

# N S M National Museum of Singapore

## Guide



## National Museum of Singapore

With a history dating back to 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. It redefines the conventional museum experience by exploring multiple perspectives of history and cutting-edge presentations. A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the museum hosts innovative festivals and events—the dynamic Singapore Heritage Festival and Singapore Night Festival—as well as art installations, performances and film screenings all year round, in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions that feature important artefact collections. 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's permanent galleries were revamped and re-opened in September 2015. Refreshed with updated stories and content on Singapore's history, the galleries recapture the nation's defining moments, challenges and achievements from its earliest beginnings 700 years ago to the independent, modern city-state it is today.

Come experience the National Museum and take another look at Singapore's history.

## Visitor Information

### GALLERY OPENING HOURS

10am to 7pm (last admission 6.30pm)

### ADMISSION

**Free admission for Citizens, Permanent Residents and visitors aged 6 years and below.**

Others	
Adults	\$15
Students & Seniors aged 60 and above with valid ID	\$10

Each ticket includes admission to the Main Exhibitions featured in this guide. Please present proof of eligibility to enjoy concessions. Tickets are available from the National Museum Visitor Services counter and SISTIC.

### GUIDED TOURS

Please enquire at the Visitor Services counter for guided tours on these galleries.

### WHEELCHAIR ACCESS & LOCKERS

Lifts provide easy access to galleries. Lockers are available for visitors' use.

### NATIONAL MUSEUM ONLINE

[nationalmuseum.sg](http://nationalmuseum.sg)

[National.Museum.of.Singapore](https://www.facebook.com/National.Museum.of.Singapore)

[natmuseum\\_sg](https://www.instagram.com/natmuseum_sg)

### FEEDBACK

Email us at [nhb\\_nm\\_corpcomms@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:nhb_nm_corpcomms@nhb.gov.sg)

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## Main Exhibitions

### Level 1 SINGAPORE HISTORY GALLERY



The Singapore History Gallery's updated narrative charts the development of the island as it was known through the years as Singapura, a Crown Colony, Syonan-To, and finally, Singapore. This gallery chronicles Singapore's journey from our earliest beginnings 700 years ago to the colonial days, to the Japanese Occupation and post-war struggles, and to the global city we enjoy today.

### Level 2 LIFE IN SINGAPORE: THE PAST 100 YEARS

Spanning the last 100 years, these four galleries present snapshots of everyday life through the different eras in Singapore's history. Discover how modern and progressive people were during the colonial times in the 1920s–1930s in the Modern Colony gallery. Gain a deeper appreciation for the resourcefulness and resilience of those who found hope and love in the Surviving Syonan gallery, which looks at the years of the Japanese Occupation. See the 1950–1960s through the eyes of a child growing up alongside the nation in the Growing Up gallery, which captures the dreams and aspirations of a generation. Self-expression and creativity take the front seat in Voices of Singapore, which explores how a new, confident, Singaporean identity emerged in the 1970–1980s.

### GOH SENG CHOO GALLERY: DESIRE AND DANGER



Discover the fine line between *Desire and Danger* at this stimulating exhibition at the Goh Seng Choo Gallery. Featuring creatures that arouse appetites and instil fear, and exotic plants sought for their ability to induce pleasure or pain, this selection of drawings from the *William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings* explores the complex and sometimes uneasy relationship between man and nature.

### GLASS ROTUNDA: STORY OF THE FOREST AND SINGAPORE, VERY OLD TREE

Opens 10 Dec 2016

The Singapore History Gallery will be enhanced by two new immersive art installations that will greet visitors before they enter the main gallery. The first work is a digital art installation inspired by the William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings, entitled *Story of the Forest*. Visitors will experience the treasured collection of the National Museum brought to life through a spectacular digital presentation, and be transported to 20th-century Malaya as viewed through the eyes of artists of that time and reimagined today by interdisciplinary art collective teamLab.

At the end of their multimedia journey, visitors will see a photography installation titled *Singapore, Very Old Tree* by Singaporean artist Robert Zhao that explores the discourse of nature in Singapore, before they continue to explore the Singapore History Gallery.



Artist impression of *Story of the Forest* by teamLab.

Basement

**WHAT IS NOT VISIBLE IS NOT INVISIBLE**

Exhibition Galleries | 7 Oct 2016 to 19 Feb 2017

Free admission for Citizens, Permanent Residents and visitors aged 6 years and below.



Installation shot of *What is Not Visible is Not Invisible*, 2008 by Julien Discrit.

*What is Not Visible is Not Invisible* broadly surveys the imaginary and the temporary through selected artworks from the Fonds Régional D'art Contemporain (FRAC) collection. The title and design of this exhibition take inspiration from the artwork of the same title by Julien Discrit.

The visual paradox initiated in this modest yet profound work sets the premise for the deep-seeded themes that resonate throughout the exhibition. The 40 artworks by 37 French and international artists navigate a transient journey through both the philosophical and the physical by means of unconventional approaches in art-making. Together, the artworks encourage the audience to interact with and explore the intangible, the emotional and the volatile relationship between the abstract, the organic and the structured.

*This exhibition is a parallel project of the Singapore Biennale 2016.*

Level 1

**ART OF THE REHEARSAL**

Gallery10 | From 10 Dec 2016

Free admission



Artist impression of *Art of the Rehearsal* by Sarah Choo Jing.

*Art of the Rehearsal* is a three-channel immersive video installation by multidisciplinary artist Sarah Choo Jing. This artwork depicts Singaporean dancers across various cultures practicing along the back lanes of cultural districts in the city. Reflecting on the rigorous and intense training behind the performance, the artist seeks to bring out the consistent determination of the performers. The emphasis of the installation work is on the process rather than on the final outcome.

*The dance performance in the video is presented by Apsaras Arts Ltd, Era Dance Theatre and Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Dance Theatre.*

**About Gallery10**

Gallery10 is an experimental space where the traditionally binary ideas of art and science are both celebrated and deconstructed, and their boundaries transcended and redefined to present an immersive, multi-disciplinary exploration of the world around us.

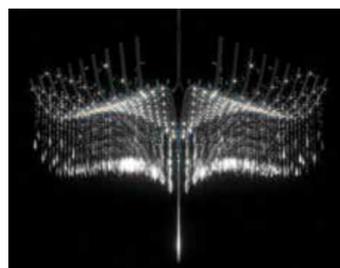
LEVEL 2

**WINGS OF A RICH MANOEUVRE**

Glass Atrium | From 1 Dec 2016

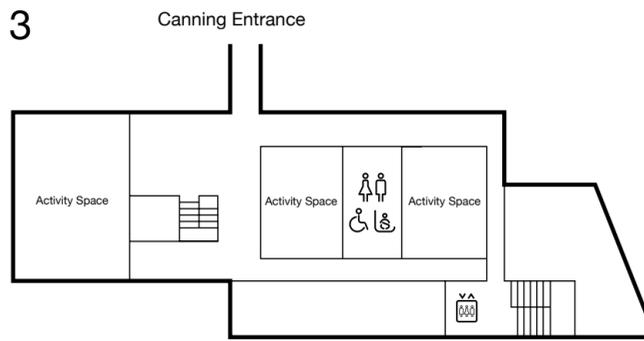
Free admission

*Wings of a Rich Manoeuvre* by homegrown artist Suzann Victor presents a chorus of eight kinetic chandeliers that "sing" with movement as they sway in a dramatic mid-air choreography of light. Each chandelier is constructed and shaped from stainless steel and studded with a sparkling array of precision-cut Swarovski crystals accentuated by LED light. Together, the chandeliers create breathtaking aerial calligraphy as they morph from one hypnotic pattern to another, high above the bridge linking the National Museum's original 19th-century colonial building with its modern futuristic glass wing.

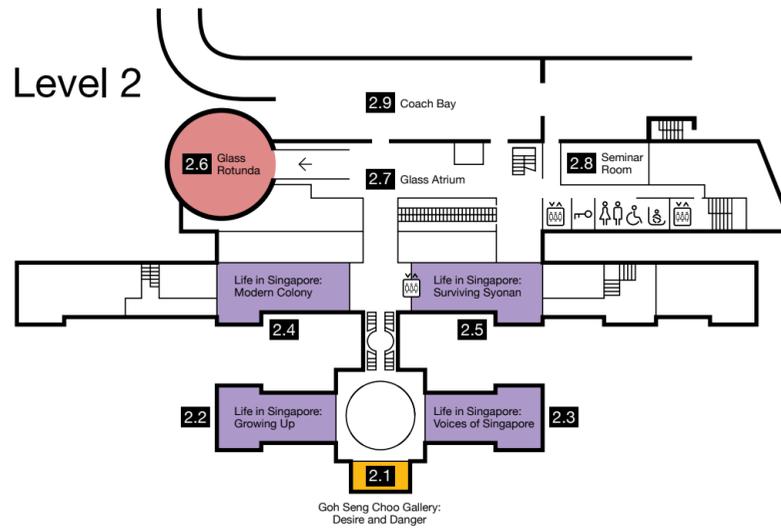


Artist impression of *Wings of a Rich Manoeuvre* by Suzann Victor. © Suzann Victor

Level 3

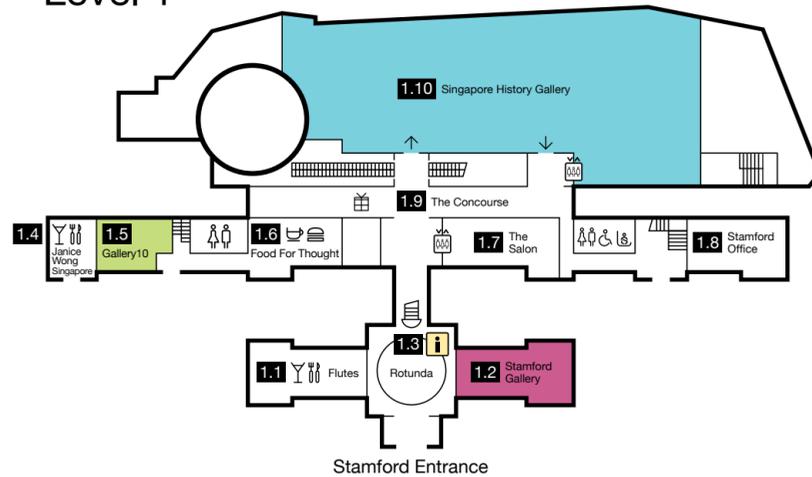


Level 2



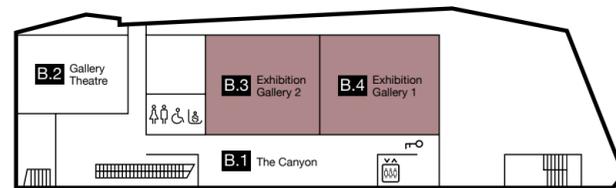
- 2.1 Goh Seng Choo Gallery: Desire and Danger
- 2.2 Life in Singapore: Growing Up
- 2.3 Life in Singapore: Voices of Singapore
- 2.4 Life in Singapore: Modern Colony
- 2.5 Life in Singapore: Surviving Syonan
- 2.6 Glass Rotunda
- 2.7 Glass Atrium
- 2.8 Seminar Room
- 2.9 Coach Bay

Level 1



- 1.1 Flutes
- 1.2 Stamford Gallery
- 1.3 Visitor Services
- 1.4 Janice Wong Singapore
- 1.5 Gallery10
- 1.6 Food For Thought
- 1.7 The Salon
- 1.8 Stamford Office
- 1.9 The Concourse
- 1.10 Singapore History Gallery

Basement



- B.1 The Canyon
- B.2 Gallery Theatre
- B.3 Exhibition Gallery 2
- B.4 Exhibition Gallery 1

- Visitor Services
- Gift Shop / Museum Label
- Restaurant
- Cafe
- Lift
- Restrooms
- Baby Changing Room
- Locker



**Museum Label**  
Mon – Sun, 10am – 6.30pm  
Tel (65) 6336 6387

Indulge in life's little pleasures at MUSEUM LABEL, the museum retail store operated by the National Heritage Board.



**Food For Thought at the National Museum of Singapore**

Mon – Sun, 10am – 7pm  
Tel (65) 6338 9887

Food For Thought at the National Museum of Singapore is all about bringing people together to share stories about this city we call home. A museum café filled with stories for young and old alike, Food For Thought balances nostalgia with innovation in its restaurant design and offers signature "Museum Special" dishes inspired by stories from the galleries. By creating possibilities for conversations about where Singapore came from, where she is now and where she wants to go, Food For Thought hopes to serve up some real food for thought along with your meal.



**Flutes**

Mon – Thu: 11.30am – 10pm (last orders)  
Fri: 11.30am – 10.30pm (last orders)  
Sat: 10am – 10.30pm (last orders)  
Sun: 10am – 4pm (last orders)  
Tel (65) 6338 8770  
flutes@flutes.com.sg | www.flutes.com.sg

Named as one of the "Top 101 Best Restaurants in Asia" in 2013, Flutes presents a modern European-inspired smart casual dining experience with a menu inspired by its rich heritage. Occupying the oldest section in the National Museum that was originally opened to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, Flutes brings fresh and exciting new flavours to their menu, layered with a modern twist and complemented with selections of award-winning wines from both the old and new worlds. From the stylish high-ceiling dining rooms to the relaxing *al fresco* area, Flutes offers diners an experience filled with possibilities.



**Janice Wong Singapore**

Mon – Sat: 11am – 11pm  
Sun: 11am – 6pm  
Tel (65) 9712 5338  
info@janicewong.com.sg | www.janicewong.com.sg

Achieving a balance of flavour, texture, temperature and aesthetics is Chef Janice's philosophy behind her sweet and savoury cuisines. Janice Wong Singapore delivers a unique experience offering savoury modern Chinese dishes focusing on flour, completing the experience with ten signature desserts from 2am: dessertbar such as Cassis Plum and Chocolate H2O. The restaurant's coffee and tea selections are uniquely blended and handcrafted by Janice, and diners can enjoy eight types of handcrafted teas such as toffee, popcorn, tea cola, creme brûlée and chocolate mint. There is also a retail section showcasing her confectionery creations, which include chocolate bon bons, mochis, chocolate paint and edible toys.