

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Discover Multi-Dimensional Works  
& New Synergies at S.E.A. Focus 2024**

- *Expect more large-scale and off-the-wall works with a blend of both traditional and digital media*
- *Bank of Singapore comes on board as Main Sponsor*



*Apichatpong Weerasethakul, "A Conversation with the Sun (Installation)", 2022, installation view at BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY. Courtesy of the artist and gallery.*

**Singapore, 27 December 2023** – The sixth edition of S.E.A. Focus running from 20 to 28 January 2024 promises a compelling showing of the best works from Southeast Asia, coupled with the welcoming of Bank of Singapore as Main Sponsor. Visitors can expect to see more large-scale works and installations, including a designated screening room featuring artists' video works, all within the walls of the exhibition ground at Tanjong Pagar Distripark.



Commissioned by the National Arts Council, Singapore (NAC) as a key event in the Singapore Art Week (SAW) calendar, this expanded scale is backed by the support of many stakeholders and partners, both new and returning. For the first time, **Bank of Singapore** comes on board as Main Sponsor for S.E.A. Focus 2024.

“Bank of Singapore is proud to sponsor this extraordinary art platform celebrating Southeast Asia’s rich cultural heritage and artistic diversity. By contributing to the region’s flourishing arts scene through our sponsorship of S.E.A. Focus, we hope to foster and cultivate creativity, providing a unique opportunity for diverse artists to showcase their talents,” expressed Jason Moo, Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Singapore.

With much to anticipate is also the fresh spin that first-time S.E.A. Focus curator John Tung puts to this leading Southeast Asian contemporary art platform, where an assembly of works from 22 galleries and over 40 artists from the region will be presented to an international audience. Themed *Serial and Massively Parallel*, the showcase explores the interplay between humanity and technology in this increasingly digital age through art pieces that contemplate the human distinctiveness in creativity, artistic expression and the experience of art.

### **A rich, regional tapestry**

A key highlight of the exhibition is the staging of “A Conversation with the Sun (Installation)” – the brainchild of acclaimed Thai artist and auteur **Apichatpong Weerasethakul** – by BANGKOK CITYCITY GALLERY for the first time in Singapore. This interdisciplinary artistic endeavour will encompass a video installation with large moving curtain backdrops, mechanised by the design team of DuckUnit. It features the self-documentation of the artist’s life and the interesting conversations he had with Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated spectres of prominent figures and entities, including the Sun.





Another must-see masterpiece is “Traces of Historical Journey” by revered Indonesian artist **FX Harsono** (Baik Art), a 2.5-metre long installation of a boat with LED neon flex, embroidered textile, old wood carvings and filled with red electric candles.

Visitors to the exhibition can also spend uninterrupted time at the designated screening room to view the video works of artists like **Wu Chi-Yu** from Taiwan (TKG+) and **Anida Yoeu Ali** from Cambodia (Wei-Ling Gallery).

### **Springboard for Southeast Asian artists**

Central to S.E.A. Focus' commitment is the support for younger Southeast Asian artists and their practices, leveraging its position as a conduit and platform that propels artists onto the international stage. Some of these emerging artists to watch at S.E.A. Focus 2024 include **Alexander Sebastianus Hartanto** from Indonesia (ISA Art Gallery) who is showing a pentptych of batik prints on pixelated archived photographs that beg a closer look; **Goldie Poblador** from the Philippines (MONO8) who is presenting a body of captivating blown glass works; and Singaporean artist **Aiman** (Art Porters Gallery), whose series of paintings depicts dynamic landscapes with a delicate balance of both pristine grandeur and underlying chaos.

Sharing the same dedication, **Sàn Art** – a non-profit, independent artist-led space from Ho Chi Minh City – joins S.E.A. Focus for the first time. Co-founded by internationally acclaimed Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê in 2007, it has now grown into a leading arts organisation in the region supporting critical discourse, educational initiatives and artistic experiments.

The recognition of the region's artistic talents doubles down at S.E.A. Focus with the second iteration of the **SAM S.E.A. Focus Art Fund**, an initiative that kickstarted in 2023 with the support of founding sponsor, the Yenn and Alan Lo Foundation. For this edition, Mami Kataoka, Director of Tokyo's Mori Art Museum, has been invited as guest juror alongside two other representatives from Singapore Art Museum (SAM) to identify notable pieces to be added to the SAM collection.



## Exploring more facets of the region's art landscape

Complementing the main exhibition is the signature **SEAspotlight Talks**, a curated series of conversations by art professionals and thought leaders. The line-up dovetails with the curatorial theme and looks at efforts in the region to create, critique, curate and collect art in the current landscape. Among the speakers will also include artists such as Yee I-Lann (Silverlens), Heri Dono (The Columns Gallery) and Dinh Q. Lê (STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery).

Another returning programme is **OFF Focus**, a film screening programme which will be hosted at The Projector's newly-opened space at Cineleisure Orchard. Curated by **Objectifs – Centre for Photography and Film**, ticket-goers will be treated to a continuous screening of 9 short films created by renowned Thai artist-filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul on 21 January. These films reflect and ponder about humanity and our consciousness – some of which are rarely featured in Singapore. The screening will be bookended with an online Q&A with the artist himself.

"This is the second year that Objectifs is partnering with S.E.A. Focus for OFF Focus, where we continue our dedication to showcase Southeast Asian art and film. As one of the most original voices in contemporary cinema, Apichatpong Weerasethakul needs no introduction to the film and art world. We are extremely elated to present a series of short films for this upcoming screening, selected by Apichatpong himself. It will be an experience for the audience to encounter these films," said Leong Puiyee, curator for OFF Focus 2024 and Assistant Programme Director at Objectifs.

## Expanding the reach globally

The strategic partnership continues with Artsy, the largest global online marketplace for buying, selling and discovering art by leading artists. It provides a unique opportunity for exhibiting galleries to showcase and promote their artists' artworks to Artsy's global audience online. Collectors can also experience S.E.A. Focus 2024 on Artsy to discover artists, save favourite





works, view works on their home walls using the AR mobile tool and directly purchase work from galleries – all at the click of a button.

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S.E.A. Focus 2024 runs from 20 to 28 January 2024 at 39 Keppel Road, Tanjong Pagar Distripark. Tickets are on sale at SGD10 and accessible via [www.seafocus.sg](http://www.seafocus.sg). Each ticket is valid for multiple entries.

Tickets for “OFF Focus” on 21 January 2024 are priced at SGD8 and available for purchase on [www.theprojector.sg/seafocus](http://www.theprojector.sg/seafocus).

For the full line-up and other information and updates on S.E.A. Focus 2024, please visit [www.seafocus.sg](http://www.seafocus.sg).

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**For media enquiries, high-res photos and interviews, please reach out to:**  
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Information and high-res images of featured artworks may be downloaded [here](#).



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### **About S.E.A. Focus**

S.E.A. Focus is a leading showcase of contemporary art from Southeast Asia. It aims to bring together a fine curation of established and emerging artistic talents to foster a deeper appreciation of contemporary art and artists in the region. A meeting point for artistic vision and vigour, S.E.A. Focus provides a platform that propels diverse cultural exchanges and provokes dialogue about Southeast Asian art, affirming its unique role as an art market hub.

S.E.A. Focus is an anchor event of the Singapore Art Week, an initiative led by STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery and commissioned by the National Arts Council, Singapore.

### **About STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery**

STPI is a dynamic creative workshop and contemporary art gallery based in Singapore. Established in 2002, STPI is a not-for-profit organisation committed to promoting artistic experimentation in the mediums of print and paper and has become one of the most cutting-edge destinations for contemporary art in Asia. STPI sits alongside National Gallery Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum as part of the national Visual Arts Cluster of leading institutions in the region.

### **About Singapore Art Week**

As Singapore's signature visual arts season, Singapore Art Week (SAW) represents the vibrant arts community in Singapore.

From 19 to 28 January 2024, SAW will present an array of over 130 art events featuring new works and transnational collaborations across the island and online. In its 12th edition, the ten-day celebration of the visual arts will showcase two dynamic art fairs, S.E.A. Focus and ART SG; the Southeast Asian premier of The VH Awards exhibition; a diverse range of practices that will present new ways of living and sharing; as well as a vibrant Light to Night in the Civic District. SAW is a nexus for creative collaborations and audiences can look forward





to an exciting line-up of art experiences at our museums, galleries, independent art spaces and public spaces, and enjoy enriching discussions, talks, walks and tours.

SAW 2024, a celebration of Singapore's visual arts landscape, is helmed by the National Arts Council (NAC).

### **About Bank of Singapore**

Bank of Singapore is the dedicated private banking subsidiary of OCBC. Backed by OCBC's strong credit ratings of Aa1 by Moody's and AA- by both Fitch and S&P, it offers a unique value proposition as a safe Singapore-registered private bank.

Its open-architecture product platform backed by strong research capabilities provides clients with first-class private banking and bespoke wealth planning solutions. It is also able to leverage OCBC Bank's capabilities to extend its clients a broad array of services across the OCBC's regional and international network.

Bank of Singapore serves high net worth individuals and wealthy families in its key markets of Asia, Greater China, the Indian subcontinent and other international markets.

Headquartered in Singapore, Bank of Singapore has branches in Hong Kong and DIFC, with a representative office in Manila. In Europe, the bank serves clients through BOS Wealth Management Europe Société Anonyme (S.A.) which is headquartered in Luxembourg and has a London office. In Malaysia, it serves its clients through BOS Wealth Management Malaysia Berhad. Its strong performance has won it numerous industry recognitions. Bank of Singapore was named Best Overall Asia Private Bank by WealthBriefing Asia and World's Best for ESG Investing by Euromoney in 2023.

For more information, please visit [www.bankofsingapore.com](http://www.bankofsingapore.com).







## About Artsy

[Artsy](#) is the largest global online marketplace for discovering, buying, and selling fine art by leading artists. Artsy connects 4,000+ galleries, auction houses, art fairs, and institutions from 100+ countries with more than 2 million global art collectors and art lovers from 190+ countries. Artsy makes purchasing art welcoming, transparent, and low-friction with industry-leading technology that connects supply and demand safely and securely at a global scale. Launched in 2012, Artsy is headquartered in New York City with offices in London, Berlin, and Hong Kong.

