

MEDIA RELEASE

Children Become Big Spenders In Art Auction At The Asian Civilisations Museum

Children will invest millions of dollars of play money to bid for the best artwork created by The Arts Granary Project's child artists-in-residence

[12 September 2007, SINGAPORE] The Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) and The ARTS FISSION Company invite one hundred children aged five to 12 to join The Big Spenders' Club Children Art Auction and invest millions of dollars of play money to bid for the best artwork created by The Arts Granary Project's child artists-in-residence on Sunday, 23 September at the Asian Civilisations Museum.

Guest-of-Honour Mr Michael Koh, Chief Executive Officer of the National Heritage Board will award the Grande Art Investor Award to the winning children at the event which marks the grand launch of The Arts Granary Project, a pilot programme offered in partnership between the ACM and ARTS FISSION since April this year.

Each auction item has been created by the Arts Granary child artists-in-residence, who are aged from three to 12 years-old, over a period of eight weeks. As part of the Project, participants have been creating artworks based on the artefacts from the Southeast Asia, China, West Asia and South Asia galleries of the ACM. Twenty artworks from the Project will be introduced to the bidding children with story-telling or short skits of dance or music performances.

"The young participants are given the task of bidding for the best artwork to be displayed in an imaginary public place for all to enjoy and appreciate. In a global financial centre like Singapore, the idea of introducing children to art acquisition and its monetary value seems like a practical advocate of our heritage," said Ms Angela Liong, Company Co-Founder and Artistic Director of ARTS FISSION.

The Big Spenders' Club Children Art Auction involves fundamental educational values in the areas of economics, the arts, culture and heritage as well as personal sense of aesthetics which are integrated and presented in a fun and engaging way for children.

“The event signals our objective to stimulate and nurture children’s appreciation of art and its economics in order to inspire them to be the young bankers and entrepreneurs of tomorrow, who support the arts and heritage,” said Mr Andrew Glassop, Manager for Education at the ACM.

Media representatives are invited to the event on 23 September which includes a news conference at 5.30pm. Interviews regarding the programme may also be arranged on an alternative date upon request.

Event Details

Title	: The Big Spenders Club Children Art Auction
Presented by	: The Arts Granary Project
Organised by	: Asian Civilisations Museum and The ARTS FISSION Company
Venue	: Asian Civilisations Museum, 1 Empress Place Singapore 179555
Date/Time	: Sunday, 23 Sep 2007 at 4:00pm
Nature of event	: Arts and heritage appreciation event for children
Guest-of-Honour	: Michael Koh, CEO, National Heritage Board

About The Arts Granary Project

Similar to a granary which is used for grain storage, the name of the museum project implies a creative deposit to inculcate interest in cultural wisdom and knowledge for children of the new millennium. The Arts Granary Project aims to nurture a life-long appreciation of Asian cultures as well as a strong sense of contemporary aesthetics starting with the very young.

The project began its pilot run since April 2007 where children aged three to 12 attend art-making sessions every Sunday at ACM. They are guided by ARTS FISSION’s professionals to become little creative artists and cultural researchers, learning about Asian heritage through the Museum’s artefact-filled galleries and produce original art works that are relevant to contemporary Asia.



The Arts Granary Project is directed by long-time arts education exponent Angela Liong with a unique Advisory Board comprising of luminary artist-couples like Milenko and Delia Prvacki.

About ACM & ARTS FISSION

The Asian Civilisations Museum's mission is to explore and present the cultures and civilisations of Asia, so as to promote awareness and appreciation of the ancestral cultures of Singaporeans and their links to Southeast Asia and the World. The Asian Civilisations Museum first began its operations at Armenian Street in 1997, which closed at end-2005, and will re-open in 2008 as a brand new Peranakan attraction. ACM's new flagship at the historic Empress Place Building opened on 2 March 2003.

ARTS FISSION is one of Singapore's leading-edge arts education providers and is known for its innovative arts outreach projects to inspire and cultivate arts appreciation among all ages. Its visual arts and dance workshops were first developed in 1990 by Programme Director, Angela Liong who is a pioneer of creative arts education in Singapore and serves as regular advisor to the National Arts Council, Ministry of Education, and other major cultural organisations.

For more information and pictures, please contact:

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1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555
Museum Front Desk: (65) 6332 7798
Public Programmes Hotline: (65) 6332 3284

Opening Hours

Mondays : 1pm – 7pm
Tuesdays – Sundays : 9am – 7pm (to 9pm on Fridays)