



**BRACK**

15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Clara,

Thank you for your interest in our Art Residence exchange project.

#### **ABOUT UNSEEN ART INITIATIVES**

Unseen Art Initiative's goal is to evoke and harness the creative potential of people through the arts. We do this through the creation of meaningful and engaging art works, projects and experiences about, with and for diverse communities. We create artistic and social dialogue through building strong narratives across the various mediums and strategies, with a special focus on photography and video.

Unseen Art Initiatives works in close partnership with Brack, an arts platform for socially-engaged art.

#### **ABOUT BRACK**

Brack gathers projects, people, and ideas that feed a progressive philosophy of life. A platform for socially engaged artists and their work, Brack aims to motivate a social interest in, and for, art.

We're doing something new here in the discourse of arts, culture, and society. We don't just write about art; we're interested in how it can address an issue of importance and create a significant space for individual and collective agency. At the same time, a post-analogue ethos is challenging old notions of hierarchical mediation—Brack enables artists and the community to shape this new space.

#### **OUR WORK**

Brack projects will include a range of pursuits: curatorial initiatives, educational programmes, artist commissions, talks, tours, performances, books, an itinerant library, and an online archive of avant-garde media.

#### **ARTIST RESIDENCY**

The invited artist will be selected by Brack's founding members. The residency will be 5 - 6 weeks long.

The artist studio where the artist will be hosted at is in Queenstown, one of the early housing estates in Singapore. The area is currently undergoing massive redevelopment, and will be

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an inspiring context for any artist interested in urban spaces, memory and contestation of space.

We are particularly interested in artists who are socially-engaged and who have interests in the following fields and/or projects. Proposals with a focus on other issues will also be considered, but this year, we will be able to better support and connect the artist in these following areas.

- **Place-making:** Tree Shrine Sessions at Tanglin Halt
- **Art and Health** (Community Hospitals with a special focus on Dementia.)
- **Aging Communities** (services)
- **Queenstown**

We are also very interested in artists who are able to conduct workshops under Brack. The artist will also be invited to conduct an artist talk at a suitable venue.

Please refer to the Appendix A for more information of the different areas and our past events and collaborations with foreign artists visiting Singapore. The facilities and conditions of the residency can be found in Appendix B.

We look forward to receiving the artist soon, as well as our future residency in Spain.

Thank you once again for this wonderful opportunity.

Warmest regards,  
Alecia Neo

*Co-founder of Unseen Art Initiatives & Brack*

[www.unseenart.co](http://www.unseenart.co) / [www.brack.sg](http://www.brack.sg)

## APPENDIX A

### Project Possibilities:

#### Place-making: Tree Shrine Sessions at Tanglin Halt





The artist studio is located very near to the Datuk Kong Shrine in Tanglin Halt, a historical site well-loved by the community, that is affected by the impending redevelopment plans of the entire neighbourhood.

A group of artists, historians and culture workers have come together to seek different ways for authorities to:

- i) **Formally recognize the long existence of the Datuk Kong shrine**
- ii) **Incorporate the shrine or acceptable substitute into the design element of the corridor so as URA (<http://www.ura.gov.sg/>) rail corridor design consultants can be made aware.**

This particular shrine has been in existence for at least twenty years. With its beautiful outcrop of bamboo, relaxed atmosphere and community fruit and vegetable plot, it has become a much-loved and much photographed icon of the area—a fine example of grassroots cultural engagement. It is also a well-known reference point for Tanglin Halt residents. The shrine comes up time and time again as a landmark of collective memory in interviews with hairdressers, masseurs, tailors and other shop keepers carried out by students at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), through artist Lucy Davis's City/Body/Memory class. Lucy Davis is also a resident in Tanglin Halt.

Datuk Kong tree shrines in themselves are a beautiful and entirely-unique example of Malaysia/Singaporean syncretic culture: What started out as Malay tree spirit worship has been increasingly taken on by Taoists, Hindus and Others throughout the peninsula. There are some very famous tree shrines: Toa Payoh's huge tree shrine being one, Joo Chiat's Datuk Kong shrine is another. For the Tanglin Halt shrine the large banyan tree which was the starting point for the spirit worship was struck by lightning on New Years Eve about 3 years ago. Since then, the spirit is believed to have moved to another tree in the shrine compound and although the shrine is not as elaborate as it once was (having suffered a series of bulldozings over the years), offerings are still made there on a regular basis. Two of the regular shrine keepers can often be seen around Wessex estate with a long bamboo pole, plucking cempaka flowers to offer to the Datuk Kong.

More than 200 NTU Art Design and Media students (film, photography, animation, interactive media and visual communication students) have completed projects for Lucy Davis's

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City/Body/Memory class on in and around this shrine. Some of the shrine keepers have kept in touch with these students from way back. They have taken them on tours to find wild durian and jackfruit along the tracks and introduced them to their tame squirrel “Baby” who they have trained to turn up when they call in return for fruit—a quite lovely example of inter-generational, inter-racial and interspecies bonding.

Of late, the shrine therefore faces imminent destruction. There have been a series of attempts to bulldoze and destroy the shrine over the years but that the uncles have always felt compelled to come back again.

Unfortunately, the way that current eviction advisory has been handled by the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) has been quite heavy handed. The SLA have unfortunately taken an intimidating and officious approach towards the shrine keepers, not really attempting to understand why they have continued to invest in this space for over twenty years. They merely posted eviction notices and accused them of erecting illegal structures. Which is certainly true. But so many of the most treasured examples of world cultural heritage, and urban heritage in particular, derive from grassroots investments in cultures that once were considered to be “illegal”.

We would like to invite artists who are interested in proposing projects to help rejuvenate the area in the interim, as well as the ways in which the activities around the shrine—for example the community garden set up by the shrine keepers—might be moved to another suitable patch.

More information:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Tree-Shrine-Sessions-at-Tanglin-Halt/444454409046201?fref=photo>

<http://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/more-than-60-tanglin-halt/1765462.html>

<http://www.todayonline.com/business/property/save-part-tanglin-halt-posterity>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,\\_Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,_Singapore)

**Art and Health** (Community Hospitals with a special focus on Dementia)

**Aging Communities (Queenstown and social services)**

“In its broadest sense, arts and health refers to the practice of applying arts initiatives to health problems and health promoting settings. It involves all art forms and may be focused at any point in the health care continuum. It also has an impact on the determinants of ill-health by changing individuals’ attitudes to health risks and supporting community resilience.”

*National Arts and Health Framework 2014 (Australia)*

Singapore faces an aging population and there has been a recent push to creating community hospitals in various neighbourhoods to cater to for the ever rising demand for health care. A rich and growing body of research connecting arts in healthcare programs to improved quality of care for patients, their families, and even medical staff.

Artists may propose artistic or research projects and activities for hospitals and social services centers. A focus on aging populations will be very welcomed.

Focus areas:

**Healthcare**

**Health promotion**

**Community Wellbeing**

References:

<http://population.sg/key-challenges/#.VVXsgdggpBc>

<http://www.artsandhealth.org/>

## **Queenstown**

The artist studio is located in Queenstown, Singapore. The very location offers the artist an interesting insight into Singapore's public housing policy and urban development plans. The aging population and numerous latent spaces in the neighbourhood also offers plenty of opportunity to design art projects and activities right where the studio is.

### **Studio Address:**

**Block 152 Mei Ling Street**

**#01-04**

**Singapore 140152**

The studio is a two storey unit on the ground floor level of an HDB flat. The studio is within walking distance to the train station Queenstown.

Resident will be provided with a private room. Toilet, showering and kitchen facilities are shared by other residents. The resident will have access to the studio space on the ground floor.

Our past residents include Love Difference (Italy) and Ketemu Projects (Bali, Indonesia)

### **References:**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,\\_Singapore](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Queenstown,_Singapore)

<https://www.facebook.com/myqueenstown>

<http://www.queenstown.org.sg/>

<https://www.facebook.com/heybrack?fref=ts>

<https://www.facebook.com/unseensingapore?fref=ts>

### **Institutions near the studio:**

Queenstown Community Centre

<http://www.queenstown.org.sg/community-centre/queenstown-community-centre.html>

Leng Kee Community Centre

<http://www.queenstown.org.sg/community-centre/leng-kee-community-centre.html>

Ministry of Education Community Centre

<http://www.moeheritagecentre.sg/>

Gillman Barracks (Contemporary Arts Space)

Contact: [info@aleciane.com](mailto:info@aleciane.com) +65 93842916

<http://gillmanbarracks.com/>

Global Indian International School

<https://www.facebook.com/GIIS.Queenstown.Singapore>

**Facilities near the studio:**

Queenstown Sports Complex (Swimming and Track facilities)

<http://www.swimminglessons.com.sg/queenstown-swimming-complex.htm>

Queenstown Public Library

<http://www.nlb.gov.sg/VisitUs/BranchDetails/tabid/140/bid/309/Default.aspx?branch=Queenstown+Public+Library>

**Brack's recent events**

**Masterclass by Love Difference (Italian Art Collective): HeArt of Community @ Singapore Art Museum**

*Organised and co-facilitated by Brack*

<https://www.facebook.com/events/617165328387399/>

<http://lovedifferenceworkshop.peatix.com/>







# HeART OF COMMUNITY:

A Master Class with Love Difference

## EVENT INFORMATION

### Public Talk (Free)

27 Jan 2015,  
7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

Moving Image Gallery at SAM at 8Q

### Workshop

30 Jan 2015,  
7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

31 Jan – 1 Feb 2015,  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 2.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Gallery 3.7 at SAM (Level 3)

**Post-Workshop Pop-Up at**  
Food For Thought at SAM at 8Q  
1 Feb 2015,  
6.30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

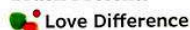
### Tickets

Standard: \$120  
Student: \$60

Registration for Workshop closes 20  
Jan 2015. For online payment, visit  
[lovedifferenceworkshop.peatix.com/](http://lovedifferenceworkshop.peatix.com/).  
Email [heybrack@gmail.com](mailto:heybrack@gmail.com) for any  
enquiries.



## Brack Presents



*Brack Master Classes are a series of curated art workshops developed in collaboration with a socially engaged artist or arts group. These invited artists and arts groups are experts in the art of co-creation and have developed research and experience in working with communities.*

- What is the **narrative dimension** of my creation?
- How can my creation **impact** a community?
- How can tools of art and design **envision** our future?
- How can we **harmonise our creative process in relationship with a community**?

This 2.5 days interactive workshop will take you through a process to consider your creative process in relationship with community. The workshop is based on the co-creation methodology used by **Italian artist collective, Love Difference**, who have focused on **community-based public art** since 2002.

Love Difference workshops revolve around dynamic interdisciplinary collective processes; "making together" actions in collaboration with artists; networking and expertise on group dynamics for public and private sectors; artistic projects for dialogue among cultures; food events; conventions, meetings, seminars, concerts, performances and exhibitions.



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

Venue Sponsors: **sam**  
singaporeartmuseum

**Food For Thought**  
Good Food For A Good Cause

Organiser: **BRACK**







Post workshop Artist Talk: <https://www.facebook.com/events/338684679668599/>

# JOIN US!

## Post-Workshop Pop-Up at The Tuckshop (Free)

1 Feb 2015,  
6.30 p.m. – 9 p.m.

403 Guillemard Road,  
Singapore 399795



*Free ice-cream on us!  
While stocks last.*

## OTHER EVENTS IN THE MASTERCLASS SERIES:

### Workshop

30 Jan 2015, 7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

31 Jan – 1 Feb 2015,  
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; 2.30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

### Public Talk (Free)

Tue 27 Jan 2015 7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.  
Singapore Art Museum at 8Q, Moving Image Gallery

71 Bras Basah Road, Singapore 189555

Free by registration:  
hey@brack.sg



### Filippo Fabbri

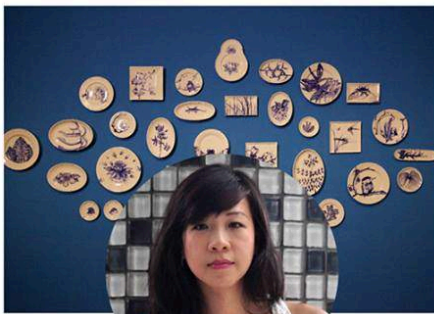
Filippo Fabbri is an artist and project manager from the association Love Difference. Their shared collective processes focus on “making together” actions in collaboration with artists. These have included networking and expertise on group dynamics for public and private sectors; artistic projects for dialogue among cultures; food events, seminars, performances, and exhibitions.

Filippo will present their projects and methodologies they have used in their community-based art projects since 2002, including *Identity at the Centre (Identita Al Centro)*, a participatory project that examined indicators of quality of life in the Old Town of the Monteverdi, Italy.



### Hafiz Osman

Hafiz Osman was born in Singapore in 1979 and graduated from the LASALLE School of the Arts with an MA in Fine Arts. He was artist-in-residence at the Dena Foundation for Contemporary Art in Paris in 2012, which culminated in *Maps and Meetings*, a solo exhibition. Hafiz researched Georges Haussmann's redesign of the city of Paris in the 19th century—which made the Parisian streets today. Cycling, his preferred mode of exploration, led him to engage strangers on the streets to draw a map of their home neighbourhood.



### Hazel Lim

Hazel Lim was born in Singapore and received her Master in Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts. Originally trained as a painter, Lim has expanded her practice to installation, photography, and drawing. Her work is based on questions related to Singapore's rapidly changing environment and the notions of preservation and history.

Her past works include *The Topography of Birds*, in which she juxtaposed bodies of various birds species against paintings of their urban, industrial locations. Her work continues to utilise local agencies as resources, such as the National Parks Board (NParks), public schools and the Raffles Museum of Biodiversity Research (RMBR).



### Meridel Rubenstein

American artist Meridel Rubenstein began her professional career in the early 1970s, evolving from photographer of single photographic images to artist of extended works and multi-media installations. Her art making has argued for an awareness of how we are connected to place. Her newest work *Heaven Turned on its Side* culminates in an art/ecology wastewater garden at the site of the original Garden of Eden in Southern Iraq in collaboration with Dr. Mark Nelson and Nature Iraq, El-Chibaish, Iraq.

An active arts educator for over 30 years, since 2006 Meridel has been a Visiting Associate Professor at the School of Art, Design, and Media at the Nanyang Technological University.

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

Sponsors:

**TUCKSHOP**  
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**ToIT**

Organiser: **BRACK**



## Multi-cultural Dread by Arjuna Neuman

Organised by Brack for Art after Dark at Gillman Barracks

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1560662414184457/>

**Stefano Harvey**  
Professor of Strategic Management (Education)  
Academic Director, MSc (Management)

**Marcel Heijnen**  
Visual artist, Designer and Musician.  
Co-founder of both Chemistry – the design collective, and Anistry

**Tan Tarn How**  
Senior Research Fellow at  
LKJ School of Public Policy

**Seelan Palay**  
Artist and Activist

**Edwina Shaddick**  
Educator at AWARE  
Training Institute B.A.  
in Social Science

**Sharon Lim**  
Editor-in-Chief  
ELLE Singapore

**Arjuna Neuman**  
Artist and Writer

**Kiat (Metalheads/  
Syndicate SG)**  
DJ and Founder of  
music label Syndicate

**Mohamed Imran  
(Moderator)**  
Founding member  
of Leftlane Center

**Jeffrey Tan**  
Theatre Director,  
Drama Educator,  
Community Arts  
Producer

# MULTI-CULTURAL DREAD

### EVENT INFORMATION

**Multi-Cultural Dread**  
20 March 2015  
Block 38, Malan Road  
Artist Studio; #01-06  
Join the conversation circle: 7 p.m. – 8.30 p.m.

DJ performance and discursive set by KIAT (Metalheads/Syndicate): 8 p.m. till late

This programme is part of the Art After Dark party at Gillman Barracks.

Free admission. Email [hey@brack.sg](mailto:hey@brack.sg) for any enquiries.

Multi-Cultural Dread is a collaborative event and interactive sonic experience co-created by artist and CCA resident Arjuna Neuman and Brack. The UV installation will feature wall texts by Nazry Bahrawi and Arjuna Neuman. The event will begin with a conversation-circle organised by Brack and moderated by Imran Taib – this will include prominent thinkers and artists addressing the topic of racial identity in relation to Singapore's one-party government and the city-state's roll within larger neoliberal frameworks. The discussion will transition into a discursive-mini-rave with a set by Kiat (Metalheads/Syndicate SG), who will reconsider and re-contextualize 90s Jungle music as a mode of critical resistance.

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

Organiser: **BRACK**

RTU CENTRE FOR  
CONTEMPORARY  
ART SINGAPORE

Located at: **GILLMAN  
BARRACKS**

Official DJ: 



