



SINGAPORE ART MUSEUM
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**For Immediate Release
PRESS RELEASE**

RUSSEL WONG: PHOTOGRAPHS (1980-2005)
Organised and Presented by Singapore Art Museum
8 January 2005 – 13 March 2005
Gala Opening on 7 January (By Invitation Only)

First solo exhibition by one of Asia's leading celebrity photographers whose international portfolio include portraits of famous personalities and movie-set photographs of Oscar-winning "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon", "Hero" and "House of Flying Daggers"

(6 January 2005) Singapore Art Museum is proud to present ***RUSSEL WONG: Photographs (1980-2005)***, a solo exhibition by Russel Wong, one of Asia's leading celebrity photographers. Showcasing Wong's photographic works created over 25 years of practice, this is the first extensive photographic exhibition dedicated to a Singapore photographer and his international portfolio. Curated by Lindy Poh, this retrospective exhibition will feature a broad selection of works from Wong's portraits of famous faces, behind-the-scenes photography and visual narratives. **The Gala Opening will be at the Singapore Art Museum on 7 January 2005 at 5.30pm, with His Excellency President S R Nathan as Guest of Honour. The star-studded event will be attended by leading figures in the fashion, media and entertainment fields in Singapore as well as some surprise overseas celebrities that have been Wong's favourite subjects and personal friends over the years.**

A key photographic artist in the Asian and International fashion and entertainment circles, Wong's works straddles that elusive line between celebrity photography and fine art – joining the tradition of celebrity photographers Richard Avedon, Annie Liebowitz and Helmut Newton. Famed for his striking portraits of glamorous and illustrious personalities across all walks of life, Wong's works have made the covers of international publications such as TIME Magazine. Wong's sensitivity and rapport with his subjects are evident in his celebrity portraits - capturing moments of vulnerability, warmth and humour in these public figures. Sports personalities, musicians, designers, movie icons and directors have taken centre stage in his portrait photography. Jackie Chan, Michelle Yeoh, Joan Chen, Kenzo, Isabella Rossellini, Wynton Marsalis, Zhang Yimou, Oliver Stone are some of the famous faces that Wong has captured on camera.

The exhibition offers a rare visual treat - public can revisit Wong's movie-set photographic experiences while shooting some of the most stunning sets and actors in Asian cinema history - from the sumptuous Oscar winning *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, to *Hero* and most recently, the *House of Flying Daggers*.



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For the first time, lesser-known aspects of Wong's practice are revealed in this exhibition – works never before shown in a public space. Images from his travelogues, nature shots, and more conceptual and personal images are carefully selected and put together, affording a rare glimpse of the photographer - his person and practice, affording an insight into the motivations, processes and philosophy of this photographic artist. Through his photographic style and expression, Wong's details his development and his unique perspective of capturing the moment.

There are plans to travel the exhibition to Hong Kong/China and New York following its launch in Singapore.

RUSSEL WONG: Photographs (1980-2005) promises to be Singapore's spectacular photographic art event of the year. There will be opportunities for public to get up close and personal with the artist in the series of special programmes hosted by Singapore Art Museum in conjunction with the exhibition. For enquiries, email santha_anthony@nhb.gov.sg or call 6332 3220.

Exhibition Organiser : Singapore Art Museum

Main Sponsor : BMW Asia Pte Ltd, Performance Motors Ltd

Official Magazine : TIME Magazine

Official Hospitality : INK Club Bar, Raffles The Plaza

Exhibition Supporters : LEE Foundation, Singapore Tourism Board, Singapore Tyler Print Institute, National Arts Council

For media interviews, images and further information contact:

Lynn Tan
Marcom Executive
Singapore Art Museum

DID: 6332 3219
FAX: 334 7919
Email: Lynn_Tan@nhb.gov.sg

Suenne Megan Tan
Acting Assistant Director,
Marketing and Corporate Communications
Singapore Art Museum

DID: 6332 3215
FAX: 334 7919
Email: Suenne_Megan_Tan@nhb.gov.sg

For more information, visit <http://www.singart.com/>

Exhibition opens to public : 8 January 2005 to 13 March 2005
SAM Galleries 5, 6, 7 & 8

Mondays to Sundays : 10am to 7pm, with extended hours and FREE
Admission on Fridays from 6pm to 9pm



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Singapore Art Museum is located at 71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189555

General enquiries, please contact Front desk at 6332 3222.





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APPENDIX

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

1. PhotoTIME

Saturday, 15 January 2005 • Glass Hall

Take TIME out with award-winning *TIME Asia*'s Picture Editor Lisa Botos and Russel Wong as they share their experiences collaborating on assignments. They talk about expected roles and unexpected challenges in the Picture Editor-Photographer relationship and reveal the mechanics, manipulations and chemistry behind some memorable *TIME* covers.

FREE. No registration required. Seating on first come first serve basis.

Light refreshments will be provided.

2. Behind the Lens with Russel Wong

Sunday 16 January 2005 • 3.00-4.30pm

Have you ever wondered what went on behind the set for shooting those fabulous, flawless close-ups of the most beautiful women in the world? Or realised how many hours it takes to stage a 'spontaneous' sweaty or thrilling scene? Russel Wong has captured entertainment stars, models and luminaries over 25 years as well as some of the lushest movie sets in Asian Cinema history. Appease your curiosity, and step behind the lens of Russel Wong as he shares lively anecdotes on props, crops, and calling the shots.

Limited to 30 participants. FREE. Pre-registration required. Meet in SAM's lobby.

3. Photo Clinic

Saturday 29 January 2005 • 2.30-4.00pm, The Auditorium

Not a diagnostic exercise, but a great chance to have your questions answered and to trade ideas on lighting, composition and techniques with Russel Wong. You may want to bring in a photograph for a quick check up, and get some sound advice on the right shots and the proper treatment for your pictures! The photo-doc is IN!

Limited to 30 participants. Clinic fee: \$15 per person. Registration closing date: 26 Jan 2005.

Light refreshments will be provided.

4. Chips, Coke & Russel

Monday 14 February 2005 • 3.00-4.30pm, The Cube@SAM

Make a date with Russel this Valentine's! Chill out with chips, coke and Russel Wong. Fast foods and sodas are not the only things consumed in the city. The phenomena of celebrity, fashion and media culture are also part of urban life as we know it. Russel shares his experiences as a rookie photographer – from his 'pilgrimage' to the mecca of fashion photography – Milan, Italy – to his later move to New York and finally to the fast-paced work-style of major magazine cities around the world.

Limited to 30 students (aged 16 and up). Cost: \$3 per person. Registration closing date: 1 Feb 2005.

Call 6332 3220 or email nhb_sam_programs@nhb.gov.sg for more information on the above programmes.
