing major developments in Singapore and even Germany.

Organised by the Singapore Philatelic Museum and supported by the Ministry of Education, the competition had students creating their very own collections using stamps and philatelic materials centered on a theme of their choice. Response was overwhelming with over 300 participants from primary schools, secondary schools and tertiary institutions.


This year, three awards were given to the most inspiring and innovative entries. The award for the Singapore Stamp Club Challenge Shield (Best Youth Exhibit) went to Lim Cheronne. The Singapore Post Challenge Shield (Primary School Champion) went to Xinghua Primary School, while the Association of Singapore Philatelists Challenge Shield (Secondary School Champion) was awarded to Hwa Chong Institution. Congratulations to our young, budding philatelists for a job well done!



Admire the stamp collections assembled by these budding philatelists and unravel the tales behind them.

Calendar of Events

Weapons of Mass Desire
Design and Consumption in the Aftermath of WWII



Piaggio
PONTEDERA 28 APRILE 1958

The Canyon
93 Stamford Road

The Artists Village: 20 Years On



Galleries 1.1 - 1.4
71 Bras Basah Road

NHB Open House Days



All NHB Museums

National Museum of Singapore 28 Aug 08 - 4 Jan 09

Examine how World War II changes mass consumerism in a showcase of post-World War II memorabilia! Titled *Weapons of Mass Desire*, the exhibition delves into post-World War II design and consumption. Find out how ideas and technologies initially employed for violence were re-adapted by designers and manufacturers to improve everyday lives after the war.

Singapore Art Museum 21 Aug 08 - 5 Oct 08

This August, the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) welcomes you to join in the 20th anniversary celebrations of The Artists Village (TAV). The retrospective exhibition examines the historical significance of TAV in the development of contemporary art in Singapore in the last two decades. This is part of SAM's ongoing series of exhibitions on art societies.

Hari Raya Open House Day & Deepavali Open House Day 1 Oct 08 & 27 Oct 08


Enjoy free entry to NHB museums for two whole days in October! On 1 October 2008, indulge in a feast for the senses as a line-up of exciting exhibitions and programmes await you at our museums. In addition, celebrate the festival of lights by exploring the diversity of NHB museums during our Deepavali Open House Day on 27 October 2008!

Dragons, Treasures and Masterpieces




23-B Coleman Street

Seeing Red: Propaganda and Material Culture in China (1966 - 1976)



Shaw Foundation Foyer
1 Empress Place

Youth in Chinese Films After 49



Gallery Theatre
93 Stamford Road

Singapore Philatelic Museum 23 Jul 08 - Jan 09

Discover the rich heritage of China through an interesting showcase of Chinese stamps. View the very first official postage stamp of China dating from the Qing Dynasty, as well as award-winning philatelic materials documenting the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s and 1970s. Visitors can also look forward to contemporary Chinese stamps depicting UNESCO World Heritage sites in China such as The Great Wall.

Asian Civilisations Museum 7 Jul 08 - 23 Nov 08

Relive the Cultural Revolution with a diverse showcase of artefacts, including Mao-inspired badges, books and ceramics. These cultural treasures were circulated in a nation-wide campaign during the Cultural Revolution for the purposes of education and propaganda. *Seeing Red* explores the various measures adopted by the Chinese government to keep the revolutionary spirit alive back in the 1960s and 1970s.

National Museum of Singapore 18 Sep 08 - 25 Sep 08

Witness China's social and historical changes through the eyes of children and youths in this poignant selection of Chinese classic and contemporary films. These include *Father and Son* (1981) by Allen Fong, and *Electric Shadows* (2004) by Xiao Jiang. Also, don't miss the opportunity to attend a public symposium on Chinese cinema – a must for all fans and admirers!

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL HERITAGE BOARD

The National Heritage Board (NHB) champions the development and promotion of a vibrant cultural and heritage sector in Singapore. It makes heritage enriching, relevant and accessible to all through staging innovative programmes and forging collaborative partnerships with both private and people sector counterparts. NHB leverages on state-of-the-art technology and refreshing new approaches to make heritage more dynamic, alive and exciting for different audiences. It also manages both national and public museums, the National Archives of Singapore, and the Heritage Conservation Centre. NHB was formed on 1 August 1993 as a statutory board under the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts (MICA).

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