Great New World 新大世界 دنيا راي بارو பெரிய புதிய உலகம் - from freeport to world heritage site

27 July 2019 (Saturday)
9:00 AM to 6:30 PM
Bangunan UAB, Gat Lebuh China, 10300 George Town, Penang

Introduction:
What was Penang's cultural history? How does this help us to understand the role that visual and performing arts play in Penang society today? What is the future we want to imagine for Penang art scene? Great New World is a one-day symposium with the aim to discover the world narratives that can be told from Penang. It is a ground-up initiative to discover Penang's art historical consciousness over a series of presentations and conversations.

The symposium provides a loosely chronological overview of Penang's art history in order to ask what new areas and frameworks of research can help enrich our understanding of Penang's artistic past, present and future. Invited speakers will survey current scholarship on Penang's art history as well as identify knowledge gaps and prompt possible directions for future scholarship.

For the longest time, the art history of Malaysia has always focused on Kuala Lumpur as the center of activity. Join us on this occasion as we decenter this commonplace narrative, to discover what we can learn about Penang's artistic past, in order to understand what is happening in Penang today, so that we can begin to recognise new horizons for Penang's artistic future.

Objectives:
(1) To explore alongside with the arts community and the interested public, an historical overview of arts in Penang, in relation to Malaysia and the World.
(2) To engage Penang arts and cultural communities across a wide-range of practices (visual/performance/cultural-heritage/spatial), age-group, and educational background (Western, Chinese and locally trained) in a discussion about new ways of thinking about Penang's artistic past, present and future.

Key topics: Art and social movement, artists and support systems, global networks and resources, education and learning opportunities, knowledge sharing and public history, collaborative-research and community-building
Components: Types of artistic cultures, a historical timeline, types of art spaces(infrastructure), new forms of knowledge-production and sharing.

Content committee
- Lee Cheah Ni
- Okui Lala
- Stephanie Kee
- Simon Soon

TIMESTAMP	CONTENT	SPEAKERS & MODERATORS	NOTES
9:00 AM	Registration		
9:30 AM	Welcome Note		
9:40 AM to 10:15 AM	Keynote Address The World in Penang: What can we learn from the artistic cultures of a 19th century port city? While it is possible to pass off 19th century Penang as a colonial settlement, we can also think of Penang back then as a country for outliers. Arriving from all corners of the world are convict labourers, war refugees, indentured workers, venture capitalists, traders, civil servants of Empire, religious leaders, displaced natives, miracle workers, medicine men, carpenters, traveling con-artists, vagabonds, thrillseekers, lay-over tourists, photographers, prostitutes, social reformers and political exiles, mystics and magicians, tin-prospector, manuscript copyists, lawyers, scientists, story-tellers, theatre performers, print publishers, cinema projectionists. To find a home for oneself amongst others was a creative process of cultural negotiations that result in the artistic expressions of Penang. What are the types of artistic cultures that have emerged from this great cultural encounter? Building on the admirable work of many Penang scholars, this talk aims to bridge existing knowledge with ideas, themes, issues, theories that can further enrich our understanding of Penang art history. Can there be a radically different concept of culture or heritage that is more playful and less tied to only one source community/identity? A different framing invites us to rethink the definition of art and culture as an expression that emerges only through interactions between different groups of people. This opens up our understanding of cultural expression to the great exchanges and transformations that occur when people from different parts of the world converge and learn about each other in Penang. Using this as our basic unit of analysis, we might also gain a new appreciation for the importance of collaborative resource-sharing at the centre of many of the most imaginative, generous and interesting research in cultural history today.	Speaker: **Simon Soon**	To be developed further after finalising overall programme

10:15 AM to 12:00 PM	**Segment 1 – Before and after Merdeka** ● Sarena Abdullah (Pusat Pengajian Seni, USM): Pioneering artists, art movements and visual culture in Penang before World War II [30 minutes presentation] ● Paul Augustin (Penang House of Music): Music cultures and the performing arts [30 minutes presentation] ● Moderated Discussion + Open Q&A [45 minutes discussion] - Bridging knowledge between the visual/design practice and performing arts form. Identifying gaps in knowledge and ideas about what interesting stories remain to be told.	Speaker: **Sarena Abdullah** Speaker: **Paul Augustin** **Moderator: Simon Soon**	
12:00 PM	**LUNCH BREAK**		
1:30 PM to 3:15 PM	**Segment 2 – Reinventing Penang (1970s to 1990s)** ● Ghulam Sarwar Yousof: An art school inside a new University in Penang. [30 minutes presentation] ● Ray Langenbach (lecturer,artist): Experimental Art as Pedagogy [30 minutes presentation] ● Moderated Discussion & Q&A [45 minutes] - Significant developments and parallels for contemporary visual and performing arts of Penang. Thinking about the role of education.	Speaker: **Ghulam Sarwar Yousof** Speaker: **Ray Langenbach** **Moderator: Simon Soon**	
3:15 PM	**Tea Break**		

3:45 PM to 5:05 PM	**Segment 3 – Today and Tomorrow (2000 onwards) :** ● Kuah Li Feng Heritage and Interpretation in Multicultural George Town [30 minutes presentation] ● Perspectives of artists in Penang: (*1) Mapping Penang Visual Art Ecosystem Today by Hoo Fan Chon* [20 minutes] *(2) Contemporary and modern performing arts by Wong Lay Chin and Hilyati Ramli* [30 minutes]	Speaker: **Kuah Li Feng**	
5:05 PM	**SHORT RESTROOM BREAK**		
5:15 PM to 6:30 PM	● Arts Town Hall: Great New World and Penang's Tomorrow	**Moderator: Hoo Fan Chon** Speakers: Sarena Abdullah Paul Augustin Ghulam Sarwar Yousof Ray Langenbach Kuah Li Feng Simon Soon Hilyati Ramli Wong Lay Chin	TOPICS to be led by moderator: MAGnet, archives and public-access, publishing, post-UNESCO, language-divide, directions in heritage practice, festivalisation of Penang, arts education, types of art spaces (infrastructure), new forms of knowledge-production and sharing.
6:30 PM	**END**		