



“HEROES OF OUR TIME” – An Art Exhibition to Pay Tribute to FRONTLINERS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Singapore, 13 March 2021 – An exhibition of artworks, titled “Heroes of Our Time”, co-organised by the National Healthcare Group (NHG) and Singapore Art Society (SAS), as a tribute to healthcare and essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, has opened at the ION Art Gallery. It captures diverse perspectives of the pandemic featuring works of budding to professional artists of all ages. Dr Janil Puthuchery, Senior Minister of State for Communications and Information, and Health officially opened the exhibition as the Guest-of-Honour.

This exhibition also has as its partners HealthServe and Asian Scientist Magazine, with the support of Temasek Trust’s oscar@sg fund, Pfizer Singapore, and ION Orchard. Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer (Education and Research), NHG, Professor Benjamin Seet said, “COVID-19 has impacted the lives of everyone in Singapore. Through this exhibition, we have given a voice to children, migrant workers, and professional artists to express their views on the pandemic, through the universal language of art.”

The central artwork, aptly titled “Heroes of Our Time” (“风云人物”), features images of Singapore’s battle against COVID-19. It was created by 18 artists from SAS. Mr Terence Teo, President of SAS, said, “This painting and SAS’s participation in the exhibition are our contribution to the COVID-19 fight. We may not know the name of every person on the frontlines, but through this painting, we hope to capture the indomitable spirit of all healthcare workers and thank them for continuing to serve with commitment and dedication to keep Singapore safe.” The exhibition showcases more paintings by SAS’s artists, depicting their unique experiences and interpretations of the pandemic.

Mr Benny Lim, Chairman, oscar@sg fund Grant Committee, said, “The courage and selfless contributions of all our frontline workers during this pandemic have been and continue to be an inspiration to all of us. When the Singapore Art Society approached oscar@sg fund to support this piece of art to commemorate the sacrifices of the silent heroes, we were more than happy to do so.”

The 1.8m (H) x 3m (L) acrylic painting was presented to the National Centre for Infectious Diseases (NCID), which has been at the forefront of Singapore’s efforts to manage the pandemic, providing testing, tracing, treating, as well as critical research expertise in the fight against COVID-19. “The COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Singapore barely months after NCID’s official opening and will be remembered as a defining chapter in NCID’s history. I am deeply honoured

that we are featured in the SAS tribute painting, and am thankful to all Singaporeans for remembering and appreciating the contributions of not just NCID but everyone in our public and private healthcare systems who have worked tirelessly to care for patients,” said Professor Leo Yee Sin, Executive Director, NCID.

As COVID-19 has impacted the lives and livelihoods of workers in Singapore, HealthServe, a non-profit organisation which seeks to improve the health and well-being of migrant workers, and to strengthen their ties to the wider community, has been organising weekly outreach events to engage migrant workers through the medium of art. Some of their artworks speak of their experiences during the pandemic and their longing for home and appreciation for Singapore. “HealthServe is privileged to participate in this art exhibition and hope that through it, the public will be inspired by the artworks of the migrant workers,” said Ms Low Suwen, Head of Communications and Engagement, HealthServe.

The final segment of the exhibition is a display of paintings created by children and youth who took part in a national art competition, themed “Celebrating our Healthcare Heroes”, organised by Asian Scientist Magazine from January to March 2021. Over 1,000 entries on the themes of personal experience of the pandemic, hopes and vision for a post-COVID-19 world, and creative appreciation for the contributions of healthcare workers and scientists, were received. Artworks created by individuals aged five to 21 are featured, including the winning entries that were selected by a panel of judges from NHG, SAS, Asian Scientist Magazine, and Temasek Foundation. “We organised this national competition to give the youth in Singapore a chance to share their vision for a post-pandemic world. We are grateful for this excellent opportunity to showcase our talented youth winners at the National Healthcare Group’s ‘Heroes of Our Time’ exhibition,” said the Magazine’s Publisher, Dr Juliana Chan.



“Heroes of Our Time” art exhibition at the ION Art Gallery (Level 4, ION Orchard) is open to the public from 13 March (4.30pm to 10pm) to 17 March 2021 (10am to 10pm).

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About National Healthcare Group

The National Healthcare Group (NHG) is a leader in public healthcare in Singapore, recognised at home and abroad for the quality of its medical expertise and facilities. Care is provided through an integrated network of six primary care polyclinics, acute care and tertiary hospitals, national specialty centres and business divisions. Together they bring a rich legacy of medical expertise to our philosophy of integrated patient-centred care.

NHG's vision is "Adding Years of Healthy Life". This vision goes beyond merely healing the sick to the more difficult and infinitely more rewarding task of preventing illness and preserving health and quality of life. With some 20,000 staff, NHG aims to provide care that is patient-centric, accessible, seamless, comprehensive, appropriate and cost-effective. As the Regional Health System (RHS) for Central Singapore, it is vital for NHG to partner and collaborate with stakeholders, community advisors, and voluntary welfare organisations.

Together with our patients, their families and caregivers, we aim to deliver integrated healthcare services and programmes that help in Adding Years of Healthy Life to all concerned. More information is available at www.nhg.com.sg.

About Singapore Art Society

In October 1949, The Singapore Art Scene registered a historical change with the founding of "The Singapore Art Society". Its main objectives are to foster the practice and appreciation of art and to raise the quality of art in Singapore, to promote the exchange of art between Singapore and other countries and to create learning and exhibition opportunities for artists. Membership was open to any art lover, regardless of race or creed.

Asian Scientist Magazine

Asian Scientist Magazine is an award-winning science and technology magazine that highlights research and development news stories from Asia to a global audience. Based in Singapore, the online and print magazine is maintained by a team of professional science and medical journalists, with active contributors from industry and academia. Asian Scientist Magazine is published by Wildtype Media Group Pte Ltd, a digital-focused STEM media business with a strong following on social media platforms such as Facebook and LinkedIn.

HealthServe

Established in 2006, HealthServe is an IPC registered charity that believes in a society where every migrant worker lives a life of dignity. We seek to bring healing and hope to the migrant worker community primarily in the CMP (Construction, Marine, Process) sectors through the provision of healthcare, mental health programmes, case work, social services and other support services. Our work to support tens of thousands of migrant workers every year is underpinned by a large pool of volunteers and donors.

GLOSSARY

淡马锡信托基金会 oscar@sg 基金	Temasek Trust oscar@sg fund
辉瑞	Pfizer Singapore
爱雍·乌节	ION Orchard
薛寒友教授 副集团首席执行总裁(医学教育和研究) 国立健保集团	Professor Benjamin Seet Deputy Group CEO (Education and Research) National Healthcare Group
趙振強 新加坡艺术协会会长	Mr Terence Teo President Singapore Art Society
林双河 oscar@sg 基金主席	Mr Benny Lim Chairman oscar@sg Grant Committee
梁玉心教授 国家传染病中心主任	Professor Leo Yee Sin Executive Director National Centre for Infectious Diseases
刘舒雯 通讯与交流互动主任 康侍	Low Suwen Head, Communications and Engagement HealthServe
曾淑评博士 出版者 亚洲科学家	Dr Juliana Chan Publisher Asian Scientist