

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



## Leonardo da Vinci takes on contemporary look at ArtScience Museum

*Tickets to Da Vinci: Shaping the Future go on sale from 27 October*

**Singapore** (24 October, 2014) – The upcoming exhibition, *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* will take a bold and contemporary approach to the life and genius of Leonardo da Vinci.

Beyond the presentation of original masterpieces from da Vinci's renowned *Codex Atlanticus* and paintings from the School of Leonardo, the exhibition is specially curated to showcase the relevance of da Vinci's work as an inventor, artist, scientist, engineer and architect, today.

The groundbreaking exhibition, which will be unveiled on 15 November, presents original work by da Vinci for the first time in Southeast Asia. Over its six months duration till May 2015, the exhibition will showcase 26 original pages of the *Codex Atlanticus*, da Vinci's largest notebook, and six original paintings from the School of Leonardo. Alongside the presentation of these masterpieces, which are travelling to Singapore from one of the world's great Renaissance museums, Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Italy, visitors can learn about da Vinci's scientific and artistic pursuits through interactive exhibits, technology, film, and models of his inventions.

Also on display at the exhibition are five contemporary art installations, including three new commissions, by five international and local artists, namely WY-TO Pte. Ltd. (Singapore), Donna Ong (Singapore), Semiconductor (United Kingdom), Luke Jerram (United Kingdom) and Conrad Shawcross (United Kingdom). Drawing inspiration from da Vinci's work in mathematics, natural sciences, technology, architecture and music, these art installations give visitors new insights into da Vinci's ideas and processes, and reveal how strikingly resonant his thinking is today.

"Leonardo da Vinci was one of history's great polymaths, excelling in both science and art. His work in mathematics, natural sciences and technology is every bit as impressive as his art. He pioneered what is now known as 'systemic thinking', weaving interconnections between all the disciplines that he worked within. In his work, everything connects. We have curated *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* to show how cutting-edge, forward-thinking and pioneering he was. The interactive exhibits and contemporary art installations will inspire our visitors to appreciate just how acutely relevant his legacy is to us today," said Ms. Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.



## Snapshot of the artists and their works

### **Donna Ong (Singapore)**

Donna Ong's new installation, commissioned for the exhibition, is entitled *The Forest Speaks Back II*. It is inspired by da Vinci's approach to architecture, whilst also commenting on Singapore's approach to city-planning. Da Vinci made new associations between nature and architecture in order to design his buildings and cities. Ong has taken a similar approach. Nature, in particular, a tropical forest, is used as the inspiration for the design of architectural structures. The sculptural forms of the installation visually represent the pragmatic approach taken by Singapore to define and construct its urban landscape, through combining the use of tropical plants, skyscrapers and urban design.

### **WY-TO Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)**

*Through the Looking Glass* is a new installation by the architectural company, WY-TO, commissioned especially for the exhibition. It represents fractals, a natural phenomenon, or a mathematical set, that exhibits a repeating pattern that displays at every scale. Present in nature, yet easily created by human means, they blur the boundaries of what is "natural" and "man-made". Much of da Vinci's design inspiration came from observing and reimagining nature using mathematical principles. As such, *Through the Looking Glass*, can be seen as a direct legacy of da Vinci's approach to mathematics.

### **Luke Jerram (United Kingdom)**

*Glass Microbiology* by the artist Luke Jerram consists of a series of glass sculptures which represent viruses. Similar to da Vinci's drawings of nature in the *Codex Atlanticus*, the sculptures aim to reveal the hidden structures of naturally occurring phenomenon. The artworks are designed through studying and then combining scientific diagrams of viruses, together with imagery made using an electron microscope. In effect, they are three-dimensional diagrams of microbiology, comparable to da Vinci's own diagrams and drawings.

### **Semiconductor (United Kingdom)**

*Catching the Light* is a moving image installation by the artist duo, Semiconductor, commissioned for the exhibition. It is created using visual data collected by space telescopes. By working with the cutting-edge telescope technology, Semiconductor work at the limits of knowledge, where scientists are seeing phenomena for the first time. Their exploration of how technology can radically extend our capacity for observation and understanding, reflects not only da Vinci's passion for observation, but also his approach to technology.

### **Conrad Shawcross (United Kingdom)**


*Projections of the Perfect Third* by the artist, Conrad Shawcross, is a series of artworks that visualise musical chords. The three works are a kinetic light work (*Limit of Everything (5:4)*), a large bronze sculpture (*Harmonic Manifold 1*), and a set of drawings (*Perfect Third (5:4) 1-5*). The works all centre around a "perfect third" – a particular type of musical chord. The installation echoes da Vinci's own fascination with musical chords, and of 'perfect' musical ratios.

Refer to Appendix A for the biography of the artists.

Tickets to *Da Vinci: Shaping the Future* go on sale from 27 October. Visitors will be able to enjoy 20 percent off ticket prices in the early bird promotion when they purchase tickets from now till 14 November 2014. Tickets are available through the Marina Bay Sands ticketing portal, ticketing hotline, box offices and all SISTIC channels. Terms and Conditions apply.

**Visitor Information**

Da Vinci: Shaping the Future		Standard ticket	Singapore resident ticket
	Adult	S\$25	S\$19
	Senior (65 years and above)	S\$23	S\$17.50
	Child (2 - 12 years)	S\$15	S\$10.50
	Family Package (2 Adults + 2 Children)	S\$68	S\$51
	Season Pass (Unlimited Visits)	S\$30	

<b><u>All Access Pass</u></b>		Standard ticket	Singapore resident ticket
<b>Da Vinci: Shaping the Future and An Ocean of Possibilities</b> <i>(Valid from 15 November to 28 December 2014)</i>			
	Adult	S\$28	S\$20
	Senior (65 years and above)	S\$26	S\$18.50
	Child (2 - 12 years)	S\$17	S\$12
	Family Package (2 Adults + 2 Children)	S\$77	S\$56

For more ticketing promotions and information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum](http://www.marinabaysands.com/ArtScienceMuseum)

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#### **About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd**

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com).

#### **About ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

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**Donna Ong (Singapore)**

Donna Ong is a Singaporean installation artist, best known for her evocative and thought-provoking environments made from furniture, found objects and original artwork. In 2009, Donna was recognised for her artistic achievements by the Singapore Government with the receipt of the National Arts Council's Young Artist Award. In the same year, she also won the People's Choice award for the President's Young Talent Competition.

Ong has exhibited her works in shows such as the Jakarta Biennale (2009), Kwandu Biennale (2008), 2nd Moscow Biennale (2007) and the inaugural Singapore Biennale (2007). Her installations have appeared in prestigious museums and institutions worldwide, such as the Singapore Art Museum, National Museum of Singapore, Hara Museum (Japan) and the Djanogly Art Gallery in Nottingham University (England). Her recent projects include an exhibition jointly organised by The Royal Academy (UK) and the Institute of Contemporary Art (Singapore), as well as a solo show at Primae Noctis Gallery (Lugano, Switzerland).

**WY-TO (Singapore)**

WY-TO is a unique architectural practice based in both Singapore and Paris, spearheaded by co-founders Yann Follain and Pauline Gaudry. WY-TO's mission is to combine functionality and dream to create spaces for everyday life as well as for exceptional occasions. Since the establishment of WY-TO Architects in Paris in 2007 and WY-TO Pte. Ltd. in 2010, the company has been involved with many key projects whose comprehensive portfolio extends to residential, commercial, cultural, urban as well as interior, and exhibition/art installation developments.

What sets WY-TO apart is their unique approach and strong design principals focusing on providing the right solutions, precisely meeting the needs of the end-user(s) consistently placed in its respective context, maximising space and lastly but most importantly, providing iconic, timeless and sustainable design.

**Semiconductor (United Kingdom)**

Semiconductor was formed in 1999 by UK artist duo Ruth Jarman and Joe Gerhardt. Their art works explore the material nature of the world, how we experience it and how we try to create an understanding of it, questioning our place in the physical universe.

Their unique approach has won them many awards and prestigious fellowships including; 'Samsung Art + Prize' 2012 for new media, the 'Golden Gate Award for New Visions' at San Francisco International Film Festival USA 2012, a Smithsonian Artists Research Fellowship and a Gulbenkian Galapagos Artists Fellowship.

**Luke Jerram (United Kingdom)**

Luke Jerram's multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally for 17 years, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe. The Glass Microbiology sculptures are in museum and private collections around the world, including Metropolitan Museum, NYC; Wellcome Collection, London and Museum of Glass, Shanghai. They are regularly displayed in exhibitions, including most recently Museum of Contemporary Art, Spain; Knoxville Museum of Art, USA; Museum of Art and Design, NYC; National Glass Centre, UK and Pittsburgh Glass Museum, USA.

**Conrad Shawcross (United Kingdom)**

Conrad Shawcross explores subjects that lie on the borders of geometry and philosophy, physics and metaphysics. Attracted by historical failed quests for knowledge, he often appropriates redundant theories and methodologies to create ambitious structural and mechanical montages.

Shawcross' recent solo presentations include: Berwaldhallen, Stockholm (2014); ARTMIA, Beijing (2014); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2013); National Gallery, London (2012); MUDAM, Luxembourg (2012); Science Museum, London (2011) and Turner Contemporary, Margate (2011). His work has been exhibited at institutions including MONA, Tasmania (2014 and 2011); Grand Palais, Paris (2013); Hayward Gallery, London (2013) and KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2012).