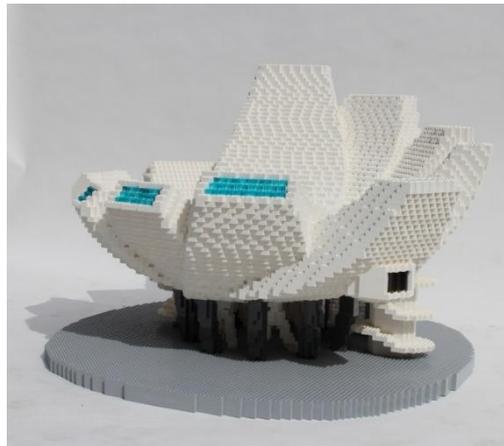


Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



ArtScience Museum brings renowned 'Brick Artist' Nathan Sawaya and *The Art of the Brick* to Singapore *Sawaya's new brick sculpture makes world premiere*



Singapore (15 November 2012) – The stunning architectural masterpiece, ArtScience Museum, is now celebrated through a specially-commissioned sculpture created by renowned Brick Artist Nathan Sawaya.

The sculpture of ArtScience Museum – comprising of 15,999 toy building bricks - was commissioned by the iconic museum to celebrate the opening of its latest exhibition *The Art of the Brick*.

Mr. Nick Dixon, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, said, “It’s rare that an artist and exhibit effectively challenge the way we see the world around us. It’s rarer still that our view of the very medium used is challenged at the same time. Nathan and *The Art of the Brick* deliver on both counts, and we’re delighted to bring Nathan’s work to Singapore. We are also particularly excited about his interpretation of ArtScience Museum through his latest sculpture.”

Known for using toy building bricks for his intricate sculptures, New York-based Sawaya said, “Building the ArtScience Museum sculpture was one of the most interesting works I’ve done and among the most challenging as well. The structure of the ArtScience Museum is very unique, and I wanted to make sure that the piece caught the essence of the museum. I am very pleased with how it turned out, and I’m looking forward to sharing this exhibition with Singapore visitors at one of the most iconic destinations in Asia.”

With the exhibit running from 17 November 2012 to 14 April 2013, this is the first time Sawaya will be exhibiting his artwork in Southeast Asia. With 52 large-scale brick sculptures on exhibition, this is also his largest showcase of his work to date. In another first, ArtScience Museum has incorporated interactive elements such as lighting and sound displays which have been developed especially for this presentation of *The Art of the Brick*.

All of Sawaya’s works will be displayed over eight galleries at ArtScience Museum. Each gallery has a specific theme, and visitors will be encouraged to participate through various engaging activities within the exhibit. The exhibition begins with the Introduction Gallery which showcases two of Sawaya’s iconic pieces, “Yellow” and “Swimmer”. Visitors will then move on to The Artist’s Studio, where the look and feel of an artist’s studio is recreated. This gallery will consist of an interactive 2D sculpture where visitors can try to make a raindrop with Sawaya’s “Rain”.

At The Catwalk Gallery, Sawaya’s artworks will be showcased on a fashion show runway. Meanwhile, a section called The Portrait Gallery will display Sawaya’s 2D and portrait sculptures and integrate the use of a photo booth as well as an iPad application. The fifth gallery, The Drawing Board, is a room of creativity and sculptures where works such as “Pencil Fun” and “Writer” will be showcased.

The exhibition will take a more serious turn at The Emotion Box. Artworks that depict the human form, such as “Red Skull” and one of Sawaya’s most highlighted pieces “Mask”, will take over the gallery. Also, one of Sawaya’s most ambitious works, a six-meter-long T-Rex skeleton, will be on display at The Art of Play, and the sculpture commissioned by ArtScience Museum will be at the last gallery, which also serves as the programming space for the exhibition.

Guests can sit down and build with a range of bricks of different colors and sizes at the Play and Build area. Additionally, activity space is allocated for workshops which will include stop-motion films using brick materials and are inspired by the works on display in the exhibition.

The films will continually run and be projected on a screen in this area for all visitors to enjoy. Creative art workshops for families and pre-school groups will also be conducted at the workshop area. Using the Lego brick as an art tool, visitors of all ages can get creative and produce their own artwork to take home. From printing to string art to fridge-magnets, a range of materials and art techniques will be offered.

Hugman comes to Singapore

Sawaya has always wanted to create a type of graffiti using bricks, and he came up with his own form of tagging in the process: Hugman. Hugman is a miniature man built entirely of bricks who hugs almost anything he can fit his arms around. Sawaya now takes various Hugmen along when he is traveling.

Before the launch of *The Art of the Brick*, four of Sawaya's Hugmen embarked on a journey around Singapore as they awaited the arrival of Sawaya. A social media campaign was held to find the missing quartet of Hugmen, and the public has helped ArtScience Museum find them by tweeting or emailing their different Singapore locations. Prizes for correct entries include: one of the Hugman sculptures; an autographed catalogue from *The Art of the Brick* exhibition; and tickets to the Singapore exhibit. More information about the Hugman campaign can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtScienceMuseum>

Deemed as one of CNN's 12 'Must-see Exhibitions', *The Art of the Brick* will treat visitors to stunning displays of intricate sculptures made from toy building bricks. With the bricks as his medium, Sawaya has successfully made the simple toy synonymous with intriguing art pieces that museum goers will appreciate – regardless of age. Additionally, Sawaya's unique artworks have won him the "Most Creative Unusual Artist" award from the Society of Unique Artists.

Tickets to *The Art of The Brick* can be purchased on ArtScience Museum's website www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum and all Marina Bay Sands box offices. For more information on Nathan Sawaya and *The Art of the Brick*, visit www.brickartist.com.

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" and "Van Gogh Alive".

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands was awarded TripAdvisor's Certificate of Excellence in 2012, earning a top rating of 4.0 out of 5. This recognition places the museum amid a select group of attractions that have been recognized by worldwide travelers for providing outstanding tourist experiences.

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 theaters 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

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