

Singapore Biennale

Profile of Artistic Director

Matthew Ngui



Matthew Ngui is a visual artist, trained in sculpture and now working in the areas of installation, video, performance, site-specific works and public art. He lives and works in Australia and Singapore, exhibiting locally and internationally in contemporary art museums and spaces in cities such as Berlin, Bordeaux, Copenhagen, Graz, Hong Kong, London, Manila and Vienna. He participated in the Sao Paulo (1996), Venice (2001) and Gwanju Biennales (2002) and the tenth Documenta in 1997. The focus of Ngui's work has been to make site-specific installations and performances that engage the locality and people of the city/space in which the work is exhibited. To this end, he has been working on two long term community-related art proposals for the Singapore Skyline and an alpine town in Switzerland.

Ngui has taught at art schools of the Australian National University, Curtin University of Technology (Australia), Edith Cowan University (Australia), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Singapore), Ecole cantonale d'Art du Valais (Switzerland) and run workshops or attended residencies in Austria, Japan, Holland, Switzerland, and Venezuela. He is past Chairman of the Artists Regional Exchange in Perth, and has served as a council member of the National Arts Council, Singapore, and on the Boards of the Singapore Art Museum and the Perth Institute of Contemporary Art. He has also been involved in the Public Art Appraisal Committee of the National Heritage Board, Singapore.

He is currently working on public art commissions for the New Performing Arts Venue in Perth, Midland Re-development Authority in Western Australia and the new Orchard Central building on Orchard Road. Recently, a survey exhibition of his art practice over nearly two decades, which began at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, has travelled to the John Curtin Gallery for the Perth International Arts Festival and the National Museum of Singapore for the Singapore Arts Festival.