

For immediate release, 09 December 2013

Ong Kim Seng: Travel Journal in Oils Exhibition and Book Launch

This coming January, artcommune gallery is pleased to unveil our first blockbuster show for 2014 –***Ong Kim Seng: Travel Journal in Oils***. With over 15 pieces of oil paintings on display, this landmark exhibition presents a rarely-seen series of oil landscapes by Singapore's top watercolour artist, Mr. Ong Kim Seng. A self-taught artist who turned full-time in 1985, Mr. Ong is an avid traveller who has embarked on extensive sojourns across different states and continents in his attempt to encounter and capture in his paintings, the awe-inspiring beauty of Mother Nature and the diverse cultures that exist in various environments. With this exhibition, the artist walks us through a journal of iconic and exuberant scenes from the Singapore River, Old Chinatown, Kathmandu in Nepal, Portofino in Italy and many more. To help the public to better understand and appraise the versatility and diverse portfolio achieved by the artist, the oil paintings will also be accompanied by a collection of watercolour landscapes during the exhibition.

Born in Singapore in 1945, Ong Kim Seng, *BBM AWS DF NWS*, stands today as one of the most highly acclaimed watercolour artists in Southeast Asia. To date, the Singapore Cultural Medallion honoree for Visual Arts (1990) has received a total of 7 awards from the world-renowned American Watercolour Society in New York. Not only are his paintings in the collections of various local and overseas museums and galleries, they can also be seen on display at several foreign missions and embassies representing Singapore. The watercolour maestro already counts Queen Elizabeth II, Mr. Koizumi (former Prime Minister of Japan) and Mr. H.E. Kofi Anan (former Secretary-General of the UN) amongst the long list of royal figures and diplomats who collect his artworks.

Ong Kim Seng: Travel Journal in Oils will be officially opened by Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Ong Yew Huat (Chairman of the National Heritage Board, Singapore) and Mr. Ong Kim Seng himself will also be present. In conjunction with the event, there will also be an official book launch for the latest publication on Mr. Ong's paintings and aesthetic accomplishments –*Passion for Landscapes. The Watercolour Art of Ong Kim Seng* –in which Mr. Ong Yew Huat has personally dedicated a Foreword.

Exhibition Opening: 5th January 2014, Sunday, 2.30 pm

Guest-of-Honour: Mr. Ong Yew Huat (Chairman of the National Heritage Board, Singapore)

Exhibition dates: 4 -18 January 2014

Venue: artcommune gallery (Address below)

Opening hours: 12 to 7 pm daily

Admission is free

Contact Information:

artcommune gallery

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www.artcommune.com.sg

Below are the images to some of the artworks that will be on exhibit:



Singapore River, 1992, Oil on canvas, 100.5 x 120 cm

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'The Artist's Choice'



Ubud, Bali, 2013, Oil on canvas, 60.5 x 80 cm

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Chinatown, 2013, Oil on canvas, 51 x 61 cm



Kathmandu Street Scene, 2013, Watercolour on paper, 53.5 x 74cm