

NEWS RELEASE

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The 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award Exhibition – An Artistic Display of dynamism of the Marina Bay

Co-organised by Singapore Art Museum (SAM) and City Developments Limited (CDL), The 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award Exhibition will be held at Singapore Art Museum from 13 to 15 May 2005. To be officially opened on 13 May by Dr Balaji Sadavisan, Senior Minister of State for the Information, Communications and Arts, and Health, the exhibition will showcase the creative works of both established and aspiring sculptors submitted for The 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award.

8 winning works from the Open and Student Category plus 19 finalists' sculptures will be displayed. Inspired by the beautiful and unique surrounding of the Marina Bay, the artworks have successfully interpreted the theme of "Live, Work and Play", whilst incorporating elements of the sun, wind and water. Through refreshing sculptural form and creative use of materials, the works capture the cosmopolitan energy and vibrancy of Marina Bay.

Launched in December last year, The 2nd CDL Singapore Sculpture Award received 237 entries, an increase of more than 40% from the inaugural competition launched in 2002. Participants ranged from the ages of 12 to 73 including different nationalities from China, Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia Netherlands, New Zealand, and Spain who are either working or studying in Singapore. Singapore's success in attracting foreign talents is evident as the two top winners Yeo Chee Kiong and Brenton Fong are both Singapore Permanent Residents from Malaysia and New Zealand respectively but now call Singapore their home. Participants also consist of renowned professional sculptors, architects, Art lecturers, doctors, students, and even retirees.

Said renowned artist Mr Chua Ek Kay, an adjudicator of the Award and Cultural Medallion recipient (1999), "This year, participants sought to create more daring and unconventional sculptures that interpreted the theme very well. Overall, I am happy to see a marked improvement in the quality of entries this year."

It is also encouraging to note that 23 schools took part this year, an increase from 17 in 2003. This includes many neighbourhood schools such as Bishan Park Secondary School and Bedok Green Secondary School. 13-year-old Kok Zhou Dao from Seng Kang Secondary School won the Merit Prize - Most Creative Use of Materials, having impressed the adjudicators with his vivacious and whimsical entry. Raffles Girls' School submitted a record 33 entries, the highest number amongst participating schools. Artistic talent also runs in the family as we have received separate entries from a pair of twins who are professional architects and even entries from father and son who have both done well in their respective categories. Their works have all been selected for the exhibition.

CDL Managing Director Mr Kwek Leng Joo said, "The Marina Bay will transform dramatically in the next few years and is set to be a dynamic hub of diverse activities. Not only will it be a major cultural and financial district but also the locale of a world-class integrated resort. This Award offers an opportunity for our community to be part of this transformation by producing artworks that will accentuate the effervescence and modernity of the new Downtown at Marina Bay."

The CDL Singapore Sculpture Award was first initiated and organised by City Developments Limited (CDL) in partnership with the Singapore Art Museum, National Arts Council, Sculpture Square, iPreciation Pte Ltd, LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 2002.

Said Ms Jean Wee, Acting Assistant Director (Programmes), Singapore Art Museum, "SAM is very pleased to be partnering CDL again for the Singapore Sculpture Awards as it is our joint mission to promote sculpture awareness and appreciation and sculpture as a form of art making amongst schools as well as professional artists. The award is also part of a long process towards public sculpture contribution to the landscape of Singapore."

The Award aims to recognise and encourage creativity in the field of Sculpture, so as promote the appreciation of this art form among Singaporeans. It creates a platform for sculptors and aspiring artists to showcase their talent and have the opportunity to have their works commissioned. Fabrication of the sculpture entitled 'Reed Sculpture' by Peter Chen, which won the inaugural award in 2003, has started. This sculpture will be placed along the Singapore River, at The Pier @ Robertson condominium towards the end of this year.

The positive response from the art community and schools is indicative that we are moving in the right direction. CDL remains committed to supporting the arts and youth development. Together with our partners, CDL hopes that the competition will continue to make an impact on the local art scene and in a long run expand to the region.

The exhibition will move on to The Sail Art Gallery at The Sail @ Marina Bay Show Suites when the show suites re-open.

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