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*Image: Dek Oey Dek Dee, 2014 by Thai artist, Tawan Wattuya*

## ***2016 Prudential Eye Awards exhibition sees strongest Southeast Asian representation***

*Works by 15 artists explore unique themes of  
Asian history, culture, and environment*

**Singapore** (15 January 2016) – Returning to ArtScience Museum for the second year is the *Prudential Eye Awards* exhibition, which will run from tomorrow to 27 March 2016. A marquee event of the Singapore Art Week, the exhibition showcases a diverse range of works from 15 shortlisted artists for the *2016 Prudential Eye Awards*, with the strongest Southeast Asia representation since the inception of the awards in 2014.

Representing a selection of the best emerging contemporary art in Greater Asia, the *Prudential Eye Awards* shortlist includes three Thai artists for the first time: **Tawan Wattuya** ('**Best Emerging Artist Using Painting**'), **Sutthirat Supaparinya** and **Anupong Charoenmitr** ('**Best Emerging Artist Using Digital/Video Work**'). They have all displayed in various solo and group art exhibitions in Thailand and internationally. Their representing artworks reflect on issues of industrialisation and globalisation that are familiar to many Asian audiences.

'*When Need Moves the Earth*' by **Sutthirat Supaparinya** captures the consequences of a coal mine and a water dam used to generate electricity, encouraging viewers to reflect on the high consumption of electrical power, and raises the question on how societies can improve its sustainability planning.

Representing Vietnam in the same category is independent filmmaker and video artist **Trinh Thi Nguyen** with the essay film '*Letters from Panduranga*'. The artwork was inspired by the Vietnamese government building the country's first two nuclear power plants in Ninh Thuan, right at the spiritual heart of the Cham people, threatening the survival of this ancient matriarchal Hindu culture that stretches back almost 2,000 years. The film reflects on the legacy of war and colonisation history of Vietnam, and this is also the first time that a Vietnamese artist has ever been nominated at the *Prudential Eye Awards*.

Also reflective and critical of environmental and war issues are the artworks from Bangladeshi artists **Shumon Ahmed** and **Promotesh Das**, who are also the first artists representing Bangladesh at the prestigious awards. **Shumon Ahmed's** series of photographs – '*Metal Graves*' depicts the ugly environmental effects at the world's second biggest ship-breaking industry. The broken ships in their metal graves embody nostalgia for a lost past, and a disregard for environmental contamination fueled by urban growth and industrialisation.

**Promotesh Das'** series of sculptures are imbued with a sense of tenderness and horror, juxtaposing beautiful shola flowers with war equipment and artefacts. The common thread of war imagery running through is also evident in Cambodian artist **Sareth Svay's** sculptures. Using black rubber sandals as metaphors of corrupted communism, the installation communicates the painful memories of the people of Cambodia that have resulted from tragedy they have experienced in the war.

Niru Ratnam, Director of Prudential Eye Awards said: "I believe that the shortlist for this edition of the Prudential Eye Awards is the strongest so far with artists from established art regions in Asia being joined by artists from new art worlds such as Bangladesh and Cambodia. The artists explore some serious themes but also produce beautiful work. The exhibition of their works will show the real depth of talent that is emerging across Asia at the moment."

Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum said: "ArtScience Museum is delighted to bring together some of the region's most exciting artists in an exhibition of provocative artworks which will challenge visitors' perspectives on contemporary topics ranging from environmentalism, to the impact of conflict, to industrial development. Our intention is for this show to stimulate conversations among artists and audiences in Asia and beyond. We are pleased to support Prudential Eye Awards in creating this platform for exchange, and this will be a key part of our ongoing work to support the vibrancy of Singapore's visual art ecosystem."



Sean Rach, Chief Marketing Officer, Prudential Corporation Asia said, "Prudential has a long heritage of supporting contemporary art and we are proud to be hosting the *Prudential Eye Awards* in Singapore for the third consecutive year. All of these artists provide a unique view into the heart and soul of this dynamic and vibrant region, and we hope these Awards will help them gain greater international acclaim while further raising global awareness and appreciation of Asian contemporary arts and culture."

This two-and-a-half month public exhibition is part of the *Prudential Eye Awards 2016* which will take place at MasterCard Theatres - Sands Theatre at Marina Bay Sands on Tuesday 19 January 2016.

The third edition of the awards features 10 prizes with 5 categories of Best Emerging Artists, using mediums such as digital/video, installation, painting, sculpture and photography. The winner chosen for the coveted 'Overall Best Emerging Artist' earns the opportunity to hold a solo exhibition at START Art Fair held at the renowned Saatchi Gallery in London. Sponsored by Prudential, a leading life insurer in Asia, the Awards is a major component of the *Prudential Eye Programme*, an initiative aimed at nurturing artistic talent, and will be supported by a Catalogue produced by SKIRA. The digital/video and photography categories are presented by LG Electronics.

### **Programming Highlights**

Complementing this year's *Prudential Eye Awards* exhibition is a series of complimentary public guided tours, workshops and an exclusive conversations series with some of the artists. These activities aim to deepen audiences' engagement with the displayed artworks, by facilitating discussion and exploration of the stories behind them.

Also presented exclusively during the opening weekend is the Conversations programme: '*The Artist and I*'. Audiences will have the opportunity to hear selected artists from the *Prudential Eye Awards 2016* shortlist share how their personal experiences are expressed in their art form, and how perspectives on current affairs influence their art and choice of medium.

ArtScience Museum is also presenting a series of '*Fun with Photogram*' workshops for aspiring artists. The public can learn how to create photographic images without the use of a camera, and learn basic darkroom techniques to develop photograms using traditional print photography methods.

Event	Date and timings	Venue	Description	Remarks
<b>Public Guided Tours</b>	22 Jan, 3.30pm - 4.30pm  16, 17, 23 & 31 Jan, 11.30am  24 & 30 Jan, 5pm	Exhibition entrance, Level 3	Go inside out on Contemporary Art! Ask questions, and in turn reflect on ours when you join our tour of the artworks on display at Singapore Eye. An excellent opportunity for exploration and discussion on the stories behind them.	Complimentary to ticket-holders. Up to 25 visitors on a first come first served basis. Stickers will be given out five minutes before tour begins.
<b>Conversations: The Artist and I</b>	Saturday, 16 Jan 2pm - 4pm	Expression Gallery, L4	Join us in this exclusive <i>Conversations: The Artist and I</i> where artists from <i>Prudential Eye Awards 2016</i> shortlist share how their personal experiences are expressed in their art form and how perspectives on current affairs influence their art and choice of medium.	Free. Register in the lobby.
<b>Fun with Photogram</b>	22 Jan , 4.30pm - 5.30pm  17 & 31 Jan 3.30pm - 4.30pm	Education Space, B1	Participants get to create photograms (photographic images created without the use of a camera) in a darkroom setting, and learn basic darkroom techniques and develop photograms using traditional print photography methods.  Recommended for visitors 6 years old and up.	Up to 20 participants on a first come first served basis. Registration begins 15 minutes before workshop begins. Meeting point at Lobby. Free admission.

Tickets to the exhibition are available at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and ticketing portal <http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/>. Admission to the Awards ceremony is complimentary, and tickets can be redeemed at <http://www.marinabaysands.com/entertainment.html>

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### **About the Prudential Eye Awards**

The Prudential Eye Awards were launched in 2014 by the Global Eye Programme, a partnership between Prudential, Parallel Contemporary Art and the Saatchi Gallery. The annual awards focus on emerging artists from across Greater Asia and highlight the breadth, range and diversity of the works being made by emerging Asian artists. In partnership with the Saatchi Gallery they enable the work of these artists to reach audiences and receive international exposure. The Awards ceremony of the third edition of the Prudential Eye Awards will take place in Singapore on 19 January 2016. [www.prudentialeyeawards.com](http://www.prudentialeyeawards.com)

### **About Prudential Eye Programme**

Established in 2008 by David and Serenella Ciclitira and sponsored by the region's leading life insurer and asset manager Prudential, the Prudential Eye Programme is an initiative that nurtures artistic talent. The programme aims to develop arts infrastructure in territories where this is lacking, in order to provide artists with the platforms, support and recognition they need to develop their careers. It works to build networks and opportunities for artists and galleries through strategic partnerships and a variety of platforms.

Previous projects from the Prudential Eye Programme include Korean Eye (2009 to 2012), Indonesian Eye (2011), Hong Kong Eye (2013), Prudential Malaysian Eye (2014), Prudential Singapore Eye (2015): a series of international touring exhibitions and publications providing emerging Asian artists with opportunities to showcase their work. To date, the programme has held 23 exhibitions worldwide, which have been viewed by over two million people.

In January 2014, the Prudential Eye Programme launched the *Prudential Eye Awards* in Singapore, honouring the accomplishments of emerging artists throughout greater Asia and launching a creative education programme with the British Council. The exhibition accompanying the second edition of *Prudential Eye Awards* will concurrently with *Singapore Eye* at the ArtScience Museum.

### **About Parallel Contemporary Art**

Parallel Contemporary Art is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting emerging artists across the world. It was founded by David and Serenella Ciclitira who have been collectors and patrons of contemporary art for over two decades. 23 years ago, as part of their commitment to supporting emerging artists, they founded two annual awards at the Royal College of Art, London; the Parallel Prize for painting and the Serenella Ciclitira Scholarship for sculpture, both of which continue to provide valuable support and stipends for graduating fine artists. Through their love of travel and discovering new artistic talent, they realised young artists in many parts of Asia were under supported and going unnoticed. To help develop the careers of these emerging Asian artists, they launched the Prudential Eye Programme, an initiative that nurtures worldwide artistic talent.

### **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](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

### **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

### **About Prudential Corporation Asia**

Prudential Corporation Asia is a business unit of Prudential plc (United Kingdom)\*, comprising its life insurance operations in Asia, and its asset management business, Eastspring Investments. It is headquartered in Hong Kong.





Prudential is a leading life insurer that spans 12 markets in Asia, covering Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Prudential has a robust multi-channel distribution platform providing a comprehensive range of savings, investment and protection products to meet the diverse needs of Asian families.

*\*Prudential plc is incorporated in England and Wales, and its affiliated companies constitute one of the world's leading financial services groups. It has been in existence for 166 years and has £5057 billion in assets under management (as at 30 June 2015). Prudential plc is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial, Inc, a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America.*

#### **About Singapore Art Week**

An initiative by the National Arts Council, in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Economic Development Board, the Singapore Art Week reinforces Singapore's position as Asia's leading arts destination. It is a nine-day celebration of the visual arts, held at many venues across Singapore, including museums, art precincts and non-profit spaces.

Reaching out to both Singapore residents and international visitors, the Singapore Art Week offers a myriad of quality art experiences, including blockbuster art fairs, exciting gallery openings and lifestyle events, world-class exhibitions, public art walks, as well as enriching discussions. The festival covers the visual arts beyond contemporary practices, including modern and traditional visual forms. The Singapore Art Week also aims to galvanise the arts sector to launch innovative art and lifestyle concepts and events in conjunction with it. For more information, please visit [www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg)

#### **About LG Electronics Singapore Pte Ltd**

LG Electronics Singapore Pte Ltd (LG Electronics Singapore) is a fully-owned subsidiary of LG Electronics Inc., the pioneer and market leader of the Korean electronics industry for over five decades. LG Electronics Singapore operates three business units – Home Entertainment, Mobile Communications and Home Appliance & Air Solution. In recognition of its vision to enrich people's life with smart technologies and innovative design, LG Electronics Singapore has been recognized with prominent local and international accolades, such as the CNET Asia Editor's and Readers' Choice Awards, HWM+HardwareZone.com Tech Awards, Red Dot Design, and GfK No. 1 Awards. For more information, please visit [www.lg.com/sq](http://www.lg.com/sq).

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