



MEDIA RELEASE

ENCOUNTER: THE ROYAL ACADEMY'S FIRST ASIAN EXHIBITION DEBUTS IN SINGAPORE

*Bank of Singapore is major sponsor of inaugural Asian exhibition featuring artwork
by Royal Academicians and rising Asian artists*

Singapore, 2 March 2012 – On the 19 September 2012, the Royal Academy of Art's major exhibition in Asia will be unveiled to the public for the first time, with Singapore selected as its debut destination in a multi-venue world tour. The tour is expected to span seven cities over two years from 2012 to 2013. The Singapore showcase runs from 19 September to 24 October 2012.

Entitled *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia*, the exhibition presents an array of artwork in a wide range of media and perspectives, featuring 100 exhibits by 25 Royal Academicians and 25 prominent artists from across Asia. Among these include Paul Huxley, Ian Woo and Tabaimo. Participating artists and curators have also been lined up to speak at a series of lectures for art professionals and the general public.

The exhibition is jointly organised by the Royal Academy of Arts and Fortune Cookie Projects (FCP). As the bank that is closely associated with Singapore, known for its soundness, performance and integrity, Bank of Singapore is delighted to be the exhibition's main sponsor. Other sponsors include XL Group and St. Regis Singapore.

Featuring a compelling collection of artwork by an equal number of Royal Academicians and noted Asian artists, *Encounter* offers a significant breadth and depth of artistic expression. The Royal Academicians, as members of the esteemed Royal Academy founded in 1768, are recognised as influential pioneers of contemporary art. The exhibition's participating Asian artists are among the most established and eminent talent emerging from around the region. This unique combination of Eastern and Western artists allows the exhibition to present a rich and dynamic showcase of cultural perspectives.

"I am delighted to announce the first-ever exhibition by the Royal Academy in Singapore. *Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia* offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase the best of the leading artists from the RA alongside an impressive selection of prominent artists from across Asia. It is hoped that this exhibition will foster the creative dialogue amongst a wide variety of artists, countries, cultures and visual art practices.

"We are extremely grateful to the Bank of Singapore for its generous support of what is unquestionably a unique project in the history of the Royal Academy. It is truly one that seeks to embrace visual arts culture internationally and to encourage community support on a variety of levels." said Mr Charles Saumarez Smith, Secretary and Chief Executive of the Royal Academy of Arts.

As an advocate of high quality art, Bank of Singapore is pleased to be a major sponsor of *Encounter*. Through this sponsorship, Bank of Singapore aims to lend strength to Singapore's goal to become Asia's leading art centre, complementing its position as the leading wealth management hub in Asia.

The exhibition is very much in line with Bank of Singapore's aims to promote art as a catalyst to encourage dialogue, promote the interaction of ideas as well as to foster cultural and intellectual growth. With more high net worth individuals emerging in Asia, the demand for exclusive and rare art will continue to surge. These affluent individuals have a growing appreciation for both the intrinsic and commercial value of high-end art.

At the same time, this opportunity gives Bank of Singapore clients an exclusive platform to appreciate high quality contemporary art.

"Many of our clients are interested to grow their private collections and *Encounter* is a unique platform to achieve this. Our collaboration allows us to offer our clients exclusive preview of an inspiring collection of contemporary artistic expression by a select group of highly talented artists," shared Mr Renato de Guzman, Chief Executive officer of Bank of Singapore.

Bank of Singapore's gallery within its offices at Bank of Singapore Centre currently holds a collection of contemporary art by influential Asian artists, including Qiu Zhijie, Tabaimo and Hiraki Sawa, who will be participating in the coming exhibition.

Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia will be held in Singapore from 19 September to 24 October 2012 at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts.

Encounter: The Royal Academy in Asia

Singapore: 19 September to 24 October 2012
Institute of Contemporary Art Singapore, Lasalle College of the Arts.

Exhibition Outline

50 artists, equally distributed between Royal Academicians and noted Asian artists, comprising 80-100 works in a wide range of media.

Details of the tour will be announced at a later date

Multi-lingual catalogue by the RA and art professionals from Asia.

Lectures for art professionals and the general public, presented by participating artists and curators

Curatorial Team

Prof. Paul Huxley, RA, Treasurer of the Royal Academy of Arts
Michael Craig-Martin, RA
Richard Wilson, RA
Lisa Milroy, RA
Dr. Charles Merewether, Director, Institute of Contemporary Art, Lasalle College of the Arts, Singapore
Josef Ng, Independent curator, director of Gallery VER, Bangkok,

Organizers

Fortune Cookie Projects (Singapore) Pte Ltd, a curatorial and art advisory firm led by Mary Dinaburg and Howard Rutkowski, with offices in Singapore and New York. With over 30 years' experience, Fortune Cookie Projects has organized and curated major exhibitions throughout Asia and around the world.

Participating Royal Academicians

The Royal Academy counts among its members many of the world's most renowned artists of all generations and working in a variety of styles and media. Many are rightfully recognized as influential pioneers of contemporary art:

Ai Weiwei (Hon RA), Phyllida Barlow RA, Tony Bevan RA, Olwyn Bowey RA, Eileen Cooper RA, Tony Cragg RA, Michael Craig-Martin RA, Richard Deacon RA, Tacita Dean RA, Tracey Emin RA, Antony Gormley RA, David Hockney RA, Nigel Hall RA, Gary Hume RA, Paul Huxley RA, Albert Irvin RA, Christopher Le Brun PRA, Richard Long RA, Lisa Milroy RA, Cornelia Parker RA, Grayson Perry RA, Fiona Rae RA, Jenny Saville RA, Gillian Wearing RA, Richard Wilson RA.

Participating Asian Artists

This selection is aimed to demonstrate the wide variety of significant talent emerging from around the region. Encompassing established artists who have exerted considerable influence on the creative process as well as a younger generation, the exhibition will showcase the rich depth and breadth of artistic experience.

China: Liu Xiaodong, Sun Yuan & Peng Yu, Qiu Zhijie **Hong Kong:** Lee Kit **Taiwan:** Michael Lin, Chen Chieh-Jen **Cambodia:** Soheap Pich **Japan:** Chihiro Kabata, Hiraki Sawa, Tabaimo, **Malaysia:** Yee I-Lann **Vietnam:** Dinh Q. Le, Tiffany Chung **Indonesia:** FX

Harsono, Tintin Wulia, Rudi Mantofani **India:** *Shilpa Gupta* **Korea:** *Lee Yong Baek*
Singapore: *Ho Tzu Nyen, Donna Ong, Ian Woo, Joon Kiat, Zhao Renhui* **Thailand:**
Apitchatpong Weerasethakulm, Sudsiri Pui-Ock, Udomsak Krisamamis

About the Royal Academy of Arts

The Royal Academy of Arts was founded through a personal act of King George III 1768 with a mission to promote the arts through education and exhibition. The motive in founding the Academy was twofold: to raise the professional status of the artist by establishing a sound system of training and expert judgment in the arts and to arrange the exhibition of contemporary works of art attaining an appropriate standard of excellence. Behind this concept was the desire to foster a national school of art and to encourage appreciation and interest by the public.

The first Royal Academy exhibition of contemporary art was held in 1769. This exhibition, now known as the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition, has been staged annually without interruption to the present day. Each year the RA presents dozens of exhibitions, ranging from Old Masters, Classic Modern to Contemporary. A short list of recent projects includes: Georg Baselitz, Tracey Emin RA, Vincent Van Gogh, David Hockney RA, Anish Kapoor RA, Anselm Kiefer, Zhang Huan.

The Royal Academy Schools is the oldest art school in the United Kingdom and still offers the only 3-year postgraduate art course to its students. It was the first institution to provide professional training for artists in Britain and remains the only one governed by and for practising artists.

About Bank of Singapore

Bank of Singapore, (formerly ING Asia Private Bank), is a wholly owned subsidiary of OCBC Bank, which is one of Asia's leading financial services groups and the second largest by assets in Southeast Asia. OCBC Bank is also ranked by Bloomberg Markets as the world's strongest bank in 2010.

Bank of Singapore is Asia's global private bank, operating as a dedicated private banking subsidiary with its headquarters in Singapore. It adopts a global private banking approach with a unique open-architecture product platform to provide truly independent advice.

Besides a wide range of private banking services for discretionary, advisory and trading-oriented investors, Bank of Singapore offers proprietary research in various key areas that include economics; global fixed income; global equities; and foreign exchange, estate planning services as well as insurance solutions. At the same time, Bank of Singapore offers a wide range of commercial and business banking solutions and services such as mortgage financing and corporate finance, through OCBC Bank.

Rated Aa1 with a stable outlook by Moody's, Bank of Singapore's earning asset base has grown by 23% to US\$ 39.6 billion by 31 December 2011. It currently has a total staff strength of more than 850 staff worldwide that includes 250 private bankers of various nationalities serving global clients.

Bank of Singapore serves high net worth individuals and wealthy families in our key markets of South-East Asia, Greater China, Singapore, Philippines, India Sub-Continent and other International markets via its main headquarters in Singapore, its branch in Hong Kong as well as its representative offices in Manila and Dubai.

Voted in 2011 as the ¹Outstanding Private Bank in Asia Pacific, ²Best Private Bank in Singapore and ³Best Wealth Management Bank in Southeast Asia and Singapore, Bank of Singapore continues to build on its success and is consistently ranked amongst the ⁴Top 3 private banks in Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.bankofsingapore.com

¹Private Banker International 2011

²FinanceAsia 2010 & 2011

³Alpha South East Asia 2010 & 2011

⁴Asiamoney 2011

About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank is the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. It is also ranked by Bloomberg Markets as the world's strongest bank.

OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of specialist financial services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has a network of over 500 branches and representative offices in 15 countries and territories, including more than 400 branches and offices in Indonesia that are operated by its subsidiary, Bank OCBC NISP.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the largest insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia by assets. Its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia. Private banking services are provided by subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which continued to gain industry recognition in 2011 including being voted the "Outstanding Private Bank in Asia Pacific" by Private Banker International.

For more information, please visit www.ocbc.com
