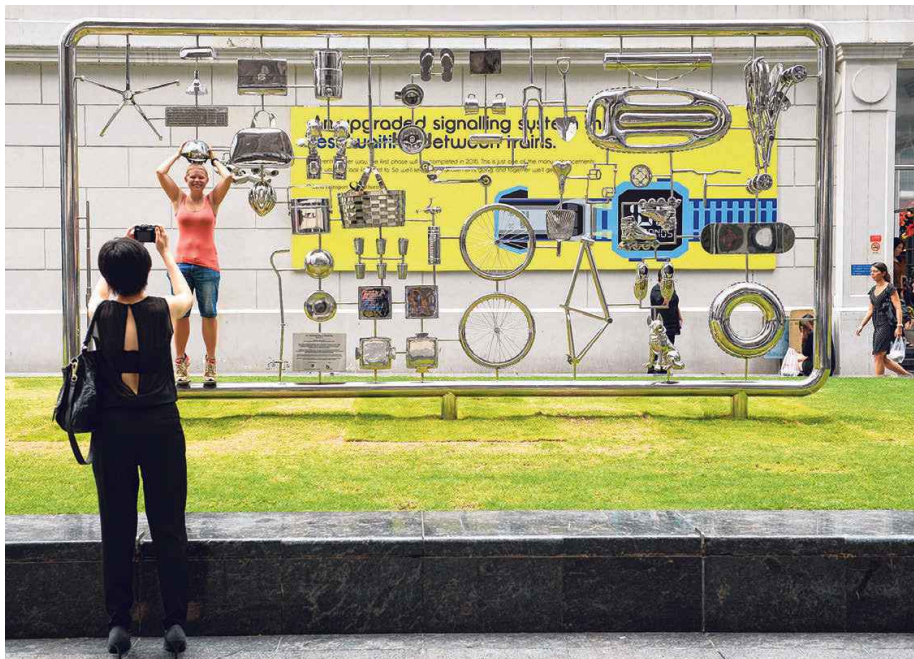


LOOK OUT FOR ART



1

All The Essentially Essential (above) by Tan Wee Lit

Central Business District dwellers must have spotted this large-scale, stainless-steel work located right outside Raffles Place MRT station's entrance.

The sculpture, originally conceived for installation at East Coast Park in 2013, consists of a large rectangular frame with an array of everyday items suspended within the frame.

Tan, the artist behind the work, says: "It consists of everything you would need for a day at the beach – from the picnic basket to the yoga mat."

"After relocating (the sculpture to Raffles Place), I went on to include a couple more items that are reflective of working life – alluding to the fact that one can still think about work even when one is out there at the beach."

Tan, 42, who teaches visual arts at the School of the Arts Singapore (Sota), also explains the large gap on one side of his work. "The gap left in the sculpture is for two people to complete the work physically. After all, you can have everything you need but it is still the company you have that matters."



Doggo & Kitty Cat (above) by Belinda Gan

The Bugis-Bras Basah arts district is made even more colourful by Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) alumna Belinda Gan's sculptures, created in 2017.

Located right outside Nafa, the cute, cartoonish sculptures of two

dogs and a cat double as benches for the public.

Gan's benches, aimed at enlivening Bencoolen Street, portray how pets behave.

Her two dogs look as if they are sniffing each other with their pointed noses, while the cat is on its back, looking for a belly rub.



4

Disco (left) by Phunk Studio

The glitz and glamour of downtown Singapore is reflected in a suspended public sculpture inside Promenade MRT station, called *Dreams In Social Cosmic Odyssey (Disco)* by contemporary art and design collective Phunk Studio.

The large-scale work, installed in 2010, is in the shape of massive water droplets made from thousands of tiny reflective steel discs.

"The artwork plays with the station's skylight to illuminate the space with glowing reflections of the light, creating a kaleidoscope of patterns on the station floors, walls and ceilings," says Phunk co-founder William Chan, 46.

Asked about the work's poetic title, he says: "It's sort of an acrostic poem that forms the word 'disco'."

"The texture of the work looks similar to a mirror ball, so we thought it would be fun to call it *Disco*, but we didn't want it to be too obvious."

3

Jelly Baby Family (right) by Mauro Perucchi

The colourful resin sculpture of jelly bean-like figures outside Plaza Singapura is a fun deviation from the ordinary.

Made in 2012 by Italian artist Mauro Perucchi, these larger-than-life figures seem to observe passers-by in a mild manner.

According to Art@Capitaland, the Jelly Baby Family series is rooted in Perucchi's interest in cloning human beings.

He later moved away from that concept and currently sees the Jelly Babies, with their childlike innocence, as an embodiment of the preciousness of family unity and the multicultural aspect of modern society.



5

Staple (left) by Zainudin Samsuri

Commuters at the Ubi train station on the Downtown line might have noticed a curious stainless-steel installation above the platform, which can be viewed at eye level from the staircase landing.

The geometric sculpture is, in fact, local artist Zainudin Samsuri's interpretation of a tapioca plant, which is called Ubi in Malay. It is a nod to the estate's history of cultivating tapioca plants, which gave it the name *Kampung Ubi*.

"The title, *Staple*, is a reference to how tapioca had replaced rice as the staple food during the Japanese Occupation of Singapore," says Zainudin, 46, who teaches visual arts at Sota.

The form of the sculpture also has special significance. "The skeletal silhouette of the roots represents solidarity in Singapore's multiracial and multicultural society," he adds. It was installed in 2017 when the station was opened.

Public sculptures – they are part of Singapore's landscape, but often go unnoticed. Here are 10 works that add character and beauty to the city. [Aditi Bharade](#) reports



6

The Explorer (above) by Ng Eng Teng

Created by the late Cultural Medallion recipient Ng Eng Teng in 1999 to celebrate the start of a new millennium, this public sculpture has been adding to Singapore Art Museum's charm for more than 20 years.

The work comprises an abstract form resembling a voyage ship,

stacked atop numerous globes of varying sizes and colours. The sculpture is made using cement fondu, stainless steel and gold leaf.

According to the website of the National Arts Council's Public Arts Trust, the sculpture represents "a desire for intergalactic exploration", with hopes for "Singapore's optimistic future and continued progress".



8

Homage To Newton (above) by Salvador Dali

Fine-art enthusiasts will be delighted to learn that an original sculpture by surrealist artist Salvador Dali can be found near the banks of the Singapore River.

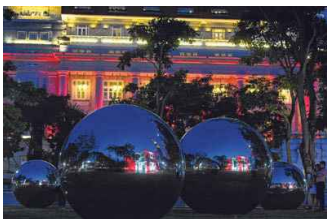
The nearly 4m-tall bronze sculpture cast in 1985 is an abstract representation of Newton, complete with a small ball that hangs from his hand by a metal string, representing gravity.

Two interesting features of the work are the hollow torso of the figure, inside which another ball is

suspended, and a hollow face.

The work's plaque explains these features: "Salvador Dali, one of the most important surrealist artists, takes the liberty to go even further in paying homage to Newton by opening up the torso of the figure and suspending the heart to indicate 'Open Heartedness'.

"The open head represents an 'open mind'. These are two necessary qualities for the discovery of important natural laws, as well as for the success of all human endeavours."



7

24 hours In Singapore (above) by Baet Yeok Kuan

Reminiscent of Chicago's famous Cloud Gate installation by British artist Anish Kapoor, Baet Yeok Kuan's mesmerising audio-visual installation has stood guard over the Asian Civilisations Museum's courtyard since 2015.

The work comprises five stainless-steel spheres of varying sizes, which act as wide-angle lenses reflecting the surroundings

on their rounded surfaces. Not only does it make for a cool photo opportunity, but the work also acts as an audio time capsule.

According to a National Arts Council interview with the artist in 2016, the sculpture plays recordings of everyday sounds of Singapore – think public transport, wet markets and coffee shops – which Baet says "can serve as a reference in the future as to how people's lives used to sound".



9

The Natural History Of Singapore's Mythical Botanic Creatures (left) by Artists Caravan

At a corner of King Albert Park train station is a set of three bronze sculptures – about 30cm tall – resembling little insects.

Created by an art collective called Artists Caravan in 2015, the work was made in collaboration with students from Methodist Girls' School, who picked up interesting flowers, seeds and leaves in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve.

They were told to research the plants they had collected,

The members of Artists Caravan – Joey Soh, Chan Mei Hsien and Long Yinhuan – then designed animated insect-like characters inspired by the flowers and leaves.

"It was our idea of bringing nature into the station," says Soh, art educator at Nafa and a practising artist, of the work. "Nature is always around us, but we don't really notice it."

On the work's peculiar title, she says: "We wanted to pretend to write them into Singapore's botanical history as if the imaginary insects had always existed and had just been discovered."



10

Planet (left) by Marc Quinn

Perhaps one of the best-known public sculptures in Singapore is Planet by British artist Marc Quinn at Gardens by the Bay.

The colossal sculpture of a baby, measuring 9m in length and 3m in height, is made even more remarkable by the way it is balanced.

The only point of support is the baby's right hand, which gently touches the ground and gives the sculpture the illusion that it is weightless.

The artwork is a representation of the artist's son, Lucas, when he was an infant. Made of white-painted bronze and stainless steel, it was installed in 2013 as a permanent exhibit.

PHOTOS: CHEE YING QUAN, DESMOND FOO, LIANHE ZHANG, ODE TO ART, ST FILE, ZANJION GALLERY

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