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### Singapore Management University Inaugurates Visual Arts Initiative

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## **SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY INAUGURATES VISUAL ARTS INITIATIVE**

***Artery showcases works by 11 local and regional artists***

***12 January 2006***

The vibrant and spacious campus of Singapore Management University (SMU) will be even more abuzz over the next three months with the inaugural exhibition under SMU's Visual Arts Initiative (VAI) entitled *Artery*, showcasing works by 11 artists from Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, USA and Australia.

With the aim that art and artistic activities should fill every corner of the new campus, it is the vision that the SMU campus experience for its students and for the general public will be enriched and enlivened by artistic aesthetics and creativity. Through the VAI, SMU will develop and host exhibitions and enrichment programmes and will also be developing an institutional collection of contemporary art, with Southeast Asian art as the principal focus.

*Artery* is the first art exhibition that SMU is organising at the new campus. While modest in size, its curatorial strategy in inviting contemporary artists from the region and beyond to exhibit in the Gallery and the Concourse – the main thoroughfare of campus – signals the programming directions of the VAI for contemporary artistic ideas and expressions to meet and engage with the habits and incidents of everyday life. *Artery* is also timed to celebrate the Official Opening of the new campus on 20 January 2006.

“Even as we were planning our move into the new 4.5-hectare purpose-built city campus in the heart of the historically and culturally rich landscape of the Bras Basah area, SMU recognised that we bear a social responsibility to share our premises and prime location as much as we can with the community. With *Artery*, we welcome everyone to freely come by to experience contemporary art by some of the most exciting established and emerging artists from Singapore, the region and beyond,” said Professor Howard Hunter, President, Singapore Management University. “Through this Visual Arts Initiative, SMU also hopes to cultivate appreciation for the arts as well as encourage creativity among our student community.”

Gracing the opening of *Artery*, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts & Health, Dr Balaji Sadasivan said, “SMU is a fine example of an institution that shares our vision for Singapore to be a Global Arts City where our people are creative and our artistic talents nurtured. SMU delivers a pedagogy that develops well-rounded students through its unique brand of curriculum and strongly encourages learning beyond books.”



*Artery* will run from January 12 to March 31, 2006 and is being held at The Gallery of the School of Economics & Social Sciences and along The Concourse. The exhibition features three themes:

***MURMUR , at the Gallery, School of Economics & Social Sciences***

Featuring works by Anthony Poon, Chua Ek Kay, Pinaree Sanpitak, Jane Lee and Delia Prvacki, the selection explores the eloquence of repetition and rhythmic gestures, visual silence and material minimalism.

***Testimonies , at the Concourse, School of Economics & Social Sciences***

Featuring recent portraits in ink by Tang Dawu, photographic works by Francis Ng, and Dadang Christanto's 2005 Testimonies of the Trees series, the section explores personal memory and subjectivity.

***Looking In Looking Out , at the Concourse, Li Ka Shing Library***

Featuring commissioned works by Heman Chong, Tan Kai Syng and Ana Prvacki, the works are site-specific interventions with architectural histories, pop psychology, and the trafficking of ideas.

***Breast Stuppa Cookery Project [Thursday, January 12 at 7.00pm]***

In this live artistic demonstration, artist Pinaree Sanpitak collaborates with local executive chef Jimmy Chok, who will create culinary delights using her pre-sculpted breast stuppas.

***Lunch Time Talk with Dadang Christanto [Friday, January 13 at 12.30pm]***

***“Always with growth, there will be scars” – Art and social commentary***

In this talk, Dadang Christanto will share his views on art and social activism, what it means for an artist to live and work away from 'home'. He will also talk about the environment, or space, for social activism before and after the Suharto / New Order regime.

The exhibition is open daily at The Gallery from 9am to 6pm and along The Concourse from 9am to 9pm. Admission is free. . For information on the event, please contact SMU at 6828-0173 or visit [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)

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### **About Singapore Management University**

Incorporated on 12 January 2000, SMU's aim is to groom outstanding business leaders and creative entrepreneurs capable of excelling in a rapidly changing and dynamic world. A collaboration with the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania allows SMU to draw on Wharton's academic and research strengths across all major disciplines. Today, SMU is home to over 3,800 students and comprises four schools: Lee Kong Chian School of Business, School of Accountancy, School of Economics & Social Sciences and School of Information Systems. SMU offers bachelor's degree programmes in Business Management, Accountancy, Economics, Information Systems Management and Social Science. The university offers master's degree programmes in Wealth Management, Applied Finance, Professional Accounting, Applied Economics and in Economics and Finance (by research). It also has a dedicated Office of Research and provides public and customised programmes through Executive Education. The newly completed SMU campus is a state-of-the-art facility located right in the heart of Singapore's civic and business district. [www.smu.edu.sg](http://www.smu.edu.sg)