

MADE IN SINGAPORE

PUBLIC ART BY SINGAPORE ARTISTS



PUBLIC ART TRUST
An Initiative By:
NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL SINGAPORE

Public Art Walking Trail Made In Singapore: Public Art By Singapore Artists

Singapore has many public artworks scattered across the city centre. From traditional figurative bronze statues to more contemporary abstract forms, they tell the story of Singapore's heritage, aspirations and developments. Many of these works were created by prominent local artists, both established sculptors as well as emerging young artists. This walking trail will introduce some of the public artworks by these artists that have become local icons in their own right.

Located around the central Civic District, the artworks showcase the variety of styles and mediums used. Explore the works of the pioneer generation of Singapore sculptors, such as Aw Tee Hong, Chong Fah Cheong and Lim Leong Seng, who worked predominantly in bronze, alongside the light-hearted, whimsical art of Yeo Chee Kiong, Kumari Nahappan and Tan Wee Lit. Also worth mentioning are the statuesque works by female artists, Han Sai Por and Liu Jilin, both of whom have chosen to work with the very challenging material of stone.

Starting Point
This tour starts at the junction of Orchard Road and Prinsep Street, right across the road from the YMCA (1, Orchard Road, Singapore 238824). Please note that this is only a suggested route. You may choose to start and stop at any point in the trail. Along the way, feel free to wander off-course and explore nearby landmarks and destinations in the city!

By Bus
The nearest bus stop is Orchard Road YMCA (Bus Stop No. 08041).

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|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 7 | 14 | 14E | 16 | 36 | 64 | 65 | 77 | 106 | 111 | 124 | 128 |
| 139 | 162 | 162M | 167 | 171 | 174 | 174E | 175 | 190 | 700 | 972 | |

By Train
The nearest MRT Station is Dhoby Ghaut MRT (Accessible via North-South Line, Circle Line, and North-East Line).

Major Landmarks
Singapore Art Museum, National Museum of Singapore, Peranakan Museum, Central Fire Station, National Gallery Singapore, Asian Civilisations Museum, Maybank Tower, Fullerton Hotel, Merlion Park and Urban Redevelopment Authority.

Precautions
Keep an eye on your belongings and watch out for traffic and other pedestrians while walking. We recommend bringing along a water bottle to stay hydrated!

More Information
To find out more about the featured artworks and other public art trails:
@ www.publicarttrust.sg f www.facebook.com/publicarttrustsg





1 Endless Flow
Artist Tan Teng Kee | **Material** Brass | **Year** 1980
Location Junction of Orchard Road and Prinsep Street, opposite YMCA

Commissioned by OCBC, the artwork symbolises good fortune through the 'endless flow' of money and activity. Originally situated in front of the OCBC Bank building, this sculpture was moved to its current location at Dhoby Ghaut Green in 1983, underscoring the title's reference to constant shifts and transformations. The artist, Tan Teng Kee, is regarded as a pioneer of sculpture in Singapore, and was one of the first to work with metal to create sculptures.



2 The Explorer
Artist Ng Eng Teng | **Material** Cement, fondu, stainless steel, gold leaf | **Year** 1999
Location Singapore Art Museum

Cultural Medallion recipient Ng Eng Teng is one of Singapore's most important artists. An avid believer in education and creation, Ng's artworks deal with aspirational humanist themes. With numerous globes stacked on top of one another, *The Explorer* ambitiously represents a desire for intergalactic exploration. Unsurprisingly, with such a grand theme, the sculpture was dedicated at the beginning of the millennium, with hopes for Singapore's optimistic future and continued progress.



3 20 Tonnes
Artist Han Sai Por | **Material** Granite | **Year** 2002
Location National Museum of Singapore, Front Lawn

Cultural Medallion recipient Han Sai Por is renowned for sculpting and carving with the very challenging material of stone. In *20 Tonnes*, Han displays her expertise with the material. This sculpture is inspired and constructed using the traditional techniques of breaking stone. You can feel the weight and mass of the sculpture just by walking by and through the six slabs of stone, which resemble the famous Stonehenge in its shape and form. Han's practice deals with humanist ideals and values, taking a special interest in Nature.



4 In the Eye of the Red Dot
Artist Yeo Chee Kiong | **Material** Polished stainless steel | **Year** 2015
Location National Museum of Singapore, Fort Canning Entrance (Level 2 Exit)

Displayed on the lawn at the Fort Canning entrance of the National Museum, *In the Eye of the Red Dot* is an SG50 co-commission by the National Museum of Singapore and City Developments Limited (CDL). Responding to the theme The Red Dot, 'Today and Tomorrow', Yeo's sculpture represents the aspirations of a forward-thinking nation. It resembles a flower in bloom, symbolising Singapore's growing achievements over the past 50 years.



5 Pedas Pedas
Artist Kumari Nahappan | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2006
Location National Museum of Singapore, Fort Canning Entrance (Level 2 Exit)

Known for her iconic public sculptures, Kumari Nahappan works with playful themes such as food and nature. In this commission by the National Museum, the artist represents a common local ingredient: chilli. This chilli stands at almost four-metres tall! Its monumental size reflects the artist's view that chillies store abundant vitality despite their modest size. The same can also be said of Singapore and our prolific achievements. The artist used chilli as her inspiration as many Asian cultures incorporate it in their cuisines in different ways, reflecting Singapore's multicultural landscape.



6 A Visit to the Museum: Taking the Past Forward
Artist Chern Lian Shan | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2000
Location Peranakan Museum

Two figures stand in front of the museum: an elderly man holding the hand of an eager young girl. If you look carefully, you can see a third figure: a woman in modern dress standing on the second floor balcony of the museum. The girl energetically gestures to the woman, generating dynamic interactions between the figures around building's facade. Chern's sculpture demonstrates that the arts can be relevant to generations of Singaporeans both young and old, uniting our past, present, and future.



7 Big Bang
Artist Brother Joseph McNally | **Material** Cast silicon bronze | **Year** 2000
Location MICA Building

Big Bang reflects the late Brother McNally's interest in religion, humanity, and mythology. As the title suggests, this sculpture represents the beginning of time and the wealth of possibilities that follow. It was unveiled in 2000, along with the then Ministry of Information and the Arts (MITA) Building. Similar to Ng Eng Teng's *The Explorer* which was also created in 2000, *Big Bang* alludes to the infinite opportunities and excitement that await Singapore at the turn of the millennium.



8 24 Hours in Singapore
Artist Baet Yeok Kuan | **Material** Stainless steel | **Year** 2015
Location Asian Civilisations Museum, Front lawn

24 Hours in Singapore is a Public Art Trust commission that features large stainless steel spheres with audio recordings of instantly recognisable everyday sounds in Singapore's landscape - from hawkers centres to public transport. Sharpen your ears and try to distinguish the various sounds! Baet merges sculpture and sound in this installation, attempting to bring Singaporeans' everyday lives into the realm of art. Baet's outstanding achievements in the arena of art won him the distinguished Young Artist Award by the National Arts Council in 1995.



9 From Chettians to Financiers
Artist Chern Lian Shan | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2002
Location Singapore River, in front of the Asian Civilisations Museum

This sculpture represents the various financial institutions around the Singapore River. Early financial services were usually organised along ethnic lines. For instance, the moneylending services were primarily run by the Chettians from South India. Their offices usually comprised of a low desk on a woven mat, as depicted in the sculpture. Chinese clerks typically ran the clearing houses and were easily identified by their pig tails. In contrast, the trader in her distinctive jacket symbolises Singapore's economic growth and sophisticated financial services.



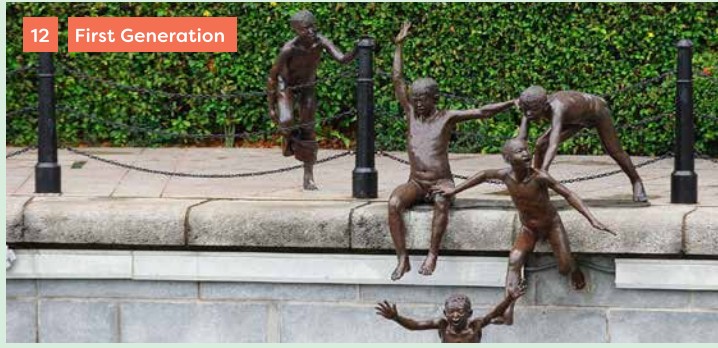
10 A Great Emporium
Artist Malcolm Koh | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2002
Location Singapore River, in front of the Asian Civilisations Museum

In the early 19th Century, the Singapore River was the heart of trade and activity. This work exemplifies the trade activities that took place along the river at the time. European traders, like those here, profited from Singapore's trade, but it was the Chinese traders, like the 'towkay' holding an abacus, who generated the most wealth. Providing much needed labour to the trading industry were Chinese and Indian coolies, who usually came from the South-eastern provinces of China and South India respectively.



11 The River Merchants
Artist Aw Tee Hong | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2003
Location Singapore River, in front of Maybank Tower

The sculpture depicts the daily routines of merchants and labourers conducting business around the Singapore River in the 19th Century. Comprising two sets of figures, it features prominent merchant Alexander Laurie Johnston mediating between a Malay chief and a Chinese trader on one side, and coolies loading sacks onto a bullock cart on the other. The artwork is located at site of Alexander Laurie Johnston's former warehouse.



12 First Generation
Artist Chong Fah Cheong | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2000
Location Singapore River, in front of The Fullerton Hotel

A self-taught sculptor, Chong Fah Cheong, is perhaps best known for this whimsical sculpture, *First Generation*. The 5 boys jumping into Singapore River shows the lighter side of everyday life around the river in the past. The river played a pivotal role in the history and development of Singapore. Children living by the riverbanks used to enjoy swimming in the river despite the pollution. This practice ceased with the completion of the Clean Rivers project in 1983, where families, hawkers and bumboats were moved out of the area.



13 The Merlion
Artist Lim Nang Seng | **Material** Cement, porcelain plates, red teacups | **Year** 1972
Location Merlion Park, Marina Bay Waterfront

The Merlion is a well-known icon of Singapore, conceived as a mythical creature with a lion's head and a fish's body. The fish alludes to Singapore's beginnings as a fishing village, while the lion refers to the sighting of a lion in Temasek by Sang Nila Utama, leading him to rename the island Singapura ("lion city" in Sanskrit). *The Merlion* thus depicts both Singapore's origin story and its fantastical transformations. Over the years, Singaporeans have affectionately adopted it as our mascot and national icon.



14 Pembungan
Artist Kumari Nahappan | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2011
Location OUE Bayfront

Along the way to the next stop on this trail, Raffles Place MRT, you may wish to drop by OUE Bayfront to check out another public artwork by Kumari Nahappan. Measuring over 45 metres, this work is the largest bronze mural in Singapore. Like Nahappan's sculpture *Pedas Pedas* featured earlier, *Pembungan* also illustrates Nahappan's interest in representing local flora and fauna.



15 All the Essentially Essential
Artist Tan Wee Lit | **Material** Stainless steel | **Year** 2013
Location Outside Raffles Place MRT (Exit C)

In this playful installation, Tan Wee Lit satirises the work-life balance that Singaporeans strive for. By placing 'essential' items such as gym bags and baby strollers in this giant toy kit, Tan reflects Singaporeans' jam-packed lifestyles. The artist has deliberately left an empty slot in a bottom corner of the kit - inviting the viewer to step inside and complete the kit. This simple gesture is an important reminder that amidst the hustle and bustle of life, people's vitality and aspirations are the most essential factors that make life complete.



16 Pioneering Spirit (Vitality of the Forerunner)
Artist Aw Tee Hong | **Material** Copper, brass, iron | **Year** 1987
Location Outside Raffles Place MRT (Exit C)

Pioneering Spirit depicts a ship that represents Singapore's progression from a humble fishing village to a thriving metropolis. Echoing a recurring theme in many of the bronze works featured on this trail, Aw's work honours Singapore's pioneer generation whose efforts paved the way for our current developments and achievements.



17 Struggle For Survival
Artist Aw Tee Hong | **Material** Copper, brass, iron | **Year** 1988
Location Outside Raffles Place MRT (Exit C)

Another sculpture resembling a ship awaits passers-by at the exit of Raffles Place MRT. It was also made by artist Aw Tee Hong. Both of his sculptures were installed to inaugurate Raffles Place MRT, and symbolise the struggles and changes during Singapore's urbanisation from fishing village to modern metropolis.



18 Chinese Procession/Mid-Autumn Lantern Procession
Artist Lim Leong Seng | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2001
Location Telok Ayer Green

Two of Singapore artist Lim Leong Seng's bronze sculptures are located at Telok Ayer Green, a vibrant area of cuisine and culture. In *Chinese Procession*, Lim depicts Chinese immigrants who lived around Telok Ayer Street in the 19th Century. They are portrayed carrying decorative flags and banners in a lively street procession for Mid-Autumn Lantern Festival. They would also dress in colourful costumes and attract spectators with entertaining performances.



19 Indian Settlers
Artist Lim Leong Seng | **Material** Bronze | **Year** 2001
Location Telok Ayer Green

In the 19th Century, Indian and Chinese immigrants shared Telok Ayer Street. By placing these sculptures in close proximity, Lim mirrors Singapore's present-day multicultural landscape. Lim uses figurative bronze sculptures to similar effect, preserving the past and making it relevant to the present.



20 Samsui Women
Artist Liu Jilin | **Material** Granite | **Year** 1999
Location Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) Building

The sculpture shows a trio of samsui women, identified by their characteristic hats and the loads they carry on their backs. Samsui women came to Singapore from the Samsui Province of China mostly between the 1920's and 1940's in search of jobs to support their families back home. The location of this sculpture outside the Urban Development Authority's building is significant, as samsui women were mainly responsible for construction and industrial jobs during key development periods in Singapore's history.