

## APPENDIX A: LIST OF ARTISTS AND THEIR ARTWORKS

### PROJECT LAVA IN THE LIBRARIES

#### ***Bird Sanctum* by Kasinathan Baskar**



Inspired by **M. Balakrishnan's** novel "*Kuruvi Kottam*" (*Bird Sanctuary*), Kasinathan Baskar's artwork installation depicts the novel's central motif using birds as characters to trace Singapore's social culture and the impact of modern migration.

#### ***About M. Balakrishnan***

**M. Balakrishnan**, better known by his pen name Ma Elangkannan, has published five collections of short stories and three novels. His writing has appeared in periodicals in Singapore and abroad, and has been translated into English and Malay and across various media. Balakrishnan was the first Tamil writer to receive the Southeast Asia Write Award in 1982. Balakrishnan depicts the Indian experience in cosmopolitan, multicultural Singapore through the lives of local Tamils from various social strata and historical periods, from the British colonial period to the Japanese Occupation and more recent times. He has, through stories which seek to highlight the plight of the working class, become a voice for the silent and disenfranchised. Balakrishnan received the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest artistic accolade in 2005.

#### ***About Kasinathan Baskar***

**Kasinathan Baskar** is a contemporary visual artist. He has a bachelor's degree (distinction) in painting, and has also achieved various notable awards and honours for his visual artwork. Apart from the visual arts, he is also an avid poet. He has won the Golden Point Award consequently in the year 2011 and 2013 for his poems in Tamil category.

## ***allthetime unending* by Koh Hong Teng**



An artwork by Koh Hong Teng of PAUSE Narratives draws inspiration from two poems **by Arthur Yap**, “*Tropical Paradise*” and “*A Circle*”. The work reflects on modern man's conflicting pursuits between material desires and inner well-being. The two pedestals invite viewers to ‘participate’ by stepping onto the circle. They can place their books on the pedestals to read and be immersed in the work, or lean on them to reflect on the installation and poems.

### ***About Arthur Yap***

**Arthur Yap** (1943-2006) was a Singaporean poet and artist who won numerous awards for his accomplishments in shaping local poetry. He published four major collections of “*poetry: only lines*” (1971), “*commonplace*” (1977), “*down the line*” (1980), and “*man snake apple & other poems*” (1986), of which selected poems were collected in “*The Space of City Trees*” published by Skoob Books Ltd in 2000 with the support of National Arts Council.

### ***About Koh Hong Teng***

**Koh Hong Teng** is a comic artist and painter. He is also part of the art collective, ***Pause Narratives*** which includes two other members, Dave Chua and Oh Yong Hwee. He produced and published the graphic novels “*Gone Case*” Books 1 and 2 with writer Dave Chua in 2010 and 2011 respectively. In 2011, he was one of the recipients of the Arts Creation Fund from the National Arts Council. In 2012, he was commissioned by the National Library Board to illustrate a 16-page comic story for the irememberSG project. The same year, he illustrated the graphic novel written by Oh Yong Hwee titled “*Ten Sticks and One Rice*”, which became the first Singaporean publication to win an award at the 7th International Manga Award organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

## Singapore Poetry by Malcolm Koh



A collection of three ink paintings by Malcolm Koh Ho Ping (Xu Xiao) portrays Singapore and her people at different times and stages of development. The paintings are inspired by “*Lalang*”, a poem by **Chandran Nair**, “*新加坡派*” (*Singapore Pie*), a song by **Liang Wern Fook**, and the prologue from “*皮影戲*” (*Shadow Show*) by **Wong Yoon Wah**.

### **About Chandran Nair**

**Chandran Nair** is a Singaporean poet and retired Director and Mediator of UNESCO in Paris. He was founder President of the Society of Singapore Writers from 1976 to 1981. Chandran Nair published two volumes of poetry in Singapore during the 1970s: “*Once the Horsemen and Other Poems*” (1972) and “*After the Hard Hours, This Rain*” (1975). “*Reaching for Stones: Collected Poems*” (1963-2009), published in 2010 includes works from his earlier publications as well as new poems. He has also been included in a number of anthologies including “*Calling of the Kindred*” (1993), “*Idea to Ideal*” - 12 Singapore poets on the writing of their poems (2004), “*Journeys: An Anthology of Singapore Poetry*” (1995) and “*&Words: Poems Singapore and Beyond*” (2010). His poem “*Grandfather*” has been used by the University of Cambridge International Examinations Board for their examination papers.

### **About Liang Wern Fook**

**Dr Liang Wern Fook** is a writer, musician, and researcher in Chinese literature and pedagogy. He is the Adjunct Associate Professor with the Division of Chinese, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and the Language Director for Xue Er You Language Centre. Dr Liang holds a PhD in

Chinese Studies from NTU (1999) and received gold medal awards both from the National University of Singapore's Arts and Social Sciences Faculty and the Chinese Studies Department (1988). He was voted "Most Popular Writer" by local students in a poll organized by Lianhe Zaobao (1990) and "Person Who Best Represents the Xinyao Spirit" in a 2003 poll conducted by COMPASS. He has over ten publications in various genres of literary writing, and has over 200 songs, and two Mandarin Musicals to his name. Dr Liang received the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award in 2008."

### ***About Wong Yoon Wah***

**Professor Wong Yoon Wah** holds a PhD in Chinese Literature from Wisconsin University, USA. Professor Wong won the Singapore Literature Prize (1986), Thailand's South-East Asia Write Award (1984), and the ASEAN Cultural Award (1993). He has published over 20 books and over 50 articles on classical and modern Chinese literature, comparative literature and postcolonial Chinese literature. He has served as President of the Singapore Association of Writers, as well as professor and Head of the Department of Chinese Studies, National University of Singapore. After his retirement in 2003, Professor Wong was appointed Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences as well as Chairman of the Department of Chinese Language and Literature at Yuan Ze University, Taiwan. In 2006, he was appointed Director of Yuan Ze's International Language and Culture Centre, where he spearheaded plans to make the university more international and bilingual. Professor Wong is currently also the Senior Vice President of Southern University College, Malaysia.

### ***About Malcolm Koh***

**Malcolm Koh** learnt to paint "shui mo literary painting" (水墨文学绘画) at the age of 10, under the tutorage of master artist of the Chinese Republican Period (1911-1950) Wu Zi Shen (吴子深). He worked as a charter architect and art consultant for many award winning projects. He has been painting since 1956 and his art works recently won the best design award of China in 2013. One of Malcolm Koh's well-known public artworks in Singapore is "A Great Emporium", a sculpture created in 2002 located along the Singapore River. It depicts two merchants of different nationalities negotiating prices over a wide array of goods, recreating the typical events along the River during its peak period as a bustling trading port.

## **LIFE [perseverance: preservation] by Ryf Zaini**



An installation by Ryf Zaini inspired by the poem, "*Tak Pernah Kumimpikan Menjadi Kupu-Kupu*", (I never dreamed of being a butterfly) by **Johar Bin Buang**, reflects on the rapid changes in contemporary society, transience and the preservation of memories. The installation aims to integrate the idea of how we collect things as a form of keepsake, tokens of the things we have encountered in our lives.

### **About Johar Bin Buang**

**Johar Bin Buang** has published in several genres since the early 1980s, but is most well known as a poet. His works have been translated into English, Chinese and Russian. His awards include the National Book Development Council of Singapore Book Award for "*Kisah Seorang Zahid*" (1994); the 1997 Islamic Poetry Prize (from Brunei Darussalam) for "*Program Timur*"; the Darul Iman III Literature Award in 1999 for the manuscript, "*Perahu*"; and the 2010 Singapore Literature Prize for "*Sampai Di Singgahsana Cinta*" (2009). Other collections of poetry include "*Dinding-Dinding Kaca*" (1997); "*Tujuh puluhribu Hijab*" (2000); "*Sahara*" (2003); "*Cinta Pohon Tamar*" (2004); "*Cahaya Di Negeri Ini*" (2005).

### **About Ryf Zaini**

**Ryf Zaini** has been progressively creating works that invite participation, contemplation and instigate social issues and norms. He has exhibited several installation works which include user interactivity by embedding electronic elements within his works.

Some of his recent works include various commissions by URA for the I-Light 2014, Marina Bay, Singapore Science Centre residency programme in 2011, Singapore Art Museum as a part of the Singapore Biennale fringe festival in 2011 as well as Busan Sea Art Festival in 2011. In 2013, he was selected for the President's Young Talents exhibition, where he was identified by Singapore Art Museum for a new commission work.

Besides being a full-time practising artist, he's teaching in LASALLE, Republic Polytechnic, and Nanyang Technological University, specialising in Interactive Installations, Creative Concepts as well as Media Theory.

## PROJECT LAVA IN THE PARKS

In addition to Project LAVA in the Libraries, Project LAVA in the Parks is featuring two other art installations at East Coast Park:

### ***Time Logs*** by Alvin George Khoo



A community art installation by artist Alvin George Khoo, *TIME LOGS* features poems by Singaporean writers, **Abdul Ghani Hamid**, **Colin Tan** and **Gilbert Koh** carved onto three central logs. The three logs connect the poems in a portrayal of three generations – a grandfather, his son and grandson. The other logs hold a collection of carvings which express the personal memories and experiences of the East Coast Park beach by members of the public.

#### ***About Abdul Ghani Hamid***

**Abdul Ghani bin Abdul Hamid**, also known as A Ghani Hamid, was a poet, painter, playwright, short story writer, biographer, essayist, reviewer and art critic. He has written a 25-episode radio drama, *Sejambak Ragam Hayat (A Bouquet of Ways of Life)*, published two novelettes and seven volumes of poetry in English and Malay. Among his awards were the NAC Cultural Medallion, and the Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang from the Malay Language Council.

**About Colin Tan**

**Colin Tan** is the author of *"The Evidence of the Senses"* and has been anthologised in *"Fifty on 50"* and *"&Words: Poems Singapore and Beyond"*. His work *"Yet We Who Neither Burn Nor Shine"* was set to music and premiered in St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, London.

**About Gilbert Koh**

**Gilbert Koh** is a lawyer. His poetry has been published in the collection *"Two Baby Hands"*, and in various publications in Singapore and elsewhere, including *"Atlanta Review"*, *"Papertiger"*, *"Slope"*, *"No Other City – The Ethos Anthology of Urban Poetry"*, *"Love Gathers All – The Philippines-Singapore Anthology of Love Poetry"*, *"From Boys to Men – A Literary Anthology of National Service in Singapore and Poetry Billboard"*.

**About Alvin George Khoo**

**Alvin George Khoo** is an art therapist and community arts practitioner. He conducts creative activities, workshops and projects for children, youth and adults towards the aims of well-being, teambuilding, community bonding and socialisation. As an artist, Alvin works with wood, natural objects and photography to portray the liveliness of Nature. *"Time Logs"* is his latest project to engage the public in historical and literary appreciation, environmental and social awareness.



## ***Do Not Step on the Cirrus Clouds* by Dawn Ng**



An installation by Dawn Ng inspired by the poem, *“Why A Man Cannot Have Wings”* by **Alfian Sa’at**, brought to life in a way which embodies the fantasy and anarchic humour of his prose. Set to stand out against the serene landscape of the East Coast, the electric sign combines an old-world theatricality with a post-modern form, to instil a sense of wonder and the surreal in the everyday.

### ***About Alfian Sa’at***

**Alfian Sa’at** is Resident Playwright with WILD RICE. His published works include two collections of poetry, *“One Fierce Hour”* and *“A History of Amnesia”*, and two collections of short stories, *“Corridor”* and *“Malay Sketches”*. In 2001, he received the NAC Young Artist Award. His award-winning plays have been translated into German and Swedish and have been read and performed in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, London, Zurich and Berlin.

### ***About Dawn Ng***

**Dawn Ng** is a multi-media artist who has worked across an exciting breadth of mediums and scale. Ranging from installation, collage, photography, light and illustration, Dawn has shown at local and international galleries and received multiple commissions from the Singapore Art Museum to date. Dawn is interested in the weird and wonderful. Her work deals primarily with the notion of time, memory and space.