



MEDIA ADVISORY

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IN AN ECHO WE REMEMBER – FROM MEMORIES TO TANGIBLE CREATIONS

Singapore, 7 April 2017 – The School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA), in partnership with Tsao Foundation, today celebrated the opening of *In An Echo We Remember*, a part of the “Tangible Companions” side bar in the Curating Whampoa project. The student-curated exhibition features contemporary artworks created by 10 Visual Arts students from the International Baccalaureate Career-related Programme (IBCP) in response to objects owned by elderly residents of Whampoa.

2 These objects – ranging from a porcelain pillow to rattan stools made in Changi Prison – carry with them personal stories, memories, physical imprints of use, and glimpses of Singapore life in bygone times.

3 Through a journey of collaboration across generations – during which the residents shared with the artists the stories and sentiments behind their objects – ideas for tangible companions to these items slowly took shape. What became evident to the artists was that each of these objects only became more valuable over time because of the roles they had played in the residents’ lives. Over decades, they have become reminders of the moments and experiences from their life events.

4 “Curating Whampoa is one of our community participation programmes in ComSA, the Tsao Foundation’s ‘Community for Successful Ageing’ project in Whampoa to promote a society where all ages thrive and lend support to the health, social wellbeing and participation of older persons. A part of Curating Whampoa, “Tangible Companions” promotes inter-generational communication and bonding by enabling students and elders to learn from and inspire one other. We are delighted to see the SOTA students’ artistic response to the elderly’s cherished keepsakes and stories, and are grateful to SOTA for hosting this exhibition which shows the continuing contribution and relevance of older persons’ lives to the nourishment of arts and culture in society,” said Ms Susana Concorde Harding, director of the International Longevity Centre Singapore, Tsao Foundation.

5 “Being part of *In An Echo We Remember* has enabled me to further appreciate the vibrant and thriving culture of Whampoa, as well as better understand the sentimentality and memories embodied in objects. Throughout the making of this exhibition, my biggest takeaway would undoubtedly be learning to be more conscious in my interactions with the elderly. Taking into

consideration their needs and specific requirements and helping them feel most welcome in the modern context of life,” said Lim Zeherng, Year 6 Visual Arts student and one of the exhibition’s curators.

6 *In An Echo We Remember* exhibition opens on 7 April and will run from 8 to 16 April, 12 noon to 8pm at the SOTA Gallery. Admission is free.



Some of the objects owned by the residents of Whampoa. Images courtesy of SOTA IBCP Visual Arts students.

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About *In An Echo We Remember*

In An Echo We Remember is a collaborative effort between the students in the School of The Arts Singapore's International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP) and ***Curating Whampoa***, a community and heritage project by the Tsao Foundation that seeks to collect, curate and present the rich cultural and living heritage of Whampoa through a series of thematic events organised over a two-year period.

Each artwork in ***In An Echo We Remember*** was created by a visual arts student in response to an object owned by a resident of Whampoa.

Starting in December 2016, the students conducted house visits and interviews with the Whampoa residents to learn more about the objects that they were exploring. Each artist approached his or her object in a different manner. Some focused on their aesthetic qualities; others sought to understand their original function; still others looked into the particular meanings the objects accumulated for their owners over time.

The collection of artworks shown in this exhibition represent the multitude of ways that an everyday object can be related to and interpreted. The result is a series of works that retell history, retrieve memories, replicate patterns and relate the artist's own experiences to the residents' stories.

About *Curating Whampoa*

Curating Whampoa is one of the elder empowerment and community engagement programmes in the Tsao Foundation's Community for Successful Ageing (ComSA) project in Whampoa. It equips elderly Whampoa residents with heritage curation skills and hands them the reins to shape their 'living museum' across the heartland. At the same time, it highlights the role of older people as knowledge holders and custodians of culture, thereby dispelling ageist notions that undervalue their vibrant contribution to society. Co-conceived by the Tsao Foundation and Associate Professor Thomas Kong, ***Curating Whampoa*** involves the participation of elders, artists, designers, students and community-based workers and is supported by the National Heritage Board.

About Tsao Foundation

The Tsao Foundation vision is of an inclusive society for all ages that optimizes the opportunities in longevity and strengthens inter-generational solidarity.

The Foundation strives for a transformation of the ageing experience by being a catalyst for constructive systemic and mindset change. Through its four major initiatives – the Hua Mei Centre for Successful Ageing, Hua Mei Training Academy, International Longevity Centre Singapore and Community for Successful Ageing – the Foundation pioneers and provides community-based primary healthcare and psycho-social services for mature adults; builds capacity in professional and informal age care; empowers self-care, lifelong learning and community participation; undertakes policy relevant research and forges multi-sector partnerships to facilitate opportunities in longevity for the benefit of all ages.

Established in 1993, the Tsao Foundation is a Singapore registered charity with IPC (Institute of Public Character) status, engaged in the global response to longevity

About The School of the Arts, Singapore

The School of the Arts (SOTA) is Singapore's first national pre-tertiary specialised arts school with a six-year integrated arts and academic curriculum, leading to the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma or Career-related Programme, for youths aged 13 to 18 years old.

Under the ambit of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY), SOTA offers a dedicated development path for those who have interest and show early talent in the arts, providing a learning environment where both the artistic and academic potential can best be realised.

With a vision to shape and impact society through an education in the arts, SOTA aims to identify and groom future generations of artists, creative professionals to be leaders in all fields, and to be patrons and supporters of the arts.

A school of the future, SOTA embraces a holistic educational philosophy that celebrates experimentation, expression and discovery.