

For immediate release



Singapore 1960

A Confluence of Language, Culture and Politics from 3 June – 22 August 2010

Singapore, 19 April 2010 – The National Museum of Singapore presents ***Singapore 1960***, an exhibition that looks into a vibrant and hopeful year that held great significance in uniting and shaping the people of Singapore during a time of change. The exhibition opens to the public on 3 June – the first National Day of Singapore, when the island achieved self-government in 1959. This was before 9 August was declared the new National Day when Singapore gained independence in 1965.

Singapore 1960 features over 300 artefacts dating from the 1960s, including old publications, a 100-year-old Strohmeier grand piano that belonged to the late Encik Zubir Said, a briefcase which was owned by the late Mr S. Rajaratnam (Singapore’s first Minister for Culture), and a portrait of Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew’s inauguration as Singapore’s first Prime Minister by Lai Kui Fang.

Says Ms Lee Chor Lin, Director of the National Museum of Singapore, “Many Singaporeans have never lived in the year 1960. It’s not easy for them to imagine the excitement, effervescence and exuberance of 1960 where seminal changes shaped and swayed a nascent culture. It was a time of glitzy amusement worlds, rainbow-coloured sarong kebayas and art inspired by our sultry tropical climate. By revisiting 1960, we hope that visitors, especially Singaporeans, will experience this buoyant and significant chapter of local history, when the nation progressed into self-governance.”

While the highly symbolic artefacts on display will depict the political and cultural milieu of the 1960s, the gallery will be curated into themed areas alluding to significant milestones and events that took place in that era. Scenes of cultural spaces familiar to Singaporeans such as the eclectic Haw Par Villa and the neon-lit ‘Worlds’ amusement parks will be incorporated in the exhibition, providing an insight into hope and optimism of the era’s cultural landscape.

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For media queries, please contact:

Samantha Liew

National Museum of Singapore
Asst Manager, Marketing Communications
T: +65 6332 9269
samantha_liew@nhb.gov.sg

Bernadette Yew

National Museum of Singapore
Asst Manager, Marketing Communications
T: +65 6332 4429
bernadette_yew@nhb.gov.sg

Stephanie Awyong

Associate
Communications DNA
T: +65 6327 7122
stephanie.awyong@commsdna.com

Emily Yan

Associate
Communications DNA
T: +65 6327 7166
emily.yan@commsdna.com

About the National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a young soul. Designed to be the people's museum, the National Museum is a custodian of the 11 National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and varied ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.

A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts vibrant festivals and events all year round – the dynamic Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings – in addition to presenting lauded exhibitions and precious artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre. The National Museum of Singapore re-opened in December 2006 after a three-year redevelopment.

For details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.