

Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ArtScience Museum presents the season of *Art and Science of Photography*

*Three international exhibitions and complementary
programming set to inspire visitors*

Singapore (05 August, 2014) – From 22 August, ArtScience Museum will bring visitors on a journey to explore the world of photography through the Art and Science lens. Presenting the season of *Art and Science of Photography*, the museum will be hosting three unique photography exhibitions that allow visitors to capture the artists' distinctive takes on cultural and social developments.

“Photography is the perfect combination of art and science where the artist conveys his world views through technology. The proliferation of smartphones and software applications has made taking photos a big part of our lives. Through this season, we hope to inspire our visitors with the stories behind the photographers' works and to explore the artistic approaches used to present their views. Complementing the season is a series of guided tours, workshops and symposium to raise the appreciation of photography,” said Ms. Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

ArtScience Museum is a key venue of the 4th Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) hosting two exhibitions – *Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography* and *An Ocean of Possibilities*. The ongoing *Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005* rounds up the trio of photography exhibitions.

“We are excited to partner ArtScience Museum in the biggest ever SIPF this year. SIPF stays true to its mission in breaking new ground for photography in Singapore, continuing to promote ingenious collaborative showcases which we can share with all photography enthusiasts in the region,” said Ms. Gwen Lee, Director of SIPF.

***Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography*
22 August – 2 November 2014**

Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography is a specially curated exhibition showcasing the works of both well-established as well as emerging Chinese photographers. For the first time ever, seven Chinese contemporary artists - Wang Qing Song, Yang Yongliang, Wei Bi, Zhang Dali, Liu Xiaofang, Maleonn (Ma Liang) and Wang Ningde – will be exhibiting together under one roof. The exhibition, comprising over 60

photographs, highlights each artist's individualistic artistic approach and personal experience of China's modernisation process.

Their body of work features issues such as globalisation, environmental crisis, population displacement and state propaganda. The works of Liu Xiaofang and Maleonn, for example, reflect their fantasies, childhood memories, unfulfilled dreams as well as desires. WeiBi's photographs highlight the simple charms of communal village life while Yang Yongliang creates futuristic panoramas that bridge tradition and modernity.

Please refer to Appendix I for information on the seven artists.

An Ocean of Possibilities

31 October - 28 December 2014

An Ocean of Possibilities is an international open call partnership between SIPF and the renowned Noorderlicht International Photofestival in Netherlands.

Featuring approximately 250 photos by 30 artists from 20 countries, *An Ocean of Possibilities* comprises curated individual series that focus on social developments. The exhibition turns the spotlight on the people who challenge themselves in search of unconventionalities to plot their own course and change the status quo. They may be individuals, small communities and businesses who set out to realise a better future, not only for themselves but also for others.

The exhibition will be presented at ArtScience Museum after the Noorderlicht International Photofestival.

Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005

Now – 19 October 2014

Rounding up the exhibition component for the photography season at ArtScience Museum is the ongoing *Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005*. Featuring close to 200 photographs, the exhibition provides a unified narrative of Annie Leibovitz's private life against the backdrop of her public image. At the heart of the exhibition is the personal memoir of Annie Leibovitz, documenting a particular timeframe within her life, including the loss of close relations, birth and childhood of her three daughters, family vacations, reunions, and close friends.

Programming during the Season

The *Art and Science of Photography* season would not be complete without a series of interactive activities to enhance the experience of all photography enthusiasts. Visitors can choose to join the complimentary guided tours for the exhibitions - *Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography and Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005*, or watch the *Darkroom Developments* demonstration, where the process of developing negatives from 35mm film is presented by a professional photographer. They

can also learn to develop photographs using traditional darkroom techniques and equipment at the *From Negative to Print* workshop. In conjunction with the 4th edition of SIFP, talks and symposiums will also be organised as part of the season. More information on the programming will be available at a later date.

Visitors can enjoy an exclusive free preview of *Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography* on 21 August during *ArtScience Late*, the museum's one-night only free monthly performances. Season pass tickets to the three photography exhibitions at ArtScience Museum are available for sale at ArtScience Museum Box Office from 6 August to 19 October 2014. *Please refer to Appendix II below for more ticketing information.*

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is known as the museum that celebrates creativity, the processes at the heart of art and science, and their role in shaping society. The museum seeks to understand what drives creative people, how they acquire and use their skills, and how the world around us is changed because of it. ArtScience Museum presents exhibitions and programmes to deliver these stories using a combination of beautiful design, intriguing content and intellectual discussion, in order to inspire the creativity in all of us.

Featuring 21 gallery spaces totaling 50,000 square feet, the boldly iconic lotus-inspired ArtScience Museum is also the premier venue for major international touring exhibitions from the most renowned collections in the world. Since it opened in 2011, ArtScience Museum has been home to some of the best-attended exhibitions in Singapore, including "*Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition*", "*Harry Potter: The Exhibition*", "*Andy Warhol: 15 Minutes Eternal*", "*Dali: Mind of a Genius*", "*The Art of the Brick*" and "*Mummy: Secrets of the Tomb*". Recent exhibitions include "*Essential Eames: A Herman Miller Exhibition*", "*The Little Black Jacket*" and "*Dinosaurs: Dawn to Extinction*". "*Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005*" is currently showing at ArtScience Museum.

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands was awarded TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence in 2013. This recognition places the museum amid a select group of attractions that have been recognised by worldwide travelers for providing outstanding tourist experiences.

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About Singapore International Photography Festival (SIFP)

Singapore International Photography Festival (SIFP) is a biennial gathering of minds from around the world with the common pursuit to advance the art and appreciation of photography. It aims to be a much needed arena for critical thought and academic discourse on photography in Southeast Asia. SIFP will also function as



a key platform to discover, nurture, and propel Southeast Asian photographers onto the international stage. Through its satellite programmes, the festival hopes to engage the public and cultivate a larger audience. At the core of SIFP is a firm belief that photography can be enjoyed by all.

www.sipf.sg

www.facebook.com/thesipf

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For Images (Expiring on 04 September 2014):

<https://www.hightail.com/download/ZUcwbGtMTERTRTYwYjhUQw> (Credits to the respective photographers)

Appendix I – Highlighted works from *Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography*

1) Wang Qing Song

A son of oilfield workers in Daqing, Heilongjiang, Wang Qing Song (b. 1966) spent his teenage years working on a drilling platform. In his free time, he took art classes before being accepted by the prestigious Sichuan Fine Arts Institute, where he trained as an oil painter. Soon after graduating in the mid-1990s, he gained recognition through his membership in the Gaudy Art group, a movement championed by influential Chinese art critic Li Xianting. This movement was renowned for merging folk art and kitsch as a critique on the culture of mass production and consumerism. In 1997, Wang began using photography as a means to document and comment on the economic and social changes sweeping through China. One of the most recognised artists in staged photography, Wang's works have been showcased in more than 20 solo exhibitions and over 80 group exhibitions at various international platforms including the Sydney Biennale, the Getty Museum, and the Mori Art Museum.

2) Yang Yongliang

Born in an era of relative peace and material comfort, Yang Yongliang (b. 1980) stands at the forefront of a new wave of emerging Chinese contemporary artists fluent in the visual vocabulary of digital technology and the World Wide Web. His artistic practice is built upon a passion to rejuvenate traditional forms of art such as Chinese painting, which he feels has been driven into near extinction by recent transformations in society and belief systems. From young, he learned traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy techniques. He studied at the Shanghai Art and Design Academy where he specialised in decoration and design. In 1999, he enrolled into the China Academy of Art, Visual Communication Department, Shanghai branch; and eventually launched his career as a New Media artist in 2005. Yang has participated in solo and group exhibitions internationally and in Shanghai where he currently lives and works.

3) Zhang Dali

Zhang Dali (b. 1963) studied at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Beijing. Born in Harbin, China, he continues to live and practise his art in his hometown. He draws inspiration from the frenetic urban pace and swirling flux of daily life, and the people around him. Zhang's art is often an emotive response to his environment. He works across a wide variety of media – from urban art to archiving photographs of Chairman Mao Zedong and large scale installations documenting contemporary social history. Zhang often uses his body of work to highlight the growing divide between poverty and wealth as well as the rapid development of China. He has shown his works internationally including the International Centre for Photography, New York and the Gwangju Biennale, Korea.

4) Maleonn (Ma Liang)

Maleonn (b. 1972), the son of an opera director and an actress, was encouraged at an early age to express his creativity. He fell in love with painting and pursued formal art training at Shanghai University, and at Shanghai Huashan Art School where he specialised in graphic design. Before becoming an artist, Maleonn worked as an art director in advertising, and as a director of commercial films. It was then that he honed and mastered skills and techniques in stagecraft. This experience is clearly visible in the surreal and cinematic aesthetics that define his creative practice. One of China's best known 'dream maker', Maleonn's repertoire of surrealist photographic artworks are at once witty, whimsical and sometimes macabre. Rooted in the central themes of modernity and the Chinese identity, Maleonn's works have been extensively exhibited worldwide. He lives and works in Shanghai.

5) Wei Bi

Wei Bi (b. 1969) is a self-taught artist whose practice is largely autobiographical. He had only six to seven years of education and did not complete college. However, since young, Wei Bi exhibited a keen inclination towards art; he loved to write and practise Chinese calligraphy. For close to 13 years, Wei Bi worked at a publishing and printing factory in Shenzhen. Here, he came in contact with photography while overseeing the printing of the renowned and influential *Chinese Contemporary Photography* magazine. In time to come, he met and befriended numerous photographers, among who were Li Mei and Wang Ningde who both greatly inspired him. He started photography using the Nikon FM2, a traditional film camera. Wei Bi's first breakthrough as an artist came in 2003 after he gained widespread recognition at the Pingyao International Photography Exhibition. He lives and works in Dalian and continues to participate in international group shows.

6) Liu Xiao Fang

Liu Xiaofang (b.1980) is a graduate of the Department of Photography, Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing. Liu creates photographs with a dream-like aesthetic that draws upon her memories of childhood and poetic contemplation of the world around her. Her delicate and seemingly utopian sceneries blur the boundaries between the real and the imagined, leaving her audience to question their own assumptions about truth and reality. In 2010, she was among the select few to be named *Most Promising Contemporary Photographers* by Musée de l'Elysée in Lausanne, Switzerland; and participated in the travelling exhibition *reGeneration2: Tomorrow's Photographers Today*. Liu has exhibited in group shows worldwide including China, Japan and Switzerland.

7) Wang Ning De

Wang Ningde (b. 1972) was born in Liaoning province, China, and graduated from the department of photography at Lu Xun Academy of Art in 1995. He initially worked as a photojournalist for almost 10 years, before returning to his hometown to embark on his *Some Days* series, which lasted nearly a decade. Drawing from a vast repertoire of memories, many formed with the eye of a photojournalist, and combined with his experiences of

childhood and traditional family life, the artist delved beyond social façades to scrutinise serious issues at the personal or societal levels. At the core of Wang's practice is the desire to portray the tension between a homeland in perpetual throes of change and a nation dogged by memories of the Cultural Revolution. He currently lives and works in Shenzhen and Guangzhou.

Appendix II - Ticket pricing

Art & Science of Photography	Category	Standard price	Singapore Residents'
Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005 Until 19 October 2014	Adult	\$15	\$13
	Senior (65 & above)	\$14	\$12
	Child (2-12 years)	\$9	\$8
Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography* 22 August - 2 November 2014	Adult	\$6	\$5
	Senior (65 & above)	\$6	\$5
	Child (2-12 years)	\$3	\$2
An Ocean of Possibilities** 31 October - 28 December 2014	Adult	\$6	\$5
	Senior (65 & above)	\$6	\$5
	Child (2-12 years)	\$3	\$2
Season Pass*** Includes single entry into: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Leibovitz A Photographer's Life 1990-2005 • Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography • An Ocean of Possibilities 	Adult	\$23	\$18
	Senior (65 & above)	\$22	\$17
	Child (2-12 years)	\$13	\$10

* Ticket sale to Flux Realities: A Showcase of Chinese Contemporary Photography will start on 22 August 2014.

** Ticket sale to An Ocean of Possibilities will start on 1 October 2014.

*** Season Pass tickets will be available for sale at ArtScience Museum Box office from 6 August till 19 October 2014.