

**PRUDENTIAL EYE AWARDS 2016 SHORTLIST ANNOUNCED:
PANEL OF MUSEUM DIRECTORS AND ART EXPERTS SELECT
BEST EMERGING ASIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS**



Robert Zhao, Singapore Wild Dogs – From the series Singapore 1925-2025, 2014, Archival Piezographic Print in frame, 121cmx84cm

Following the breakthrough success of last year's winners, Prudential Eye Awards returns to Singapore Art Week 2016 with over 100 submissions for five award categories, a 2.5-month public exhibition at ArtScience Museum and a solo exhibition at Saatchi Gallery, London for the overall prize winner

Singapore, 3 December 2015 – The Prudential Eye Programme is pleased to announce that the third edition of the Prudential Eye Awards returns to Singapore in January 2016 as part of Singapore Art Week. The Awards celebrates emerging Asian contemporary artists with a ceremony that will take place at MasterCard Theatres - Sands Theatre at Marina Bay Sands on Tuesday 19 January 2016. This is accompanied by a public exhibition at ArtScience Museum which will run from 16 January to 27 March 2016. This is the second year that the Marina Bay Sands is the Official Venue for the prestigious awards ceremony and the exhibition.

This edition follows the breakthrough international success of last year's overall winner, Japanese collective Chim↑Pom, who went on to feature in museum shows in the UK, Denmark and Australia following their success at the Awards. As part of the prize,

Chim↑Pom also had a solo exhibition at emerging art fair, START at Saatchi Gallery in September 2015, which opened to great critical acclaim. The 2016 edition features 15 artists that an eminent panel of Judges believe have the potential to go on and develop significant careers on the international art world stage.

The Judges for this edition of the Prudential Eye Awards are Johnson Chang, Serenella Ciclitira (CEO & Founder of Parallel Contemporary Art), Honor Harger (Executive Director, ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands), Nigel Hurst (CEO, Saatchi Gallery), Fumio Nanjo (Director, Mori Art Museum), Rosalyn D'Mello (Writer, Editor and Art Critic), and Gu Wenda (Celebrated contemporary artist and 2015 Prudential Eye Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient). They reviewed the submissions of over 100 artists put forward by curators, critics and art experts from across Asia in order to produce shortlists of three artists in five categories for Best Emerging Artist.

The annual awards focus on emerging artists from across Greater Asia and highlight the breadth, range and diversity of the works made by emerging Asian artists. The total prize money amounts to USD\$150,000, of which USD\$20,000 as well as a specially commissioned trophy, will be awarded to the winner of each category. An overall winner will be chosen from the winners of the five categories and will be awarded the prize of 'Best Emerging Artist', winning a further USD\$30,000 and a solo exhibition at START, Saatchi Gallery in London.

Best Emerging Artist Using Digital/Video: Anupong Charoenmitr (Thailand), Sutthirat Supaparinya (Thailand), Trinh Thi Nguyen (Vietnam)

Best Emerging Artist Using Installation: Huang Po-Chih (Taiwan), indieguerillas (Indonesia), Aditya Novali (Indonesia)

Best Emerging Artist Using Painting: Toshiyuki Konishi (Japan), Manish Nai (India), Tawan Wattuya (Thailand)

Best Emerging Artist Using Photography: Shumon Ahmed (Bangladesh), Zhang Wei (China), Robert Zhao (Singapore)

Best Emerging Artist Using Sculpture: Promotesh Das (Bangladesh), Sareth Svay (Cambodia), Yang Mushi (China)

Digital and Video work is strongly represented by three artists, Anupong Charoenmitr, Sutthurat Supaparinya and Trinh Thi Nguyen whose works touch on issues that include the passage of time, mortality, environmentalism and migration.

An element of playful questioning characterises the work of Huang Po-Chih, indieguerillas and Aditya Novali, all of whom have been shortlisted for Best Emerging Artist Using Installation. Huang Po-Chih will re-create a production line for denim garments whilst Aditya Novali presents an installation comprising of drawings of people taken from a book about Indonesian art.

Toshiyuki Konishi, Manish Nai and Tawan Wattuya all approach painting from different perspectives in terms of subject matter and materiality. Together they demonstrate the continued flourishing of painting across Asia.

Shumon Ahmed, Zhang Wei and Robert Zhao provide a very strong shortlist for Best Emerging Artist Using Photography with all three practitioners exploring a particular way of using photography and drawing on the specifics of the locations they work from.

The three artists shortlisted for Best Emerging Artist Using Sculpture, Promotesh Das, Sareth Svay and Yang Mushi are all concerned with the formal language of contemporary sculpture despite their different approaches to subject matter.

Niru Ratnam, Director of the Prudential Eye Awards said, "I'm delighted with the shortlists that the judges have arrived at. There is no doubt that the selection of artists demonstrates both quality and variety. I'm particularly impressed by this year's shortlists as I truly believe they represent a new generation of artists emerging across Asia and am intrigued to see the exhibition of the shortlisted artists' works at ArtScience Museum."

Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum said: "ArtScience Museum is delighted to be presenting an exhibition of the artists nominated for the Prudential Eye Awards, for the second year running. The quality of submissions for the 2016 awards was impressive, and is representative of the dynamism of contemporary art practice in Asia. We are pleased to provide a world stage for some of the region's most striking emerging artists during Singapore's Art Week in January 2016, which also includes Art Stage Singapore at Marina Bay Sands, as well as a range of other events and exhibitions, that collectively emphasises Singapore's growing prominence as a contemporary art destination."

Sean Rach, Chief Marketing Officer, Prudential Corporation Asia said, "Art is a powerful medium of expression often providing a window to view a community's culture. As a leading life insurer (Prudential) and asset manager (Eastspring Investments) in Asia, we are focused on helping people prepare for a secure future through listening to and understanding their motivations, goals and dreams. Our sponsorship of the Prudential Eye Awards, and the overall Prudential Eye Programme, is a natural extension of our commitment to the communities we serve."

In addition to the awards for Best Emerging Artist categories and Overall Winner, the Prudential Eye Awards will also feature four special awards. These are the Best Asian Contemporary Art Institution, Best Exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art, the Lifetime Achievement Award for Asian Contemporary Art and the Award for Visual and Popular Culture. For the first time the first two of these awards will be decided by public voting on the Prudential Eye Awards website. (www.prudentialewards.com)

The shortlist for the Best Asian Contemporary Art Institution is: NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (Singapore), Para Site (Hong Kong), Spring Workshop (Hong Kong) and the land foundation (Thailand)

The shortlist for the Best Exhibition of Asian Contemporary Art is: 'Great Crescent: Art and Agitation in the 1960s – Japan, South Korea and Taiwan' (Para Site, Hong Kong); 'Twin Tracks: Yang Fudong (Yuz Museum, China), 'Chen Zhen: Without going to New York and

Paris, life could be internationalized' (Rockbund Museum, Shanghai) and 'Go East: The Gene and Brian Sherman Contemporary Asian Art Collection' (Art Gallery of New South Wales, Australia)

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About the Prudential Eye Awards

The Prudential Eye Awards were launched in 2014 by the Global Eye Programme, a partnership between Prudential, Parallel Contemporary Art and the Saatchi Gallery. The annual awards focus on emerging artists from across Greater Asia and highlight the breadth, range and diversity of the works being made by emerging Asian artists. In partnership with the Saatchi Gallery they enable the work of these artists to reach audiences and receive international exposure. The Awards ceremony of the third edition of the Prudential Eye Awards will take place in Singapore on 19 January 2016. www.prudentialeyearwards.com

About the Prudential Eye Awards judges:

Serenella Ciclitira has an Honours Degree in Art History from Trinity College, Dublin and has worked extensively with artists and galleries throughout the world. With her husband, David Ciclitira, she is the co-founder of Global Eye Programme and a member of its curatorial board. She has been an Honorary Fellow at the Royal College of Art in London, and since 1990 has been awarding the Parallel Prize for Painting and the Serenella Ciclitira Scholarship for Sculpture. Winner of the Parallel Prize, Gillian Carnegie, was later nominated for the Turner Prize and Benedict Carpenter and Gereon Krebber went on to win the prestigious Jerwood Sculpture Prize. Martin Westwood, a former Parallel Prize winner, was featured in the Art Now exhibition at the Tate Britain in 2005.

Nigel Hurst is Director and Chief Executive of the Saatchi Gallery in London. He graduated from Goldsmiths College, London University in 1986 and since then has curated numerous international exhibitions. He joined the Saatchi Gallery as a curator in 1997, working on *Sensation* at the Royal Academy of Arts, London, the National Galerie at the Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin and the Brooklyn Museum of Art in New York. More recent exhibitions have focused on Asian contemporary art, including *The Revolution Continues: New Art from China* (2008), *Unveiled: New Art from Middle East* (2009), *The Empire Strikes Back: Indian Art Today* (2010), *The Silk Road* in collaboration with the City of Lille, France (2011) and *Korean Eye* (2012). He has also been a member of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Public Art Advisory Board since 2009, is a collection advisor for Chelsea & Westminster Hospital and also sits on the Development Council of University of the Arts London.

Chang Tsong-Zung (Johnson Chang) is curator, guest professor of China Academy of Art in Hangzhou, director of Hanart TZ Gallery and board member of Asia Art Archive and Inter-Asia School. He has been active in curating Chinese exhibitions since the 1980s, including *China's New Art Post-1989* (travelling 1993-98), Special Exhibitions at São Paulo Biennial 1996 and Venice Biennale 2001. Major curatorial projects include the *Power of the Word* series of exhibitions (since 1999), the *Yellow Box* series of research projects about contemporary art practice and Chinese culture of connoisseurship (since 2004). He co-curator of Guangzhou Triennial 2008 *Farewell to Post-Colonialism*, West Heavens projects of India-China art and social thought (since 2010), and was co-curator of the 9th Shanghai Biennale (2012), *Reactivation*.

Fumio Nanjo is the director of Mori Art Museum since November in 2006. He graduated from Keio University in the faculty of Economics (1972) and Letters (Aesthetics/Art History;1977). His main achievements include commissioner of the Japan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale (1997), commissioner at the Taipei Biennale (1998), member of jury committee of the Turner Prize (1998), artistic director of the Yokohama Triennale 2001, jury member of the Golden Lion Prize of the Venice Biennale (2005) and artistic director of the Singapore Biennale (2006/2008). Publications include *Asian Contemporary Art Report: China, India, Middle East and Japan* (2010) and *A Life with Art* (2012).

Honor Harger is the Executive Director for ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands. A curator from New Zealand, she has a strong interest in artistic uses of technologies and in science as part of culture. Honor brings with her over 15 years of experience of working at the intersection between art, science and technology. She is responsible for charting the overall direction and strategy for ArtScience Museum. Through her career, Honor has held several key appointments in the United Kingdom, New Zealand and Australia, and has curated many international exhibitions and events around the world. From 2009-2010 she was guest curator of Transmediale, an international festival of art and digital culture in Berlin. From 2004-2008, she was the director of the AV Festival, the UK's largest biennial of media art, film and music. She was the first webcasting curator for Tate Modern in London from 2000-2003, where she also curated events and concerts on art and technology.

Gu Wenda is the recipient of the 2015 Prudential Eye Awards Lifetime Achievement Award. Since 1981, Wenda Gu has participated in numerous international solo and group exhibitions and biennales in more than 30 countries. He had a survey exhibition for the first time in his artistic career at the National Gallery of Australia in 2001-2002. His art works are in permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum, Museum of Art New York, Hong Kong Museum of Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, National Gallery of Australia among others & private collections.

Dr. Peter Selz, described Wenda Gu as "arguably the most original and authentic artist to emerge in China since the revolution". Roberta Smith of The New York Times wrote "Wenda Gu...seems to be joining the list of artists whose work is attacked by a large public questioning its status as art and defended by fervent art worlders...". Edward Lucie-Smith recently wrote, "Wenda Gu is the most celebrated of a new generation of avant-garde artists who emerged from China in the very late 1980s and in the 1990s...he has made himself into

a fully international figure. In more senses than one, he is a key figure in the culture of our time."

Rosalyn D'Mello, is a widely published freelance art writer based in New Delhi. She was the Editor-in-chief of BLOUIN ARTINFO India. She is a regular contributor to Vogue, Open, Mint Lounge and Art Review Asia. She was among five writers nominated for Forbes' Best Emerging Art Writer Award in 2014 and was also nominated for the inaugural Prudential Eye Art Award for Best Writing on Asian Contemporary Art in 2014. She was the associate editor of The Art Critic, a 600+ page selection of the art writings of Richard Bartholomew from the 1950s to the early '80s. Her first book, *A Handbook For My Lover* has been published in India by Harper Collins.

About the Prudential Eye Programme

Established in 2008 by David and Serenella Ciclitira and sponsored by the region's leading life insurer and asset manager Prudential, the Prudential Eye Programme is an initiative that nurtures artistic talent. The programme aims to develop arts infrastructure in territories where this is lacking, in order to provide artists with the platforms, support and recognition they need to develop their careers. It works to build networks and opportunities for artists and galleries through strategic partnerships and a variety of platforms.

Previous projects from the Prudential Eye Programme include *Korean Eye* (2009 to 2012), *Indonesian Eye* (2011), *Hong Kong Eye* (2013) and *Prudential Malaysian Eye* (2014): a series of international touring exhibitions and publications providing emerging Asian artists with opportunities to showcase their work. To date, the programme has held 20 exhibitions worldwide, which have been viewed by over two million people.

In January 2014, the Prudential Eye Programme launched the *Prudential Eye Awards* in Singapore, honouring the accomplishments of emerging artists throughout greater Asia and launching a creative education programme with the British Council.

The latest exhibition in the Prudential Eye Programme is Thailand Eye presented by Prudential which is currently showing at Saatchi Gallery, London till 2 January 2016 and will also be on display at the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre from 17 March to 26 June 2016. More information on the exhibition at www.prudentialthailandeye.com

About Parallel Contemporary Art

Parallel Contemporary Art is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting emerging artists across the world. It was founded by David and Serenella Ciclitira who have been collectors and patrons of contemporary art for over two decades. Through their love of travel and discovering new artistic talent, they realised young artists in many parts of Asia were under supported and going unnoticed. To help develop the careers of these emerging Asian artists, they launched the Global Eye Programme, an initiative that nurtures worldwide artistic talent, which is sponsored by Prudential.

About Prudential Corporation Asia



Prudential Corporation Asia is a business unit of Prudential plc (United Kingdom)*, comprising its life insurance operations in Asia, and its asset management business, Eastspring Investments. It is headquartered in Hong Kong.

Prudential is a leading life insurer that spans 12 markets in Asia, covering Cambodia, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam. Prudential has a robust multi-channel distribution platform providing a comprehensive range of savings, investment and protection products to meet the diverse needs of Asian families.

**Prudential plc is incorporated in England and Wales, and its affiliated companies constitute one of the world's leading financial services groups. It has been in existence for 166 years and has £505 billion in assets under management (as at 30 June 2015). Prudential plc is not affiliated in any manner with Prudential Financial, Inc, a company whose principal place of business is in the United States of America.*

About Singapore Art Week

The Prudential Eye Awards 2016 and Exhibition are part of Singapore Art Week (16 – 24 January 2016). An initiative by the National Arts Council, in partnership with the Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Economic Development Board, Singapore Art Week reinforces Singapore's position as Asia's leading arts destination. It is a nine-day celebration of the visual arts, held at many venues across Singapore, including museums, art precincts and non-profit spaces.

Reaching out to both Singapore residents and international visitors, Singapore Art Week offers a myriad of quality art experiences, from art fairs, gallery openings, exhibitions, lifestyle events and public art walks, to enriching discussions on art and culture. Covering the visual arts beyond contemporary practices, including modern and traditional visual forms, Singapore Art Week also aims to galvanise the arts sector to launch innovative art and lifestyle concepts and events in conjunction with it. For more information, please visit www.artweek.sg

About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol

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 **EYE AWARDS**
CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART

and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About the Saatchi Gallery

The Saatchi Gallery was founded in 1985 with the aim of making contemporary art accessible to the widest possible audience by providing an innovative platform for emerging artists to show their work. Over the last four years the Saatchi Gallery has hosted ten out of the top 15 most visited exhibitions in London according to The Art Newspaper's survey of international museum attendance. It is also ranked amongst the world's top three most liked museums on Facebook and Twitter by Museum Analytics. The Saatchi Gallery website has become a global meeting place for people interested in contemporary art.