

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STEP BACK INTO HISTORY AS THE
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE
RE-OPENS ITS PERMANENT GALLERIES**

Everyone is invited to come and re-discover Singapore's history, and take part in a fun-filled Opening Weekend Carnival on 19 and 20 September

SINGAPORE, 14 September 2015 – The National Museum of Singapore re-opens its permanent galleries on Saturday, 19 September 2015. To celebrate the re-opening, the National Museum has put together a fun-filled Opening Weekend Carnival that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, 19 and 20 September. Everyone is invited to celebrate the museum's re-opening at the carnival and to take a refreshed look at Singapore's history in the new galleries.

The permanent galleries comprise the **Singapore History Gallery**, the **Life in Singapore: The Past 100 Years** galleries and the **Goh Seng Choo Gallery**. These galleries present Singapore's history and national collection in more immersive and innovative ways, and also showcase artefacts that have never been displayed before.

Ms. Angelita Teo, Director of National Museum of Singapore, says, "After a break for almost a year, we are excited to finally be able to re-open the permanent galleries to visitors. With a refreshed layout and updated narrative, visitors can look forward to a more engaging and immersive experience; a bit like stepping back in time to the different periods of our history. Innovative displays, interactive elements and compelling personal stories make history and the artefacts come to life, and through them, we hope that visitors will form a greater emotional connection to the museum and to Singapore's history. We hope that everyone will take time in this shared space to discover more about our history, explore how far we have come, and reconnect with the Singapore story."

Significant Artefacts, Compelling Stories

Over 1,700 artefacts are displayed in the new galleries. Many are significant historical artefacts from the national collection, such as the Singapore Stone which dates back to the 10th–14th centuries, the 19th-century *Sejarah Melayu*, and the larger-than-life portraits of Sir

Frank Athelstane Swettenham, Sir Shenton Whitelegge Thomas and Sir Cecil Clementi Smith.

Among the new artefacts displayed are personal objects and objects of national significance, as well as family heirlooms that hold a special significance to the people or institutions who donated or loaned them to the museum. New artefacts recently donated to the museum include a 1959 flexidisc recording of “Majulah Singapura” before it became the national anthem, a full set of the first National Service uniform, a Singapore National Registration Identification Card first issued in 1966, as well as a sewing machine used during the war.

Other objects loaned to the museum for the permanent galleries include a wedding certificate, wedding wash basin, wedding rings and family photo belonging to Mr and Mrs Lai Kok Wah, who met and got married during World War Two, as well as the Surrender Table on which the British ceded control of Singapore to the Japanese in February 1942. The table is displayed at the National Museum on a one year loan from the Australian War Memorial.

Immersive, Interactive Galleries

The stories and significance behind the artefacts are brought to life in the galleries through contextual displays, ambient sounds, multimedia platforms as well as interactive platforms, providing visitors with an immersive experience as they rediscover Singapore’s history.

Relive the day when Singapore’s independence was declared, step into the kitchen of an HDB flat from the 1970s and 1980s, be greeted by the aroma of afternoon tea on entering an old colonial bungalow, watch a new film in a drive-in cinema from the 1980s and experience what life was like during the Japanese Occupation. These are some of the immersive experiences visitors will discover in the new galleries, which use exhibition design, scents, multimedia and technologies to contextualise artefacts and evoke moments or the atmosphere of an era.

Visitors will be able to contribute their own stories on an interactive map in the Singapore History Gallery’s Global City section. The map contains memories of places in Singapore from the Singapore Memory Project and lesser known facts about Singapore’s global footprints. Visitors are also invited to submit their own stories or share their knowledge of Singapore’s other international connections for other visitors to enjoy. Another interactive highlight that visitors can look forward to is the artwork *GoHead/GoStan: Panorama Singapura* by Singaporean artists Brandon Tay and Safuan Johari, which will take them on an audio-visual expedition of the various periods in Singapore’s history. This is the first time the museum has commissioned and included an art installation within the gallery’s narrative. This multimedia art installation unveils a tapestry of familiar images derived from the nation’s

historical, geographical and social memories that explore the Singaporean consciousness, articulated through the lens of its changed and changing landscape of the past and present.

The museum has also received the support from leading fragrance and flavour developer Givaudan, to develop scents that add another sensory dimension to the galleries. Givaudan has created two ambient scents – the “After Rain” scent in the *Transforming the Landscape* section of the Singapore History Gallery, and an “Afternoon Tea” scent in the *Life in Singapore: Modern Colony* gallery. They have also created seven scent stations for visitors to discover scents such as that of tembusu flowers, the breadflower and even the old polluted Singapore River. As part of the collaboration, Givaudan has also launched “City”, a new fragrance created especially for Singapore’s 50th year of independence. “City” is sold at the National Museum’s Museum Label shop and proceeds will be donated to the museum.

Discover the new galleries and join in the festivities at the Opening Weekend Carnival

The National Museum invites everyone in Singapore to join in the museum’s festivities and enjoy the first preview of the new galleries on 19 and 20 September. Admission is free for all for both days. Visitors can take part in guided tours or play a game of bingo that will take them through the galleries and allow them to redeem traditional snacks such as *kachang putih* and other nostalgic treats after completing a series of activities. Other fun activities include henna-painting, making paper planes and hats from the different eras, listening to stories from yesteryear, dressing up in vintage costumes for photographs, as well as playing on popular bouncy playgrounds outside the museum.

As parking at the museum is limited that weekend, visitors are advised to park at other nearby carparks or travel via public transportation. For more information, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg.

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For media queries, please contact:

Ida Betryl Cecil

Senior Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications
National Museum of Singapore
DID: +65 6332 9269
Email: ida_betryl_cecil@nhb.gov.sg

Nurraihan Abdul Hamid

Assistant Manager, Marketing and Corporate Communications
National Museum of Singapore
DID: +65 6332 5642
Email: nurraihan_abdul_hamid@nhb.gov.sg

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 progressive mind. Its galleries adopt cutting-edge and multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience. A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative 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 thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of 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, and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2012. The Museum refreshed its permanent galleries and re-opened them on 19 September 2015 for Singapore's Golden Jubilee. For more details, please visit www.nationalmuseum.sg

The National Museum of Singapore is an institution of



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF SINGAPORE VISITOR INFORMATION

GALLERY OPENING HOURS

10am to 7pm (last admission 6.30pm)

ADMISSION

Free admission for Citizens, Permanent Residents (unless otherwise stated) and visitors aged 6 years and below.

Others

Adults \$10

Students & Seniors aged 60 \$5

and above with valid ID

Each ticket includes admission to all permanent galleries and exhibitions. Please present proof of eligibility to enjoy concessions.

Tickets are available from the National Museum Visitor Services counter and SISTIC.

GUIDED TOURS

The tours only cover the Singapore History Gallery.

English

Monday—Friday 11am & 2pm

Saturday & Sunday 11am, 2pm, 3pm

Mandarin

Monday 2.30pm

Friday 2.30pm

Saturday & Sunday 11am & 2.30pm

French

Every first Thursday of the month 12pm

Japanese

Monday—Friday 10.30am

Every first Saturday of the month 1.30pm

WHEELCHAIR ACCESS & LOCKERS

Lifts provide easy access to galleries.

Lockers are available for visitors' use.

NATIONAL MUSEUM ONLINE

www.nationalmuseum.sg

www.facebook.com/National.Museum.of.Singapore

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