

PRESS RELEASE

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“NATIONAL DAY STAMP ART” EXHIBITION CELEBRATES SINGAPORE

Artworks of National Day stamps from self-governance to modern republic period on public display for the first time

(19 July 2007) The Singapore Philatelic Museum is proud to present the “National Day Stamp Art” exhibition to celebrate Singapore’s National Day, 9 August. For the first time, artworks of commemorative stamps issued in Singapore on its National Days dating from 1960 to 2007 from self- governance to modern republic period, are on public display. The exhibition serves as a visual chronicle of the country’s development; mirroring the pressing issues of nation building in the early years to Singapore’s current position of affluence and harmony. The exhibition runs at the Singapore Philatelic Museum from 20 July to 14 October 2007.

Commemorative stamps are issued to celebrate special national and international events, to honour national achievements and areas of progress and success. The designs of the stamps reflect the dominant focus of the country during the period. The artwork of the stamps document the artistic styles and trends of the time. Through the exhibition, Singaporeans will gain an insight into the progress and development of Singapore from 1960 to present-day.

1960 - 1963

Singapore attained self-governance after a resolution of the Singapore Legislative Assembly in November 1959. The new Constitution confirmed Singapore as a self-governing state on 3 June. In 1960, the only stamp issue for the year featured the Singapore state flag for the first time.

1963 - 1965

On 1 September 1963, Singapore joined Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo to form the independent country of the Federation of Malaysia. On 9 August 1965, Singapore separated from Malaysia and to become an independent, sovereign state. During this period, Singapore stamps were not issued.

1966 - 1969

The first Republic of Singapore stamps were issued on 9 August 1966 to mark the nation's 1st Anniversary of Independence. Stamp designs reflect Singapore's challenges such as establishing a peaceful multi-racial and multi-lingual society, tackling unemployment, shortage of housing and burgeoning population.

1970 - 1975

Having addressed the basic needs, other criterion that define a developed nation came into play. Stamp designs featured different ethnic dances, family planning, and achievements in education and industrialisation.

1976 - 2002

National Day stamps were not issued during this period.

2003 - 2007

Themes on stamps celebrate the nation's achievements and aspirations such as "Many Races, One People", "National Monuments", "Fabric of the Nation", "Our Global City, Our Home".

This year's National Day stamps that will be issued on 9 August 2007, feature "Tourist Landmarks" theme.

The exhibition also features an interactive section for visitors to guess some of the stamp issues for National Day, from selected and unselected designs submitted by the stamp designers.

Ms Tresnawati Prihadi, General Manager of Singapore Philatelic Museum said, “Stamps are miniature pieces of art. These pieces of art tell stories of a country. The stamps on display are a record of the Singapore story, our heritage and history. They provide us with a visual time-line of the challenges we faced from the 1960s till today. We hope that many Singaporeans of all ages will visit the exhibition to have a greater understanding of Singapore’s history.”