

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

The Substation announces **Discipline the City**

Cities mirror us. As cities becomes over-designed and over-regulated is there still space for diversity, or does the city tend towards some notion of a model citizen? Who has the right to the city and who doesn't?

Singapore, 19 May 2017 - Singapore's first and oldest independent art space The Substation rolls out its artistic theme for 2017: *Discipline the City*.

All its programmes for the year will examine control and discipline in the city, issues that have pertinence for all Singaporeans. Whilst we may be familiar with more obvious manifestations like barriers and closed circuit cameras, the city is now shaping spaces through new approaches like design thinking, placemaking, informational technologies. Through defensive or disciplinarian architecture — spikes and railings in void decks that stop kids from playing football, greening efforts that create psychological dead space, placebo traffic buttons — the city exerts a tremendous psychological impact on how we perceive and use space.

Artistic Director, Alan Oei, says, "Cities used to be more unpredictable, even mysterious, you always got a sense that you might turn a corner and see something unexpected. You could feel the life of the city but never really grasp its pulse. Today, the way our cities develop isn't a question only for policy wonks and scientists; it's also got to do with politics, inequality, class, identity. It's impossibly complex. I believe that artists also need to be part of that conversation."

With *Discipline the City*, The Substation shifts its in-house programming to examine complex cultural issues by engaging the public with a multi-faceted approach that has artists working with other fields such as architects, designers, historians, and urban planners. From May to December, members of the public can engage with this issue through a variety of 20 programmes across the 3 platforms of **Workshop**, **Salon**, and **Cinema**.

Highlights include:

Salon, 4 Aug by Calvin Chua

- **Everyday Monuments: Structuring Life in Pyongyang** traces how its inhabitants live through urban development in a communist city

Salon, 8 Sep by Chong Li-Chuan

- **PPAP, Harlem Shake, Gangnam Style: A Composer's Double Take on Viral YouTube Music Content** looks at how the body is disciplined through the vial consumption of cultural content like the Harlem Shake, Gangnam Style by Psy, and Pikotaro's PPAP (Pen-Pineapple-Apple-Pen).

Workshop, 2 Jun, by Justin Zhuang

- **What Will We Wear? Uniforms for Singapore in 2065** celebrates uniform-as-fashion in its embodiment of cultural codes of bodies and communities. Using design fiction, participants speculate the kinds of uniforms we will need for the future.

Workshop, 6 Oct by Yvette Koh and LockpickSG

- **How Safe are We? Security and Trespassing in the City** combines recreational lock-picking and explorations of the psychological security created by buildings and locks.

In addition to this year-long programme, The Substation will be presenting *Punk Museum* from Aug 23 - Nov 30 (dates TBC). This presentation is co-curated by Joshua Comaroff, a designer and assistant professor at Singapore University of Technology and Design. It is not only a tongue-in-cheek examination of museums as part of systems of spatial regulation and discipline, but also a celebration of the punk and subculture scene associated with The Substation.

Programmes

SALON

First Friday of each month, May - Dec 2017

Salon lectures feature close readings of art, architecture and social phenomena. These topics arise from the particular interests of each speaker and are focused on the works of others. Through these close readings, participants uncover alternative ways of thinking and reading the city.

WORKSHOP

First Friday of each month, May - Dec 2017

Workshop programmes equip participants to better navigate the codes and rules of the city, either through authoring the city through interventions, or reclaiming their ability to design and actively shape the spaces that they live in. Collectively, these programmes question: how may the city be made more open, easily usable and adaptable?

CINEMA

First Thursday of each month, May - Aug 2017

From hyperactive cities to languid villages or post-apocalyptic slums, CINEMA explores the urban conditioning of bodies by routines, ideologies or police control. Anchored by the opening film of *Tokyo!*, the four selected films follow protagonists as they struggle to rise above cyclic states of discipline. Through the sub-themes of Transformation, Anarchy, and Rebirth, the collection reveals how places shape their inhabitants.

Publication

CHAPBOOKS

Released monthly, May - Oct 2017

Available for sale at The Substation and Books Actually. \$10.

Launched in conjunction with *Discipline the City* activities is a series of short publications that provide diverse responses to the theme. Edited by Adeline Chia, Associate Editor of Art Review Asia, formats range from an essay and graphic short story, to photography series and illustrations. Content includes topics as refined as the architectural and urban planning aspects of spatial organisation, to the cultural and social aspects of discipline, such as how bodies and sexualities are policed.

Event & Ticketing Info

Individual Tickets

Each event is ticketed at \$10 (not inclusive of ticketing fees.) All tickets can be purchased on Peatix. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door. Visit www.substation.org for specific programme and venue details, and links to individual event tickets.

Season Pass

A limited number of Discerning Citizen Season Passes are available. For \$35 (not inclusive of ticketing fees), Discerning Citizens get access to all programmes in the Workshop, Salon, and Cinema series. (Pre-registration required). Season Pass sales close on 30 June 2017.

Images

Hi-res images can be downloaded at: <https://we.tl/aibcVajbf>

Link expires 26 May 2017.



WORKSHOP

Body Politics | Bodies in Space

4, 7, 14 Aug | Chan Sze-Wei

Caption: The workshop uses contact improvisation and somatic dance practices as a basis to explore ideas about group identity and exclusion, personal and societal space, privilege and power.

Image Credit: Chan Sze-Wei



WORKSHOP

Mapping Spiritual Spaces

5, 8 Sept | Terence Heng

Caption: An altar set up during the Hungry Ghost Month is a sign of everyday spirituality by ethnic Chinese Singaporeans.

Image Credit: Terence Heng



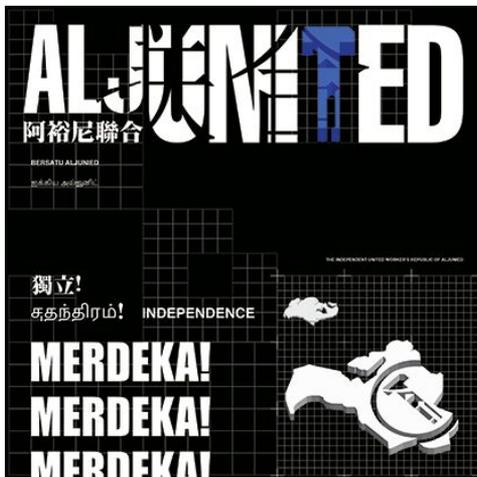
WORKSHOP

Save Your Streets: A Walkability Game

1 Dec | Participate in Design

Caption: Participants use the Save Your Streets Participatory Planning Toolkit to become the architect and planner of a neighbourhood for a day.

Image Credit: Design Singapore



SALON

Making Noise in the Nanny State

1 Dec | Mark Wong

Caption: Speculative LP artwork design by L/HT/T/TT for a fictional band named Aljunitied; based on the concept of creating a political punk band with secessionist ambitions.

Image Credit: L/HT/T/TT



SALON

Buildings Must Die: Reflections from Singapore

3 Nov | Stephen Cairns and Jane M. Jacobs

Caption: Diagram showing life expectancy of materials of the Nagakin Capsule Tower (Kisho Kurokawa), completed in 1972. For the Salon, Cairns and Jacobs offer an original contemplation of architecture that draws on theories of waste and value from the perspective of Singapore.

Image Credit: OMA

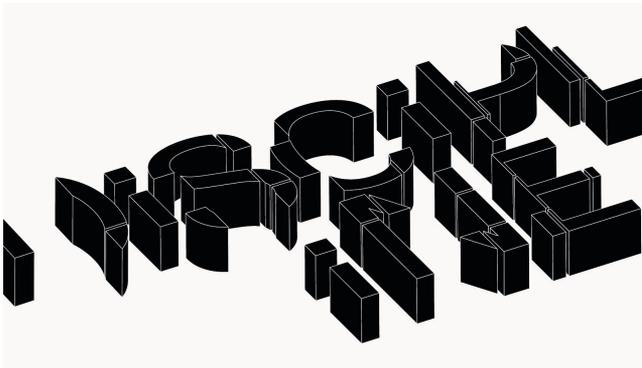


SALON

Everyday Monuments: Structuring Life in Pyongyang

4 Aug | Calvin Chua

Caption: Mirae Scientist Street, one of the latest boulevards in Pyongyang as captured by architect Calvin Chua. Based on a historical scan and ground observation through interactions with North Korean architects, Chua explores the evolution of urban form in Pyongyang over the decades. Image Credit: Calvin Chua



Discipline the City - logo

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 Alvin Tan, Goh Boon Teck, Amanda Heng, Lee Wen and Kok Heng Leun. The Substation is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant from April 2017 - March 2020.

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#disciplinethecity

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