

Geo | Gr phic



**Celebrating
maps and
their stories**

16 January – 19 July 2015
National Library Building



Geo|Graphic

Maps are fascinating objects; they not only tell us about the places they depict but also how their makers saw the world around them. For Singapore in particular, maps are a window to our early history – before the arrival of the British in 1819. The National Library is pleased to present **Geo|Graphic**, an offering of exhibitions and programmes that explore maps and mapping.

Visit the following exhibitions at Geo|Graphic:



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Singapore's First
Topographical
and City Map

6-8

Mind the Gap:
Mapping the Other

9-11

Land of Gold and
Spices: Early Maps
of Southeast Asia
and Singapore

12-13

Island of Stories:
Singapore Maps

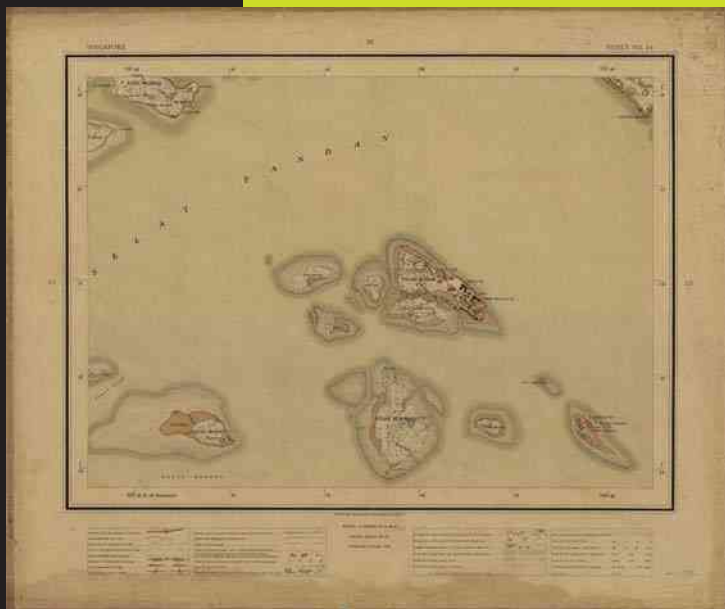
14

SEA STATE 8
SEABOOK

Singapore's First Topographical and City Map

Lobby, Level 1

Topographical maps give a three-dimensional sense of the area being mapped, depicting the contours and relief of the terrain. On display are Singapore's first complete set of topographical maps that were produced in 1924, and the six-sheet 1954 map of the city centre.



Source: Singapore Land Authority, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

Sheet 14 depicting islands such as Pulau Bukom and Semakau off the west coast of mainland Singapore, 1924

Mind the Gap:

Mapping the Other

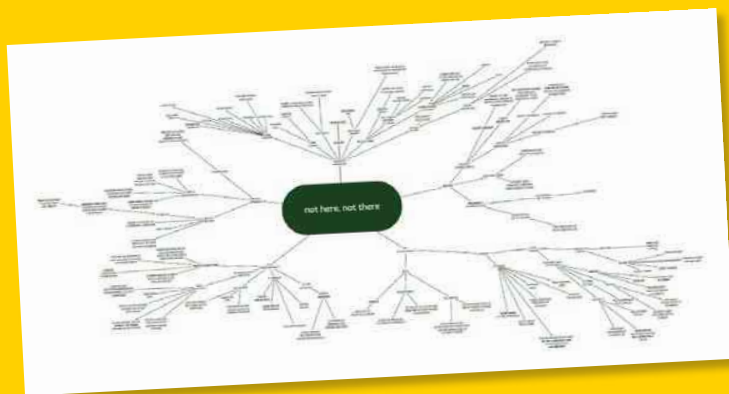
Mind the Gap presents the works of three Singapore-based contemporary artists who harness the strategies of data collection and mapping to investigate what lies beneath the surface of contemporary life.

Bibliotopia

by Michael Lee | Promenade, Level 7

In this work titled **Bibliotopia**, Michael Lee uses the device of the mind map to uncover the “secret bookscape” of Singapore’s book culture. Focusing on the genres of short fiction, horror and the teen novel through the literary output of Catherine Lim, Russell Lee and Adrian Tan – the artist draws out secrets that are hidden within, or exposed by narratives on identity, adolescence, and the ghostly in Singapore.

Michael Lee is an artist, curator and publisher whose works focus on urban memory and fiction, with an emphasis on their contexts and issues of loss.



Michael Lee
Work in progress
for *not here,
not there* (after
Russell Lee) from
the **Bibliotopia**
series (2015)

Outliers

by Jeremy Sharma | Promenade, Level 8

In the installation **Outliers** by Jeremy Sharma, are four white polystyrene blocks with undulating surfaces that capture the signals of dying stars (pulsars) in material form. Sharma, with the help of a pulsar scientist, has been collecting and categorising the radiographic data of selected pulsars. His work contemplates the profound space-time distance the signals of dying stars travel to communicate their death throes.

Jeremy Sharma instigates investigative processes to inform the formal expressions of his painterly and sculptural practice.



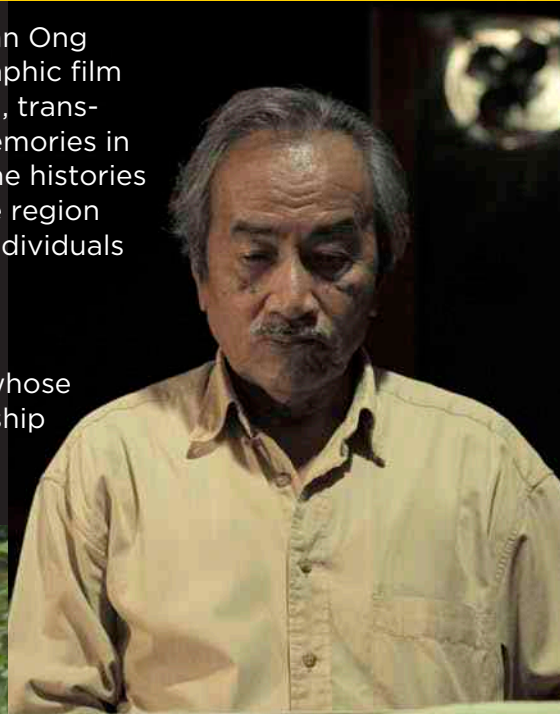
Jeremy Sharma
Work in progress for **Outliers** (2014-2015)

Islands In Between ... The Seas Will Sing And The Wind Will Carry Us... (Fables Of Nusantara)

by Sherman Ong | Promenade, Level 9

In this video installation, Sherman Ong uses the documentary/ethnographic film genre to tell stories of migration, trans-border identities, myths, and memories in the islands of Southeast Asia. The histories and contemporary stories of the region are explored through the nine individuals featured in the video vignettes.

Sherman Ong is a filmmaker, photographer and visual artist whose practice centres on the relationship between place and the human condition.



Sherman Ong
Video stills from *Fables of Nusantara* (2015)





LAND OF GOLD AND SPICES

EARLY MAPS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SINGAPORE

Gallery, Level 10

Asia, particularly Southeast Asia, had a strong hold over the imaginations of early Europeans as a source of gold, spices and all things exotic.

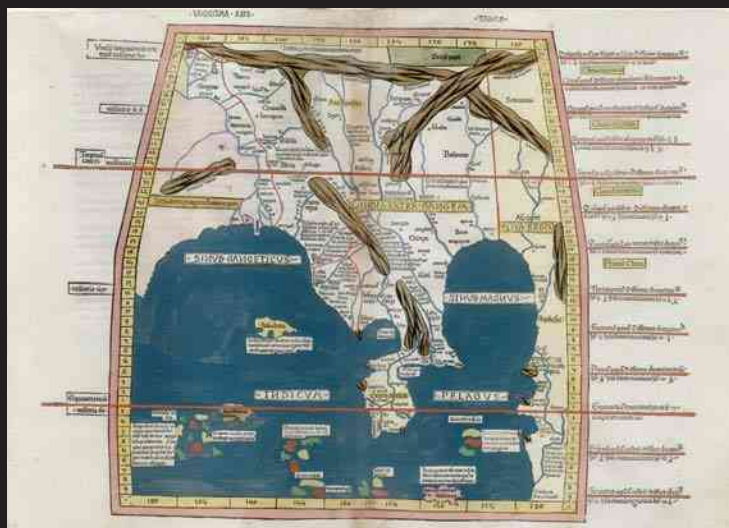
Land of Gold and Spices presents a fascinating look at how Southeast Asia was perceived, conceived of and mapped by the Europeans from the 15th to the early 19th centuries.



The maps featured in this exhibition are from the National Library, Singapore's rare maps collection and tell stories of the European presence in the region. The exhibition features printed and hand-drawn maps as well as sailing instructions that point to Singapore's early history before the arrival of the British in 1819. On special loan from European libraries are rare maps, such as indigenous Southeast Asian maps, on display for the very first time in Singapore.

Some highlights of the exhibition include:

Southeast Asia as plotted by Claudius Ptolemy, a 2nd-century Greek geographer.



A map from Ptolemy's *Geography*, printed in 1486

This map that helped to break the Portuguese monopoly in the spice trade.



Collection of National Library, Singapore

A map from Jan Huygen van Linschoten's *Itinerario* published in 1598

The island of Singapore is referred to by three different names in this Dutch map – Paulau Panjang (Long Island), latana (Ujong Tanah or Land's End) or Sincapura.



Leiden University Library, 006-14-015

A map of the southern part of the Strait of Melaka

Island of Stories: Singapore Maps

Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11

Island of Stories, showcasing the collection of the National Archives of Singapore, draws on an eclectic mix of Singapore maps that captures intriguing moments from our country's history. Featuring maps of forgotten mileage points to the island's farmland and soil composition, as well as stories of the former detached mole at Marina Bay, the Orchard Road "circus" and the election fever of 1955 – these maps weave a quirky, multifaceted story of Singapore's past.

Among other various audiovisual elements, visitors can overlay 19th-century maps over a contemporary map of the island in an interactive display developed with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, to see how the island has changed over the years.

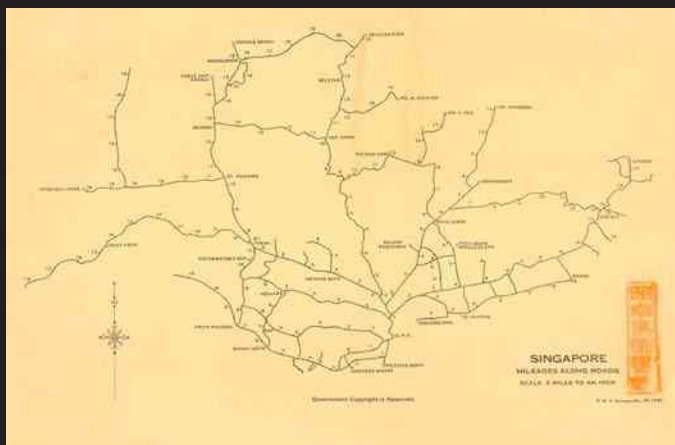
Jointly organised by:



National Library
Singapore

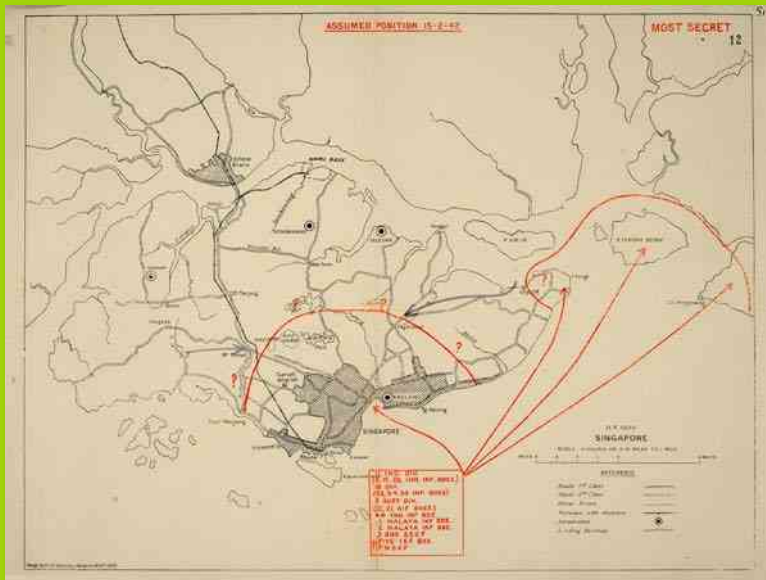
Some highlights of the exhibition include:

Do you know where “zero point” is located in Singapore?



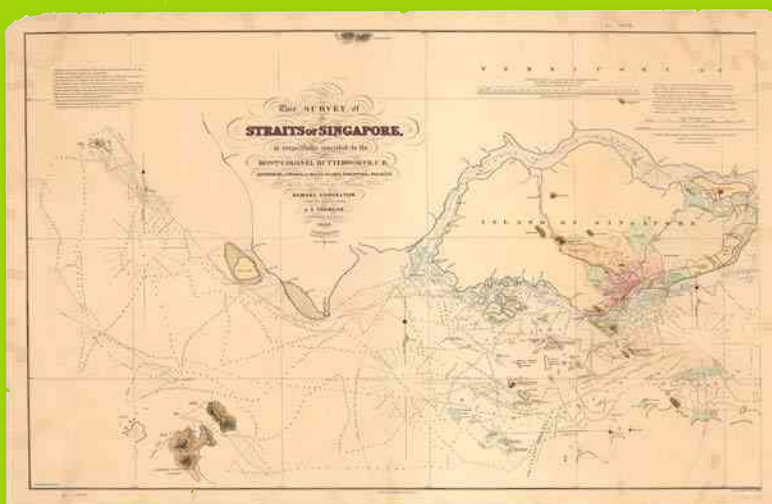
Source: Singapore Land Authority. Courtesy of
National Archives of Singapore

A 1942 British map that was drawn up on the day the Japanese won the battle for Singapore.



Courtesy of National Archives of the United Kingdom, WO106-2529 (12)

An 1846 survey of the Straits of Singapore by John Turnbull Thomson, Singapore's first government surveyor.



Source: Urban Redevelopment Authority, Courtesy of National Archives of Singapore

SEA STATE 8 SEABOOK

an Art Project by Charles Lim | Gallery, Level 11



Charles Lim
Sea Safe (2014)

Part of the SEA STATE series, SEABOOK follows Charles Lim's solo-exhibition, "In Search of Raffles' Light" (2013) held at the NUS Museum. SEABOOK is conceived by the artist, as a site for the accumulation of archival materials, anecdotes and memories that unravels Singapore's relationship with the sea. Developed with the librarians from the National Library, the project attempts to highlight the range of primary resources available on the sea from the colonial and post-colonial periods. In effect, SEABOOK aspires to be the most extensive cultural study of Singapore's troubled relationship with the sea.

Charles Lim will represent Singapore in the 2015 Venice Biennale. He has a close relationship with the sea, being a former national sailor and having represented Singapore in the 1996 Olympics.

Jointly organised by:



National Library
Singapore

NUS MUSEUM

Weekend Guided Tour

Conducted in English | *All Saturdays and Sundays, 2pm
Conducted in Mandarin | *All Saturdays and Sundays, 2.30pm
Meeting point: Outside the Gallery, Level 10

Free weekend guided tours are available from February 2015.
Tours are limited to 20 participants per session, on a first-come-first-served basis.
For enquiries, please email visitnls@nlb.gov.sg

** There will be no tours on public holidays.*

Curator's Tour Part 1 (Land of Gold and Spices)

Conducted in English | 26 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 Apr, 15 May, 19 Jun, 10 Jul 2015, 7.30pm
Meeting point: Outside the Gallery, Level 10

Curator's Tour Part 2 (Island of Stories)

Conducted in English | 26 Feb, 20 Mar, 17 Apr, 15 May, 19 Jun, 10 Jul 2015, 9.00pm
Meeting point: Outside the Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 11

Free admission. Tours are limited to 20 participants per session,
on a first-come-first-served basis.
For enquiries, please email visitnls@nlb.gov.sg

School Self-guided Tour

Gallery, Level 10 and 11

Schools are able to organise a self-guided tour facilitated by their teachers. A handy educator's guide/teaching aid for teachers as well as activity sheets for students are available. Interested schools can email visitnls@nlb.gov.sg for more details.

MAPS! At the Public Libraries

Check out our interactive exhibition **MAPS!** which explores maps and navigation through history at the following libraries near you!

PUBLIC LIBRARY	DATE
Jurong Regional Library, Level 1	21 Jan 2015 - 26 Feb 2015
Bishan Public Library, Level 1, Foyer	28 Feb 2015 - 5 Apr 2015
Central Public Library, Basement 1	7 Apr 2015 - 14 Jun 2015
Woodlands Regional Library, Level 3	15 Jun 2015 - 29 Jul 2015

Maps that Shaped Singapore

12 Dec 2014 – 28 Feb 2015

Lee Kong Chian Reference Library, Level 8

Singapore's urban landscape has been shaped by its various Concept Plans – the country's strategic land use and transportation plans. By showcasing these Concept Plans and publications related to land use in Singapore, this book display examines the background and impact of Concept Plans in shaping the country's urban environment.

The Spice Islands' Impact on the Mapping of the World

Wednesday, 21 Jan, 7.00pm – 9.00pm

The Pod, Level 16

Speaker: **Dr David E. Parry**

How did the search for a sea route to the “Indies” and “Isles of Spicerie” become the Holy Grail of the great Renaissance explorers, revealing the continents of Africa and North and South America? Discover this and more as renowned soil scientist, Dr Parry shares his experience as an avid map collector and about his book *The Cartography of the East Indian Islands*.

Cartography at National Geographic: From Crow Quill Pen to Computer

Thursday, 5 Mar, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

Possibility Room, Level 5

Speaker: **Mr Juan José Valdés**

Technology has modified the way maps have been traditionally researched, designed and edited. This is nowhere more evident than at the National Geographic Society, with its cartographic

tradition spanning over 100 years; their cartographers have now embraced the fast-paced digital world of map-making. Speaking live from Washington DC via web broadcast, Mr Juan José Valdés, official geographer of the National Geographic Society, addresses the society's significant milestones and their impact on its maps and map products.

Mapping Histories: Cartographic Representation of Singapore and its Limits

Saturday, 21 Mar, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Possibility Room, Level 5

Speaker: **Dr Imran bin Tajudeen**

Maps record both cultural and natural physical data to varying degrees and a comparative perspective across time can reveal useful information about changes to multiple aspects of the landscape. In this session, Dr Imran, an assistant professor at the National University of Singapore's Department of Architecture, will discuss the use of old maps to uncover the lesser-known aspects of place histories in Singapore.

Mapping Singapore in World War II: A Global Perspective

Saturday, 11 Apr, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Possibility Room, Level 5

Speaker: **Mr Mok Ly Yng**

This presentation reviews the organisation of worldwide mapping efforts by the British and American mapping agencies during World War II as well as Singapore's military mapping from a global perspective. Selected military maps of Singapore that were in use or produced during World War II with significant points of interest reflected will be highlighted during this session by mapping consultant, Mr Mok Ly Yng.

Changing Landscapes of Singapore

Saturday, 25 Apr, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Possibility Room, Level 5

Speaker: **Associate Professor Victor R Savage**

Over the last 190 years of Singapore's history, the city-state landscapes have undergone tremendous changes and transformations. This talk by Associate Professor Victor R. Savage from the National University of Singapore's Department of Geography, provides a glimpse into Singapore's past and current landscapes and their implications in the imageability and legibility of Singapore to residents and tourists alike.

Planning for Singapore: How Do We Do It?

Saturday, 16 May, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

Possibility Room, Level 5

Speaker: **Mr Daniel Leong**

Given Singapore's limited space and multiple land uses, the nation's planners use a comprehensive framework that provides an integrated approach to sustainable development. Tools developed based on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) help to enhance and plan for the needs of the current and future generations of Singaporeans. Mr Daniel Leong, a planner with the Urban Redevelopment Authority, shares how these GIS tools can help to create a vibrant and sustainable city of distinction.



The programmes are limited to 120 participants per session, on a first-come-first-served basis. Admission is free. Please visit www.nlb.gov.sg/golibrary or scan the QR code to register.

The Past is A Foreign Country:

A special presentation

by the Singapore Memory Project

April to August 2015 | Promenade, Level 10, National Library Building

The Past is A Foreign Country is a selection of projects funded by the irememberSG fund that explore issues of territoriality, space and environment through the trope of memory in Singapore. For more information of the specific exhibitions and programmes, please visit **iremember.sg**.



Photo of Pulau Jong from *Points of Departure*
Photo credit: Marcus Ng

Projects showcase include:

- Points of Departure by Juria Toramae & Jerome Lim
- Island Nation by Captured (Edwin Koo, Zakaria Zainal & Juliana Tan)
- Memories of Pulau Brani by Muhammad Nadjad Abdul Rahim
- The Memories of Trees by Robert Zhao Renhui
- Singapore's Orchid History by Hedrick Kwan
- BuiltInSG by Meka Studios
- Architecture & Architects by DO NOT DESIGN
- irememberParks by Singapore Furniture Industries Council
- Building Memories by Achates 360 & Koh Hong Teng

Supported by:



GENERAL INFORMATION GUIDE

ADDRESS

National Library Building
100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064

St. Joseph's Church

Bus-stop (01013)
130, 133, 145, 197, 851, 960, NR7

OPERATING HOURS

Monday to Sunday,
10am – 9pm (except Public Holidays)

Hotel Grand Pacific

Bus-stop (01012)
2, 7, 12, 32, 33, 51, 61, 63, 80, 175, NR7

GETTING TO THE LIBRARY

BY TRAIN

10-minute walk from:
Bugis MRT Station
Bras Basah MRT Station
City Hall MRT Station

BY TAXI

Pick-up and drop-off points along
Middle Road and Victoria Street.

BY BUS

Cosmic Insurance Building
Bus-stop (01029)
7, 32, 51, 61, 63, 80, 145, 175, 197, 851

BY CAR

Parking is available at the National
Library Building.

Operating hours: Monday to Sunday,
7am to 11.30pm

Bras Basah Complex
Bus-stop (01019)
2, 12, 33, 130, 133, 960, NR7



Information is correct at time of print. The National Library, Singapore reserves the right to make changes to the programmes without prior notice.