

Recent Books from Singapore – March 2024

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Anthropology

Kebalian : The Dialogic Construction of Balinese Identity / Michel Picard
IRASEC-NUS Press Publications on Contemporary Southeast Asia
Singapore: NUS Press, 2024

xvi, 452p.

9789813252424

1. Balinese (Indonesian people) – Ethnic identity.
2. Balinese (Indonesian people) – Religion.
3. Balinese (Indonesian people) – Social life and customs.
4. Group identity – Indonesia – Bali Island.

\$ 42.00 / PB

670gm.

What is it to be Balinese? Over the past 100 years, the Balinese have been challenged by colonial occupation, political turbulence, and most recently tourism. In response, they have come to rely on the idea of Kebalian, or Balinese-ness. Kebalian is likened to a tree whose roots are religion (agama), the trunk tradition (adat), and the fruits, Balinese culture (budaya). How did the Balinese come to see their identity in these terms?

To understand how their sense of Balinese-ness came to be, Michel Picard makes a close reading of the dialogues the Balinese have engaged in both among themselves and with outsiders—Dutch orientalists and colonial administrators, Javanese nationalists, Muslim schoolteachers, Christian missionaries, Hindu gurus, artists and anthropologists, Indonesian government officials, tourists and tourism operators. He conducted over a hundred interviews with Balinese opinion leaders, officials and religious reformers.

A key through line in the construction of Kebalian is what Picard identifies as a twofold process of ‘religionization’ and ‘Hinduization’ that began with the first years of the incorporation of Bali into the Dutch East Indies, and became more urgent with Indonesia's independence. Kebalian today encompasses the tension between those Balinese eager to defend their own customary ritual practices and advocates of Hinduism as a world religion, who deny that such local traditions qualify as agama. The book presents a fascinating picture of religious change, identities in motion, and culture as it takes form. Scholars of religion, cultural change and Southeast Asian area studies will find this a fascinating and important volume.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=869864>

Art

Koeh Sia Yong : The Old Dream Maker / Koeh Sia Yong; (Ed) Felicia Tan

Singapore: Straits Gallery, 2022

400p.

English & Chinese

9789811835971

\$ 250.00 / HB

3324gm.

The Old Dream Maker explores a man's decades-long artistic journey to define himself in a world where the only constant is change. Following Koeh Sia Yong's early works in colonial Singapore, the reader is given an insight into how this socially conscious mindset pervades and influences his later works, crafting narratives that act as bridges across time, space and culture. In the same way, the book aims to give readers an understanding of Koeh's evolution as not just an artist, but as a person.

Charting the evolution of Singapore from post-war independence to its modern day 21st century iteration, the artist offers an intimate, personal perspective of Southeast Asia. He fills in the gaps of the dominant narrative, and in doing so, continues in the revolutionary tradition of his predecessors, the first-generation Nanyang artists.

Notably, Koeh never intended to be an artist. It was an off-hand compliment from a neighbour that gave him the idea to become one. It is through a similar chance encounter in Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts that he then joined the Equator Arts Society, one of the small but many important footnotes in his story. His journey, and consequently art, might then be summarised as a series of interconnections - of shifting states between narrative and reality, between cultures and country.

This book is an effort to represent the complexity of these connections. It is a collection of works written by various people, from all walks of life, about the artist, in the hopes that a balanced view may be achieved. Like his art, perhaps new narratives will emerge.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870062>

UNLIMITED / Goh Beng Kwan (et al.)

Singapore: STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2023

1v.

9789811880155

\$ 150.00 / HB

2356gm.

In commemoration of its 21st Anniversary, STPI is publishing a seminal book titled PRINT / PAPER UNLIMITED — a rich collection of over 40 essays, interviews, and anecdotes from past visiting artists, renowned curators, passionate collectors, and other significant figures in the international art scene.

Their voices and contribution highlight the depth and scale of STPI's indelible mark on the contemporary art landscape in Singapore, regionally in Southeast Asia, and around the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870063>

Across The Pacific: Art and the Manila Galleons / Clement Onn (Eds) Alan Chong & Benjamin Chiesa

Singapore: Asian Civilisations Museum, 2024

240p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789811892066

\$ 90.00 / HB

1552gm.

Across the Pacific: Art and the Manila Galleons explores the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade, which connected Asia to the Americas from 1565 to 1815. Fourteen essays by leading international scholars examine different aspects of the trade, from the impact of New World silver on the global economy to how Christianity influenced the production of new art forms in Asia and Mexico. Many of the objects featured are cross-cultural, serving as tangible manifestations of the centuries-old exchange of people, ideas, materials, and techniques between continents.

This publication accompanies the exhibition Manila Galleon: From Asia to the Americas, held at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, from 16 November 2023 to 17 March 2024.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=868966>

Liu Kuo-Sung : Experimentation As Method / Susanna Ferrell (et al.) (Ed) Cai Heng
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2023

356p.

English & Chinese

9789811855689

\$ 90.00 / HB

1764gm.

"Seek first to be unique, and then to be excellent." Artist Liu Kuo-sung imparted this maxim to his students in a bid to cultivate an ethos of experimentation, which he saw as fundamental to artistic creation. This bilingual research monograph explores how this pioneering figure of modern ink applies the same approach to his own practice: through experiments with brushless methods and the materiality of ink and paper, Liu has forged new ways of thinking about the legacy of Chinese ink painting.

Published on the occasion of a retrospective exhibition at National Gallery Singapore, this catalogue features five newly commissioned essays by renowned scholars, an interview with Liu, and over 60 full-colour image plates of Liu's works. A section with rare archival materials-many published for the first time-charts how Liu explored and advocated for the modernisation of Chinese ink painting over the span of his 70-year career.

“先求异,再求好”——刘国松以此寄语鼓励学生培养实验精神作为艺术创作的核心。此中英双语专著探讨了这位现代水墨艺术先驱如何在实践中将这一理念贯彻始终。通过非传统笔墨技法和水墨纸张媒介的实验,刘国松提供了开拓中国画发展的新思路。

本图录配合新加坡国家美术馆为刘国松举办的回顾展而出版,其中收录了五篇由著名学者撰写的专文,与艺术家的访谈录一篇,逾六十件作品的彩色图版及诸多首次出版的珍贵文献。这些文献展示了刘国松在七十年的艺术生涯中探索和倡导中国水墨画现代化的历程。

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=868608>

Pink Chili in a Bowl : 12 Constellations. 12 Stars. 36 Essays. 3 Archive / Isabelle Der Hagopian & Manuel Der Hagopian

Singapore: Isabelle Der Hagopian & Manuel Der Hagopian, 2023

478p.

978981188118

\$ 195.00 / PB

800gm.

“The beginnings of Pink Chilli in a Bowl can be traced back to an instinctive need to make a home out of a new place I’m living in... understanding how and what a city consumes regularly is a way to experience heritage, culture and the current zeitgeist.” – Isabelle Der Hagopian

Streets are a crucial city element that embodies a large part of public life and the interim nature of a city. Inspired by people who cook for us and feed us at hawker centres, coffee shops and family-run eateries, enriched by the work of photographers, writers, and designers, Pink Chilli in a Bowl narrates the interconnected stories of eateries, confectioneries, and landmarks, presenting endangered dishes and diverse architectures. Neither a tourist guide nor a work of historical records, “Pink Chilli in a Bowl” is a personal archive of forgotten places and time-honoured buildings that may someday be wiped out—some of which have already disappeared amidst the backdrop of a city that is constantly developing. These pages detail an intangible side of Singapore, encouraging readers to tap into their imaginations and reconstruct their mental map of the island nation in ways that inspire them.

Each Constellation is composed of three different types of entries: restaurant, food, and landmark, which can all be found within a twenty-to forty-minute promenade.

The Stars are singular entries in a specific location or characteristic that is worth highlighting.

The Essays are contributions made by food-enthusiastic writers about Singaporean eateries which contextualise the current survey into the specifics of the social, cultural, and political environment in this island-nation.

The Archives are curated selections of photographs which showcase the generic patterns of diversity in Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870064>

Lee Bul Prints / Xiaoyu Weng (Ed) Ho See Wah
Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2023
128p.
9789811884504
\$ 75.00 / PB
556gm.

This exhibition catalogue was produced on the occasion of Lee Bul's solo residency project with STPI, Prints.

The final instalment in a year-long celebration of its 21st Anniversary, Lee Bul: Prints, is an eponymous solo exhibition by the highly acclaimed Korean artist, curated by Xiaoyu Weng, an award-winning curator who has worked in institutions such as the Guggenheim and the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Taking place from 4 November – 23 December 2023, the exhibition features over 60 works across five new series realised through thoughtful collaboration and exploration of the unlimited possibilities afforded by the STPI Creative Workshop.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870065>

We Don't Recognise What We Don't See / Rirkrit Tiravanija (Ed) Ho See Wah
Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2023
82p.
9789811868894
\$ 60.00 / PB
428gm.

This exhibition catalogue was produced on the occasion of Rirkrit Tiravanija's solo residency project with STPI, We Don't Recognise What We Don't See.

We Don't Recognise What We Don't See is a visceral experience provocatively designed to engage the mind and senses, conceived from works created during Tiravanija's third residency with STPI (over a period from 2019 to 2023).

Running from 8 April to 4 June 2023, the exhibition consists of 40 artworks in a compelling new series that explores themes of extinction, humankind's destruction of the natural world, and our impending demise as a civilisation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870066>

Tropical: Stories from Southeast Asia and Latin America / (Ed) Shahbir Hussain Mustafa & Ong Zhen Min
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2023
260p.
9789811871535

1. Art, Southeast Asian – 20th century – Exhibitions.
2. Art, Latin America – 20th century – Exhibitions.
3. Art, modern – 20th century – Exhibitions.

\$ 65.00 / PB
930gm.

Tropical: Stories from Southeast Asia and Latin America brings together more than 200 artworks and primary documents by over 100 artists across the 20th century, tracing the cultural and conceptual conditions under which claims of vanguardism first emerged in the Global South. By attending to the manners in which words and images are organised on canvas, paper, film and wood, to sensations artists presented vis-à-vis histories of colonial subjugation, this exhibition catalogue offers insights into how even the most restrictive of conditions may experience the simultaneity of magic and realism, revolution and subversion. The so-called Tropical is a geographically expansive term that has always resisted precise definitions; its ability to entangle with all sorts of political and cultural desires has made it permanently plural and contradictory. The polyphonic nature of “stories” is adopted to enable both fiction and non-fiction, as well as philosophical, technological and mythical narratives. Beyond clime, this richly illustrated book ventures the tropical as a palpable, material, strategic, relational and radical space.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870067>

Han Sai Por : The Forest and Its Soul / Kwok Kian Chow (Ed) Ho See Wah
Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2022
88p.
9789811839511
\$ 35.00 / PB
372gm.

The Forest and Its Soul marks the second residency and solo exhibition of Singaporean artist Han Sai Por (b. 1943) with STPI. Following her first residency in 2013, the Cultural Medallion recipient and Asia’s foremost sculptor returns to the Creative Workshop to create 35 new print and paper works in a span of just three weeks. Using technologies that are new to the artist (such as photo intaglio and laser-cutting), the eventual works exemplifies Han’s enduring spirit of artistic exploration that is not bounded by a singular medium, even at this stage of her decades-long career.

This body of work draws from the artist’s own experiences of walking through dense forests, of which Han has described as being “an emotional landscape”. Additionally, it serves to evoke a sense of boundless energy hidden behind the many layers and depth of the whole forest ecosystem, composed of many elements – the wind blowing, leaves dropping and dancing, rolling waters, micro-life teeming among the mud and detritus on the floor and more.

This catalogue contains an essay, A Forest Comes into Being, by Kwok Kian Chow.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870068>

Zhu Hong : Expressions of Passion / Terence Teo
Singapore: Cape of Good Hope, 2024
1v.
9789811890444
\$ 35.00 / PB
300gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870069>

Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Commission / Shilpa Gupta (Ed) Adele Tan
Singapore: National Gallery Singapore, 2023

54p.

9789811868276

\$ 32.00 / PB

172gm.

The latest title in this book series presents Indian artist Shilpa Gupta's monumental inflatable sculpture, *Untitled* (2023). The sculpture depicts the dualities of our innermost struggles and the externalities around us. This book includes a curatorial essay that situates Gupta's new work in relation to her art practice and other global sociopolitical forces as well as a full colour photo documentation of the sculpture against the backdrop of Singapore's skyline. It also features a guest essay written by a well-known mental health professional who engages with the artist's take on the human condition.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870070>

Heman Chong : *Meditations on Shadow Libraries* / (Curator) Brian Kuan Wood with
Lawrence Liang & Anca Rujoiu

Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2024

1v.

9789811889707

\$ 65.00 / HB

576gm.

This exhibition catalogue was produced on the occasion of Heman Chong's second solo exhibition with STPI, *Meditations on Shadow Libraries*.

Kicking off the new year with an exciting solo presentation during the 2024 edition of Singapore Art Week by leading Singapore-based artist Heman Chong, STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery is proud to present *Meditations on Shadow Libraries*, a multi-disciplinary exhibition running from 17 January – 10 March 2024, curated by Brian Kuan Wood, editor and co-founder of *e-flux* journal and co-curator of the recent Taipei Biennial 2023.

Heman Chong's solo exhibition at STPI gathers 9 bodies of work that form a new palimpsest of his multi-faceted practice, with its idiosyncratic movements in, around and between the production of images, performances, situations and writings.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870071>

Hawker Colours : *Melamine Tableware in Singapore* / *In Plain Words*, Justin Zhuang &
Sheere Ng

Singapore: *In Plain Words*, 2023

208p.

9789811882487

\$ 45.00 / PB

440gm.

They refer not to the green of chendol or the red of mee goreng but the riot of colourful melamine plates and bowls in which many hawker dishes in Singapore are served today. Red, green, yellow, purple, pink, and more!

These colours defy conventional aesthetic sensibilities, and yet they have become entrenched in local hawker centres and coffee shops. Hawker Colours retraces their origins and mass adoption, and asks what value they still hold as the trade adapts to the changing needs of the city-state.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870072>

Jane Lee : In Praise of Silence 寂靜在說話 / (Curator) Tan Suili (Ed) Ho See Wah
Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2023

1v.

9789811876813

\$ 35.00 / PB

132gm.

This exhibition catalogue was produced on the occasion of Jane Lee's solo residency project with STPI, In Praise of Silence 寂靜在說話.

STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery is pleased to present In Praise of Silence 寂靜在說話, a solo exhibition by Singaporean artist Jane Lee, curated by Tan Siuli. Running from 29 July to 3 September 2023, the exhibition showcases a measured, monochromatic new series that explores light and shadow, black and white, yin and yang, as fundamental principles that shape our understanding of the world around us.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870073>

Genevieve Chua: Grrrraaanularrrrrrr / (Curator) ReubenKeehan
Singapore: STPI – Creative Workshop & Gallery, 2023

1v.

9789811862588

\$ 32.00 / PB

94gm.

“What has occurred in this future? A kernel of thought transformed by a collaborative mind. A tint of shadow, a strange loop, parsing text and shapes in ellipsis and ellipses. All of that, in a sense of place that is now, granular.” - Genevieve Chua

This exhibition catalogue was produced on the occasion of Genevieve Chua's solo exhibition with STPI, grrrraaanularrrrrrr.

grrr,,,aanuular,,,,,] brings together experiments that Chua has conducted while in residence at STPI since 2021. It consists of several bodies of work: series of shaped canvases, sandpaper pieces and cement constructions (evocatively titled Typestracts, Breeze Blocks and Pathways), as well as standalone pieces in two-and-a-half dimensions.

Running from 14 January to 26 February 2023, the exhibition showcases a texturally evocative new series that creatively explores the multiple quirks and angles of materiality, reality and identity — a clever play on technology’s role in the rhythms of contemporary human experience.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870074>

Biography/Memoirs

Tony Tan Keng Yam : My Political Journey / Tony Tan Keng Yam & Leslie Koh
Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2024

340p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical References

9789815081121

\$ 69.95 / HB

684gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870075>

Tony Tan Keng Yam : My Political Journey / Tony Tan Keng Yam & Leslie Koh
Singapore: Straits Times Press, 2024

340p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical References

9789815081138

\$ 35.00 / PB

518gm.

1. Tan, Tony Keng Yam, 1940.
2. Cabinet officers – Singapore – Biography.
3. Presidents – Singapore – Biography.

A lecturer turned banker, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam never expected to become a politician, much less a president. Challenged to join Singapore’s nation building efforts in 1979, he set aside personal ambitions for a quiet life to serve the nation, beginning a political career that would eventually span nearly four decades and take him to the nation’s highest post at the Istana.

Written from Dr Tan’s point of view, this book offers a personal perspective of policy- and decision-making on a national level, giving a behind-the-scenes look at key decisions and policy changes in the fields of education, finance, security and defence through his years in government and public service.

Among other things, he reveals the deliberations behind the 1979 overhaul of the education system, the scrapping of the graduate mothers’ priority scheme, the 1986 Central Provident Fund rate cut, the management of investment losses at GIC, and his entry into the 2011 presidential race, while sharing his personal insights on the lessons learnt in the journey of building and growing a nation.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870076>

Descendants of Tan Kah Kee And Their Stories / Peggy P G Tan
Singapore: World Image Pte Ltd, 2024

xii, 292p.
9789811891311
\$ 100.00 / HB
680gm.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870077>

Descendants of Tan Kah Kee And Their Stories / Peggy P G Tan
Singapore: World Image Pte Ltd, 2024

xii, 292p.
9789811891304
\$ 60.00 / PB
574gm.

What does it mean to write a book about the descendants of a great man? Would anyone care to read it? Not many descendants of great men (or women) have written books about themselves, so why should the descendants of Tan Kah Kee be any different?

This book is not just about a group of people who are related by blood but otherwise mostly do not have much in common with each other. If that is so, their stories would be quite dull, and would not even justify the paper they are printed on. No, this book is also about the talented and resourceful people who have moved in circles around the descendants, some of them having married, or have children married into the family, whilst others interacted in various ways that added spice to life in general. Of course, many are also well known, and that makes for fascinating reading.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870078>

12 Family Histories : A Tapestry of Singapore's Multi-Cultural Legacy / (Ed) Ng Yew Kiang
Singapore: Genealogy Society Singapore & Goh Loo Club, 2023

iv, 280p.
9789811882432

1. Families – Singapore – History.
2. Singapore – Genealogy.
3. Singapore – Biography.
4. Singapore – History.

\$ 140.00 / HB
966gm.

12 Family Histories. A Tapestry of Singapore's Multicultural Legacy is a fascinating fabric of family histories of different ethnicities that have been intricately woven because these peoples from various parts of Asia and beyond chose Singapore as their new home many decades ago. Each with its own unique culture and practices, these families with their grit and courage separately yet together truly made Singapore one people, one nation, one home.

It is a book that aims to encourage the continuation of the fascinating stories in each family. Therefore, they are yet unfinished stories and it is hoped that the new generations will continue the tales.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867491>

Leader and Legislator: Seah Liang Seah / Shawn Seah Li Song

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2019

280p.

Includes Bibliography

9789811198755

1. Seah, Liang Seah, 1850-1925.
2. Teochew (Chinese People) – Singapore – Biography.
3. Chinese – Singapore – Biography.
4. Businessmen – Singapore – Biography.
5. Legislators – Singapore – Biography.
6. Singapore – History.

\$ 30.00 / PB

284gm.

It was the heyday of the mighty British Empire. In the colony of Singapore, a rapidly growing settlement in Southeast Asia, a young man from a prominent local family rose to become a successful businessman, Teochew community leader, and member of the Legislative Council of the Straits Settlements. Straddling both East and West, he lived an exciting life marked by public service, profit and parties. And when he passed away in 1925, he left behind many prominent descendants, a massive fortune... and an unusual will. This remarkable man was leader and legislator, Seah Liang Seah.

Written by the author of Seah Eu Chin: His Life & Times, this book tells the incredible story of the man behind Liang Seah Street and Bendemeer, as well as the stories of his Straits Chinese contemporaries, such as Tan Jiak Kim, Dr Lim Boon Keng and Sir Song Ong Siang, and the larger social and economic history of Singapore in the 19th and 20th centuries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870079>

Seah Eu Chin : His Life and Time / Shawn Seah

Second Edition

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2019

234p.

Includes Bibliography

9789811138652

\$ 30.00 / PB

276gm.

In 1823, a gutsy and astute eighteen-year-old from China arrived in Singapore to seek fame and fortune. He succeeded in his adopted country, rising to become a business and community leader, and when he died 60 years later, he left a legacy that remains to this day.

This book captures a snapshot of Seah Eu Chin's life, and the lives of his famous sons, especially Seah Liang Seah and Seah Peck Seah, interwoven with other early pioneers such as Tan Tock Seng, Whampoa, and Sir Song Ong Siang.

Told against a backdrop of a declining China and a rising British Empire, the book also tells the story of the founding and rise of a small maritime settlement nominally under British rule and its agricultural industry—and the rise of the “King of Gambier and Pepper”. And it tells the story of the Chinese secret societies, including episodes of rampages and widespread outbreaks of mayhem like the Anti-Catholic Riots of 1851 and the Hokkien-Teochew Riots of 1854, and how the hapless colonial authorities turned to respected Chinese leaders like Seah Eu Chin for help.

Written by a direct descendant of Seah Eu Chin, the book is largely based on documented material drawn from various sources including One Hundred Years’ History of the Chinese in Singapore by Sir Song Ong Siang.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870080>

Economics

Public Subsidy / Private Accumulation: The Political Economy of Singapore's Public Housing/ Chua Beng Huat
Singapore: NUS Press, 2024
x, 150p. ; 229x152mm.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9789813252516
\$ 30.00 / PB
248gm.

The achievement of Singapore’s national public housing program is impressive by any standard. Within a year of its first election victory in 1959, the People's Action Party began to deliver on its promises in dramatic fashion. By the 1980s, 85 percent of the population had been rehoused in modern flats, and today, decades later, the provision of public housing shapes Singapore's environment. The standard accounts of this remarkable transformation leave many questions unanswered, from the historical to urgent matters of current policy: Why, of all the pressing demands of Singapore's newly enfranchised citizens, was housing such a priority back in the 1960s? How did the provision of social welfare via public housing shape Singapore's industrialisation and development over the last 50 years? Looking ahead, can the HDB continue to be a source of affordable housing for young families, while long-standing appreciation in flat prices provides for the retirement of their parents? How can this be managed as 99-year leases on flats run down? When young people from wealthy families purchase subsidised flats and then resell them for a profit as soon as they can, what does that do for the already pressing issues of inequality in Singapore?

This is a culmination of Chua Beng Huat's study of Singapore's public housing system, its dynamics, and the ways it functions in Singapore's politics. Does every great success hold within it the seeds of failure? The book will be of interest to citizens, and scholars of the political economy of Asian development, of social welfare provision, and of Singapore.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870081>

History

T'ang at 30 : Celebrating Three Decades of the T'ang Quartet, Singapore's Preeminent Classical String Ensemble / Ivan Lim

Singapore: Infected Studio Pte Ltd, 2022

100p. ; 26x21cm.

9780022051877

\$ 75.00 / HB

558gm.

This commemorative coffee-table book looks at the achievements of the T'ang Quartet, its trials and tribulations and where it sees itself in the future of the music world. It features interviews with the members of the Quartet and contributions from those they have performed or collaborated with in the course of its vibrant history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=868174>

Vim, Vigour and Vitality: Spirited Voices of Serangoon Garden Estate / Mabel Wee

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2024

160p.

9789811888113

1. Serangoon Garden Estate (Singapore) – History.
2. Serangoon Garden Estate (Singapore) – Social life and customs.
3. Serangoon Garden Estate (Singapore) – Anecdotes.

\$ 65.00 / PB

370gm.

Serangoon Gardens is a vibrant and illustrious estate. Home to a wealth of memories, it is inspired by the characteristic vim and vigour of the residents living in and around the estate. Their voices speak through the pages of this book: be it the vitality of the people who lived in the kampongs, such as the Quek family of Kampong Cheng San – now third-generation owners of a satay bee hoon stall at Chomp Chomp, or erstwhile residents such as Charles William David Macey, whose foreword introduces his father's founding role in the development of Serangoon Garden Estate.

Vim, Vigour & Vitality: Spirited Voices of Serangoon Garden Estate is a one-of-a-kind endeavour by a spirited community to capture the presences as well as absences, and the developments that make the home they call Serangoon Gardens.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870082>

The Great Port Cities Of Asia : In History : An Encyclopaedic History and Description of Sixty Ports in Asia Spanning Two Millennia / Kennie Ting

Singapore: Talisman Publishing Pte Ltd, 2024

xxii, 366p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789811889738

\$ 45.00 / HB

1028gm.

The history of Asia can be told through its great port cities: Guangzhou (Canton), Shanghai, Nagasaki, Basra, Aden, Jeddah, Kolkata (Calcutta), Mumbai (Bombay), Colombo, Batavia (Jakarta), Manila, Singapore, and many others. For millennia, port cities have been centres of global trade and the exchange of goods, peoples, cultures and ideas. They developed into cosmopolitan, multicultural societies and evolved distinctive, hybrid styles of art, architecture, material culture and ways of living. They were also crucibles of innovation, and have played an enormous, though under-appreciated, role in the spread of new technologies, new forms of creative expression and new ways of thinking throughout Asia. This book takes the reader on an epic journey across maritime Asia and the Indian Ocean, stopping at 60 port cities along the coasts and rivers of China, the Indian subcontinent, Southeast Asia, Japan, Korea, the Middle East and Africa. The timeframe of the book is equally sweeping, reaching back some two thousand years to port cities of the distant past and forward again to those of the present. The stories of these great port cities are brought alive through explorations of artworks in museums, literature, architecture, food, fashion and popular culture. Every chapter is illustrated with photographs, maps or archival material.

Stopping and sojourning at each of these port cities, museum director Kennie Ting tells an evocative, multi-layered tale of their living heritage, even as he paints a vivid picture of their importance in history. In doing so, he follows in the footsteps of generations of explorers and travellers who have wandered across the globe in the quest for knowledge, and recorded their experiences for posterity.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867607>

Singaporean Creatures: Histories of Humans and Other Animals in the Garden City /

Anthony Medrano (et al.) (Ed) Timothy P. Barnard

Singapore: NUS Press, 2024

x, 278p. ; 299x152mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789813252387

\$ 36.00 / PB

426gm.

Modern Singapore is the city in a garden, a biophilic and highly managed urban space that is home to a variety of animals, from mosquitoes to humans to polar bears. How has this coexistence worked as we enter the Anthropocene? How have human-animal relationships shaped Singapore society—socially, economically, politically and environmentally—over the last half century?

This book is a work of historical and ecological analysis, in which various institutions, perspectives and events involving animals provide insight into the development of Singapore as a modern, urban nation-state, highlighting some of the challenges of planning and development. The book asks the reader to see Singapore's myriad creatures not as mere objects of human action, but as active participants in the making of Singapore's urban future and will be of interest to scholars of environmental history and lovers of Singapore's nature.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870083>

Serving the Chain? : De Nederlandsche Bank and the Last Decades of Slavery, 1814-1863 /
Karwan Fatah-Black (et al.) (Translator) Paul Andrews

Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2022

252p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789087283926

\$ 55.00 / PB

440gm.

In the nineteenth century, when the principal cultural, political, and financial institutions of the Netherlands were established, slavery was still very much part of the nation's global imperial structures. Dutch families, institutions, and governments are increasingly interested in the role their predecessors played in this history of colonialism and enslavement. This book is a history of De Nederlandsche Bank in which particular attention is paid to its links with slavery, both as a factor in the economy and as a subject of political debate. Because De Nederlandsche Bank served the Dutch ministry of Colonies and consequently followed Dutch trade interests, the bank's history intersects with the history of slavery. The investigation in this book focuses not only upon DNB's formal involvement but also on the private involvement of its directors. In addition, it examines whether the bank and its directors played any role in the abolition of slavery.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870084>

Black Transnationalism and Japan / (Ed) Natalian Doan & Sho Konishi (Series Eds) Carolien
Stolte & Mariana de Campos Francozo

Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2024

100p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

Global Connections: Routes and Roots : Volume 8

9789087284329

\$ 140.00 / HB

458gm.

Since before the American Civil War, African American and Japanese encounters produced relationships and discourse of knowledge that transcended Eurocentric conceptions of civilization and hierarchies of personhood. Black Transnationalism and Japan introduces the diverse activity and intellectual movements created, shaped, and led by Japanese and African American people. While some Pan-Asianisms and Pan-Africanisms urged a uniting of colonized spaces against the colonizer, and were often expressed in the form of decolonization movements, this volume introduces various transnational phenomena that transcended such dichotomies. Black American-Japanese transnational encounters often occurred on the non-state level from within the two new competing empires of America and Japan. Such transnational encounters reveal not only heretofore hidden historical actors, friendships, and solidarities, but also innovative cultural productions that challenged hierarchies of race, culture, and imperialism.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870085>

East Asia Beyond the Archives : Missing Sources and Marginal Voices / (Eds) Catherine S. Chan & Tsang Wing Ma

Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2023

268p.

Includes Index

9789087284244

\$ 125.00/ HB

572gm.

For a long time, silk, tea, sinocentrism, and eurocentrism made up a big patch of East Asian history. Simultaneously deviating from and complicating these tags, this edited volume reconstructs narratives from the periphery and considers marginal voices located beyond official archives as the centre of East Asian history. The lives of the Japanese Buddhist monks, Eastern Han local governors, Confucian scholars, Chinese coolies, Shanghainese tailors, Macau joss-stick makers, Hong Long locals, and Cantonese working-class musicians featured in this collection provide us with a glimpse of how East Asia's inhabitants braved, with versatility, the ripples of political centralization, cross-border movement, foreign imperialism, nationalism, and globalism that sprouted locally and universally. Demonstrating the rich texture of sources discovered through non-official pathways, the ten essays in this volume ultimately reveal the timeless interconnectedness of East Asia and the complex, non-uniform worldviews of its inhabitants.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=867407>

Maritime Southeast Asia : History, Culture and Religion; c. First Century CE–Fifteenth Century CE / (Ed) Birendra Nath Prasad

Singapore: ISEAS Publishing (ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute), 2024

288p.

Includes Index ; Bibliographical References

9789815104462

1. Southeast Asia – History.
2. Southeast Asia – Civilization.
3. Southeast Asia – Religious life and customs.

\$ 55.00 / HB

458gm.

Often serving as an important node through which West Asian and South Asian maritime trade with China were maintained, maritime Southeast Asia remained exposed to various extra-local influences that accompanied maritime trade with and through this area. Yet, as the research articles in the book indicate, it was not just an appendage to the two great agrarian and maritime civilizations of Asia: India and China. It imbibed extra-local influences and transformed them to suit local needs. The book looks into the issue of complex interactions between local and extra-local influences in maritime Southeast Asia. It traces the processes through which extra-local influences were localized.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=866755>

The Story of Southeast Asia / Eric C. Thompson

Singapore: NUS Press, 2024

xxii, 306p.

9789813252349

1. Southeast Asia – History.
2. Southeast Asia – Economic – conditions – History.
3. Southeast Asia – Social conditions – History.
4. Southeast Asia – Politics and government – History.

\$ 28.00 / PB

484gm.

The oldest figurative cave paintings in the world are found on the island of Sulawesi in Indonesia. Hand stencils and animals painted some 45,000 years ago attest to a long history of human creativity. The Story of Southeast Asia tells how the peoples of the region have crafted their diverse societies and cultures over thousands of years. Southeast Asia has been a remarkable crossroads of global connections for millennia. Whereas other regions have been defined by centralizing forces, Southeast Asia's story is one of complex networks of trade, ideas, and social relationships. Southeast Asians have created, localized, and remade their own cultural values by drawing on influences from around the world. Marshalling the latest literature from anthropology, archaeology, history and other disciplines, Eric C. Thompson highlights broad themes that cut across history: including the making—and evasion—of states, adoption of diverse religious practices, tolerance and flexibility regarding gender, processes of forging modern identities, struggles over sovereignty, and the making of modern nations in a postcolonial world. This readable, single-volume history reckons with the narrative pull of familiar colonial and national perspectives, but maintains a regional and deep-historical focus. It will be a stimulating read for scholars as well as students and newcomers to Southeast Asian history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870086>

Knowing Singapore: What was Singapore before Raffles set up an East India Company trading station on the island in 1819? / Benjamin Khoo, Peter Borschberg & Kwa Chong Guan

Petaling Jaya: The Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (MABRAS), 2023

x, 126p.

Includes Index

9789670075037

\$ 35.00 / PB

214gm.

Accounts of Singapore's past often begin with the establishment of a British trading station on the island in 1819, but what took place there in the early modern period, and what did Europeans know about the island and its surroundings? To answer these questions, Benjamin Khoo and Peter Borschberg examined more than 400 European travel accounts written in Latin and various vernacular languages between 1500 and the early 1800s, and

published in encyclopaedias, dictionaries, and compendia. At the start of this period, information on the region was surprisingly abundant but often unreliable; by 1800 European publications contained accurate accounts of Singapore and the Straits region based on detailed first-hand accounts. Their findings reveal much about knowledge production in Europe and show Singapore's early role in regional trade in a fresh light.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=866928>

Law

Cambodia's Trials : Contrasting Visions of Truth, Transitional Justice and National Recovery / (Ed) Robin Biddulph & Alexandra Kent

Singapore: NIAS Press (Imprint: NUS Press), 2023

xiv, 376p.

Includes Index

9788776943318

\$ 39.95 / PB

568gm.

More than four decades have passed since the end of Khmer Rouge rule in Cambodia in 1979. Even so, the country is still coming to terms with the destruction wrought in the decade when the Khmer Rouge won and held power and, thereafter, during their guerrilla resistance to the new regime in Phnom Penh until 1998. The Khmer Rouge Tribunal (or Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, ECCC), established in 2006 to bring the Khmer Rouge leadership to justice, has long been the focus of scholarly attention in Cambodia's recovery. In many ways a product of the 1990s, a time when liberal democracy appeared to be on the rise both in Cambodia and internationally, the ECCC was imagined as a 'Transitional Justice' initiative – while delivering justice it should also ease the transition to liberal democracy. This compelling study argues that approach is dated. The political circumstances in which the ECCC was born have changed profoundly, both globally and locally. No longer can Cambodia's current situation be analysed solely in terms of transitional justice narratives or the work of the ECCC. Other ways in which Cambodians have come to terms with their past, and built new lives, must also be considered. Decentring the ECCC in the scholarly narrative of Cambodia's recovery, the volume's authors offer fascinating new insights into the Khmer Rouge period and more recent years of social, cultural and political change in Cambodia.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870087>

Literature

The Best Asian Short Stories 2023: Loss / (Ed) Devi Pillai (Series Ed) Zafar Anjum

Singapore: Kitab International, 2023

viii, 334p.

9789811885853

\$ 29.95 / PB

372gm.

Every heart knows the weight of loss.

Twenty-three authors have penned diverse stories set in Asia that invite you to reflect, empathize and find solace in their shared experiences. Through diverse stories that range from a momentary parting to the enduring void left by a lifetime's farewell, this anthology carries within it stories that navigate the vast landscape of human emotion. The Best Asian Short Stories 2023: Loss' anthology is an embrace for every reader who has ever felt the weight of letting go.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=860968>

A Flying Crystal / Lin Gao; (Translator) Shelly Bryant

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2023

108p.

9789811739927

\$ 25.00 / PB

194gm.

A Flying Crystal, Lin Gao's first poetry book, collects the first blushes of language in its encounters with emotions. Poetic form and emotional resonance come together as a flying crystal that dazzles with the joy of writing.

This collection is divided into five parts: Rain Tree, Monologue, Colouring, Precipitation and Night Reading.

Unfold and trace the lines of poetry; enter into an appreciation of the everyday, shared aspirations for the island of Singapore, the contemplation of life by a poet who lives his life in words.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870088>

Floating Clouds Beyond The Elastic Limit / Xi Ni Er; (Translator) Shelly Bryant

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2023

104p. ; 210x150mm.

9789811739934

\$ 25.00 / PB

184gm.

Insisting on collective and common memories, Floating Clouds Beyond the Elastic Limit champions a new national literature grounded in the histories of a restless tribe, we who have found a home away from home.

Xi Ni Er's poetry is alive with awareness of locality and origins – this awareness feeds the present, the future and the past in his work. Wide-ranging in their sweep, the poems go into historical and societal themes, reflecting deep concern and anxiety for the people, the happenings and the objects in a floating city, a transient life, and a pitiless history.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870089>

Dream a Granted Sky / Felix Cheong (Illustrator) Rukmunal Hakim

Singapore: Pagesetters Services Pte Ltd, 2023

1v.
9789811739903
\$ 18.00 / PB
88gm.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870090>

The Inventors / Daryl Li
Singapore: Rosetta Cultures, 2023
272p.
9789811882449

1. Self – Literary collections.
 2. Reminiscing – Literary collections.
 3. Memory - Literary collections.
- \$ 32.00 / PB
296gm.

A history of embarrassments in the garden begins a meditation on the nature of memory. Unfolding alongside notes and marginalia, a ghost story becomes a reflection on grief, remembrance, and identity. Failed writing projects coalesce into a contemplation on the limits of our narratives. The haunting essays in *The Inventors* explore the stories that we tell ourselves—and the ways in which we constantly invent and reinvent our / selves.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870091>

Sociology

Discourses of Disruption in Asia: Creating and Contesting Meaning in the Time of COVID-19/ (Eds) Ikuko Nakane, Claire Maree & Michael C. Ewing
Leiden: Leiden University Press, 2023
224p.
9789087284237
\$ 150.00 / HB
508gm.

Discourses of Disruption in Asia: Creating and Contesting Meaning in the Time of COVID-19 makes a unique contribution to research on meaning making in times of crisis. Using diverse analytical approaches to the study of languages in societies from the Asia-Pacific region, this volume explores the struggles over national identity and manifestations of socio-political issues in the context of disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each chapter interrogates how social actors in diverse communities across the Asia-Pacific region draw on discursive resources to address communication issues, particularly in relation to minoritized groups, claims for accountability, solidarity formation, national identities, government policy announcements, translation, and the efficacy of health-related discourses.
<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=870092>
