

EXHIBITION/PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Opening Festival

December 2006

The Museum celebrated its opening with a month-long festival from 2 to 31 December 2006. It showcased outstanding performances by local talents and foreign groups from Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, Taipei, Thailand, UK and USA. The opening performance on 2 December 2006 saw the Museum building coming to life with extraordinary outdoor water and light display entitled *Hydromania* by Avanti Display from the UK.

Under the Crescent Moon Festival

March to May 2007

Under the Crescent Moon is a two-month long festival which introduced the rich cultural heritage of the Arab world and Turkey – communities that has been growing in significance in recent decades. The exhibitions are *Living Under the Crescent Moon: Domestic Culture in the Arab World* and *NAZAR: Images from the Arab World*, each highlighting the creative ways in which artists from these communities have responded to the challenges of the modern world in their medium and genre. The festival also includes film programmes and performances that illuminate the richness and joy of life in these communities that have embraced Islam and how everyday life has been shaped by political and cultural changes.

Empire of Nature

The William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings donated by GK Goh

September to October 2007

Donated to the National Museum of Singapore by Mr GK Goh in 1996, the *William Farquhar Collection of Natural History Drawings* is prized as one of the eleven treasures of the museum. Documenting flora and fauna of the region, the painting of these drawings was commissioned by William Farquhar (1774 – 1839), the first Resident and Commandant of Singapore, during his stay in Melaka. The paintings have an interesting tension between scientific detail and aesthetic values and this exhibition showcased the complete collection of 477 paintings displayed in its entirety for the very first time.

120

October 2007

Commissioned by the National Museum of Singapore for the Museum's 120th birthday celebration, *120* is a performance that used the entire Museum building as stage. Audience were playfully ushered through the Museum galleries, halls and exhibits, inviting them to see this space differently, through alternate frames against a wallpaper of people. *120* is a new production by Theatreworks / Ong Keng Sen.

Greek Masterpieces from the Louvre

December 2007 – March 2008

The National Museum of Singapore presented a rare opportunity to view Classical Greek masterpieces from the renowned Louvre museum, right here in Singapore. Also presented for the first time in Southeast Asia are some 130 exquisite pieces such as the statues from the French royal collections and precious vases, terracotta figurines and gold jewellery from the 5th century BCE to the 1st century BC, bringing to life the story of Athens. Within the exhibition were specially designed interactive spaces called *It's All Greek To Me* where visitors could don ancient Greek costumes or play a round of backgammon.

Children's Season

May – July 2008

The inaugural Children's Season at the National Museum of Singapore boasts a slew of family friendly performances, installations, workshops and film programmes, and a delightful one-of-a-kind exhibition *Mozart: A Child Prodigy*, conceived by the world renowned Da Ponte Institute and ZOOM Children's Museum. More than just a kid's festival, the programmes have been carefully curated to stimulate the intellect and refine the sense of children from as young as 30 months.

Night Festival

July 2008

The National Museum's inaugural *Night Festival* is two weekends of spectacular theatrical performances, music, open-air cinema and fun interactive activities, offering an alternative nightlife activity for Singaporeans and all visitors. The first weekend opened with the internationally acclaimed Studio Festi from Italy who performed *The Dancing Sky* – a breathtakingly magical aerial performance at the Museum's Stamford Green and Singapore Management University's Campus Green. The second weekend features local nightspot Zouk's outdoor party *The Beatnik Picnic*, and *Deliciously Local*, a night bazaar featuring food stalls, traditional game kiosks, flea-market stalls and outdoor film screenings.

Season of Photography

October 2008 – January 2009

In 2008, the National Museum of Singapore presented for the first time, *Season of Photography*, a major showcase of some of the most exciting works in photography. Headlining the *Season of Photography* were three exhibitions by world-renowned photographers – *Heresies: A Retrospective by Pedro Meyer* (7 Oct – 16 Nov 2008) – a pioneer in digital imaging art, *Doubleness: Photography of Chang Chien-Chi* (10 Oct 2008 – 4 Jan 2009) – an award winning Magnum photographer, and *VOOM PORTRAITS Robert Wilson* (30 Oct 2008 – 4 Jan 2009) – an artist and theatre luminary who stretches the boundaries of photographic art with this exhibition of high-definition video portraits. The Museum is proud to have hosted Chang and Wilson in Singapore during the opening of their exhibitions. Also featured was an exhibition on the winning entries of the Museum's very own photography competition, *Spot & Shoot 2008: Feast on the Past!*, and photography talks by photographers Bryan van der Beek and jing quek.

Christian Lacroix the costumier

March 2009 – June 2009

The virtuoso haute couture designer Christian Lacroix, who is known for defining the look of the 1980s with its bright colours and extravagant embellishments, presents his splendid costume design work of 20 years for the ballet, theatre and opera in this exclusive exhibition at the National Museum of Singapore. In Asia for the very first time are close to 80 spectacular costumes and 60 sketches from the collection of the Centre National du Costume de Scène (National Stage Costume Centre, Moulins, France) and from Lacroix's personal collection.