

# Press Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## ArtScience Museum celebrates the works of Leonardo da Vinci

*Engaging programming and interactive exhibits open to public from 15 November*

**Singapore** (14 November, 2014) – The much anticipated exhibition, *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*, has finally arrived at ArtScience Museum. From tomorrow, visitors will be able to catch the first glimpse of the original masterpieces by history's foremost ArtScientist, Leonardo da Vinci, as they are unveiled in Southeast Asia for the first time.

The ground-breaking exhibition is curated to provide visitors the unique opportunity to explore the interlinking worlds of art and science. Presented alongside the original pages of the *Codex Atlanticus* - da Vinci's largest notebook - and paintings from the School of Leonardo travelling from Italy's Veneranda Biblioteca Ambrosiana, are facsimiles of additional pages of the *Codex*, video projections, models of his inventions, extensive audiovisual material as well as innovative interactive exhibits.

Over the course of the exhibition's six-month run till May 2015, six paintings and 26 pages of the *Codex Atlanticus* will be on show. Three paintings and 13 pages of the *Codex* will be on show for the first three months, and then from February - May 2015, three new paintings and 13 new pages of the *Codex* will be presented. This not only gives visitors the opportunity to explore the depth of da Vinci's work through new content and refreshed programming but more importantly, allows these delicate historic pieces to be preserved appropriately.

“*Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* is without question one of ArtScience Museum's most important exhibitions so far. More than any other figure in history, Leonardo da Vinci represents the unity of art and science, and thus bringing his original work to the region for the first time is a landmark for us. We are privileged to have these treasures in our care for the next six months, with some travelling out of Italy for the very first time. Being able to combine these original artworks with contemporary art, interactive technology, and exhibits such as the specially created video-mapping of da Vinci's *Last Supper*, has been a dream come true for our curatorial team. Although he was born more than 500 years ago, da Vinci's genius, creativity, and interdisciplinary approach continue to inspire and shape the future we live in, and we are looking forward to sharing all of these with our visitors,” said Ms Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

Monsignor Franco Buzzi, Prefect of the Biblioteca Ambrosiana added, “We want to introduce people to the depth and breadth of da Vinci's work and whose ideas continue to have great influence today. Da Vinci is a visionary ahead of his time who saw no boundaries between art and science. He often immersed himself in nature, testing scientific laws, and meticulously recording his observations. The exhibition embodies that spirit and we are pleased to work with ArtScience Museum to present this in Singapore for the first time.”

On display at the exhibition are 69 facsimiles reproduced from his notebook, illustrating da Vinci's mastery in five domains - mathematics, natural sciences, technology, music and architecture. Key highlights of the facsimiles include *Section for the Tiburio of the Milan Cathedral (Circa 1487 – 90)* and *Studies on the Flight of Birds (1505)*.

The folio on the *Studies on the Flight of Birds (1505)* is one of da Vinci's most striking visual demonstrations of the flight of birds. Da Vinci had sketched the movements of birds to show how their positions differ when they change their flight direction. Using the simple lines to differentiate the bird's course of flight and wind direction, da Vinci created a dynamic and clear graphic representation of flight on paper.

*Section for the Tiburio of the Milan Cathedral (Circa 1487 – 90)* is one of the most interesting and important of da Vinci's drawings. This page of the *Codex Atlanticus* is considered to be da Vinci's only building project, as opposed to a theoretical study, among all his drawings. It even includes detailed calculations of the dome's weight. This study of an extended arch with a double dome has often been thought to be a bold revision of the Florence Cathedral, Brunelleschi's masterpiece.

In addition to the masterpieces on show, 20 models have been commissioned for the show, from Biblioteca Ambrosiana. These provide visitors with a real-life perspective of da Vinci's designs for flying, civic, and military mechanisms. Visitors will be able to identify with a few familiar models on display including the *Flying Machine*, *Archimedes' Screw* as well as the *Mobile Bridge*. Through these models, the public will be able to see in three-dimension da Vinci's ingenuity.

To showcase how Da Vinci's innovation and holistic thinking is still strikingly current today, ArtScience Museum is working with four tertiary groups to Singapore to present a unique collection of 14 technology and design projects, which are displayed at the end of the

exhibition in a showcase called *Innovation Today*. The participants include SUTD-MIT International Design Centre, NUS-HCI Lab from the School of Computing at National University of Singapore (NUS), Meio-NUS CUTE Center and the Department of Communications and New Media of NUS. Some of the highlights of *Innovation Today* include, *Artificial Life: Robots at Work, Sleep and Play* (SUTD-MIT), a showcase of how solar-powered mini robots are used to perform various tasks, and *D'Licious Vessel* (Keio-NUS Cute Center), a digital interface that simulates primary taste sensations through controlled electric pulses. These interactive exhibits highlight the systemic thinking pioneered by da Vinci, and how this is being applied in today's context.

*Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* is also curated to present visitors with a contemporary perspective of da Vinci's work. On display are five art installations inspired by da Vinci, including three new commissions by Donna Ong (Singapore), WY-TO (Singapore), as well as Semiconductor, Luke Jerram and Conrad Shawcross (United Kingdom).

### **Engaging Programming**

Visitors can also participate in engaging programmes and age-appropriate learning opportunities to discover their inner da Vinci.

Within the exhibition, an activity space titled *Inspired by da Vinci*, enable visitors to learn, explore, experiment and create their own inventions and artworks to take home. There are drop-in activity stations, exploring parachutes, platonic shapes and architecture that encourage participants to apply what they have learnt from the exhibition. The *Da Vinci Challenge* workshops give visitors a chance to explore da Vinci-related themes in greater depth. These family-friendly workshops include, *Illustrating Nature, Bridges, Projectiles* and *Vitruvian Man*. All activities are offered daily throughout the holiday periods.

### **Highlights of the Opening Weekend (15-16 November)**

Marking the exhibition's opening weekend, Dr. Alberto Rocca and Carolina Donzelli from Italy's Biblioteca Ambrosiana will be conducting three guided tours, all of which are complimentary to ticket holders. Visitors are also welcome to join the curator's talk, *Da Vinci Codex Atlanticus*, conducted by Dr. Alberto Rocca on Saturday 15 November, where he will present illustrated insights into da Vinci's ideas and inventions.

Contemporary artists Yann Follain of WY-TO, Luke Jerram, Donna Ong and Semiconductor will also be present during the opening weekend to share their insights into their projects, and the inspiration behind their work. They will be giving artists talks on Sunday 16 November.

The schedule is as follows:

Saturday, 15 November 2014

**Curator Guided Tour**

*11.30am and 5pm; beginning at the first gallery of Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*

Join the curators, Dr Alberto Rocca (11.30am) and Carolina Donzelli (5pm), as they lead you through the exhibition, revealing fascinating facts into da Vinci's works that are on display at the exhibition.

**Curator Talk: *The da Vinci Codex Atlanticus***

*2.30pm; held on Level 4 of ArtScience Museum, Expression Gallery*

Dr Rocca from Biblioteca Ambrosiana will be presenting illustrated insights into da Vinci's detailed ideas and invention presented in the *Codex Atlanticus*.

**Artist's Gallery Talks**

*2.30pm, 3pm, 3.30pm and 4pm; held within the exhibition galleries at Basement 2*

Listen to contemporary artists Yann Follain (2.30pm), Luke Jerram (3pm), Donna Ong (3.30pm) and Semiconductor (4pm) as they present their works 'in situ' during these 30 minutes, drop-in talks

Sunday, 16 November 2014

**Curator Guided Tour**

*11.30am and 5pm; beginning at the first gallery of Da Vinci: Shaping the Future*

Join curator, Carolina Donzelli as she brings you through the exhibition, providing unique and fascinating insights into da Vinci's works that are on display at the exhibition.

**Artist's Talks**

*2.30pm – 4.30pm; held on Level 4 of ArtScience Museum, Expression Gallery*

Join contemporary artists Yann Follain, Luke Jerram, Donna Ong and Semiconductor as they talk about their inspirations, ideas and processes that allowed them to create the art installations that provided a contemporary interpretation of da Vinci's works.

**Visitor Information**

Tickets to *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* is currently on sale. In particular, the Season Pass allows for unlimited visits to the exhibition, which will have a content refresh at the three month mark. Tickets are available through the Marina Bay Sands ticketing portal, ticketing hotline, box offices and all SISTIC channels. Terms and Conditions apply.

Da Vinci: Shaping the Future		Standard ticket	Singapore resident ticket
	Adult	S\$25	S\$19
	Senior (65 years and above)	S\$23	S\$17.50
	Child (2 - 12 years)	S\$15	S\$10.50
	Family Package (2 Adults + 2 Children)	S\$68	S\$51
	Season Pass (Unlimited Visits)	S\$30	

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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](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 the Biblioteca Ambrosiana**

The Biblioteca Ambrosiana is one of the most ancient and prestigious cultural institutions of Milan and of the whole Europe. Founded in 1607 by Cardinal Federico Borromeo, it was the first library to be open to anyone who could read and write and currently counts more than 1,000,000 printed books, 15,000 parchments and 30,000 manuscripts. Among its treasures is the famous Codex Atlanticus, the world's largest collection of drawings and writings by Leonardo da Vinci, consisting of 1119 papers.

In 1618, alongside the Library, Cardinal Borromeo created also an Art Gallery, which was to serve as a support and a model for a future Fine Arts Academy, to train young artists. Among the masterpieces featured in the Ambrosiana's collections are: the Portrait of a Musician by Leonardo da Vinci, the Basket of Fruit by Caravaggio, the Madonna of the Pavilion by Botticelli and the great Cartoon of the School of Athens by Raphael. For more information please visit [www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it](http://www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it)

#### **About the Fondazione Cardinale Federico Borromeo**

Established in 2008, the Foundation's primary objective is to support and promote the Biblioteca Ambrosiana and its rich heritage to a global audience. The Foundation continuously seeks out new partners as part of its promotional and fundraising efforts to support the projects undertaken by the museum, allowing for greater art and cultural exchanges through the exhibition of works at renowned museums across the globe. For more information please visit <http://www.leonardo-ambrosiana.it/en/la-fondazione/cosa-facciamo>

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#### **For Images (Expiring on 12 December 2014):**

<https://www.hightail.com/download/UIRScHBFdGpCSWZyZHNUQw> (Credits to **Marina Bay Sands**)