

The Substation

A Home for the Arts

SOIL

Featuring Tan Ngiap Heng and Lim Chin Huat

15 December 2016, Singapore - The Substation presents **Soil**, the second art installation commissioned under its three-year 'Rubble Project'. Co-created by photographer Tan Ngiap Heng and multi-disciplinary dance artist Lim Chin Huat, *Soil* weaves together live plants and multimedia projection into an eco-installation in the art centre's now obsolete box office.

Looking through the windows of the box office, visitors see a lush grotto of wild plants. On the walls is an ethereal multimedia projection of plants growing in a rapid time-lapse. The wild plants spill and overflow from the space, creating a verdant trellis that arches over the building's pathway.

Bringing together their artistic journey with the history of the space, the work alludes to The Substation as foundational grounds for the growth of artists. "Soil is a good analogy for how The Substation has nurtured many artists in Singapore," said the artists in a joint statement. "Both of us have worked here at various times in our careers, but this is the first time we have collaborated. By bringing us together, The Substation has once again provided fertile ground for us to grow."

The analogy of The Substation as fertile ground is communicated through the use of the living plants and the Chinese mythology of 《夸父追日》 *Kua Fu Zhui Ri*, which is the inspiration behind the multimedia projection.

The myth tells of a giant who wished to trap the sun because it was destroying his village. The giant, failing in his quest, died and collapsed onto the earth. Eventually, his body became a mountain range upon which a forest sprang up, bringing forth new life.

Reflecting upon the work as a turn in their personal artistic journeys through the desire to work with new materials, Tan says, “I felt that we need more mythology in Singaporean art work that can inspire audiences to dream beyond what they see in our urban jungle. And this is our starting point.”

ABOUT THE SUBSTATION RUBBLE PROJECT

The Substation Rubble Project is a series of artistic interventions in the rubble and defunct spaces of The Substation. Looking at The Substation as an embodiment of multiple contested histories and coexisting temporalities, each artist is invited to expose and examine the physical space, reactivating it as a site for alternative imaginings.

Through a range of contextualised installation/ work, artists reimagine obsolete spaces into a glimpse of the future or parallel possibility, creating windows into both The Substation's past and future.

The Substation Rubble Project commenced earlier this year in August with a work by artist Ong Kian Peng titled Murmuration. Ong transformed the interior of the box office into a fluid environment using an interplay of light and shadow. The multimedia installation re-animated the past flow of movement within the box office space.

For additional information visit <http://www.substation.org/the-rubble-project>

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Lim Chin Huat is a cross-disciplinary artist who has over two decades of experience in capacities as visual artist, performer, dancer, choreographer, costume designer, facilitator educator. In particular, Chin Huat is known for his stunning visual creative works with cross-disciplinary, site-specific, outreach and non-conventional in nature. Prior to being an independent arts practitioner, Chin Huat had worked with Toy Factory Theatre Ensemble (1990-1996), and later, as co-founder and artistic director with ECNAD (1996-2013). Some of his signature and collaborative works were seen and presented locally and overseas. A recipient of Young Artist Award (2000), Professional Artist Grant (1999) and a nominee for the Spirit of Enterprise Award (2004), Chin Huat also holds double Diplomas in Dance and Fine Arts from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He is currently Movement Teacher at Intercultural Theatre Institute since 2015.

Tan Ngiap Heng is a visual artist working and living in Singapore. Although he holds a doctorate in Engineering, Ngiap Heng has been a full time photographer since 1999. In his career, he has been a sought after wedding photographer and an award winning corporate photographer. However, it is his love of dance and the performing arts that started his journey into photography, and that is now his main area of focus. He has won an International Photography Award in 2007, and has his works featured in Communication Arts 2008 and the PDN Photography Annual 2008. Aside from several group and solo exhibitions in Singapore, including the prestigious Month of Photography 2002 and 2004, he has also exhibited in Fotoseptiembre USA 2008 and the 2008 Artful Nude Photography Competition. He was also a nominee for the ICON de Martell Cordon Bleu Photography award in 2013. His latest solo exhibition, *Body of Work*, was the inaugural exhibition for the ION Art Photography series at ION Art in 2014. He has also presented an installation, *FADE...*, for M1 Fringe 2015. Ngiap Heng is also active in the teaching of photography in Singapore. He is currently focussing on personal projects in photography. He is a founding member of Photovoice Sg, an organization that runs participatory photography workshops for fringe communities in Singapore.

Listing Information

SOIL

Exhibition: 6 - 24 January 2017 (running daily from 12PM to 8PM)

Opening Performance *FIRE* 《野火》 by Lim Chin Huat: 6 January, 7PM

Creative Sharing Session with the artists and T. Sasitharan: 14 January, 3PM to 5PM

Venue: The Substation Box Office, 45 Armenian Street Singapore 179336

Info: <http://www.substation.org/>

ABOUT THE SUBSTATION

The Substation is Singapore's first independent contemporary arts centre. Established in 1990 by the late Kuo Pao Kun, it is known for its pioneering and experimental arts programming. Over the years, The Substation has worked with some of Singapore's most critically acclaimed artists, writers and intellectuals including Ong Keng Seng, Alvin Tan, and Ivan Heng. The Substation is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant 2014 – 2017.

For additional information visit <http://www.substation.org/>

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