

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Singapore Stories**

*Ceramic Interpretations of Places Around Us*

7 April – 5 May 2018

10 March 2018—Singapore-based art collective Bonding with Clay presents *Singapore Stories: Ceramic Interpretations of Places Around Us*, an inaugural group exhibition co-organised with Mulan Gallery. Featuring works by the three founding members Hetty Lie-Schricke, Hiroko Mita and Vinata Goswamy, the exhibition will run from 7 April to 5 May 2018.

Sparked by the Bali Field Trip undertaken by pioneer Nanyang artists in 1952, the three ceramic artists undertook several field trips, seeking inspiration nowhere else than in the country they call home: Singapore. The rewarding experience of exploring the rich cultural diversity of the city-state together resulted in the body of work presented in this exhibition, a reflection of their common experience as well as their distinct cultural backgrounds.

In these days of greater connectivity and ease of travel, the beauty of the familiar is often overlooked. Visiting various iconic and everyday places around Singapore, the artists returned to the studio to relay their impressions and stories in clay. These ceramic interpretations run the gamut of architecture, arts and crafts, religions, traditions and customs, to the hardworking dhobis and the samsui women of the olden days, and finally each artist's culturally distinct footwear – symbolic of the diverse roots they've each come from and planted in Singapore, as well as their ceramic journeys.

This first Bonding with Clay exhibition marks 12 years since the trio first embarked on their ceramic odyssey, which had its beginnings at a series of introductory pottery classes for museum docents led by master potter Dr Iskandar Jalil at Jalan Bahar Clay Studios. Aside from showcasing these recent works created since the formation of the ceramic collective in 2015, *Singapore Stories* will also include the trio's first pottery pieces created under the tutelage of Dr Iskandar in 2006. As an homage to their mentor, the exhibition will also feature an early guest work by Dr Iskandar, a reminder of how they started on their pottery journey, which continues to bring endless joy and fulfilment to the three artists.

**Exhibition Details**

Title of Exhibition : *Singapore Stories: Ceramic Interpretations of Places Around Us*  
Exhibition Period : 7 April – 5 May 2018  
Exhibition Opening : 6 April 2018, Friday, 7 - 9 pm  
Exhibition Venue : Mulan Gallery  
36 Armenian Street (Off Loke Yew Street)  
#01-07  
Singapore 179934

**HETTY LIE-SCHRICKE**

b. 1952, Singapore

**Hetty Lie-Schricke** is a Singapore-born Peranakan who worked as a scientific researcher up till 1994 and thereafter devoted herself to art. Thanks to master potter Dr Iskandar Jalil, she's found and developed her passion for clay since 2006, and continued under his tutelage in Jalan Bahar, Malay Heritage Centre and Temasek Potters Studios respectively, before establishing her own studio at Jalan Bahar Clay Studios. She attended a sculpture course in the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts conducted by Yeo Chee Kiong in 2008, and is a member of Sculpture Society Singapore. This passionate potter sees working with local clay as a way of defining her identity and connection to Singapore. Since 2008, her ceramic works have been shown in Singapore, India, Taiwan, France, Belgium, Netherlands and Japan, and she has also done several commissioned works.

*“Our theme of visiting iconic places in Singapore and perceiving and interpreting my reactions and feelings according to my local upbringing and later French cultural influences motivate me in creating my works. Visiting various parts of Singapore helps evoke memories of past outings with family, while exchanging with and observing shopkeepers and passersby have made me more aware of how fortunate we are to live in a cosmopolitan society with intercultural openness. My humble hope is to, in some way, touch other lives with my works, using local clay as the major clay body, or as slips or glazes (principally Seletar, Jalan Bahar, Kallang and Tuas marine clays). In moments of reflection, clay feels like an old friend with stories to tell. I often think of it as a witness to the history of its place of origin.”*

—Hetty Lie-Schricke

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018 *Third International Ceramic Tea Ware Expo*, KIA Gallery, Belgium  
*Of Human Heritage: An India-Singapore Exchange of Sculptural Art*, Art Spice Gallery, New Delhi, India
- 2017 *Internationale Thee Keramiek Expo*, Galerij Keramisch Atelier, Netherlands  
*Taiwan-Singapore Sculpture Society Expo*, Taipei, Taiwan  
*Internationale Thee Keramiek Expo*, Galerij Gesigneerd, Belgium  
*International Tea Ware Expo*, Galerie H2O, Kyoto, Japan  
*Insight, Singapore International Miniature Sculpture Exhibition*, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore
- 2016 *Kaohsiung International Ceramic Exhibition*, Kaohsiung Talee Departmental Store, Taiwan  
*20th International Chawan Expo*, National Taiwan Craft and Research & Development Institute, Taiwan  
*19th International Chawan Expo*, Northern Miaoli Art Center, Taiwan  
*Second Nature II*, OMSQ @ Fort Canning Park, Singapore
- 2015 *17th International Chawan Expo*, Hemiksem, Belgium  
*Taiwan International Miniature Sculpture Exhibition*, Taipei, Taiwan  
*Singapore in France Anagama Firing Exhibition*, Écomusée de la Tuilerie de Pouligny, France  
*Chanoyu 2015*, Écomusée de la Tuilerie de Pouligny, France  
*Contemporary Ceramics: France in Singapore*, Jalan Bahar Clay Studios Gallery, Singapore  
*Tribute to Local Clay: A Pottery Exhibition*, Maya Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 *16th International Chawan Expo-Singapore 2014*, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore  
*Singapore-Taiwan Shoebox Sculpture Exhibition*, The Foothills @Fort Canning Park, Singapore

**HIROKO MITA**

b. 1971, Japan

**Hiroko Mita** first learnt the techniques of pottery-making from renowned potter Dr Iskandar Jalil. Her journey began at Jalan Bahar Clay Studios in 2006, and continues to this day. Her works are inspired by nature, music and the people around her. They reflect influences of Japanese culture, her study of fine art and graphic design in Japan and in America, and her life in Singapore for the last two decades. Mita was appointed by ROHEI Corporation to be an instructor as part of their Artisan series in 2015. Her works have been commissioned by the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, National Arts Council, National Heritage Board and the Duke-NUS Medical School. She was also a joint participant in a mural project for the NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Mita has been a member of the Japanese Ceramic Art Foundation since 2016.

*“Having spent my life here for more than 20 years has made me feel that Singapore’s my home. This has inspired a strong desire to express my observations and feelings about this unique city-state using clay. Each clay and raw material has a different and unique character of its own, just like human beings. On top of marking a milestone in my pottery practice, working on this exhibition has gifted me the wonderful opportunity of better understanding my beloved friends and family, as well as the people of Singapore. Beyond presenting current ceramic pieces, my hope is that Singapore Stories would help to elicit precious memories of spending time with friends and family at different places, as well as appreciating and valuing cultural and racial diversity. For anyone who’s come from a different country like I have, or for those who are new to Singapore and might not have visited these places, I hope this exhibition will encourage you to explore some unique aspects of this country, and help in any little way to enrich your time here.”*

—Hiroko Mita

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2017 *Ceramic Expressions*, Japan Creative Centre, Mulan Gallery Singapore  
*18th Japan Ceramic Art Foundation*, National Art Center, Tokyo  
*Trans(Form)*, Singapore Contemporary, Maya Gallery, Singapore  
*Prologue: Singapore and Tokoname Ceramic Art Exchange*, Jalan Bahar Clay Studios, Singapore
- 2016 *Qi@art: Sculpture & Installation Art Show*, Telok Kurau Studios Gallery, Singapore  
*17th Japan Ceramic Art Foundation*, National Art Center, Tokyo
- 2015 *16th Japan Ceramic Art Foundation*, National Art Center, Tokyo  
*Balance in Imperfection*, Temasek Potters, Japan Creative Centre, Singapore  
*Tribute to Local Clay*, Maya Gallery, Singapore
- 2014 *16th International Chawan Expo-Singapore*, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore
- 2013 *Shakei*, Glocal Connect Village Art Gallery, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore  
*Iskandar Jalil: A Lifelong Passion For His Craft and His Teaching*, Japan Creative Centre, Singapore  
*Firing a Passion*, NTU Innovation Centre, Singapore  
*14th Japan Ceramic Art Foundation*, National Art Center, Tokyo  
*Jalan Bahar Clay Studios Gallery*, JBCS Gallery, Singapore
- 2011 *Raw Interpretations*, Art-2 Gallery, Singapore  
*7th Ngee Ann 3D Art Exhibition*, Ngee Ann Cultural Centre, Singapore

**VINATA GOSWAMY**

b. 1961, India

**Vinata Goswamy** is a Singaporean ceramic artist who's interested in both the form and process of ceramic-making alike. As a Friends of the Museum docent at the Singapore Art Museum, she was fortunate to have had the opportunity to be introduced to clay in a series of classes conducted by master potter Dr Iskandar Jalil at Jalan Bahar Clay Studios in 2006. There, she discovered her love for clay and sculpting, which she explored in a certificate course in sculpture in 2007 with Yeo Chee Kiong at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore. She is a member of Sculpture Society Singapore. She further apprenticed under Dr Iskandar in 2008 at his studio at the Malay Heritage Centre, Kampong Glam, and has been working out of Jalan Bahar Clay Studios since 2009. Her works have been shown in India, Malaysia and Singapore.

*“Singapore is a rich source of inspiration, with an amazing diversity of people from different cultures who not only coexist in harmony, but also influence one another. People in the past into the present have come to Singapore at various times with their own heritage and past experiences. Just as the past leaves a mark on us, so too do we each leave a mark on Singapore. Visiting different places in our small island home has revealed many nooks and crannies, each with their own character and stories just waiting to be told. Singapore is constantly reinventing and changing, with new stories being added to it every day. These all blend into a beautiful collage and make living in this city very interesting. Clay, derived from the very earth we walk on, is a wonderful medium to record these stories for posterity. It captures the textures and shapes with sensitivity. There is also an element of uncertainty, as the clay gets transformed by fire to become a story frozen in time.”*

—Vinata Goswamy

**SELECTED EXHIBITIONS**

- 2018 *Of Human Heritage: An India-Singapore Exchange of Sculptural Art*, Art Spice Gallery, New Delhi, India  
*ASEAN-India Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Art Exhibition*, Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre, Singapore
- 2017 *Insight: 2017 Singapore International Miniature Sculpture Exhibition*, Visual Arts Centre, Singapore  
*Sight: Sculpture Society (Singapore) Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition 2017*, Dhoby Ghaut Green, Singapore
- 2013 *Shakei*, Global Connect Village Art Gallery, Temasek Polytechnic, Singapore  
*Jalan Bahar Clay Studios Gallery*, JBCS Gallery, Singapore  
*Iskandar Jalil: A Lifelong Passion For His Craft and His Teaching*, Japan Creative Centre, Singapore
- 2011 *The Small Sculpture Show*, Sculpture Square, Singapore
- 2009 *Exhibition*, Gallery Archana, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2008 *Inspirations from Kampong Gelam*, Malay Heritage Centre, Singapore

**ARTWORKS**

Hetty Lie-Schricke



**Joget,**  
[Peranakan Museum], 2017  
Seletar and Jalan Bahar Clay  
H 33 x 24.5 x 18 cm



**In Flight,**  
[Philatelic Museum], 2017  
Stoneware  
H 6 x 43 x 35 cm



**Malay Heritage Center,** 2016  
Stoneware  
H 39.5 x 35 x 15 cm  
[excluding accessories and wooden stand]



**Fish Ketupat,**  
[Van Kleef Aquarium], 2017  
Paper and Seletar Clay  
H 3 x 25 x 13 cm

Hiroko Mita



**Pani Puri I**  
[Little India], 2017  
Mixed Stoneware  
H 15.5 x 29 x 31 cm



**Ibu Sayang**  
[Kampong Glam], 2017  
Mixed Stoneware  
H 6 x 32 x 36.5 cm



**The Bim Poh Lenggang**  
(Ceremonial bride handkerchief)  
[Joo Chiat], 2018  
Stoneware  
H 20 x 12 x 7 cm  
(Peonie Embroidery)  
H 23 x 13 x 7 cm  
(Double Phoenix Embroidery)



**The Dream of Peach**  
[Chinatown], 2018  
Stoneware, peach wood stick  
left to right  
H 21 x 13 x 11 cm  
H 16 x 12 x 10 cm  
H 18.5 x 14 x 12.5 cm

Vinata Goswamy



**Watchman of SJI**  
[Singapore Art Museum], 2017  
Buff raku clay  
H 22 x 16 x 16 cm



**Shoppers' Paradise**  
[Orchard Road], 2018  
Various clays, teakwood  
H 60 x 30 cm



**A bag for Each of Us**  
[Kampong Glam], 2017  
White Stoneware  
H 35 x 22 x 22 cm



**Chess Set**  
[Haw Par Villa], 2018  
White clay (chess pieces)  
Ceramic Tiles (chess board)  
H 8 - 10 cm (32 chess pieces)  
60 x 60 cm (chess board)