

INTERNATIONAL ART CAMP
18 July to 1 August 2024 | Singapore

Introduction

LASALLE College of the Arts is pleased to announce the call for participation from student-artists for its eighteenth edition of Tropical Lab.

Tropical Lab is an international art camp for practicing student-artists. Renowned for its ability to connect emerging artists and explore contemporary issues in art, more than two hundred artists from around the world and from major arts schools and institutions have gathered in Singapore annually to embark on a journey of exploration.

Aims

The aims of Tropical Lab are to expand the views of the participants, to exchange experiences, and to stimulate creative thinking through a collaborative approach. In addition, to create a positive environment that will stimulate and cultivate minds, imaginations, emotional (intuitive) consciousness and cultural sensibilities of the emerging generation of students of art.

LASALLE offers an environment for international student-artists to carry out research and advance their art practice in a short period. This will strengthen the value and potential of having a programme that is culturally relevant to a range of local, regional and international student-artists.

Through a series of research, presentations, seminars, dialogues and field trips organised around the theme, participants will have the opportunity to interact and learn from international and Singaporean artists and curators from McNally School of Fine Arts and LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Art Singapore.

About the Theme: *Weather*

Weather, as we know it, is a geo-scientific term that refers to atmospheric elements to which planetary inhabitants residing on Earth are subjected. Weather is an integral and integrative system that places humans and animals within the ecology of their habitat. Daily, we glance at the skies as we go about our ritualised chores or plan our activities around the everyday temperateness of the weather. The changing weather defines our everyday sense of being, and over long periods of predictability, it aggregates into the climate of our existence. Moreover, as a geo-scientific condition, the weather has a significant existential impact on the environment as the Anthropocene besets the human condition heightened by environmental shifts and crises (Sillitoe, 2021).

Climatic conditions and weathering themes pervade everyday life. From art and poetry to linguistic metaphors to cloud computing, fecund thematic variations remain essential for describing the human condition. In art, the weather remains a source of idyllic and lurid engagement: The outdoors is observed, colours and light are gazed at, while wind, rain and fire are stilled. The weather remains a source of observational training in reaching a realism that parallels an emotional epiphany, romance, melancholy or fear. As artists become deft conquerors of the morphing weather, art history etches a tamed environment subdued by ocular desires.

In contemporary culture, weather becomes a timely indicator of decisions and social practices. In politics, be it 'fair-weather friends' or the 'tide in the affairs of men' or war "hails", the invocations and incantations remain potent and poignant. While concerns around climate change are at the forefront of contemporary discourse, scholars acknowledge how "profoundly this omnipotent force shapes culture" (Strauss and Orlove, 2020). For example, time is situated closer to the rapidity of weather forecasts than the long durational planetary orbit. In more recent times, climate anthropologists have advanced significant theories around the social and embodied dimension of the weathered human body, where "climate change has to be related to global inequality" (Erikson, 2021).

Date & Duration

18 July to 1 August 2024

Participants are required to be in full attendance during this two-week period.

Arrival date is on the 18 July 2024 and departure date is on the 2 August 2024.

Venue

LASALLE College of the Arts, 1 McNally Street, Singapore 187940. Participants will have a range of studios, galleries and workshop to work in.

Material

Research and art materials will be provided by LASALLE. Students will be given a SGD\$200.00 allowance for all art materials. It is recommended for students to bring their own laptop.

Accommodation

All participants will reside at a hotel arranged by the College on a twin sharing basis. Check in is on the 18 July 2024 at 3pm, and check out is on the 2 August 2024 at 12pm.

Participation Fee

\$450 Singapore Dollars for each participating student.

Method of Payment

The payment should be in the form of Telegraphic Transfer made out to LASALLE College of the Arts Limited.

(See attached payment mode for more details)

Exhibition

The Tropical Lab International Art Camp will culminate with an exhibition at LASALLE's Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore (ICAS) designated gallery(s). The exhibition will open to the public tentatively on 2 Aug 2024.

The participants are responsible for informing LASALLE's ICAS at least one week in advance before the start of the installation of the exhibition of any content or themes in the artwork(s) that may cause offence to visitors, including violence, nudity, sexual content, explicit language, and depictions of race or religion.

LASALLE's ICAS will use its best endeavours to ensure the artwork(s) is displayed in a manner that is fair, accessible to the public and sympathetic to the context of the artwork.

The participants are to permit LASALLE's ICAS and LASALLE College of the Arts TO REPRODUCE, PUBLISH AND COMMUNICATE TO THE PUBLIC selected images and video excerpts of the artwork(s) and exhibition set-up (exhibition wide-angle and/or installation views) that are featured in this exhibition:

- To be published on the LASALLE's ICAS and LASALLE College of the Arts website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube and Flickr pages.
- For non-commercial press, publicity and advertising purposes associated with the exhibition.
- For educational purposes in relation to the exhibition such as printed and online material for distribution to students and the general public.
- To sub-license the electronic version of the catalogue to third-party institutions such as universities, libraries, museums and galleries for non-commercial, educational purposes in Singapore and overseas.

The artwork(s) created for the Tropical Lab exhibition will remain as LASALLE's property and will not be sent back to the participants. If the participant would like to retain the artwork, they must inform LASALLE's ICAS during the installation period. The participants will be responsible for the communication, facilitation, and payment of the full cost of packing and transportation of the artwork(s) (local and international freight) from LASALLE's ICAS on the first day of de-installation.