

Press Release



ArtScience Museum and Singapore International Film Festival co-present *Specters and Tourists*

*New film installation by Japanese filmmaker Daisuke Miyazaki
shows Singapore in a fresh light*

Singapore (30 October 2017) – ArtScience Museum will be presenting *Specters and Tourists*, a moving image exhibition by Japanese filmmaker and artist, Daisuke Miyazaki, from 11 November to 17 December, in conjunction with this year's Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF).

Seen through the eyes of Miyazaki, *Specters and Tourists* is a two-part film installation commissioned by ArtScience Museum and SGIFF that depicts urban life, and scenes from Singapore. The isolation and anxiety of modern life is depicted in the first part of the experience, *Specters*, whilst *Tourists* reveals the temporary freedom that the protagonists experience in the absence of technology. Admission to *Specters and Tourists*, and the programmes that accompany it, is free.

In *Specters*, scenes from Miyazaki's previous films are weaved into a multiple-screen spectacle of people trapped like ghosts, or specters. Miyazaki lingers on the observation that the modern experience is homogenised and without meaning; without risk and thoroughly monotonous. As one peers into the windows of their uninspired lives, the spectator becomes the specter himself.

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© Daisuke Miyazaki, *Tourists*, 2017

The accompanying installation is *Tourists*, which was filmed in Singapore. It stars Japanese actresses, Nina Endo (who starred in Miyazaki's *Yamato (California)*, which was screened at the 27th SGIFF) and Sumire Sato (from Japanese girl group, SKE48). In *Tourists*, two friends win a free trip abroad. They arrive in a cosmopolitan city identical to their home country, but find themselves displaced in its unfamiliar monuments when one of them loses her mobile phone. Without the predictability of a travel itinerary found on the Internet, the friends reconstruct their identities with their encounters in unwritten places.

Born in Yokohama, Japan in 1980, Miyazaki is the director of *Yamato (California)*, which screened at SGIFF in 2016. He is also one of the Berlinale Talents directors of the omnibus film, *5 to 9*, which screened at SGIFF in 2015. Miyazaki's first feature film, *End of the Night*, was selected for numerous international film festivals and won the Special Mention Prize at the Toronto Shinsedai Cinema Festival.

Specters and Tourists is part of Marina Bay Sands' ongoing extended collaboration as a Presenting Sponsor of the SGIFF. It sees ArtScience Museum and SGIFF collaborating to inspire audiences beyond the main film festival by exploring new spaces for the discovery of art, film and the moving image.

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Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum, said, “We are thrilled to premiere this new film installation by one of Japan's most impressive young filmmakers at ArtScience Museum, in collaboration with Singapore International Film Festival. *Specters and Tourists* is an extension of *ArtScience on Screen*, our platform for film, video and moving image which explores the intersection of art, science, culture and technology. Daisuke Miyazaki's thoughtful and compelling film installation gives us a new view on Singapore, and encourages us to think about our urban environment in a more imaginative way.”

“As part of our commitment to championing our regional talents, the Singapore International Film Festival is excited to continue our collaboration with ArtScience Museum to provide additional platforms for Asian filmmakers to showcase their works. Daisuke Miyazaki has been a regular at the Festival, and it is really the next step for us to work with him on a multi-disciplinary exhibition that weaves together film, music and live performance, challenging the possibilities of how we use film to connect with our audience.” said Yuni Hadi, Executive Director of SGIFF.

In conjunction with *Specters and Tourists*, ArtScience Museum will be hosting performances and screenings, as part of the museum's ongoing programme strands, *ArtScience Late* and *ArtScience on Screen*. *ArtScience Late* brings experimental performances by outstanding local and international performers who work at the intersection of art, technology and science, to the public. *ArtScience on Screen* is the museum's dedicated film and video programme, and is part of Marina Bay Sands' ongoing commitment to local and international film culture.

ArtScience Late: ARE and Daisuke Miyazaki (16 November)

On 16 November at 8pm, Miyazaki will be directing an immersive and exuberant ArtScience Late performance, *All Life is Tour*, in partnership with Singapore musicians, ARE. Sound project and art rock band, ARE create psych-art arrangements that sway between loud guitars, colourful electronics and lyrical tales. They have performed and recorded their melodic psychedelia and

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grainy electronics in Japan and Singapore, in locations as diverse as museum and abandoned houses.

All Life is Tour will combine improvised music and live cinema to allow visitors to experience life as both specter and spectator.

Admission is free, on a first-come-first-served basis with limited capacity at the performance.

ArtScience on Screen: 5 to 9 (5 November – 5 December 2017)

ArtScience Museum will also be screening *5 to 9*, a collaborative film by four regional directors – Tay Bee Pin (Singapore), Daisuke Miyazaki (Japan), Vincent Du (China) and Rasiguet Sookkarn (Thailand). First premiered in Singapore at the 26th SGIFF, *5 to 9* comprises four short stories that transpire and interweave from 5pm to 9am on the evening of the historic Brazil-Germany match during World Cup 2014, spanning intimate vignettes of unrequired love and final meetings.

The screening will take place between 5 November and 5 December 2017. Admission is free. For screening schedule, please visit MarinaBaySands.com/ArtScienceMuseum

Both the performance and the additions screenings are held in conjunction with *Specters and Tourists*, co-organised by ArtScience Museum and Singapore International Film Festival.

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About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. Completing the line-up of attractions is

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ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit www.marinabaysands.com

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the interrelationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totalling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of the 20th century's key artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About the Singapore International Film Festival

Founded in 1987, the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) is the largest and longest-running film event in Singapore. It has become an iconic event in the local arts calendar that is widely attended by international film critics, and known for its dynamic programming and focus on ground-breaking Asian cinema for Singapore and the region. Committed to nurturing and championing local and regional talent, its competition component, the Silver Screen Awards, brings together emerging filmmakers from Asia and Southeast Asia while paying tribute to acclaimed cinema legends. With its mentorship programmes, masterclasses and dialogues with attending filmmakers, the Festival also serves as a catalyst for igniting public interest, artistic dialogue, and cultural exchanges in the art of filmmaking. The SGIFF is organised by the Singapore International Film Festival Ltd, a non-profit organisation with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status.

For more information, please visit www.sgiff.com.

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For media enquiries, please contact

Gladys Sim
Marina Bay Sands Communications
6688 1048
gladys.sim@marinabaysands.com

Toh Weiming
Tate Anzur, on behalf of Singapore International Film
Festival
6568 9153
weiming.toh@tateanzur.com