

Club Rainbow (Singapore)



ASIAN CIVILISATIONS MUSEUM

13 November 2014

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Dear Editor/ Programme Manager

24 works of art, 13 young artists and ‘The Tree of Life’

Asian Civilisations Museum collaborates with Club Rainbow (Singapore) to showcase artistic works by chronically ill children and youths in a special exhibition

The ‘Tree of Life’ has always been an important feature in many cultures and to 13 young beneficiaries from Club Rainbow (Singapore), it has been especially more meaningful as it inspired them to present their view of life.

Since 2012, ACM has held special workshops for beneficiaries of Club Rainbow (Singapore) to hone their art making skills. This year, the theme of the workshop held in June was the “Tree of Life” and participants were invited to create artworks using recyclable materials.

Ignited by their passion for art, 13 young artists present works inspired by objects linked to nature, found within the ACM's permanent collection.

Through stories, games and discussions, these young artists used their creativity to express their likes and dislikes of the tree collages and clay sculptures they made. To some, the tree is a protective symbol, in contrast to the physical and emotional challenges that they face as a result of their medical conditions.

"My tree represents my life; I dedicate this tree to my parents. I created a tree with an eagle looking up to its egg. This is a symbol of how my parents nurtured me with love and care, enabling me to overcome the hurdles I face." – Ye Long, 14 years old, has a rare genetic disease

About *Hearts on Fire*: This is an art collaboration between the Asian Civilisations Museum and Club Rainbow, an organisation that supports families of chronically ill children. With this year's theme as the Tree of Life, these children used objects linked to nature on view at the ACM as their artistic inspiration. The exhibition not only showcases the children's artwork, but an avenue for them to express their hopes and unique perspectives on life. 24 works of art will be on display from 14 November to 28 December 2014.

"The Asian Civilisations Museum was founded to inspire thought and creativity," says Dr Alan Chong, director of the ACM. "Historic objects, although hundreds of years old, continue to have meaning for us. We are very proud to partner Club Rainbow and help these young artists create new work."

Mr. Gregory Vijayendran, President of Club Rainbow said, "This wonderful continuing partnership between Asian Civilisations Museum and Club Rainbow for three years running now will continue to work wonders for our Rainbow children and youths. Uniquely uniting art, environmental protection and the cause of chronically ill children and youths is itself a creative trilogy. Through this special workshop themed "The Tree of Life", our children have been allowed to draw out their inner world and through the "Hearts on Fire" exhibition, we will all be privileged to draw near to that inner world."

Your reporter and camera crew/photographer are cordially invited to join the children from Club Rainbow (Singapore) as they celebrate the opening of their exhibition *Hearts on Fire*. Interviews with participating child artists can be arranged upon request. Please confirm your attendance with any of the media contact person listed above.

About the Event

Name of event	Hearts on Fire – Opening Reception		
Date	14 November 2014	Time	6pm – 8pm
Media arrival time	5.45pm		
Venue	Asian Civilisations Museum 1 Empress Place, Singapore 179555		

About Club Rainbow (Singapore)

Club Rainbow (Singapore) was set up in 1992 to provide a range of comprehensive support services for the families of children who suffer from major chronic and potentially life-threatening illnesses. By working closely with KK Women's and Children's Hospital (KKH), the National University Hospital (NUH), and the neonatal ward of the Singapore General Hospital (SGH), Club Rainbow currently helps more than 600 children and their families.

Children in Club Rainbow range from newborn babies to youths up to the age of 20. They require frequent visits to hospitals for treatment, complicated therapy, and long-term medication. On the recommendation of their doctors, these children are referred to Club Rainbow for follow-up support.

About the Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM)

The Asian Civilisations Museum is dedicated to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia, especially Singapore's ancestral cultures. Through a collection of works of art and a varied exhibition programme, we hope to deepen understanding of Southeast Asia, China, South Asia, West Asia, and the Peranakan World. Rare among museums in Asia, ACM connects audiences to many cultures.