

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**SINGAPORE BIENNALE 2022 PARTNERS DARAT AL FUNUN - THE KHALID SHOMAN FOUNDATION FOR ITS ARTIST RESIDENCY PROGRAMME**

*With the residency taking place in Jordan and Singapore, audiences are invited to be a part of this artistic and curatorial process in the lead up to the Biennale's final event in October 2022*



*Image of Darat al Funun - The Khalid Shoman Foundation*

**Singapore, 19 May 2022** – The Singapore Biennale 2022 (SB2022) announced its partnership with Darat al Funun - The Khalid Shoman Foundation. Through this partnership, the two institutions will conduct two artist residency programmes that will take place from 16 May 2022 to 31 July 2022 and September to November 2022 in Jordan and Singapore respectively this year. The presentations produced as part of the residency will be featured as part of the final event for SB2022.

Inspired by the act of naming, SB2022 has been given a name for the first time - Natasha - to invite audiences to reevaluate their relationship with art and life. Organised by the Singapore Art Museum and commissioned by the National Arts Council, Singapore, this seventh edition is driven primarily by “process”, wherein the journey of art making is seen to be as important as the final creation of art. With this focus on the process, audiences are invited to find, form, and

shape Natasha through a series of journeys, while art practitioners and researchers from all around the world contribute and present their artistic practice, going beyond borders, spaces and geography.

The residencies are an extension of this collaborative experience, which serve as a platform for artists and audiences in multiple cities to be a part of the artistic development during the Biennale's conceptualisation and duration. This reflects the phased approach that the public can expect from the Biennale in the next few months.

This partnership with The Foundation aims to provide participating artists, in this case Singaporean artist Ong Kian Peng and Jordanian artist Raed Ibrahim, a chance to culturally immerse themselves as they develop their works in the home countries of Co-Artistic Directors, Ala Younis and June Yap who reside in Jordan and Singapore respectively. It draws from the individual experiences and practices of the Co-Artistic Directors, who have collectively shaped the Biennale to reflect their multinational collaboration and generate renewed perspectives of contemporary art from here.

Ala Younis, Co-Artistic Director of SB2022, said, "Singapore Biennale as a platform provides an opportunity to speak to present conditions and their effects. Our hope is to enable such conversations through the artworks as much as in dialogues, interactions and participation involving both artists and audiences. We are excited to announce our partnership with Darat al Funun - The Khalid Shoman Foundation and see what processes and journeys materialise from the residency programme. As part of SB2022, we will continue to work with partners across different continents and connect artistic practices with its place of origin through producing and curating art."

The final event moment of convergence, which will be in the form of an exhibition and other events for the seventh edition of Singapore Biennale, is from 16 October 2022 to 19 March 2023. A schedule of the activities and the comprehensive list of participating artists will be released later in Q3 2022. Follow SB2022 and join the conversation via [Facebook](#) (@SingaporeBiennale) and [Instagram](#) (@sgbiennale), for the latest updates and information.

More information can be found in the Annexes.

- Annex A: About The Khalid Shoman Foundation
- Annex B: About the artists

Other assets may be downloaded at <https://bit.ly/SB2022mediakit>

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**About the Singapore Biennale**

The Singapore Biennale was established in 2006 as the country's pre-eminent platform for international dialogue in contemporary art. It presents and reflects the vigour of artistic practices in Singapore and the region within a global context, and fosters productive collaborations and deep engagement with artists, arts organisations, and the international arts community.

The Singapore Biennale cultivates public engagement with contemporary art through a period of concerted activities including exhibitions, public engagement and education programmes that feature artist and curator talks and tours, school visits and workshops, and community days. It complements achievements in other areas of arts and culture, collectively enhancing Singapore's international profile as a vibrant city in which to live, work and play.

The 2006 and 2008 editions of the Biennale were organised by the National Arts Council (NAC). NAC has commissioned SAM to organise the Biennale since 2011.

**About the Singapore Art Museum**

Singapore Art Museum opened in 1996 as the first art museum in Singapore located in the cultural district of Singapore. Known as SAM, the museum presents contemporary art from a Southeast Asian perspective for artists, art lovers and the art curious in multiple venues across the island, including a new venue in the historic port area of Tanjong Pagar.

The museum is building one of the world's most important public collections of Southeast Asian contemporary art, with the aim of connecting the art and the artists to the public and future generations through exhibitions and programmes. SAM is working towards a humane and sustainable future by committing to responsible practices within its processes.

To find out more, visit [www.singaporeartmuseum.sg](http://www.singaporeartmuseum.sg).

### **About the National Arts Council**

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives.

For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit [www.nac.gov.sg](http://www.nac.gov.sg).

## **Annex A: About The Khalid Shoman Foundation**

Darat al Funun - The Khalid Shoman Foundation is a home for the arts, dedicated to promoting art and artists from the Arab world by providing a platform for contemporary Arab artists, and by supporting art practices and artistic exchange. A pioneering private initiative launched in Amman, Jordan in 1988, Darat al Funun opened in 1993. It is today housed in six renovated historical buildings from the 1920's and 30's and a restored archaeological site in the garden. Darat al Funun's wide range of activities includes organising exhibitions, hosting artists in residence and artists talks, initiating workshops and a summer academy, supporting emerging artists' projects at The Lab, screening films and hosting performances. Darat al Funun houses a specialised art library and an extensive digital archive of video and photographic documentation of Darat al Funun's 34 years of activities. Darat al Funun displays art works from the Khalid Shoman private collection.

For more information, visit: <https://daratafunun.org>

## Annex B: About the Artists



*Courtesy of the artist*

**Raed Ibrahim** (b. 1971) is an artist interested in socially and politically engaged artistic practice related to issues of identity and memory. He currently teaches at the University of Jordan, Faculty of Arts. He graduated from the Lebanese University and participated in Darat al Funun's Summer Academy in 2000, 2001 and 2003, and in an artist-in-residence exchange program between Darat al Funun and ProHelvetia, in Aarau, Switzerland in 2009. He participated in several exhibitions at Darat al Funun since then, including *A Camel in the Room* in 2020.



*Courtesy of Jotham*

**Ong Kian Peng** (b. 1981) is a media artist based in Singapore. His practice investigates the effects of climate change and our relationship with nature. Working at the intersection of art, technology, and the environment, Ong creates immersive and reflective environments that offer alternate visions and imaginations of our relationship with nature.

Ong's works have been exhibited in art spaces such as the Tainan Museum of Fine Art, Singapore Art Museum, Arebyte Gallery London, ICA London, Total Museum Seoul, and ICA Singapore. He has presented works in festivals and art fairs like the Singapore M1 Fringe Festival, International Computer Music Conference, Siggraph Art Gallery, FILE Festival Brazil, Asian Students and Young Artists Festival, Japan Media Arts Festival, Singapore Open Media Art Festival, and Yeosu International Art Fair.

Ong was awarded the President's Young Talent Grand Prize in 2015. Ong graduated from UCLA with an MFA in Design Media Art. He received the NTU research scholarship to pursue his PhD at the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University (2022). Since 2017, he has been running Supernormal, an independent art space focusing on emerging and experimental art practice.