

*For immediate release*

**Media Advisory**

## **Naked Museum: National Gallery Singapore Invites Singaporeans to Experience the Gallery without the Art**

**Singapore, 17 April 2015** – Almost 10 years in the making, Singapore’s newest museum is making preparations for its big debut this year end. Before that happens, National Gallery Singapore is offering Singaporeans a sneak peek of its key spaces and an experience of its building history tour before the Gallery opens its doors to the public.

Singaporeans will be able to take a step back through time on a guided tour of the painstakingly restored spaces of the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings, before one of the world’s most extensive collection of Southeast Asian modern art is carefully installed. The Gallery’s docents will be on hand to provide interesting facts and insights into the storied history of the buildings which had witnessed the formation of the prosperous nation that Singapore has become today. Restored to their former glory and repurposed with contemporary design, these two historic buildings will be permanent home to the DBS Singapore Gallery, UOB Southeast Asia Gallery and Keppel Centre for Art Education.

Visitors will get their first glimpse of the restored City Hall Chamber, one of the most important sites in Singapore history. Not only did the Imperial Japanese armed forces sign 11 copies of the Instrument of Surrender document here in 1945, but this very room also bore witness to the swearing in of Mr Lee Kuan Yew on 5 June 1959.

As part of this significant moment in the birth of Singapore’s newest museum, the Gallery will be giving away more than 100 pairs of passes to the Naked Museum tours on Saturday 2 May through its Facebook page. More details can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/nationalgallerysg>.

The Gallery is also inviting members of the public who previously worked at the former Supreme Court and City Hall, to come forward and share their memories and experiences with all Singaporeans. These important pieces of our history are part of the Gallery's past, and will help shape the narrative of its future. Please contact us through our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/nationalgallerysg>.

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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 in 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 outstanding collections and innovative programming, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the Gallery is housed in the City Hall and adjacent former Supreme Court building – two important heritage buildings symbolic of Singapore's history. Opening in November this year, 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 is available at [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg).

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