

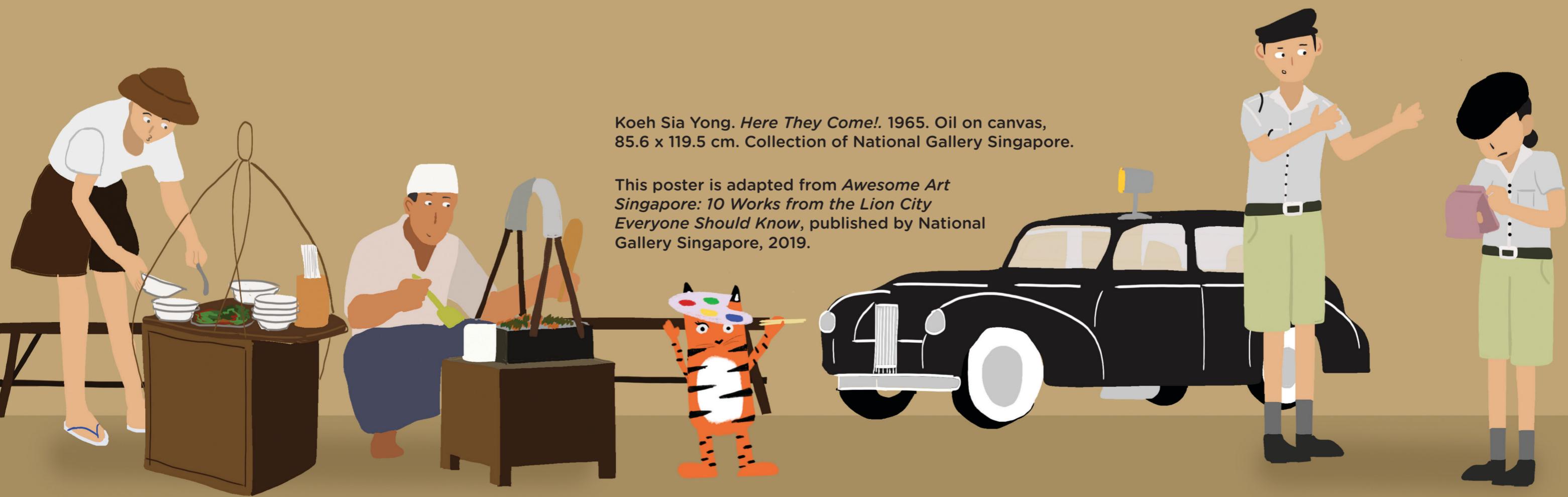
# HERE THEY COME!

BY KOEH SIA YONG, 1965



Who is coming, and why are they causing such a stir? Scenes like the one in this painting were common in Singapore in the 1950s and 1960s. Hawkers would sell their wares on the streets in carts and baskets. However, not all of them were licensed to sell food, and many did not know how to properly dispose their waste. Their poor hygiene could make many of their customers sick!

Sometimes, hawkers also blocked up streets and obstructed traffic. Because of these problems, police were assigned to patrol the streets and look out for hawkers without licenses. Those who were caught would have to pay a fine, and all their goods would be confiscated. No wonder the hawkers in the painting are in such a hurry to leave!



Koeh Sia Yong. *Here They Come!*. 1965. Oil on canvas, 85.6 x 119.5 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

This poster is adapted from *Awesome Art Singapore: 10 Works from the Lion City Everyone Should Know*, published by National Gallery Singapore, 2019.