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Media Release

Artwork Inspired by Singapore's Concrete Benches of Yesteryear Unveiled at National Gallery Singapore

Singapore, 25 May 2016 – National Gallery Singapore unveiled a new art sculpture, *Totem*, by artist Chun Kai Feng. Inspired by concrete benches commonly seen around Housing Development Board (HDB) estates in the past, *Totem* is the first installation at the Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Gallery created by a Singaporean artist.



[*Totem* by Chun Kai Feng showcased at the Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Gallery]

Using the simple technique of stacking, Chun created scaled-up modules of the benches to build a sculptural monument. Its form evokes a tribal totem, albeit a contemporary one for the city. Chun wanted to offer provocations to our habitual encounters by dislocating the bench from its original context. Departing from the material qualities and function of

the concrete benches, the glossy finish of the work creates a thought-provoking dialogue with the skyscrapers that surround the Gallery.

The work is showcased in the Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Gallery, made possible by Far East Organization's contribution to National Gallery Singapore. The donation contributes to the Gallery's research, curatorial and exhibition work, with a focus on outdoor presentations of commissioned art.

Totem is the second exhibition at the Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Gallery, located at Level 5 of the City Hall Wing. The showcase will run till September 2016 and is free to the public. For more information on the exhibition, visit www.nationalgallery.sg.

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ABOUT NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE

National Gallery Singapore is a new visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art of Singapore and Southeast Asia. The Gallery is dedicated to collaborative research, education and exhibitions, highlighting the importance of modern art in Southeast Asia in a global context. The Gallery also provides a unique visitor experience through its art presentations and innovative programming, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the National Gallery Singapore has been beautifully restored and transformed from the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings – two important heritage buildings of Singapore's nationhood – into an exciting new visual arts venue. Opened in November 2015, the Gallery will be a leading civic and cultural destination established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world. Information on the National Gallery Singapore is available at www.nationalgallery.sg.

ABOUT CHUN KAI FENG

Chun Kai Feng is interested in mapping the day-to-day, regularly making works based on ordinary elements in a city. Using industrial techniques and materials, he explores ideas of materiality and abstraction. The objects in his works are carefully designed to prompt reflections on our relationship with things in our environment. Chun is a Master of Fine Art graduate from Glasgow School of Art and was conferred the National Arts Council Young Artist Award in 2015.

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