

Singapore's fortnightly arts events guide

ARTS

Beat

Now-7 June

*SCAPE VISOUT ART INSTALLATION

Paint what culture and heritage truly means to you at this free event.

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Now-30 April

BABY BLOOMS

Let Huang Zhan Wen take you to his own concept of new beginnings and imagery of life through his paintings.

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1-3 May

MALAY ARTS FESTIVAL

Don't miss contemporary and classic live performances from the Malay Arts Industry.

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▲ My Life is an Open Book

Matthew Bax based his latest series of semi-abstract mixed media paintings on the motif of stacked books. The 'stacking' format in his paintings also echoes the many hats Bax is forced to don daily in his capacity as artist, hospitality business co-owner and head bartender. Layers of paint (some sculptural, others ethereal drippings) evoke piles of books waiting to be read, or bookmarked pages left open waiting for the reader to continue.

Date: Now–2 May

Venue: FOST Gallery, 65 Kim Yam Road

Time: 12–7pm (Tue–Sat)

Price: Free

Enquiries: Call 6836 2661,

email info@fostgallery.com

or visit www.fostgallery.com

From Desert to Saltwater Country

The Yulparija left their traditional country in the 1960's due to a severe drought and headed to Le Grange Mission, now known as Bidyadanga, two hours south of Broome, Western Australia.

Their art making dates back to mid-1999 when Daniel Walbidi, then 16 years old, walked in to the little Short Street Gallery in Broome's Chinatown, and approached its owner, proclaiming "I am an artist, and there are old people in my community who need to paint."

The extraordinary works of the Yulparija artists reflect the

contemporary experiences of these people, with desert iconography being portrayed in the rich blues and reds and greens of the coastal landscape that the artists have been living in for the past 35 years.

Date: Now–16 May

Venue: ReDot Gallery, 11 Everton Road

Time: Noon–7pm (Tue–Sat)

Price: Free

Enquiries: Call 6222 1039

or visit www.redotgallery.com

Afterlife of the Tang Nobility

Afterlife of the Tang Nobility gives an insight to an important part of the Chinese culture during the seventh – ninth centuries. It features more than 50 pieces of Tang San-cai (or three-coloured pottery) artifacts which will be divided in three sections, namely, Horses and Camels, Figures and Potteries. This exhibition, based on an array of private collection by Bryan Collection and curated by Chen Jiazi, is presented and organised by Alliance Française de Singapour and co-presented by French Embassy in Singapore and Societe Generale.

Date: Now–8 May

Venue: SG Private Banking Gallery,

Alliance Francaise de Singapour,

1 Sarkies Road, Level 2

Time: 11am–7pm (Mon–Fri),

11am–5pm (Sat)

Price: Free

Enquiries: Call 6833 9314 or email

benedict@alliancefrancaise.org.sg

Christian Lacroix the Costumier

Hailed by The New York Times as "a couturier unmatched for his theatrical flair", Christian Lacroix infuses his signature haute couture style in his costume designs through the use of unusual fabrics, bright colours and extravagant embellishments. Christian Lacroix is an artist in his own right having defined the look of the 80s and his stage costumes show the close link between haute couture and the performing arts in France. In Asia for the very first time, Christian Lacroix the Costumier will showcase close to 80 spectacular costumes as well as 60 illustrations and sketches from the Centre National du Costume de Scène (National Stage Costume Museum, Moulins, France), and from the virtuoso designer's personal collection.

Date: Now–7 June

Venue: National Museum of Singapore

Time: 10am–6pm

Price: \$8

Enquiries: Call 6332 3659

or visit www.nationalmuseum.sg

Being: Ahmad Zakii Anwar

This exhibition features ten new charcoal works by Ahmad Zakii Anwar, one of Malaysia's most engaging and eloquent 'urban realist' artists. In his most recent series, Being, the artist – better known as Zakii – presents a sustained encounter with the body as an intertwined metaphor of the contemporary "Self" that is based on the Sufi premise of "knowing oneself and then knowing God".

Zakii does not position Islam as a counterpoint to Western thoughts and ideas. Rather, he recognises the contingency of history and ontology in opening an inquiry on the body, subjecting it to the vexing discourse of the contemporary and the emancipatory nature of Sufi spirituality as productive acts of remembrance and communion. The lone figures allude to the body as a site which brings together physicality, mentality and cosmology, constantly transacting with rationalist positions on the question of body and mind. As a result, Being stands as an ambivalent response to narrow assertions that Islam is essentially a rigid and ascetically rigorous religion, uniquely disengaged from the flesh.

Date: Now–7 June

Venue: NUS Museum

Time: 10am–7.30pm (Tue–Sat),

10am–6pm (Sun)

Price: Free

Enquiries: Call 6516 8817,

email museum@nus.edu.sg

or visit www.nus.edu.sg/museum