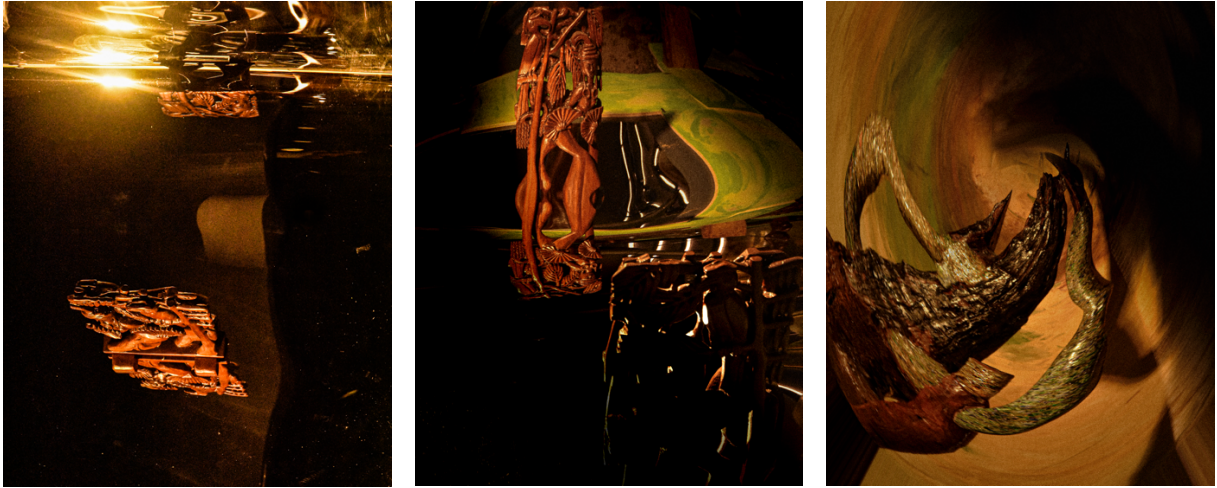


ART AGENDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



BEING MADE: BROTHER JOSEPH MCNALLY AND SHUI TIT SING AN INVENTIVE AND UNIQUELY SCENOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

Singapore, 28 July 2023 – Art Agenda is pleased to announce *Being Made*, a one-of-a-kind highly choreographed exhibition that will take visitors on a journey to discover the singularity of wood as an art medium and the span of creative possibilities in modern sculpture.





The exhibition will showcase sixteen sculptures by **Brother Joseph McNally** (1923-2002) and **Shui Tit Sing** (1914-1997), two of Singapore’s most accomplished 20th-century artists. The exhibition title typifies the act of transformation: an apt descriptor for how trees that have been felled and transformed into wood can reclaim and embody life under the hands of visionary sculptors.

Shui Tit Sing had reflected upon the link between day-to-day lived realities and his wood carvings in 1978: *“My wood sculpture style, influenced by the art of Angkor, is a representation of oriental art. My works are narratives of the simple and hardworking lifestyle of ethnic South East Asians engaging in various daily activities.”*

On the other hand, Brother McNally’s reflections on the medium of wood in 2000 reveal a reverence for material: *“I do love wood as being very deeply ungrained by the Divine Spirit. Hence I regard the wooden “model” as being the original and I use every known device to bring out its natural beauty ... wood is part of me.”* More than two decades on, this exhibition – to open on the centenary of his birth on 10 August 1923 – presents a selection of Brother McNally’s oeuvre in his favoured medium.

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Being Made builds upon a simple starting point – gathering to examine both sculptors' productions in wood. Choreographed by young art director **Gagandeep Singh Sidhu**, this one-of-a-kind exhibition breaks away from conventional white-cube presentations of modern sculpture with a maximalist approach. Each of the sculptures features as a protagonist in a mise en scène comprising other elemental material such as soil, metal, mirror and fabric.

Amble along a plank-lined path, apprehend sculptures – some totemic, some figural – seemingly emerged from earth, a force of nature present yet impalpable. Mirrored surfaces allow us to see the sculptures, and even ourselves from different dimensions and perspectives. In the apparent rubble, post-apocalyptic hopes are signalled.

Wang Zineng, Founder, Art Agenda notes: *“Brother Joseph McNally and Shui Tit Sing are less celebrated modern artists today compared to some of their contemporaries in 20th century Singapore art. As sculptors, they had to overcome greater challenges compared to mainstream painters and their respective steadfastness to their chosen medium should be admired. We want Being Made to present a totally different experience of both sculptors' works and challenge prevailing understandings and expectations of the art of sculpture as well as exhibition curating.”*




The exhibition is supplemented by an archival showcase of both sculptors jointly curated by artist-archivist **Koh Nguang How** and Wang Zineng. Koh has presented the archive and collection of Shui Tit Sing in Singapore and Cambodia in the past ten years.

Being Made is an inventive and uniquely scenographic exhibition that all art lovers are invited to experience. All sculptures are available for acquisition.





Press Contact

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DETAILS OF EXHIBITION





-  Thu 10 Aug 2023 – Sat 30 Sep 2023
-  Wed – Fri: 1pm – 6pm
Sat – Sun: 11am – 6pm
Mon, Tue and PHs: Closed
-  Art Agenda, 39 Keppel Road #02-01 Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore 089065

MEDIA TOUR

-  Fri 4 Aug 2023
-  4pm
-  Art Agenda, 39 Keppel Road #02-01 Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore 089065
-  Hors d'oeuvre and drinks will be served. Please RSVP to Isaac Keh at info@artagendasea.org by 3 Aug 2023.

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About Brother Joseph McNally (1923-2002)

Brother Joseph McNally's vision of an integrated art college became reality in 1985 when he established St. Patrick's Arts Centre. Brother McNally continued to play a key role as the college eventually grew to become today's LASALLE College of the Arts. Besides his indelible contribution to art education in Singapore, he produced a large body of sculptural work in an artistic practice that spanned four decades. Often carved from ancient wood and inspired by a matrix of universalist and humanist ideas, Brother McNally's works reveal an unparalleled spiritual dimension as well as openness to other philosophical, cultural and religious traditions.

About Shui Tit Sing (1914-1997)

A pioneer Singapore art educator and sculptor, Shui Tit Sing taught art and Chinese language at Catholic High School for close to 30 years. His fascination with living cultural traditions led him to travel around Southeast Asia, depicting festivities, communities and forms of cultural expressions in artworks that reflect the ethnographic richness of traditional life in the region. From 1968 on, Shui worked completely in wood carving. Being made with an absolute purity of intent to represent the living world, Shui's oeuvre becomes the locus where art and life come closest.





About Art Agenda

Established in 2016 as an art advisory with a curatorial arm, Art Agenda specialises in post-war and modern Southeast Asian art and photography from the 20th century and works selectively with contemporary artists to reflect upon aspects of global and Southeast Asian art history.

Art Agenda operates from two 150sqm spaces in Jakarta and Singapore. Located at the Tanjong Pagar Distripark arts precinct in Singapore, the design of the Singapore salon opened in mid-2022 is uniquely influenced by the industrial building it is in. It showcases art and hosts events and programmes that places art in cross-disciplinary contexts. Art Agenda's Jakarta gallery has been open since 2020 with an exhibition programme centred around modern, post-war and contemporary Indonesian art. It recently reopened after a revamp, with enlarged exhibition and storage spaces.

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