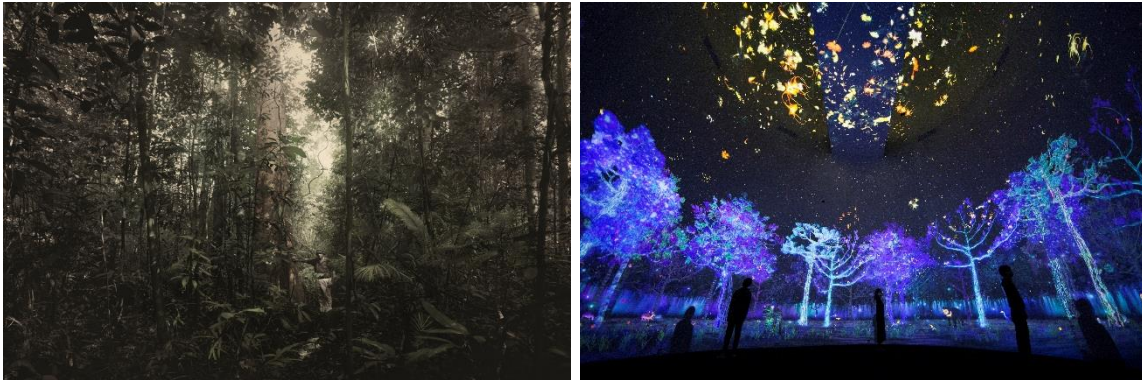


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Step into an enchanting world of flora and fauna at the National Museum's revamped Glass Rotunda



From Left: *Singapore, Very Old Tree* by Robert Zhao and *Story of the Forest* by teamLab

Singapore, 6 December 2016 – Come 10 December, visitors to the National Museum of Singapore will be able to embark on an exciting journey through a lush digital rainforest and get acquainted with beloved local trees right in the heart of the city, at the museum's revamped Glass Rotunda. As part of the final stage of the museum's revamp of its permanent galleries, the Glass Rotunda will reopen after two years of renovation works to showcase two new permanent installations – a commissioned work titled *Story of the Forest* by internationally renowned art collective teamLab , and the *Singapore, Very Old Tree* exhibit by acclaimed local photographer and artist, Robert Zhao.

“These two new installations at the revamped Glass Rotunda are inspired by the region's rich ecological heritage, and remind us of the museum's early beginnings almost 130 years ago. They also reflect how the National Museum is evolving and progressing, working with artists and partners to adopt innovative methods to offer our visitors new ways of looking at Singapore's social history and culture,” said Angelita Teo, Director of the National Museum of Singapore.

Be transported to a lush virtual landscape of flora and fauna in *Story of the Forest*

Upon entering the Glass Rotunda, visitors will be greeted by *Story of the Forest*, a larger-than-life interactive digital installation that will enthral visitors with the sights and sounds of Southeast Asia's dense tropical rainforests. Inspired by the National Museum of Singapore's prized collection – *The William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings* – the installation utilises cutting-edge technology to transform 69 drawings from the collection into animated illustrations, which will come to life and interact with visitors as they make their way down the Glass Rotunda.

“Due to the massive size and scale of the Glass Rotunda, this is by far the most challenging digital artwork installation created by teamLab to date. Our team was immensely inspired by the intricate drawings from the William Farquhar Collection while conceptualising this ground-breaking installation, and we are excited to present it to visitors from Singapore and around the world here at the National Museum. We believe that this will be an unforgettable experience for everyone,” said founder of teamLab, Toshiyuki Inoko.

With a ceiling measuring 15m high and a 170m passage that stretches down to the base of the Glass Rotunda, *Story of the Forest* is divided into three distinct segments. At the upper rotunda, visitors will be greeted by a constellation of flora that cascade endlessly from the top of the dome structure. As they journey down the passage, visitors will encounter various fauna such as an animated Malayan Tapir or a mousedeer interacting with and guiding them down the path. The installation concludes at the lower rotunda, where visitors will be able to witness flora such as the palmyra palm and the lotus flower, which are native to the region, bloom before their eyes, and native fruits such as the durian, mangosteen and rambutan as they fall from the trees. Those visiting the installation can enjoy this magnificent visual while lounging on SoftRock Living bean bags.

To enhance the visitor experience at *Story of the Forest*, a mobile application will present visitors with the added option to go on “hunts” to “capture” the different flora and fauna that call the Glass Rotunda home. Upon successfully “capturing” these animals with their phone's camera function, visitors will be rewarded with valuable insight into the illustrations from the William Farquhar collection which inspired the creation of these digital animations, providing them with both an immersive and educational experience. It is available for download for free on the [App Store](#) and [Google Play](#).

Tracing our roots with iconic trees at the *Singapore, Very Old Tree* exhibit

At the bottom of the Glass Rotunda, visitors will encounter the *Singapore, Very Old Tree* exhibit by renowned local photographer and artist, Robert Zhao. Inspired by one of the oldest postcards found in the National Archives of Singapore depicting an unspecified tree dating back to the year 1904, the set of 30 images from the project have been acquired by the National Museum of Singapore and are the newest additions to the National Collection. The *Singapore, Very Old Tree* exhibit will showcase 17 images out of the 30 that have been acquired, highlighting intimate stories of each and giving visitors an alternative perspective of Singapore's history and the personal connections that Singaporeans have with our local trees.

"It is heartening to see that the collection of 30 images from the *Singapore, Very Old Tree* project have found a permanent home at the National Museum of Singapore," said Robert Zhao, "Trees are breathing markers of history and are monuments that embody a special meaning in the nation's collective and individual experiences. We hope that this exhibit will spark conversations and stories about home and belonging."

Both *Story of the Forest* and *Singapore, Very Old Tree* offer museum-goers the option of beginning their experience of the Singapore History Gallery from the Glass Rotunda. Together, the revamped Glass Rotunda and the updated permanent galleries provide an overview of Singapore's history, from a small fishing village to the bustling modern metropolis it is today.

Specially for the opening weekend, visitors will enjoy free admission to the Glass Rotunda and permanent galleries on 10 and 11 December. There will also be a line-up of family friendly activities for a weekend of fun for all. The Glass Rotunda is open 10am to 7pm daily. For more information, refer to the Editor's Notes or visit www.nationmuseum.sg

In addition, the Patek Philippe "Farquhar Collection" Dome table clock donated by The Hour Glass Limited in 2015 will be on display at the Glass Rotunda. Proceeds from the auction of the clock have gone to the revamp of the Glass Rotunda.

This project would not have been possible without the generous support of Patek Philippe, The Hour Glass, Panasonic Business, and Broadcast Professional Pte. Ltd.

For media queries, please contact:

Tengku Nur Mariam
Account Manager
Tate Anzur
tengku.mariam@tateanzur.com
+65 6221 3808 / +65 9650 9027

Sherman Wong
Associate
Tate Anzur
sherman.wong@tateanzur.com
+6221 5651 / +65 9147 6300

About the 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. 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.

Story of the Forest is

Supported by



Official Projection Partner



Official System Integration Partner



Presented by



An Institution of



Supported by

