

**Embargoed till 28th January 2008
Press Release**

Primary Colours: Feng Zhengjie

29 January 2008 to 20 April 2008

(08 January 2008) Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is proud to present *Primary Colours: Feng Zhengjie*, an exhibition that showcases 25 recent artworks by the prolific artist. A renowned artist in the contemporary Chinese art scene, Feng Zhengjie draws upon a spectrum of motifs from popular culture and folk art in his work, which examines consumer society and responds to the issues confronting contemporary China. He has been described as a trenchant observer of society who remains ambivalently fascinated with Chinese pop culture. This exhibition features a special focus on his well-known *Chinese Portrait* series, large-scale, sometimes unsettling portraits of women in striking acid colours.

Feng spent his childhood in the Sichuan countryside and completed his studies at the Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts. During these years, he deepened his knowledge of Western classics, such as Michelangelo, Raffaello and Cezanne, while appreciating the art of significant Chinese masters such as Xu Beihong and Qi Baishi. Feng's artistic career commenced in 1989 with the series *Analysis*. One of his paintings from this period, a dramatic self-portrait called "Self-Analyze," is featured in this exhibition. Since his debut, Feng's approaches to painting have become more expressionistic. His work plays with the showy, sometimes kitschy obsessions of contemporary consumer societies. In the *Romantic Trip* series, also featured in this exhibition, Feng mimicks the vivid colours and exaggerated poses of wedding couples, satirising these expensive ceremonies.

On his thoughts on the exhibition title, *Primary Colours*, Feng says, "My foundation lies with traditional Chinese folk art, thus the primary colours I use are red, blue and yellow. Each of these colours have a strong characteristic, therefore my works tend to be more vivid. The term, *Primary Colours (Ben Se)*, is a paradox because *Ben Se* means something simple and natural but when we look at the colours red, blue and yellow, they are vibrant and dramatic. In

the same way, my works reflect conflicting ideas; the perfect features of the women I paint and their mystical inner feelings and emotions."

Feng has participated in major art events such as the first Chengdu Biennale and the first Guangzhou Triennial in China. His works have also been exhibited worldwide in countries such as Korea, Italy, France and Germany.

Director of Singapore Art Museum, Kwok Kian Chow, says, "Feng Zhengjie's art suggests a new category of imagery that appears to speak in the language of kitsch, yet it is able to subvert both high art and popular culture, by the peculiar juxtaposition of imageries, icons and symbols, that are seemingly familiar and yet perturbing."

Primary Colours: Feng Zhengjie opens to public on 29th January and ends on 20th April 2008.

Please refer to the following Annexes for more information:

Annex A	Biography of Feng Zhengjie
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For media interviews and further information contact:

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For more information, visit www.singart.com

Mondays to Sundays : 10am to 7pm, with extended hours and
FREE Admission on Fridays from 6pm to 9pm

Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189555

General enquiries, please contact Front desk at 6332 3222.

Annex A

Biography of Feng Zhengjie

Lives and works in Beijing, China

Place/year of Birth: Sichuan Province, China. 1968

Education

Fine Arts Education Dept. of Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts, BFA

Oil Painting Dept. of Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts, MFA

Solo Exhibition

- 2008 Primary Color, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 2007 New Works of Feng Zhengjie, Tilton Gallery, New York, USA
- 2007 Feng Zhengjie: Recent Works, Galerie Frank Schlag & Cie. Essen, Germany
- 2007 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, Albert Benamou Gallery, Paris, France
- 2006 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, Tokyo Gallery, Tokyo, China
- 2006 Very Red and Very Green, Xin Dong Cheng Space for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
- 2006 A Beautiful Deception, Shine Art Space, Shanghai, China
- 2005 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, Marella Art Contemporary, Milan, Italy
- 2005 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, Goethe Art Center, Taiwan, China
- 2005 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, Galerie De Bellecour, Lyons, France
- 2004 Kitsch As A Face Of Chinese Society, Vanessa Art House, Jakarta, Indonesia
- 2004 Kitsch As A Face Of Chinese Society, Soobin Art Gallery, Singapore
- 2004 The Beautiful Poison, Suka Art Space, Korea
- 2003 Regards vers l'Est, Regards vers l'Ouest, Albert Benamou Gallery, Paris, France
- 2003 Packaging, Xin-Dong CHENG's Space for International Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
- 2003 Paintings of Feng Zhengjie, M.K.Ciurlionis National Museum of Art, Kaunas, Lithuania
- 2002 Paintings 1996-2001, Foundation 3,14, Bergen, Norway
- 2001 Coolness, Common Ground Art Gallery, Windsor, Canada
- 1996 Recounting of Skin, Art Museum of Capital Normal University, Beijing, China

Group Exhibition

- 2007 The Power of the Universe, Asia Art Center, Beijing, China
- 2007 La Cina e' vicina, PAN - Palazzo delle Arti di Napoli, Napoli, Italy
- 2007 China Contemporary Art, Museo d'Arte Contemporanea di Villa Croce – Genova, Italy
- 2007 Pocheon Asia Biennale, Pocheon Banweol / Art Hall, Pocheon, Korea
- 2007 Red Hot: Asian Art Today, Mnseum of Fine Arts, Houston, USA
- 2007 Thermocline of Art-New Asian Waves, ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany
- 2007 Giants in Illusion, Seoul National Art Museum, Seoul, Korea
- 2007 The Alteration of Vision, Tang Contemporary Art, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2007 From New Figurative Image to New Painting, Tang Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
- 2007 China Onward, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebak, Denmark
- 2007 Starting from the Southwest-Exhibition of Contemporary Art in Southwest China, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2007 Chinese Contemporary SOCAR, The State Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow, Russia
- 2006 Varied Images, Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, China
- 2006 The Node of Art, Tan Guobin Contemporary Art Museum, Changsha, China
- 2006 Basel International Contemporary Art Fair, Gallery HYUNDAI, Basel, Switzerland
- 2006 Jiang Hu: Part I, Tilton Gallery, New York, USA
- 2006 1th Annals Exhibition of Chinese Contemporary Art, The Art Museum of China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China
- 2005 Grounding Reality -- Chinese Contemporary art, Seoul Art Center, Seoul, Korea
- 2005 Chinese Contemporary Painting · Palazzo Bricherasio, Torino, Italy
- 2005 Prague Biennale 2, Prague, Czech
- 2005 China, Contemporary Painting · Fondazione Cassa Di Risparmio in Bologna, Italy
- 2004 Young Artists from Korea, China and Japan, National Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea

- 2004 The First Salon of Art in Autumn, National Museum of China, Beijing, China
- 2004 Chinart, Sa Llonja, Palma de Mallorca, Spain
- 2004 The First Nominative Exhibition of Fine Arts Literature, Hubei Institute of Fine Arts Museum, Wuhan, China
- 2004 Chinart, Municipal Gallery, Bydgoszcz, Poland
- 2004 Chinese Contemporary Art, Marseille Contemporary Art Museum, Marseille, France
- 2004 Forbidden Senses, Espace Culturel Francois Mitterrand, Perigueux, France
- 2003 Image from Image, Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
- 2003 Chinart, Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary
- 2003 Chinart, Museo Arte Contemporanea di Roma, Rome, Italy
- 2003 Chinese Art Today, The Art Museum of China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China
- 2003 Subversion and poetry, Culturgest Foundation, Lisbon, Portugal
- 2003 1st Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- 2002 Chinart, Museum Kuppersmuhle Sammlung Grothe, Duisberg, Germany
- 2002 Paris-Pekin, Espace Cardin, Paris, France
- 2002 Chinese Modernity, Fundacion Armando Alvares Penteado (FAAP), Sao Paulo, Brazil
- International Contemporary Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland
- Let's Go!/Chinese Contemporary Artists with the Football World Cup, The Art Museum of China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China
- 2002 Beijing Invitational Exhibition of The first Chendu Biennale, The Art Museum of China Millennium Monument, Beijing, China
- 2002 Korea Contemporary Art Festival, Seoul, Korea
- 2001 1st Chengdu Biennale, Cheng Du Contemporary Arts Museum, Chengdu, China
- 2001 Dialogue with Dali, Shanghai Art Fair, Shanghai, China
- 2001 Next Generation/ Art Contemporary D'Asia, PASSAGE de RETZ, Paris, France
- 2000 Plane, China Woman Center, Beijing, China
- 1999 China46, Shanghai, China Hoke Art Gallery, Taipei
- Art Sans Frontieres International Art Exhibitions, Melbourne, Australia
- Food For Thought/Chinese Contemporary Art, Mu Art Foundation, ARCTIC Foundation, De witte Dame Eindhoven, The Netherlands
- 1999 Ouh La La Kitsch! TEDA Contemporary Art Museum, Tianjin, China
- 1999 Open Channels, Dongyu Museum of Fine Arts, Shenyang, China
- 1998 The Academic Exhibition of Beijing Youth Oil Painters, Art Gallery of Beijing International Art Palace, Beijing, China
- 1998 Personal Touch, TEDA Contemporary Art Museum, Tianjin, China
- The 3rd Annual Exhibition of Chinese Oil Painting, National Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing, China
- The 2nd Chinese Oil Painting Exhibition, National Museum of Fine Arts, Beijing, China
- Modern Chinese Art Research Documents Exhibition, Library of Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, Guangzhou, China
- Present State.1992 Art Exhibition, Art Museum of Sichuan Academy of Fine Arts, Chongqing, China

Selection of the Public Collections:

- Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
- Shenzhen Art Museum, Shenzhen, China
- TEDA Contemporary Art Museum, Tianjin, China
- Dongyu Museum of Fine Arts, Shenyang, China
- Annie Wong Art Foundation, Hong Kong, China
- Tan Guobin Contemporary Art Museum, Changsha, China
- Ullens Foundation, Switzerland
- Fondazione Cassa Di Risparmio, Bologna, Italy
- Busan Museum of Modern Art, Korea
- FC MOCA Manchester, England
- Musee Royal des Beaux-Arts du Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- Musee d'Arts Contemporain d'Ivry-sur-Seine, France

Annex B

Public Programme in conjunction with the exhibition

Colourful Faces

Lunar Fiesta – Chinese New Year at SAM*

Embrace the spectrum of colours and join in our Feng Zhengjie's portrait-inspired colouring session. Learn about the colour wheel, mix and match the colours to create a colourful artwork to bring home!

**8 Feb (Fri) • 1.00pm – 4.00pm • SAM Glass Hall • Free
(Recommended for children ages 6-10)**

For the Love of Art

Double Happiness – Valentine's Day at SAM

Organised by SAM and Heart2Heart Connect

Electrified auras, exotic colours and a love for art.
Enough topics to get you in the mood for a unique dating event not to be missed.

14 Feb (Thur) • 7.00pm – 10.30pm • Meeting Point: SAM Lobby • \$68 (Inclusive of a buffet dinner at Dome Cafe) • Registration required • Limited capacity**

Art + Music

Curatour infused with Music

Enter the world of Feng Zhengjie and learn how he infuses Chinese folk art motifs with popular culture. Understand how emerging issues confronting China influence its contemporary art with SAM Assistant Curator, Michelle Ho. The tour will be followed by a Chinese music performance inspired by the exhibition performed by Love Me Knot, a local avant garde acoustic duo.

Michelle Ho graduated with a Masters in Curatorship & Modern Art from The University of Sydney, Australia. She was formerly a journalist with The Straits Times.

15 Feb (Fri) • 7.30pm – 9.00pm • Meeting Point: SAM Lobby • \$10 • Registration required

Between Slices

Art Tour

Hang out with a different crowd this lunch. Explore the exhibition *Primary Colours: Feng Zhengjie* with SAM Assistant Curator, Michelle Ho.

Michelle Ho graduated with a Masters in Curatorship & Modern Art from The University of Sydney, Australia. She was formerly a journalist with The Straits Times.

2 Apr (Wed) • 12.30pm – 2.00pm • Meeting Point: SAM Lobby • \$10 (Light refreshments will be provided) • Registration required

*Free admission to all SAM's exhibitions at Lunar Fiesta- Chinese New Year @ SAM on 8 February. Be captivated by Chinese calligraphy demonstrations by Life Art Society, feast on festive delicacies and enjoy Xin yao from 1pm – 4pm.

** Social Development Unit and Romancing Singapore members enjoy the special rate of \$65 nett. For enquiries and bookings, please call 82689519 or email linda@heart2heart.sg

For programme updates and registration, please call 6332 3220, email nhb_sam_programmes@nhb.gov.sg or visit www.singart.com.

Programme details may be subjected to change.

Annex C

About Singapore Art Museum

Opened in January 1996, the mission of the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) is to preserve and present the art histories and contemporary art practices of Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. To date, SAM has amassed the world's largest public collection of modern and contemporary Southeast Asian artworks with a growing component in international contemporary art. The museum has presented shows covering both local and international art practices, traditional and cutting edge art expressions. Through strategic alliances with international arts and cultural institutions, SAM has been facilitating visual arts education, exchange, research and development within the region and internationally. Through forging collaborative partnerships and staging innovative programmes to engage different audiences, SAM aims to contribute to an enlarged role in the regional visual arts community and Asian art museology, as well as facilitating developments in art as well as the art sector in Singapore.