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NTU CENTRE FOR
CONTEMPORARY
ART SINGAPORE

Bring It To LIFE.

Bring it to LIFE is a curatorial project that engages with NTU CCA Singapore's Artist Resource Platform, a research initiative that aims to provide a point of entry to the work and practice of local artists, independent art spaces and NTU CCA Singapore's Artists-in-Residence. Temporarily situated in *The Lab*, the Artist Resource Platform lives a quiet existence – visitors stop by, browse through the folders rigorously displayed on the tables, take notes and often ask questions. Concentrated in its folders are works that we might want to see, experience, think and discuss. *Bring it to LIFE* aims to overcome the mediated experience and create direct encounters with artistic production, with contributions from **Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor, Kray Chen, Sufian Samsiyar** and **Geraldine Kang**.

Curated by **Shona Findlay**, *Curatorial Assistant, Residencies*,
Syaheedah Iskandar, *Curatorial Assistant, Exhibitions*,
Samantha Leong, *Executive, Conference, Workshops & Archive*,
and **Kimberly Shen**, *Manager, Communications*.

16 Jun - 12 Jul 2015

The Lab, Block 43 Malan Road,
Gillman Barracks

Open during exhibition hours

Tue - Sun 12 - 7pm
Fri 12 - 9pm
Mon Closed

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Bring it to *LIFE*

Structured in four different episodes, *Bring it to LIFE* responds to the wider narrative of NTU CCA Singapore's overarching curatorial framework, PLACE.LABOUR.CAPITAL. – an open-ended research addressing the complexities of a world in flux and the dynamic relation between the local and global. *Bring it to LIFE* brings to the fore artworks that directly engage with the subject matter of PLACE.LABOUR.CAPITAL. through themes of migration and capital transactions. In addition, it uses spatial interventions to highlight that the production of meaning is also a spatial process. Our movement within a confined place, impacts the way we experience and make meaning out of it.

The work of **Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor** produced during their residency at NTU CCA Singapore is conceived as a visual poem focused on the migrant workers whose individual destinies are influenced by the wider movements of capital flow. **Kray Chen**'s contribution is a playful installation highlighting that transactional activities such as cutting queues, getting out of a train or simply shopping are punctuating our everyday life. **Sufian Samsiyar**'s collaborative project tests the thin boundaries between work and life space. **Geraldine Kang**'s intervention into the spatial arrangement of the Platform is a proposition for another reading and way of engagement with an archive that eschews linearity and prescribed movement into the space.

Episode 1: Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor | 16 – 21 June 2015

When I sleep I miss them, when I work I also miss them (2015), 7 min and *The end of the working day* (2015), 15:20 min, double channel video installation.

When I sleep I miss them, when I work I also miss them (2015) is a quote that surfaced during an interview with Bangladeshi worker and poet, Zakir Hussain. His words echo the sentiments and situation of millions of migrant workers, many who have travelled long distances in order to provide a living for their families back home. *The end of the working day* (2015) documents the daily journey of a group of young men going home after a hard day's work, a familiar routine for foreign workers in Singapore who consist of 37.9% of the total workforce in Singapore (source: Ministry of Manpower, Singapore, 2014). Both films explore how modernity, globalisation, capitalism, colonialism, war and nature intersect with one another, affecting the destinies of various individuals. The work was produced during the artists' residency at NTU CCA Singapore.

Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor have been working together since 2000. Their artistic practice confronts the traumatic legacy of Communism in their native Romania and Eastern Europe.

Episode 3: Sufian Samsiyar | 30 June – 5 July 2015

Some Project: Sufian Samsiyar and Friends (2015), installation.

Responding to the community's limited access to an artist's practice, *Some Project: Sufian Samsiyar and Friends* depicts itself as a contrasting / contradicting view of how artists' working spaces are commonly perceived. Presented in a form of a tent; a metaphor for a safe shelter or cover, Sufian has invited artists to contribute personal objects, which may reflect resemblances of their practice, and are intimate or indicative of their art making process. The artwork encourages viewers to interact within this intimate space and hopes to bridge the gap between the community and Sufian's fellow artist friends.

Sufian Samsiyar is a visual artist based in Singapore whose practice focuses on the urban landscape and responds to the complex issues surrounding urbanity that present themselves in architecture today.

Episode 2: Kray Chen | 23 – 28 June 2015

Exercise Now and Fit a Standard Size Coffin Later (2015), installation.

Kray Chen dissects and plays with the idea of transaction not only in a monetary sense, but also through referrals, delegations and misdirection. The new installation of his *Exercise Now and Fit a Standard Size Coffin Later* series is done in collaboration with computer engineer, Chang Poo Hee and continues Chen's playful approach to gestures and repetition, and offers to expand on his research through participation and dialogue.

Schedule

24 June, 6pm: Conversations between Kray Chen and Michael Lee on Lottery, Superstitions and Art
27 & 28 June, 6pm: 4D announcement / observing five minutes of silence

The artist will be based in *The Lab* throughout the week and conduct informal Q&A sessions with visitors.

Based in Singapore, **Kray Chen** is a visual artist whose work discusses the absurdities and anxieties of modern society through video and performance.

Episode 4: Geraldine Kang | 7 – 12 July 2015

2 Parts 2 (2015), corrugated metal sheets with support.

Geraldine Kang's installation relooks the current layout of the Artist Resource Platform where the folders of each artist's practice and the tables they rest on form a linear path of movement within the space. By sawing tables in two and repositioning folders from the Platform, Kang removes linearity of its current layout and proposes a more participatory mode of engagement for the visitors.

Geraldine Kang is a visual artist working and living in Singapore whose relationship with photography funnels into two main threads, firstly using the medium as a private introspective channel, and secondly by exploring the undercurrents and ambivalences of familiar places.

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Mona Vatamanu & Florin Tudor, *The end of the working day* (2015), film still. Courtesy of the artists.