



## making plans

### **Growing our Visual Arts Base**

To bring more of our national art collection to the fore, 8 Queen Street has been earmarked for interim contemporary art galleries. This will increase the total gallery space of SAM by 30% and allow another 150 pieces of our national collection of contemporary and international art to be displayed at any one time. By creating this additional area, NHB can acquire and display more artworks of young artists who may, in due time and given sufficient exposure, become the next generation of masters of Singapore Art. This is in line with NHB's effort to support the vision of Singapore developing into a global city of the arts with a vibrant cultural scene.

### **Helping the Heritage Industry**

Launched in April 2007, the Heritage Industry Incentive Programme (HI<sup>2</sup>P) is a pilot one-year project to upgrade private operators in the museum and heritage sector. It encourages private museums to embark on new initiatives and offers financial incentives for heritage and museum projects that help transform Singapore into a global cultural city. Under HI<sup>2</sup>P, NHB aims to spur the development of new and innovative heritage and museum products, and encourage private museums to showcase Singapore's rich cultural capital both locally and abroad.

### **Creating Accessibility to our Collections**

To promote our rich collections, NHB will embark on a concerted long-term plan to package and make NHB's collections more accessible to Singaporeans in general. Major initiatives include the launch of NHB's first heritage lifestyle magazine called *BeMuse*, *My Story* - an online portal documenting people's stories, and *SGCOOL* - a website showcasing our national collections. Two new community-based, community-driven projects will also be created. The first is a publication called *Ten Stories: A History of Queenstown*, and the second is the *Bukit Timah Community Trail*.



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### Showcasing Singapore's Collections

To engage the web-savvy in Singapore's invaluable heritage, NHB will launch *SGCOOL* ([www.sgcool.sg](http://www.sgcool.sg)) or *Singapore Collections OnLine* in May 2007. This online repository of artefacts and artworks allows visitors to enjoy our cultural treasures in the comfort of their homes. They include iconic pieces like leading artist Tan Swie Hian's *Humming Birds Racing*; a century-old portrait of Sir Frank A. Swettenham by celebrated artist John Singer Sargent (one of Singapore's national treasures), as well as the *Kushana Buddha*, one of only six such sculptures in the world.

### Expanding our Space

To cater to our increasing collection of national treasures, HCC will undergo a two-year expansion project from end-2007 to add more than 7,300 square metres of gross floor area to the building's current 12,847 square metres. Moving ahead, HCC will ensure that it has continuous capacity and capability to maintain its current conservation standards as our national collection grows from new museums like the Peranakan Museum and the National Art Gallery.

### Preparing for a New Peranakan Museum

Slated to be opened in 2008, the new Peranakan Museum will be the only museum in the world to present a pan-Southeast Asian view of Peranakan culture. Preparations for the museum have already commenced with ACM securing a donation of S\$1.5 million for the redevelopment project.



### the tok panjang

In order to best appreciate the Peranakan aesthetic, one must imagine a scene from a century Peranakan household on a hot hot day around 1910. In the dimly lit house imported coloured glass lamps and no set with ornaments would give the light pools against dark woods with intricate motifs.

Ladies in brightly coloured silk and sari would move between dark screens, kept glided with gazing their waiving, adorned ornaments including the exquisite light above. The tok panjang (long table) of the above, would be laden with brightly coloured porcelain, on which was served a rice, mussels and complex dishes.

