

MEDIA RELEASE
For immediate release

**CELEBRATING 50 MONUMENTAL YEARS
OF PRESERVING SINGAPORE'S BUILT HERITAGE**



Singapore, 12 November 2021 – In commemoration of 50 years of preserving historic buildings, sites and structures in Singapore, a special exhibition titled *PSM50: Celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Singapore's Preservation Journey (PSM50)* opens from 13 November 2021 to 2 January 2022 at the National Museum of Singapore.

Commemorating 50 years of preservation

2 Singapore's preservation journey began in 1971 when the Preservation of Monuments Act came into force, which led to the formation of the then-Preservation of Monuments Board on 29 January 1971. In 2009, the Board was incorporated as a division under the National Heritage Board (NHB) and in 2013, it was renamed the Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division. To date, 73 National Monuments have been gazetted and accorded the highest level of protection in Singapore.

3 Mr Tan Kok Hiang, Chairman of the PSM Advisory Board, said: "What is notable is that architectural monuments have increasingly become a significant part of the everyday lives of Singaporeans. A good number of these monuments, such as the Former City Hall, the Former Supreme Court, and the Former Singapore Conference Hall and Trade Union House allow for public access and participation. Very much in the public domain are the recently gazetted 73rd Monument, the Singapore River Bridges as well as the to-be gazetted Padang. The Golden Jubilee of preserving Singapore's monuments signifies how far we have come in the protection of our historical landmarks, and it is timely as we look ahead to protect even more monuments as well as sites of national significance, and continue to safeguard our shared heritage."

The preservation journey captured under one roof

4 *PSM50* is located along the Level 1 Longer Concourse space within the National Museum of Singapore, a historical landmark which has been gazetted as a National Monument itself. The exhibition comprises six sections that cover different aspects of documenting, preserving and celebrating our monuments and showcase all 73 National Monuments. Tracing Singapore's preservation journey, the exhibition shines a spotlight on our National Monuments through commemorative objects, images, digital experiences, 3D printed models, newly commissioned artworks etc. and features a selection of PSM's more memorable past projects.

5 Some of the exhibition highlights include:

- A rare complete commemorative set of five silver wafers which were launched as the first ever outreach effort by PSM. The wafers feature five of the first batch of eight monuments which were gazetted under the Act in 1973, namely Armenian Church of Saint Gregory the Illuminator, Hajjah Fatimah Mosque, Sri Mariamman Temple, Saint Andrew's Cathedral, and Thian Hock Keng¹.
- Diverse and one-of-a-kind efforts to document and raise greater awareness of our National Monuments and their unique architectural features, such as exhibits featuring 3D stereographic photographs, drone aerial videography, and a plethora of digital initiatives, including PSM's first 360 degree illustration featuring monuments on Telok Ayer Street as well as a Virtual Reality (VR) experience that allows visitors to explore the Former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station virtually. Sponsored by European company Dassault Systèmes, in collaboration with the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), Singapore Land Authority and NHB, the VR experience uses engineering and architectural data to re-create the historic Tanjong Pagar Railway Station, translating images and drawings into a realistic 3D model of the building.

Mrs Josephine Ong, Managing Director, Asia Pacific South, Dassault Systèmes, said: "Dassault Systèmes is proud to partner with the National Heritage Board of Singapore in this exciting endeavour to preserve an historic icon – the Former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station

¹The other three monuments of the first batch of eight monuments are Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Former Thong Chai Medical Institution and Former Telok Ayer Market (now Lau Pa Sat).

– for Singaporeans. The VR experience provides a realistic, life-like rendering of the iconic building enabling Singaporeans to experience the grand architecture of the iconic building. The digital preservation of cultural heritage monuments is a challenging and meaningful application of 3D modelling and virtual twin technologies.”

- New artwork commissions by three local artists Ashley Yeo, Matt Chiu and Shirley Soh, who will debut their innovative iterations of selected National Monuments which have been created using delicate paper cutting, 3D printing technology, and a combination of ceramics and embroidery. Visual artist Francis Theo, who previously collaborated with NHB for its *Uncles Love Monuments* travelling exhibition in 2019, has also contributed paper cuttings which have never been exhibited before.

6 Ms Jean Wee, Director of NHB’s PSM division, said: “Through a collection of works that were commissioned or developed in partnership with the community, the *PSM50* exhibition is a chance for the public to encounter or be re-acquainted with our National Monuments. We hope this can trigger certain personal memories or simply give visitors the opportunity to appreciate our monuments in new ways.”

7 Mr Tan added: “This exhibition brings to bear the tireless efforts of very passionate people at PSM over the last 50 years, and is indeed a proud commemoration of our nation’s built heritage.”

8 *PSM50: Celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Singapore’s Preservation Journey* is open from 10am to 7pm daily. Admission is free. Visitors who wish to enjoy the full VR experience of the Former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station, which involves the use of headsets, can do so on four Saturdays (13, 20 & 27 November and 4 December), from 1pm to 5pm. During the rest of the exhibition’s opening hours, visitors can view the VR experience through a video projection.

For more information, please refer to:

- Annex A: Full list of exhibits
- Annex B: About the VR experience and Dassault Systèmes
- Annex C: Artist information

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About the National Heritage Board

The National Heritage Board (NHB) was formed on 1 August 1993. As the custodian of Singapore's heritage, NHB is responsible for telling the Singapore story, sharing the Singaporean experience and imparting our Singapore spirit. NHB's mission is to preserve and celebrate the shared heritage of our diverse communities, for the purpose of education, nation-building and cultural understanding. It manages the national museums and heritage institutions, and sets policies relating to heritage sites, monuments and the National Collection.

Through the National Collection, NHB curates heritage programmes and presents exhibitions to connect the past, present and future generations of Singaporeans. NHB is a statutory board under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth. Please visit www.nhb.gov.sg for more information.

About the Preservation of Sites and Monuments division

The Preservation of Sites and Monuments (PSM) division, under the National Heritage Board (NHB) and with advice from the PSM Advisory Board, guides the preservation of buildings, monuments and sites, which commemorates Singapore's heritage as defined under the Preservation of Monuments Act. The PSM division also leads NHB's joint efforts with National Parks Board to list the Singapore Botanic Gardens as Singapore's first UNESCO world heritage site. It also oversees the 100 heritage sites that have been marked by NHB. The PSM division's administration of the preservation gazette is complemented by its outreach objectives to promote a renewed appreciation and understanding of national monuments and their history, and to encourage people to relate to them as sites of memory that convey a sense of place, identity and belonging. To date, 73 structures have been gazetted as National Monuments. For more information on the PSM division, please visit <https://www.nhb.gov.sg/what-we-do/our-work/preserve-our-stories-treasures-and-places/national-monuments-and-marked-historic-sites/preservation-of-sites-and-monuments>.

LIST OF EXHIBITS FEATURED IN PSM50: CELEBRATING THE GOLDEN JUBILEE OF SINGAPORE'S PRESERVATION JOURNEY

PSM50 features the following six sections and covers all 73 National Monuments as follows:

Part 1: Commemorating Our Monuments

Silver Wafers

PSM's first attempt to commemorate and promote greater public interest in our National Monuments started in 1978 with the launch of a commemorative set of five silver wafers that featured five of the first batch of eight monuments gazetted under the 1971 Preservation of Monuments Act.

National Monuments featured: Armenian Church of Saint Gregory the Illuminator, Hajjah Fatimah Mosque, Sri Mariamman Temple, Saint Andrew's Cathedral, Thian Hock Keng

Stamps

As part of its ongoing efforts to commemorate and promote our monuments, PSM works with SingPost to design and launch thematic stamp series which highlight our monuments' national and historical importance. One of the stamp sets showcased here was issued in 2019 and commemorates the Istana's 150th anniversary, while the other set was issued in 2010 and features monuments that served as institutes of learning.

National Monuments featured: Istana and Sri Temasek, College of Medicine Building, Tan Teck Guan Building, Former Command House, Former Raffles College

Part 2: Documenting Our Monuments

Resonance



Photos of the National Museum of Singapore (left) and Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple (right) featured in Resonance

As part of the ongoing efforts to document our National Monuments, PSM commissioned several photographers led by the late Kwek Leng Joo who photographed a total of 24 monuments. These beautiful images were collated and published in 2009 in a book titled *Resonance*.

National Monuments featured: Sri Srinivasa Perumal Temple, National Museum of Singapore, Former Saint Joseph's Institution, Jamae Mosque

Drone



Screengrab from Eye in the Sky series featuring Sultan Mosque

Besides photography and videography, PSM started using drones in 2018 as part of NHB's *Eye in the Sky* series of aerial videography projects, to capture monuments and present them in a different light to facilitate a renewed appreciation of their unique and distinctive architecture.

National Monuments featured: Sultan Mosque, Sri Thendayuthapani Temple

3D stereographic photographs



Stereographic photograph of Yueh Hai Ching Temple

In 2016, PSM collaborated with Italian photographer Alberto Fanelli to produce and exhibit stereographic photographs of 27 National Monuments, which when viewed through anaglyphic lenses, causes the images to “blend” together to create a 3D effect.

National Monuments featured: Yueh Hai Ching Temple, Former Siong Lim Temple, Former Supreme Court, Former City Hall, Victoria Theatre and Victoria Concert Hall, Istana Kampong Gelam, Former Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus Chapel and Caldwell House

Pinholes

Pinholes to look back into Singapore’s past.

National Monuments featured: Former Thong Chai Medical Institution, House of Tan Yeok Nee, Tan Si Chong Su, Ying Fo Fui Kun, Former Nanyang University Library and Administration Building, Memorial and Arch, Former Admiralty House, Former Cathay Building, MacDonald House, Saint Joseph’s Church, Tou Mu Kung, Former Saint James Power Station, Chung Cheng High School (Main) Administration Building and Entrance Arch, Alkaff Upper Serangoon Mosque, Church of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Part 3: Digitising Our Monuments

Telok Ayer 360



In recent years, PSM has rolled out several digital initiatives to produce engaging online content for youths, students and the young-at-heart. One such example was a collaboration with local artist Lee Xin Li to create PSM’s first 360 degree illustration of Telok Ayer Street featuring the monuments along the street, to provide continued access to content about our monuments during Singapore’s circuit breaker period in 2020.

National Monuments featured: Al-Abrar Mosque, Former Keng Teck Whay Building

Virtual Reality

A collaboration with Dassault Systèmes in 2020 to create a digital twin of the Former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station to allow visitors to navigate and experience the station's interior spaces virtually. This is part of PSM's ongoing efforts to leverage new technologies to document and promote our National Monuments in a new and innovative manner.

National Monument featured: Former Tanjong Pagar Railway Station

Part 4: Engaging Monument Enthusiasts

Monumental Weddings



Photos collected featured Raffles Hotel (left) and the Former Tao Nan School (right). Photo courtesy of Yeo Kirk Siang and Xu Wenshan (left), and Kelvin Ang (right).

PSM engages the community to promote greater public awareness and appreciation of our National Monuments. One of PSM's early community outreach efforts was a 2012 exhibition titled *Monumental Weddings* which presented a collection of 150 historic and contemporary wedding portraits taken at 32 monuments. These photographs were collected via a public call, as well as sourced from archives, photographers and monument owners.

National Monuments featured: Former Tao Nan School, Cathedral of the Good Shepherd, Maghain Aboth Synagogue, Raffles Hotel, Saint George's Church

Uncles Love Monuments



A paper cutting of Jurong Town Hall by Francis Theo (left), and a sketch of the Former Hill Street Police Station by Steven Seow (right). Photos courtesy of Francis Theo and Steven Seow respectively.

A more recent community engagement effort by PSM which is a collaboration with three artists who had contributed works for a travelling exhibition titled *Uncles Love Monuments* which was launched in 2019. The exhibition showcased sketches of 18 monuments, and is part of PSM's efforts to encourage the community to share their love for monuments.

National Monuments featured: Singapore River Bridges: Cavenagh Bridge, Anderson Bridge and Elgin Bridge, Jurong Town Hall, Goodwood Park Hotel (Tower Block), Former Hill Street Police Station

Part 5: Remodelling Our Monuments

Lego

In an attempt to showcase the different architectural styles and unique features of monuments in an appealing and accessible manner, PSM worked with three artists from My Little Brick Shop to create miniature models of eight monuments using more than 110,000 toy bricks for a travelling exhibition launched in 2018.

National Monuments featured: Central Fire Station

3D printing models by Matt Chiu



3D printed model of Abdul Gafoor Mosque. Photo courtesy of Matt Chiu.

For PSM's 50th anniversary, miniature replicas of 11 monuments were created using 3D printing technology to highlight the architectural diversity and features of our monuments in close-to-scale form, offering a miniaturised viewing experience for the public to learn more about these historic buildings.

National Monuments featured: Abdul Gafoor Mosque, Former Empress Place Building, Former Attorney-General's Chambers, Former Ministry of Labour Building, Chinese High School Clock Tower Building, Former Nagore Dargah, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, Former Singapore

Conference Hall and Trade Union House, Bowyer Block, Former Telok Ayer Market, Former Parliament House

Part 6: Transforming Our Monuments Through Art

Paper Cutting by Ashley Yeo

To commemorate 50 years of preservation efforts, PSM commissioned local artist Ashley Yeo to create an installation featuring delicate papercuts of nine monuments housed in glass domes to convey the vulnerability of our monuments and the importance of protecting and preserving them.

National Monuments featured: Hong San See, Chesed-El Synagogue, Church of Saints Peter and Paul, Church of Saint Teresa, Former Fullerton Building, Tan Kim Seng Fountain, Former Sun Yat Sen Villa, Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church, Church of Our Lady of Lourdes

Ceramic Installation; Embroidery by Shirley Soh

As part of PSM's 50th anniversary commemorative efforts, PSM also commissioned local artist Shirley Soh to produce interpretive works of three monuments which were kept intentionally small to contrast against the monumental stories behind these monuments and the impact World War II had on our history and our society.

National Monuments featured: Civilian War Memorial, Cenotaph, Lim Bo Seng Memorial, Changi Prison, Former Ford Factory

THE TANJONG PAGAR RAILWAY STATION VIRTUAL REALITY EXPERIENCE

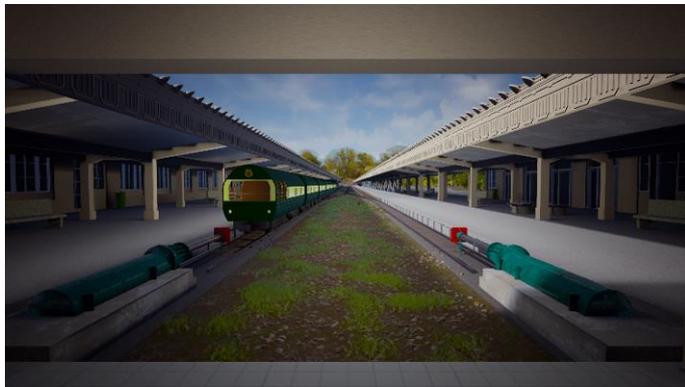
- The Virtual Reality (VR) experience leverages engineering and architectural data to re-create the historic Tanjong Pagar Railway Station building.
- Point cloud data from the Singapore Land Authority was validated with technical architectural drawings of the building, and imported onto the Dassault Systèmes 3DEXPERIENCE Platform. The 3DEXPERIENCE Platform is a collaborative 3D virtual environment that empowers businesses and people to sustainably innovate in entirely new ways and create products and services using virtual twin experiences.
- 14 students from the Architecture and Sustainable Design (ASD) programme at the Singapore University of Technology and Design, under the guidance of Dr Peter Ortner, modelled the data which was further optimised using Dassault Systèmes' CATIA powered by the 3DEXPERIENCE Platform to render a realistic 3D virtual model of the building.
- Dassault Systèmes provided training to these students on 3D modelling techniques on CATIA and 3DEXITE applications as well as VR experience creation. The students were able to augment their architectural skills with next generation digital skills on the 3DEXPERIENCE Platform.
- The high quality rendered images and experience were further refined by the Dassault Systèmes 3DEXCITE Studio team. This included detailed texture mapping from high resolution images to make sculptures, murals and other features in the building near life-like.

Below is a selection of images from the VR experience (images courtesy of Dassault Systèmes):

<p>Front view of the station</p> 	<p>A front view of the station showcasing the Art Deco style building façade with heroic sculptures.</p>
<p>Interior view of the station</p>	<p>A view of the murals within the main hall of the station.</p>



View of Orient Express on the platform



The Tanjong Pagar Railway Station also saw exotic trains like the Eastern & Oriental Express.

About Dassault Systèmes

Dassault Systèmes, the 3DEXPERIENCE Company, is a catalyst for human progress. We provide business and people with collaborative 3D virtual environments to imagine sustainable innovations. By creating virtual twin experiences of the real world with our 3DEXPERIENCE platform and applications, our customers push the boundaries of innovation, learning and production. Dassault Systèmes brings value to more than 290,000 customers of all sizes, in all industries, in more than 140 countries. For more information, visit www.3ds.com

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ARTIST INFORMATION**Yeo Yak Ka, Ashley**

Ashley graduated with a Master's Degree in Fine Arts from the University of Arts London, Chelsea College of Arts, London, United Kingdom in 2012 and a B.A. in Fine Arts from the LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore in 2011. She has participated in numerous exhibitions in Singapore, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom, and the United States. She was the first Singaporean artist to be shortlisted for the LOEWE Craft Prize, London, UK (2018).

Revolving around themes of lightness and slowness, her practice is built upon reflections on the accumulations of hedonistic culture and alludes to the soft and fragile. Her paper sculptures explore geometry, precision, and the spiritual power of simple materials.

Matt Chiu Po Heng

Matt is an aspiring and creative young individual in the field of design and fabrication. Since conventional architecture models were mostly hand-made and time-consuming, Matt decided to explore the use of commercially available 3D printing technology to do the job for him during his undergraduate studies. From there, Matt began to integrate the use of 3D printing into his daily life by adopting the "maker mindset" where he designs and 3D prints products to solve his daily needs. The constant model printing demand from his peers and collaborations with local companies have given Matt the idea to be an entrepreneur during his undergraduate days.

In 2019, he was given a chance to work with Assistant Professor Carlos Bañón from SUTD to plan and fabricate the 3,000-piece SUTD 10th Anniversary Time Capsule, a large-scale 3D printed pavilion project.

Matt hopes to advocate the pros of using commercially available 3D printing in architecture and to bring a positive change to the building industry.

Shirley Soh

Shirley Soh is an artist, educator, an erstwhile journalist and a perpetual student. Trained first in ceramics, she has branched into other mediums such as living vegetation, fabric work, sculptures and video making, exploring recurrent themes of biodiversity and sustainability. Interested in how individuals, community, the economy and environment interdependently connect in constantly shifting – and not often benign – ways, she has grown plants, worked with migrant workers and women prisoners, created a retail shop, sewn and cooked with local communities, and meditated for her artwork.

Shirley was commissioned for the public art at the Botanic Gardens Downtown MRT station, the Konfrontasi memorial installed at Dhoby Ghat and the post-surgery rehab wards at Ng Teng Fong

Hospital. She pursued her B.A. honours degree and M.A. at the National University of Singapore and obtained her B.A. Fine Art degree from LASALLE College of the Arts. She tutors part-time at Lasalle's McNally School of Fine Arts.

Francis Theo

Francis is one of the pioneer members of Urban Sketchers Singapore (USKSG) and his passion for drawing is fuelled by his love for architecture and travelling. He is skilled in fast sketching methods and was given the nickname "Sketch Machine" by fellow USKSG artists. He is always going around Singapore looking for potential subjects and his constant companions are a sketchbook, a few fountain pens and water brushes. Since retiring in 2012, Francis has kept himself active as a freelance illustrator, florist and art educator. Francis was one of the three sketchers who contributed exclusive artworks to NHB's *Uncles Love Monuments* travelling exhibition in 2019, which aimed to present our National Monuments in a different light.