

## E - NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - MARCH 2006



## SHO Personal Moments of Truth

"...Sho goes beyond the mere writing of characters. It is a way of expressing personal moments of truth through the integration of hands and brush."

Yoshio Norizuki

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## CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

The NUS Story -  
100 Years of Heritage

Sho - Personal Moments of  
Truth

Ng Eng Teng Sculptures

Ways of Seeing Chinese Art



NUS Centre For the Arts  
National University of Singapore

*Sho - Personal Moments of Truth* is NUS Museum's third exhibition series on Calligraphy. The three-part series introduces the appreciation of calligraphy through its varied form of written characters from the different cultures, starting with *Islamic Calligraphy (Rhythms & Verses, Jan-Jun 05)*. This was followed by *Chinese Calligraphy (Dancing Ink & Brush, Jun 05 - Feb 06)* and now *Japanese Calligraphy (Sho - Personal Moments of Truth, Mar-Aug 06)*.

The development of *Sho* began when Chinese characters were introduced to Japan. Japan adopted the characters as part of its spoken language and created its own syllabary, known as the *kana*. Starting from around the tenth century,

*kana* was further integrated as part of the creative *sho*.

*Sho* refers to a type of Japanese calligraphy that uses, as its base and inspiration, Chinese characters and Japanese syllabary. It is to be distinguished from *shodo*, which refers to the way and method of calligraphy involving strict mental training with brush and ink. Unlike the traditional calligraphy which is appreciated in relations to other contexts such as philosophy, literature and arts, a finely executed *sho* is said to evoke emotions.

Yoshio Norizuki is a Japanese artist with 50 years experience in calligraphy and education.

He specialises in bringing out the form of a single character using vigorous physical movement.

Among the 24 works displayed at the Museum, 20 pieces were created specially for this exhibition. Every stroke creates a form filled with the force of life. One can almost hear the sound, or the silence, in each stroke. Through his brush, Norizuki gives to these scripts a fresh understanding of life and of the images themselves, a new-found meaning.

*Information on the development of Sho is taken from "Sho - Artistic, Creative Calligraphy" by Aoyama San'u.*

On 9 March, 25 students from the NUS High School participated in a Sho Workshop conducted by the artist, Yoshio Norizuki. Norizuki was clearly delighted with the results as were the students who proudly brought their works back.

Later, guests at the Exhibition's official opening were treated to a demonstration by the artist himself. They also had a fun time trying out the brush and ink.

*Mr Norizuki will return to conduct workshops. Check out the details in "See you at..." on page 3.*



## A BRAND NEW SPACE NX GALLERY

### THE CONCEPT

NX Gallery – a new exhibition space at the Museum – promises to be a laboratory for the display of new, young and experimental works by artists. It will feature exhibitions of all genres and disciplines – crossing all borders, inclusive of contemporary

cultural activities.

NX is also a platform for serious research, enquiries and explorative projects in the context of art, history and culture. It is a space where lecturers in NUS and other tertiary institutions could develop projects for students to have practical experiences in line with their studies.

Through exhibitions and performances, the space will provide an interactive experience for its visitors.

### THE DESIGN FEATURES

In view of the expansive nature of NX Gallery, the curator, Karen Lim, invited three

young talents to explore designing works relevant to the context of NX and suggesting a dialogue between interior and exterior spaces. Both designs are to be inspired by architectural design of the neighbouring Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

One work is a wooden partition wall at the end of the room which acts as a screen to distinguish a small space for media screenings. Created by two First Year Architecture students at NUS, Jason Tan and Zhang Yaou and led by Dr Lai Chee Kien, the partition is made of the same unfinished timber strips that were chosen for the former Ng Eng Teng Gallery site; at the Library location to evoke nostal-

gic memories. Raw materials such as timber and bamboo were used intentionally as part of the design concept. The overall design is an endeavour unifying function and artistic commitment.

The other highlight at NX is a counter top designed by Eugene Tan, a first year interior design student from La-Salle-SIA College of the Arts, led by Mr Kelly Lee. Inspired by the construction process in the architecture of Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, the product of the counter top is an assembly and experimentation of different raw construction materials brought together through layering and tilting columns – a representation of planar movements.



## BABA HOUSE MUSEUM



Thanks to the \$4 million donation from Madam Agnes Tan, the acquisition of 157 Neil Road, one of the last remaining authentic Peranakan houses was completed on 8 March!

In consultation with Assoc Prof Chan Yew Lih from NUS Department of Architecture, NUS Museum will partner the Urban Redevelopment

Authority to restore the house to its original architectural intent. This heritage house will showcase the rich legacy of Peranakan history, material culture, lifestyle and social customs. It will become a hive of activity to keep alive the spirit of Peranakan culture and lifestyle in Singapore.

Restoration will commence in June ~ July 2006. Once restored, the Baba House will also operate as a venue for corporate and tourism-related events. It will also house the office of The Peranakan Association of Singapore.

Look out for regular updates on the Baba House!



Photos taken by Phillip Tay



WERE YOU THERE?



**24 & 25 Jan**

Sculptor Victor Tan came to the Museum to conduct a workshop 'Awareness of 2D and 3D shapes and forms' for Secondary three girls of Tanjong Katong Girls' School.

The girls were also given tours on the 'Sculptures of Ng Eng Teng' and 'Dancing Ink and Brush' exhibitions.

**15 & 16 Feb**

Students from the Chinese Studies Department were given a tour of 'Ways of Seeing Chinese Art' as part of their tutorial in "Introduction to Chinese Studies".



**21 Feb**

Museum staff explained the finer aspects of 'Setting up an Exhibition' to Boon Lay Secondary School students.



**23 Feb**

Museum's Karen Lim conducted a seminar on the 'Role of University Museum' for LaSalle-SIA students.

**24 Feb**

During his visit to CFA to verify the origins of the kilns in Museums, Prof Li Jian An, Director of Archaeology Institute, Fujian Provincial Museum, gave a talk to a crowd of 60 on 'Fujian Export Ceramics'.

Dr Patrick Flores, from the University of Philippines, was in Singapore for the Cubism Symposium organised by Singapore Art Museum and supported by NUS Museum. During his trip, he conducted some talks and seminars at the NUS Museum:

**28 & 31 Mar**

Seminars for Southeast Asian Studies Programme's Masters and undergraduate students.

**3 Mar**

The Masters class from Southeast Asian Studies Programme attended a seminar on 'Ng Eng Teng - Works & Inspiration' by guest speaker Joyce Fan.



**1 Apr**

Public talk on 'Philippine Art : Turns in the Century'.



<http://www.nus.edu.sg/museums/>

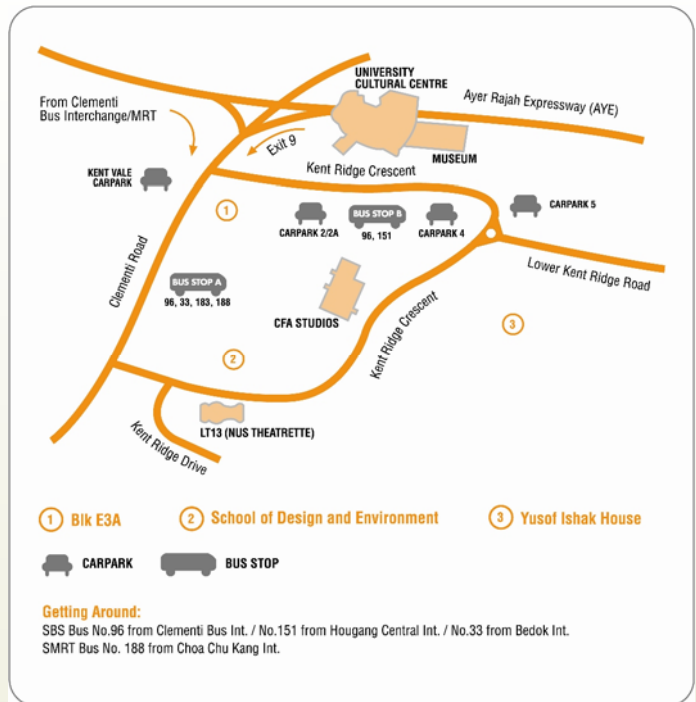
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## SEE YOU AT...

### RETICULATION

A collaborative effort between the NUS Museum and Interior Design Department at LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts, this is an exhibition of 14 Museum Design concepts by Interior Design Level 2 students of LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts.

The Exhibition aims to explore design opportunities in, and challenge conventional perceptions of Art & History Museums.

**11 May - 30 June**

### Chado Workshop Tour of Exhibition

Time : 1 - 2 pm (Workshop)  
2 - 3 pm (Tour)

Join us in a tea gathering where you will learn about the *chado* culture, its history and rituals. Watch a *chado* (Japanese tea ceremony) demonstration and experience making your own tea.

**Limited places.  
Book in advance !**

Call Winnie at 65164617 or email [cfaccf@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cfaccf@nus.edu.sg) to reserve a place.

**20 May**

### Workshops with Yoshio Norizuki

The Museum specially presents a unique opportunity to see the artist of *Sho - Personal Moments of Truth* Exhibition in action.

The programme includes tour of the exhibition and hands-on session with the artist.

*Group bookings only.  
Charges apply. For details,  
please contact Su Ling at  
65166496 or email  
[cfafsl@nus.edu.sg](mailto:cfafsl@nus.edu.sg).*

**16 June**

### Ritual, Heritage & Power in Contemporary Java

Based on a student's masters thesis, this Exhibition is about the significance of royal rituals in the *Surakarta keraton* (royal institution) of Central Java.

It investigates the extent to which rituals have played a part in maintaining the influence of the aristocracy in contemporary society.

**5 July - 8 September**