

MEDIA RELEASE



Tan Oe Pang, *Painting of Buffalo*, 2002, ink and colour on rice paper,
246 x 123cm, collection of National Heritage Board

National Art Gallery, Singapore Receives 20 Artworks by Ink Artist Tan Oe Pang from Dr George Quek

SINGAPORE, 19 April 2011 – The National Art Gallery, Singapore is happy to announce that it has received a generous donation of 20 artworks by leading local ink artist, **Tan Oe Pang**. The artworks are generously donated by Dr George Quek, Chairman of BreadTalk Group Limited.

Lauded for his daring use of ink and exaggerated compositions, Tan Oe Pang has established himself as one of the most innovative practitioners in ink painting today. Trained under the tutelage of Chinese ink artist, Fan Chang Tien, Tan quickly went on to develop his own artistic voice in a pursuit to revolutionise traditions in art making. Known for the portrayal of urban subjects using Chinese ink, Tan's trademark '海派' (hai pai) style reveals his unique expression in

the medium. Tan has exhibited widely, showcasing his works in Brazil, Chile, Germany, Holland, Scotland, South Korea, Taiwan and USA. He participated in the 1985 International Biennial of Arts in Sao Paolo, the 1989 International Biennial of Arts Valparasio in Chile and the 1992 International Biennial for Ink Painting in Shenzhen.

Dr George Quek has been a keen supporter of the arts for many years. Dr Quek was recently awarded a Partner of Heritage Award at National Heritage Board's Patron of Heritage Award 2010 on 15 April 2011. He also sits on the Board of the Singapore Art Museum.

The donation includes artworks from the early 1990s all the way to 2009. Other than the gift of 20 works, Tan Oe Pang himself donated two of his artworks to the Gallery. Titled *A Billion Years* and *9th August*, the donations were made last year to commemorate Singapore's 45th National Day. Along with these latest valuable additions to the National Collection, the Gallery's current collection of artworks by Tan Oe Pang has grown to encompass a sizeable number of ink and oil works.

Director of The National Art Gallery, Singapore, Mr Kwok Kian Chow, said, "Dr George Quek's donation provides the Gallery with a representational body of Oe Pang's works that enables us to further research into his artistic progress, as well as the development of contemporary ink painting in Singapore, which is unique in the world of ink paintings. Donors like Dr Quek play an important role in helping the Gallery to grow and share our collection with visitors from Singapore and around the world."

Tan's mastery of ink techniques are evident from his brushwork in noteworthy paintings such as *Painting of Buffalo* and *Fish and Lotus*, both of which are on display at the *Notable Acquisitions Exhibition 2011: Featuring works by Tan Oe Pang*. The exhibition features 16 selected artworks from the donation collection and will be held at the Singapore Art Museum from 18 April to 21 August 2011. Members of the public are welcome to visit the exhibition.

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Media enquiries

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Notes to Editor

About the National Art Gallery, Singapore

The National Art Gallery, Singapore (*working title*) is a new visual arts institution which will contribute towards positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for visual arts. It manages the world's largest public collection of modern Southeast Asian and Singapore art. The Gallery focuses on displaying, promoting and researching these artworks, relating them to the wider Asian and international contexts, and hosting international art exhibitions.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the City Hall and adjacent former Supreme Court building - two important heritage buildings symbolic of Singapore's nationhood - will be converted to house this exciting new visual arts venue, and is anticipated to be completed by 2014. The National Art Gallery will be a civic and creative space, established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world. Information on the National Art Gallery is available at www.nationalartgallery.sg.

Biography of Tan Oe Pang

- 1947 Born in Singapore
- 1962 Completed Primary Education at Catholic High (Primary) School
- 1966 Completed Secondary Education at Whampoa Secondary School. Became a formal student of Fan Cheng Tien, studying traditional Chinese ink painting
- 1964 - 1975 Participated in Singapore National Day Art Exhibition.
- 1969 Graduated from Teachers' Training College, Singapore
- 1970 Teacher at primary school
- 1975 Obtained President Efficiency Award
- 1980 Lecturer at School of Continuing Studies, National University of Singapore
- 1981 Participated in Art Exhibition, Finland
- Participated in the International Chinese Ink-Painting Exhibition, Taiwan
- 1983 – 1995 Art Specialist, Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore, Ministry of Education, Singapore
- 1985 Participated in the International Biennial of Arts Sao Paolo, Brazil
Head of Art Research Centre, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- 1986 Participated in Art Exhibition at Asian Games, South Korea
- 1987 Participated in Art Exhibition at the Tropen Museum, Holland
First Southeast Asian artist to be invited by Chinese Art Research Institute, Beijing to guest lecture and organise solo exhibitions in calligraphy and painting at the Institute
- 1988 Invited with master artist Chen Wen Hsi to Beijing for the International Chinese Ink Painting Exhibition where Tan Oe Pang's *A Han Acrobatics* was awarded 优秀作品奖 'Excellence Award'
- 1989 Invited to participate in the International Biennial of Arts Valparaiso, Chile
- 1990 Participated in the Mannheim Art Exhibition, West Germany
- 1991 Participated in International Art Exhibition, Washington USA
- 1992 Participated in East-West Modern Art Exhibition, Glasgow, Scotland
Participated in the second International Biennial for Ink Painting, the Guanshan Yue Art Gallery, Shenzhen
Solo Exhibition at the Goethe-Institute Art Gallery, Singapore
Published Tan Oe Pang's Poetry and Verse, Volume One.
- 1994 Accepted by the World's Fine Art Publishing Inc. for publication in The World's Greatest Fine Artist Encyclopaedia in USA
- 1995 Appointed by Taiwan Zhong Hua PCPS Academy as Academician.
Obtained International Grand Master and Paragon Award by PCPS Academy, Taiwan.
Participated in Non-Alliance Countries Modern Art Exhibition, organised by the Government of Indonesia.
- 2001 Solo Exhibition at China Art Museum, Invited by the Beijing Art Institute.
- 2002 Invited as a Guest Lecturer under the Man of Learning Programme, National University of Singapore
- 2005 Published Tan Oe Pang's Compilation of Tang Poetry