The Substation Appoints Artistic Co-Directors

Singapore, 20 January 2020 — The Substation is delighted to announce the appointment of Artistic Co-Directors Ms. Raka Maitra and Dr. Woon Tien Wei. The Artistic Co-Directors assumed leadership of The Substation in January 2020.

Chew Kheng Chuan, Chairman, The Substation, conveys the organisation’s confidence in the new directorship: “While celebrating our 30th year as a small but significant national arts institution in Singapore, we are conscious that the future holds great challenges and opportunities for us to be relevant and vital. We look with confidence to Raka and Tien to revitalise the contribution of The Substation to the advancement of the arts and Singapore’s cultural identity.”

Artistic Co-Director, Woon Tien Wei comments, “Raka and I are joining The Substation at an important time. And it is our artistic goal to ‘Re-vision’ The Substation as the first ‘Home of the Arts’. In 2020, we are asking everyone whose lives have been touched by The Substation ‘to come home’ and contribute to the ongoing development of Singapore’s contemporary arts ecosystem.”

Artistic Co-Director, Raka Maitra adds, “The Substation is a very special space; a space that is infinitely malleable, mutable and open, welcoming and embracing of all art and artists. The Substation is an important part of the legacy of the arts in Singapore and their on-going development. I am delighted to be a part of its future expansion alongside Tien.”

The Substation’s new programming initiatives embrace all art forms and feature: residency and research programmes; the re-introduction of SeptFest; and a host of initiatives designed to encourage artists and audiences to develop their own relationship with The Substation.

Keep up with the latest developments at The Substation on our website and social media platforms.
**BIO – Raka Maitra**

Raka Maitra is a classically trained Odissi dancer. A disciple of Odissi dancer Madhavi Mudgal at the classical music and dance institution Gandhrva Mahavidyalay in New Delhi, India, Raka was awarded the Shringarmani, a national level award for Odissi. She has also undergone intensive studies in Serraikella Chhau under Sashadhar Acharya at Triveni Kala Sangam in New Delhi, India.

Through her 26-year practice, Raka has explored the notion of ‘Asian Culture’ through contemporary dance, the basis of her movement is both martial arts and classical Indian dance. As described by dance scholar Dr. Stephanie Burridge, “with great courage and perhaps audacity, Raka has stepped outside safe boundaries and blurred the lines of tradition.” As Dance Europe stated, “Maitra is without doubt a dancer of the 21st century.”

In 2007, Raka founded Chowk Productions, the company produces contemporary and classical dance works, as well as offers dance classes and research opportunities. Chowk has performed at festivals around the world including The Kennedy Centre, in Washington DC, USA, (2017), Fest’Hiver in Avignon, France (2016), and multiple engagements at Ten Days on the Island, Tasmania.

**BIO – Woon Tien Wei**

Woon Tien Wei is an artist/curator. His work focuses on cultural policies, collectivity in art, social movements, community engagement, land contestation, urban legends, and social movements.


Tien’s projects have been featured in the Jakarta Biennale (2015), Unearthed at the Singapore Art Museum (2014), and documenta 11 (2002). He is a regular participant in regional talks and conferences including the ‘International Conference of Sustainable Art: Creative Collaboration as Catalyst for Change,’ Bamboo Curtain and Treasure Hill Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan (2018), and CIMAM 2017 Annual Conference, Singapore. Tien received a Doctorate of Creative Arts from Curtain University in 2012.
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**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 2017–2020.

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