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**MEDIA RELEASE**

*For immediate release*

**MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE KICKS OFF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WITH  
MYSTERY MUSEUM TOURS AND MORE**



**Singapore, 27 August 2021** – Starting this September, the **Museum Roundtable (MR)** will be commemorating its milestone anniversary with a celebration of programmes, 25 years since its formation by the National Heritage Board (NHB) to encourage a museum-going culture amongst Singaporeans.

2 The MR was first established in 1996 as part of NHB’s ongoing efforts to develop a vibrant and diverse museum landscape in Singapore, and to position museums as unique cultural destinations. Since then, it has grown to comprise more than 60 public and private museums and heritage galleries members, spanning diverse categories of focus and interest: Art, Culture & Community, Defence, Healthcare, Lifestyles & Collectibles, National History and Science & Innovation.

3 To kick off the celebrations, the MR is rolling out a series of *Mystery Museum Tours* which will take place each weekend from 4 to 26 September 2021, and will take the public on a journey of exploration through selected museums in Singapore, including lesser-known ones. The celebrations will culminate in a *Museum Roundtable 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Traveling Exhibition* in November with educational and fun-filled activities that can be enjoyed by families and children as it travels to various public spaces across Singapore.

4 Ms Chang Hwee Nee, Chief Executive of NHB and Chairperson of the Museum Roundtable, shared: “The MR has grown immensely to welcome many new members over the past 25 years, reaching its highest membership of 62 museums this year. We enjoy a close working relationship with all of them, and together, we have been able to organise countless exciting programmes to enliven Singapore’s museum-going culture over the decades. With the September school holidays approaching, we wanted to let Singaporeans rediscover our vibrant museum and heritage landscape by putting a new spin on the museum-going experience and injecting an element of surprise with our *Mystery Museum Tours*.”

[Embark on an adventure with a series of \*Mystery Museum Tours\* \(4 to 26 September 2021\)](#)



5 The *Mystery Museum Tours*, organised in collaboration with 10 MR members, will be based around three themes of “*Fashion Confessions*”, “*Mythical Creatures*” and “*Hidden Secrets*”, with a total of 34 tour runs. Each theme will feature a unique itinerary and offer different insights into the collections and workings of the participating MR members. Members of the public can sign up for the themes which interest them, and the exact museum(s) will only be revealed to participants on the day of the visit. Here’s what participants can expect on the tours:

- **Fashion Confessions (two routes)**

Tour duration: 2.5 - 3 hours

Tour format: Bus tour with visit to two mystery museums (includes guided tour and hands-on activities during the bus ride and at the museums)

Tour ticket fees: \$20 per person

Look for your next runway inspiration as this tour brings you through the fashion artefacts on display in some of Singapore’s museums, and showcases the history of fashion and its cultural significance in Asia. Participants will learn about the stories, significance and craftsmanship behind fashion artefacts, such as garments, headpieces, jewellery and other accessories, and explore the ways in which these artefacts empower identities and strengthen community ties.

- **Mythical Creatures**

Tour duration: 2.5 - 3 hours

Tour format: Bus tour with visit to two mystery museums (includes guided tour and hands-on activities during the bus ride and at the museums)

Tour ticket fees: \$20 per person

Prepare for a magical adventure as this tour brings you on a search for fantastic creatures hidden within Singapore’s museums. Participants will learn about the practices and beliefs behind the deities and protective guardians in South and Southeast Asian myths, and the significance of these mythical characters in their respective cultures and communities.

- **Hidden Secrets**

Tour duration: 1 - 1.5 hours

Tour format: Guided tour of one mystery museum (includes hands-on activities)

Tour ticket fees: \$10 per person

Get ready for exclusive behind-the-scenes access, and a more intimate look into the inner workings and hidden spaces of some of Singapore’s museums. Participants will have the opportunity to interact with exhibit repair specialists, paper conservators, museum guides and gemologists to discover the secrets of their trades. The guided tours will also allow participants to learn from the experts about how artefacts are conserved, handled and displayed, and even get a chance to have some hands-on experience!



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6 Registration for the *Mystery Museum Tours* will begin on **30 August 2021, 12 noon**, at <https://mysterymuseumtours.peatix.com>, on a first-come-first-served basis. More information on the tours is also available on [www.go.gov.sg/mr25](http://www.go.gov.sg/mr25). As a precaution during this Preparatory Stage of Transition to Endemic COVID-19, each tour will be limited to a maximum of 10 participants. Participants will also be required to observe the necessary safe management measures throughout the tours. Details on the applicable safe management measures will be sent to participants upon registration.

*Museum Roundtable 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Travelling Exhibition (November to December 2021)*

7 To complete the celebration, NHB will be collaborating with more than 20 MR members to co-present a travelling exhibition that showcases milestone achievements of the MR and individual artefact highlights from participating MR members. The travelling exhibition will launch in November, and travel across various venues until December 2021.

8 Apart from viewing the unique collections of various museums, visitors can also stand a chance to win museum gifts and vouchers for use at the participating MR museums. The travelling exhibition is intended to promote greater public awareness of the diversity of museums in Singapore, and encourage more people to visit the museums and galleries. More details on the exhibition will be shared later in the year.

9 Please refer to the following annexes for more details:

- **Annex A** Information on *Mystery Museum Tours*
- **Annex B**: More information on MR and its initiatives

<https://www.facebook.com/ILoveMuseums/> | #MR25 #MuseumRoundtable #ilovemuseums

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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.



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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](http://www.nhb.gov.sg) for more information

### **About Museum Roundtable**

The Museum Roundtable (MR) is a collective of museums established by the National Heritage Board (NHB) in 1996 to promote a museum-going culture amongst Singaporeans and to position museums as unique cultural destinations. More than 60 public and private museums and heritage galleries are MR members today, spanning across diverse categories of focus and interest: Art, Culture & Community, Defence, Healthcare, Lifestyles & Collectibles, National History and Science & Innovation.

As part of NHB's efforts to develop a vibrant and diverse museum and heritage landscape in Singapore, NHB works closely with MR members in various ways. These include signature outreach programmes, as well as capability development initiatives.



## Information on *Mystery Museum Tours*



### Fashion Confessions (two routes)

Tour dates: 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26 September 2021

Time: 10.00 - 1.00pm, or 2.30 - 5.30pm

Tour duration: 2.5 - 3 hours

Venue: Various venues

Tour ticket fees: \$20 per person, includes a special MR anniversary gift bag

For this tour, participants will gather and be picked up from a public location to be brought to the two mystery museums by bus transport.



### Mythical Creatures

- Morning tour dates: 4, 5, 18, 19 September 2021

Time: 10.00am - 1.00pm

- Afternoon tour dates: 11, 12, 25, 26 September 2021

Time: 2.30pm - 5.30pm

Tour duration: 2.5 - 3 hours

Venue: Various venues

Tour ticket fees: \$20 per person, includes a special MR anniversary gift bag

For this tour, participants will gather and be picked up from a public location to be brought to the two mystery museums by bus transport.



### Hidden Secrets

Tour dates: Various dates and time slots (as below)

Tour duration: 1 - 1.5 hours

Venue: Various venues

Tour ticket fees: \$10 per person, includes a special MR anniversary gift bag

**For these tours, participants will meet directly at the museum venue. No transport will be provided.**

#### **Tour details:**

- Hidden Secrets Tour A

Tour dates: 5, 18 September 2021

Time: 1.30pm - 3.00pm

Learn more about the gem identification process, and how the identities of gemstones can be determined before being



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exhibited. There will be practical demonstrations and hands-on experiences for participants, and gem testing tools and gem specimens will be provided.

- Hidden Secrets Tour B  
Tour dates: 12, 18 September 2021  
Time: 10.30am - 12.00pm

Hear from a professional archives conservator, who will share more on and demonstrate conservation practices. Participants can get to engage in a hands-on activity on repairing paper tears and check out tools/gadgets used in conservation practices as well.

- Hidden Secrets Tour C  
Tour dates & time:
  - 19 September 2021, 2.30pm - 4.00pm
  - 25 September 2021, 10.00am - 11.30am

Hear from an exhibit repair specialist on how wax figure displays are created, restored and maintained. There will be hands-on activities for participants to learn molding techniques and skills as a sculptor.

- Hidden Secrets Tour D  
Tour dates: 5, 11 September 2021  
Time: 10.00am - 11.00am

Get a sneak peak of lesser-known stories from a hospital with 111 years of history, and join in the search for obscure artefacts with Chinese traditional significance. Participants can also look for a tree planted by Lee Kuan Yew while they are there.

- Hidden Secrets Tour E  
Tour dates & time:
  - 4 September 2021, 2.30pm - 3.30pm
  - 26 September 2021, 10.30am - 11.30am

Gain special access to usually restricted areas of the museum and discover the hidden stories behind the building, such as a Chief Justice's Courtroom and a Prime Minister's Office.

**More Information on MR**
List of MR members

<b>Category</b>	<b>MR Museums By Category</b>
Art	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Gallery Singapore</li> <li>2. National University of Singapore (NUS) Museum</li> <li>3. Singapore Art Museum</li> <li>4. Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI)– Creative Workshop &amp; Gallery</li> <li>5. The Private Museum</li> </ol>
Culture & Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Asian Civilisations Museum</li> <li>2. Chinatown Heritage Centre</li> <li>3. Chinese Heritage Centre</li> <li>4. Eurasian Heritage Gallery</li> <li>5. Fuk Tak Chi Museum</li> <li>6. Gan Heritage Centre</li> <li>7. Geylang Serai Heritage Gallery</li> <li>8. Indian Heritage Centre</li> <li>9. Kreta Ayer Heritage Gallery</li> <li>10. Malay Heritage Centre</li> <li>11. Ngee Ann Cultural Centre</li> <li>12. National University of Singapore (NUS) Baba House</li> <li>13. Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre</li> <li>14. Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall</li> <li>15. The Intan</li> <li>16. The Peranakan Museum</li> </ol>
Defence	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Army Museum of Singapore</li> <li>2. Changi Chapel Museum</li> <li>3. Civil Defence Heritage Gallery</li> <li>4. Former Ford Factory</li> <li>5. Fort Siloso</li> <li>6. Home Team Gallery</li> <li>7. Police Heritage Centre</li> <li>8. Reflections at Bukit Chandu</li> <li>9. Republic of Singapore Air Force Museum</li> <li>10. Republic of Singapore Navy Museum</li> <li>11. Singapore Discovery Centre</li> <li>12. The Battlebox</li> </ol>
Healthcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kwong Wai Shiu Hospital Heritage Gallery</li> <li>2. National Healthcare Group (NHG) Polyclinics' Gallery of Memories</li> <li>3. Singapore General Hospital (SGH) Museum</li> <li>4. Tan Tock Seng Heritage Museum</li> <li>5. Woodbridge Museum</li> </ol>





Lifestyle and Collectibles	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. National Library Gallery</li> <li>2. MINT Museum of Toys</li> <li>3. Red Dot Design Museum</li> <li>4. Singapore Coins and Notes Museum</li> <li>5. Singapore Musical Box Museum</li> <li>6. Singapore Sports Museum</li> <li>7. The Gem Museum</li> </ol>
National History	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. BuildSG Gallery</li> <li>2. Grassroots Heritage Centre</li> <li>3. HDB LIVINGSPACE Gallery</li> <li>4. Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS) Gallery</li> <li>5. Istana Heritage Gallery</li> <li>6. Land Transport Authority (LTA) Singapore Mobility Gallery</li> <li>7. Ministry of Education (MOE) Heritage Centre</li> <li>8. National Museum of Singapore</li> <li>9. Singapore Botanic Gardens Heritage Museum and CDL Green Gallery</li> <li>10. Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Singapore City Gallery</li> <li>11. Singapore Maritime Gallery</li> <li>12. Singapore Philatelic Museum</li> <li>13. Sustainable Singapore Gallery @ Marina Barrage</li> </ol>
Science & Innovation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. ArtScience Museum</li> <li>2. Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum</li> <li>3. NEWater Visitor Centre</li> <li>4. Science Centre Singapore</li> </ol>

MR's Annual Signature Outreach Programmes in 2021 (previous and upcoming)

- **Museum Roundtable Lunar New Year Hongbao Campaign**

22 January – 19 February 2021

Various MR museums and heritage institutions

To promote and encourage the public to visit the museums and galleries of MR during the festive season, NHB designed unique *Hongbaos* (red packets) to represent each of the 32 participating institutions, which visitors could collect on a while stocks last basis. NHB also conducted public giveaways of limited edition anniversary box sets of all 32 designs of the *Hongbao* series to lucky winners on MR's *I Love Museums* Facebook page.

To celebrate MR's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021, NHB also launched a QR Code Scavenger Hunt in conjunction with the *Hongbao* Campaign where visitors had a chance to win the box sets if they scanned a winning QR Code.

- **Battle for Singapore 2021**

15 February – 14 March 2021

Various Venues





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In commemoration of the 79th anniversary of the Fall of Singapore in 2021, NHB organised *Battle for Singapore 2021* – a series of programmes for Singaporeans to learn more about the events leading up to the fall of Singapore on 15 February 1942. This year, NHB partnered MR members, local heritage experts and heritage groups such as All Things Bukit Brown to feature various places and stories relating to the Japanese Occupation. Members of the public were able to participate in a variety of World War II (WWII)-related programmes, which included special tours to Fort Siloso, Former Ford Factory, National Gallery Singapore, Singapore Discovery Centre, and more. Members of the public also participated in WWII-themed talks/webinars and other family-friendly programmes.

- **Children’s Season 2021**

November 2021 (Dates to be Confirmed)

Various MR museums and heritage institutions

Jointly presented by NHB and MR, the annual *Children’s Season* aims to cultivate the next generation of heritage lovers through fun and immersive cultural experiences, where children can bond with their families. With a wide range of programmes, exhibitions and engaging family activities for children of all ages, *Children’s Season* will be the place for children and families to create special memories together in MR museums and heritage institutions.

### MR Training and Capability Development Programmes

To create a network that facilitates knowledge exchange, capability development, and programme delivery, NHB designs a variety of training programmes for MR members. These programmes range from short dialogue sessions around themes that are of current interest to the community, to in-depth workshops on training needs articulated by members.

For example, in celebration of International Museum Day on 18 May 2021, NHB organised the virtual *International Museum Day Symposium* from 20 - 21 May and invited local and international museum professionals to imagine and share new practices and business models in the (co-)creation of value, as well as innovative solutions to the social, economic, and environmental challenges of the present. The symposium also looked at some of the recovery efforts that museums adopted in 2020 and early 2021 to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic, and explore learning points that museums can take into the future as they engage with their audiences.

To develop community leadership, NHB also works with MR members to set up Museum Roundtable Communities of Practices (CoPs), where members are encouraged to initiate meetings and small group discussions pertaining to issues that are relevant to the sector. These CoPs were set up in 2019, and to date, CoPs in four domains, namely, in Education, Access and Inclusion, Learning and Development, and Marketing have been launched for MR members.

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For more information, please refer to [www.museums.com.sg](http://www.museums.com.sg) or [www.facebook.com/ILoveMuseums/](https://www.facebook.com/ILoveMuseums/)



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The MR now also has its very own *MRadio* podcasts on Soundcloud and Spotify! Please visit us at the following links to listen to some of the podcasts:

- Soundcloud: <https://soundcloud.com/ivy-lam-257324163>
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/show/5ISFHz2zs3kAvhphKkSCOQ>