



The stars of the show are the 20 light art installations, which include *The Urchin* (left), curated to the theme Light and Nature.

PHOTO: CHOI+SHINE

From a light art installation show to a lifestyle festival

By Cheah Ui-Hoon

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THE light festival at Marina Bay is morphing from a mere light art installation show to a “lifestyle” festival this year, with more community engagement. And it plans to go annual, instead of being a biennial affair.

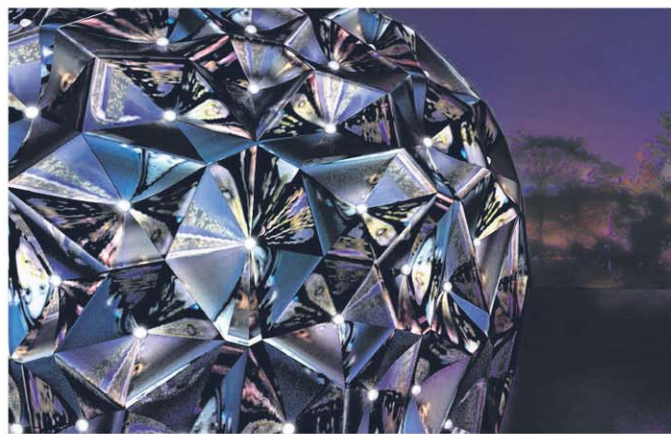
In its fifth edition, i Light Marina Bay will attract children and families with its larger-than-life inflatables that resemble animals. The Art-Zoo, a giant play-garden, will bring the zoo concept into the city, says Jackson Tan, creator and creative director of local multi-disciplinary creative agency Black.

“It’ll be interactive as all the 11 inflatables are like bouncy castles so people can bounce or walk or bump into them. But there is also the whale that the public walks into and a giraffe maze,”

The festival will have two hubs – one to drive home the sustainable message, and another for food and music.

“The Fantastical World of eco.me” will see a recycling and upcycling market place, an urban farming showcase and a kinetic energy playground. After the festival, the 70 tables and 80 benches made of wooden pallets and 300 colourful planters made of painted beer crates will be available for the public to adopt to minimise wastage.

“GastroBeats” will feature pop-up food stalls and planned activities such as a silent yoga session and Silent Disco which will turn



Kaleidoscopic Monolith by SUTD. The exhibit is like a dome made up of uneven patterns to reflect and distort light.

PHOTO: SINGAPORE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

the Marina Bay City Gallery into the first pop-up Silent Disco Nightclub.

The stars of the show though will be the 20 light art installations curated to the theme Light and Nature along the Marina Bay Waterfront Promenade. The festival attracted more than 100 submissions from many countries, says its curator Randy Chan.

And for the first time, the festival is collaborating with three other light festivals overseas. One of them is Scottsdale Canal Convergence in the US, where *Moonflower*, one of the installations by National University of Singapore industrial design graduate, Lee Yun Qin, will be shown this month.

Moonflower uses 800 solar-powered LED

bulbs wrapped with wire mesh to look like flowers. In another first, the public will get to take these bulbs home when the festival ends, if they adopt them online for a small donation.

All the way from Scottsdale, Yelena Filipchuk and Serge Beaulieu will bring *Hybycozo*, inspired by their favourite book, *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. The two other festivals are the Amsterdam Light Festival in The Netherlands and the Bella Skyway Festival in Poland.

This year, five educational institutions have been invited to participate, one of which is Singapore University of Technology and Design’s (SUTD). Their work *Kaleidoscopic Monolith* is like a dome made up of uneven patterns to reflect and distort light. The project looks at sustainability through design, says lecturer and projector supervisor Kenneth Tracy. The dome is 100th of the weight used in current structures as it uses polyester film and aluminium coating, and the key is also the computer programme that draws out the design.

i Light Marina Bay is presented by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and promotes sustainability. Last year’s edition attracted an audience of 742,000.

It will be held from March 3 to 26, 7.30pm-11pm nightly (till midnight on Fridays and Saturdays).

■ For more information, please visit www.ilightmarinabay.sg