

For immediate release



**Presidential Presents:**  
*State Gifts from 1962 to 2009*

**Singapore, 24 August 2010** – For the first time, a collection of 50 selected official gifts received by the six Presidents of Singapore will be on display at the National Museum of Singapore. Titled ***Presidential Presents***, these gifts received from 1962 to 2009 will be exhibited at the Museum from 22 September 2010 to 9 January 2011.

***Presidential Presents*** offers a glimpse into the long-established tradition of official gift giving by Heads of States, their emissaries and representatives to Singapore's Presidents. Presented during overseas State visits by our Presidents or by dignitaries visiting Singapore, these gifts symbolise the high esteem and regard accorded to our Heads of State. In addition, the enduring diplomatic and commercial relations between these countries and Singapore are recognised through these gifts.

Says Ms Lee Chor Lin, Director of National Museum of Singapore, "We hope that ***Presidential Presents*** will offer visitors the opportunity to understand the subtle art of diplomacy. This special presentation underscores the good relations Singapore has with other countries and the National Museum of Singapore is proud to host this exhibition."

In addition to playing an important role in establishing and enhancing good relations, the State Gifts received are also symbolic of the cultural and social heritage of the country presenting them. In many

instances, the political realities of the day as well as personal taste of the presenter are reflected. In an inimitable way, **Presidential Presents** is both a record of Singapore's valued relationship with the world and a reflection of international culture over the years.

The 50 gifts that make up the exhibition are being displayed for the first time outside of the Istana. Visitors can expect to see decorative vases, ceremonial daggers, vividly painted bowls, exquisitely crafted gold and silverware in both traditional and contemporary styles. Each item on display is accompanied by a detailed synopsis in all four official languages.

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**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](http://www.nationalmuseum.sg).