



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Singapore, 20 January 2026**

### **NTU Museum's *On the cusp* exhibition features new works inspired by memory, identity and transitions**

**NTU Museum** today launches *On the cusp*, a campus-wide exhibition featuring newly commissioned artworks by three acclaimed Southeast Asian artists – Boedi Widjaja, Torlar Larparjoensook, and Tromarama.

Open to the public and presented across three locations on the **Nanyang Technological University, Singapore's (NTU Singapore)** campus, the exhibition enhances NTU's vibrant student environment by integrating art into the daily campus experience and enriching campus culture beyond academic life.

*On the cusp*, which runs till 2 April 2026 and is part of **Singapore Art Week**, reflects on how belonging, connection and identity are shaped at the points where different realms meet – between past and present, the physical and virtual, the earthly and spiritual. The installations draw on memory, language, cosmology and mediated perception to prompt viewers to consider how these forces influence their sense of self.

The exhibition is especially resonant for university students navigating formative years of growth and transition, while remaining equally relevant to members of the public who encounter similar questions of place, identity and connection in their everyday lives.

Located at Nanyang Lake Pavilion, the Chinese Heritage Centre Lawn, and the digital media wall INDEX at North Spine Plaza, the three artworks highlight the diversity of Southeast Asian artistic perspectives that reflect the mix of cultures found within NTU's own community.

Each artist approaches the themes of belonging and identity in distinct ways, from Boedi Widjaja's engagement with memory, language and bio-scientific processes, to Torlar Larparjoensook's reinterpretation of cosmology and cultural narratives, to Tromarama's exploration of digital perception in everyday life.

Together, the works draw inspiration from NTU's unique environment, shaped by its interdisciplinary culture and historical ties to heritage, offering visitors varied entry points into reflecting on place, connection and the shaping of self.

**NTU Museum curator Ms Lu Xiaohui** said: "*On the cusp* brings together artists whose practices reflect on how memory takes form across bodies, landscapes, languages and cultural inheritances. By presenting the artworks across outdoor and public locations on campus, the exhibition invites not only the NTU community but also the wider public to encounter art within the spaces they move through every day, and to consider how memory is continually carried, reinterpreted and reshaped through experience."

## **Overview of Artworks Across NTU Campus: Three Distinct Explorations of Memory and Meaning**

### **1. Artwork: 东邪西毒 I Want to Infect You with History**

**Artist: Boedi Widjaja (Indonesia/Singapore)**

**Location: Nanyang Lake Pavilion**

At the Nanyang Lake Pavilion, Boedi Widjaja reimagines the site as a living cell – a biological structure where memory, language and genetic code circulate, mutate and endure. The pavilion becomes a porous architecture through which histories pass and are carried across bodies, generations and languages. With molecular code as a starting point, the installation presents explorations that manifest in poetry, sculpture, performance and photography. Through these strategies of transmission and translation, hidden narratives embedded within the body surface and take form.

Part of the installation is a new work developed with Dr Eric Yap, Associate Professor in Human and Microbial Genetics at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and Principal Investigator at the Institute for Digital Molecular Analytics and Science. A poem composed by the artist is encoded into DNA using a biocultural cipher shaped by his multilingual inheritance. The installation explores themes of migration, displacement, inherited histories and molecular memory.

In conjunction with the exhibition, NTU Museum will also present an artist talk by Boedi Widjaja in conversation with Dr Yap, offering audiences deeper insight into the cross-disciplinary processes behind *东邪西毒 I Want to Infect You with History*. Scheduled to take place in March 2026, the session will explore the convergence of art, science and technology underpinning the work, including the use of microfluidic lab techniques and DNA synthesis as a medium for poetic and cultural expression. The artist talk will highlight NTU's contribution in fostering cross-disciplinary dialogue between artistic practice and scientific research within and beyond the university community.

## **2. Artwork: Cosmos of Nostalgia**

**Artist: Torlarp Larpjaroensook (Thailand)**

**Location: Chinese Heritage Centre Lawn**

On the lawn beside the Nanyang Lake, Torlarp Larpjaroensook presents *Cosmos of Nostalgia* - a sculptural installation inspired by Chinese cosmology, celestial stories and cultural memory. Inspired by the artist's Thai and Chinese heritage, the work incorporates influences from both cultures. Referencing myths such as Chang'e and the ancient story of Wan Hu, Thai science fiction novels and early science encyclopaedias, the work functions as a time capsule from the future filled with traces of the past.

Constructed from fibreglass, the structure's interior features a hand-painted scenic landscape that evokes a personal universe where time flows in multiple directions. The installation engages with the long-standing human desire to understand the cosmos and our relationship with it, inviting viewers to contemplate memory, imagination and the layered nature of existence.

## **3. Artwork: Turn On**

**Artist: Tromarama (Indonesia)**

**Location: INDEX, North Spine Plaza, Level 1**

At INDEX, North Spine Plaza, the artist collective Tromarama presents *Turn On*, a media work inspired by the familiar presence of electric fans across Southeast Asia. Projected on an LED screen, fans of various types appear in different colours and scales. As they turn on, the surrounding digital environment shifts, as if stirred by airflow.

Drawing from the collective's interest in hyperreality and mediated perception, the installation examines how digital representations transform our relationships with everyday objects. By animating a familiar household tool essential for comfort in the region's climate, the work reflects on how technology shapes our behaviours, memories and interactions with the world.

## **NTU as a Living Museum and the evolving NTU Campus Art Trail**

As a museum without walls, NTU Museum integrates art into everyday spaces across the campus. The **NTU Campus Art Trail** is central to this vision. First launched in 2018 as the first of its kind for a Singaporean university, the trail showcases the rich and diverse creative expressions that define NTU's identity and has continued to evolve alongside the campus' dynamic growth in art and architecture.

The trail was most recently revamped in 2025, with a new map highlighting the iconic

architecture and diverse artworks across the campus. The latest artwork additions include *Becoming* by 8EyedSpud, NTU's largest wall mural to date, standing 6.4m high, and Yip Yew Chong's Tribute to Dr Wee Cho Yaw, a 12-metre-long panoramic painting commemorating the renaming of Wee Cho Yaw Plaza. Together, these additions reflect NTU Museum's ongoing efforts to highlight art and culture across the university grounds.

NTU Museum's exhibitions and the NTU Campus Art Trail are also now available on Bloomberg Connects, the global arts and culture digital guide launched in Singapore in 2025 that features over 1,200 museums and cultural institutions worldwide. The app offers mapping tools, artwork information and exhibition highlights, allowing visitors both on campus and beyond to explore the artworks more easily and at their own pace.

As part of its broader public engagement initiatives, NTU Museum will also present the **"West Side Art Tour", a guided bus-and-walking experience** that extends the exhibition context beyond the NTU campus into Singapore's western region. Open to NTU students, staff and members of the public, the tour runs in conjunction with Singapore Art Week 2026 and in celebration of the *On the cusp* exhibition's launch.

Scheduled on two Saturday mornings on 24 January and 31 January 2026, the tour traces a curated route through key artworks, architectural landmarks and heritage sites in and around NTU, as well as neighbouring districts within the Nanyang constituency, offering participants deeper insight into how contemporary art, architecture and lived histories intersect within the evolving cultural landscape of western Singapore.

More information on the exhibition and revamped Campus Art Trail can be found in the Annexes and on the [exhibition website](#).

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**Photos Download:** <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/7fu7729u175bd41sue51a/AH75aKbgh-zRVGVnrcLlpE0?rlkey=7sxjh8pqbW1iehyf9ullpcxd3&st=302kzilq&dl=0>

**Photos Credit:** NTU Museum

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### ***About Nanyang Technological University, Singapore***

A research-intensive public university, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) has 35,000 undergraduate and postgraduate students in the Business, Computing & Data Science, Engineering, Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, Medicine, Science, and Graduate colleges.

NTU is also home to world-renowned autonomous institutes – the National Institute of Education, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies and Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering – and various leading research centres such as the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute and Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N).

Under the NTU Smart Campus vision, the University harnesses the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge, and the sustainability of resources.

Ranked amongst the world's top universities, the University's main campus is also frequently listed among the world's most beautiful. Known for its sustainability, NTU has achieved 100% Green Mark Platinum certification for all its eligible building projects. Apart from its main campus, NTU also has a medical campus in Novena, Singapore's healthcare district.

For more information, visit [www.ntu.edu.sg](http://www.ntu.edu.sg)


### ***About NTU Museum***

NTU Museum is a museum without walls, defying the conventional idea of a museum by utilising the entire campus to display artworks and bring art to the community. The museum boasts a modest permanent collection of over 200 contemporary artworks, spanning an eclectic range of Singaporean, South-East Asian, and international artists. It is an integral addition to the vibrant student culture, promoting a keen awareness and appreciation of art on campus. The museum provides opportunities for participation and cross-disciplinary collaborations through the arts.

Established in 2008, the museum emerged as the university was developing new programs in Art, Design, Media, and the Humanities and Social Sciences, complementing its strengths in Science and Technology disciplines. NTU Museum is listed under the National Heritage Board's (Singapore) Approved Museum Scheme.

## Annex A

### Exhibition Fact Sheet

<b>Exhibition Title</b>	<i>On the cusp</i> Presented by NTU Museum
<b>Exhibition Dates</b>	20 January 2026 to 2 April 2026
<b>Location of Artworks Across NTU Campus</b>	<p>Nanyang Technological University 50 Nanyang Avenue Singapore 639798</p> <p><b>1. Nanyang Lake Pavilion</b> 东邪西毒 <i>I Want to Infect You with History</i> by Boedi Widjaja</p> <p>Location Map: <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/NCcFtGnRvPe2NKS39">https://maps.app.goo.gl/NCcFtGnRvPe2NKS39</a></p> <p><b>2. Chinese Heritage Centre Lawn</b> <i>Cosmos of Nostalgia</i> by Torlarp Larpjaroensook</p> <p>Location Map: <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/CGCe9ZaFAs3k9ZiQ7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/CGCe9ZaFAs3k9ZiQ7</a></p> <p><b>3. INDEX, North Spine Plaza, Level 1</b> <i>Turn On</i> by Tromarama</p> <p>Location Map: <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/eyFk9mFGXKBEPKiD8">https://maps.app.goo.gl/eyFk9mFGXKBEPKiD8</a></p> <p>Also available on <a href="#">Bloomberg Connects</a> (QR code below)</p> 
<b>Opening Hours</b>	<p>东邪西毒 <i>I Want to Infect You with History</i> at Nanyang Lake Pavilion: 10 am – 5 pm (Pavilion locked after hours)</p> <p><b>Cosmos of Nostalgia</b> at <b>Chinese Heritage Centre Lawn</b>: Open 24 hours</p>

	<b>Turn On</b> at INDEX, North Spine Plaza, Level 1: Screen runs 24 hours
<b>Admission</b>	Free of charge Open to the public



## Annex B

### Exhibition Overview – *On the cusp*

What happens when different realms - past and present, virtual and physical, earthly and spiritual - converge? How do they speak to each other, and what is passed on at the points of transition? This exhibition explores how these intersections shape belonging, connection and identity through the lens of memory.

Artists Boedi Widjaja, Torlar Larparjoensook and Tromarama draw on personal and collective memories embedded in the body, language, place, custom and shared experience. They approach memory not as a static repository of the past, but a living force carried within us and continually re-interpreted. Spread across Nanyang Technological University, the works engage in dialogue with the sites they inhabit. Viewers are invited to linger and attune to the surrounding environments and the stories that are told through the works.

The search for grounding and connection rests at the core of human experience. Memory lives in the practices we inherit, stories passed down through generations and relationships we form with the spaces we inhabit. *On the cusp* reflects how the bonds we forge - with one another and the world - are closely interconnected with what, and how, we choose to remember.

### Artists and Artworks

**Boedi Widjaja**  
**Born 1975, Indonesia**  
**Based in Singapore**

Boedi Widjaja explores migration as a condition inscribed in the body, carried through memory, language, genealogy and diasporic imagination. His practice probes the primordial pulls of house, home and homeland—forces that shape migrant histories and imagine routes of return. Trained in architecture and design, he works across bio art, performance, experimental photography and architectural installations, interweaving scientific phenomena with poetic gesture. His works are exhibited internationally across Asia, Europe and the Americas. Boedi is represented by ShanghART Gallery.



**Artwork:**

**东邪西毒 I Want to Infect You with History**

Language and genetic code carry history and memory, keys to understanding personal and collective pasts and identity. *东邪西毒 I Want to Infect You with History* is centred on a proposition: history is like a virus. It takes up space within the body, permeating our being and propagating across generations. It survives through language, DNA, gesture and lived experience. What happens to those whose histories are omitted because of displacement or dispossession? How can history regain lost ground through the body?

Boedi Widjaja engages in a speculative dialogue with a cell, mediated by a poem. This poem, composed in English and Bahasa Indonesia by the artist, is encoded and synthesised into DNA using a biocultural key shaped by his multilingual cultural inheritance. The installation inhabits the Nanyang Lake Pavilion, transforming it into a living cell that metabolises memory, language and genetic code.

The installation delves into diasporic experience and the complexities of negotiating home, identity and belonging. Boedi continues his long-standing collaboration with Dr. Eric Yap, Associate Professor in Human and Microbial Genetics at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore and

Principal Investigator at the Institute for Digital Molecular Analytics and Science. With molecular code as a starting point, the installation presents explorations that manifest in poetry, sculpture, performance and photography. Through these strategies of transmission and translation, hidden narratives embedded within the body surface and take form. Moving from absence to presence, history reclaims agency as it replicates across the Pavilion site. Unstable and mutable, it reverberates through human contact, circulating and evolving across time and space.

**Torlarp Larpjaroensook**  
**Born 1977, Thailand**

The practice of Torlarp Larpjaroensook centres around forging relationships between art and the viewer. Incorporating ready-made objects into sculpture, installation and what he calls “moving architecture,” his works explore themes of identity, history and fact versus fiction. Harnessing the stories and messages embedded in objects, Torlarp’s works act as a bridge for viewers to connect with materials found in everyday life. Selected exhibitions of Torlarp’s work include ArtScience Museum, Singapore (2025); CHINI Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan (2023); Bangkok Art Biennale, Bangkok, Thailand (2018), and Koganecho Bazaar, Yokohama, Japan (2013).



**Artwork:**

**Cosmos of Nostalgia**

Humanity has looked to the skies, seeking to decipher the universe and make sense

of existence. In this installation, Torlarp Larpjaroensook explores how our fascination with otherworldly realities transcends geographies, cultures and generations. Situated beside the Chinese Heritage Centre and Yunnan Garden, sites steeped in history, *Cosmos of Nostalgia* is both sculptural environment and architectural intervention. Conceived as a time capsule from the future, viewers can enter and witness this imaginary world merge with the work's immediate surroundings.

The artist stitches together imagery from 20th-century Thai science fiction, early science encyclopaedias, Chinese philosophy and mythology to create a hybrid visual lexicon where imagination and contemporary reality meet. Intricate paintings evoke traditional Chinese landscape paintings and hand-painted temple murals. This panorama of rivers, mountains and skies reflects Taoist philosophy and the vastness of nature. Excerpts from a poem by the Tang Dynasty poet Li He (李賀), known for his cosmic imagery and philosophical musings, adds a layer of quiet contemplation. Within the upper capsule, a bare, unpopulated landscape unfolds. Viewers are invited to envision themselves as characters within this world, collaborating in a collective act of storytelling.

Wan Hu, an astronaut in Chinese legend who dreamed of reaching outer space, navigates this dreamlike world. Resolute and filled with wonder, he is a metaphor for humanity's inquisitive spirit and collective desire to connect with the unknown. Through a constellation of myth, memory and history, *Cosmos of Nostalgia* bridges the earthly with the cosmic, a forgotten past and an imagined future.

**Tromarama**  
**Established 2006**  
**Indonesia**

Tromarama is an artist collective founded by Febie Babyrose, Herbert Hans and Ruddy Hatumena in 2006. They engage with the notion of hyperreality in the digital age, delving into the relationship between the virtual and physical world. Using video, installations computer programming and audience interaction, their projects explore how digital platforms influence social behaviours and perceptions towards the world around us. Recent exhibitions of their work have been held at SongEun Art and Cultural Foundation, Seoul, South Korea (2025); Kiang Malingue, Hong Kong (2023), and National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia (2020).



**Artwork:**  
**Turn On**

*Turn On* examines the ways in which technology reframes everyday experiences, alters perceptions of reality and mediates our relationships with the world. The electric fan is the focal point in this moving image work that traces the entanglements between the self and the digital realm. Commonly used in Southeast Asia to combat heat and humidity, the electric fan has become a symbol of survival, comfort and efficiency. Presented in a choreographed loop, a motley crew of fans whirs to life, simulating airflow that seem to trigger a series of events. Images on the screen start to morph into billowing curtains, while familiar objects and scenes from daily life are caught in motion, as if activated by the fans' invisible force.

Upon closer inspection, the relationship between action and response, cause and effect, starts to unravel. As the fans hum and stir their surroundings into motion, viewers are invited to reflect on the capacity of technology to blur the lines between fact and fiction, the real and the virtual. The work disrupts expectations informed by lived experience, raising questions about the limits of memory and association. Is one reality more authentic than the other? In a hyper-connected world, experiences are increasingly mediated through representations instead of direct physical encounters. *Turn On* positions the screen as an active site for the ongoing negotiation of meaning and identity in our present-day reality.

## Annex C

### **West Side Art Tour: On the cusp edition**

Uncover the hidden artistry of Singapore's far western reaches on the West Side Art Tour presented by NTU Museum. This guided bus-and-walking experience highlights the rich mix of arts and heritage in and around Nanyang Technological University. Explore thought-provoking art exhibitions and striking campus architecture, discover National Monuments tucked within the Nanyang constituency, and delve into the wood-firing traditions of Singapore's last heritage dragon kilns right amid the emerging Jurong Innovation District. Join us to experience western Singapore's culture and heritage in one art-filled tour.

#### **Dates:**

- 24 Jan 2026 (Sat), 9am – 12pm
- 31 Jan 2026 (Sat), 9am – 12pm

#### **Expected Tour Stops: (subject to change)**

- On the cusp exhibition sites at Chinese Heritage Centre, Nanyang Lake Pavilion and North Spine Plaza
- National monument sites Chinese Heritage Centre, Yunnan Garden and the original Nanyang arch in Jurong West
- Thow Kwang Pottery Jungle and Jalan Bahar Clay Studios to see Singapore's last two remaining dragon kilns

#### **More info:**

<https://www.ntu.edu.sg/museum/west-side-art-tour>