



#### **MEDIA RELEASE**

For immediate release

# I LIGHT SINGAPORE RETURNS WITH AN INSPIRING AND IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE THAT BRINGS ART, SUSTAINABILITY AND PEOPLE TOGETHER



- SINGAPORE, 5 May 2025 As Singapore marks its 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, i Light Singapore (iLSG) returns from 29 May to 21 June 2025, to illuminate the city and connect communities through captivating light installations and exciting programmes that foster sustainable lifestyles. Organised by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and presented by UOB, Asia's leading light festival will light up Marina Bay and neighbouring precincts, including returning satellite site South Beach and for the first time, new sites along the Singapore River and at Raffles Place.
- Anchored on the theme *To Gather* and inspired by the colour red a wavelength on the visible light spectrum<sup>1</sup> and in celebration of SG60 the Festival will feature 17 new light art

<sup>1</sup> Since iLSG 2022, each edition of the Festival has been anchored on a colour from the visible light spectrum, which comprises different wavelengths that symbolise varied ways of seeing and understanding the world.

installations by 20 artists as well as a myriad of activities that aim to bring people from all backgrounds together to forge new memories and spark conversations on a more sustainable, shared future.

"As we celebrate SG60 this year, it is apt that the theme for i Light Singapore 2025 puts the spotlight on the power of collective action. The Festival will once again illuminate Marina Bay and serve as a focal point where diverse individuals, groups and ideas converge to shape a more sustainable future together. We invite everyone to join us in an immersive experience and to be part of the meaningful activities, because a brighter, more inclusive and sustainable future is one that we build together," said **Mr Lim Eng Hwee, Chief Executive Officer, URA**.

#### Fostering connections with interactive installations – Key highlights at Marina Bay

- 4 At the main festival ground of Marina Bay, captivating light art installations will invite visitors to interact with them and in the process, create art, sounds and memories together.
- Visitors can explore *Take a walk through the meadow with me* by Megan Tan and Tan Shao Xuan (Singapore) from the University of the Arts, London College of Communication. Located at the lawn beside the NTUC Building, the dynamic garden of 300 illuminated flowers was repurposed from acrylic waste discarded in the process of artwork-making at fabrication studios and workshops. These flowers respond to visitor presence with light and music, creating a sensory experience. Visitors can also participate in the *Design your own meadow memory* acrylic charm do-it-yourself workshop, where they get to take a piece of the Festival home by upcycling offcuts of the installation into personalised charms. This echoes Singapore's ongoing journey as a "Nation by Design", where thoughtful design can help us shape meaningful experiences and solutions for a more sustainable future. Marina Bay Sands will host *Piano Walk* by Amigo & Amigo (Australia), transforming its outdoor Event Plaza by the Marina Bay waterfront into a stage for collaborative music. Each visitor's steps on the larger-than-life piano collectively create unique melodies, coupled with an original composition that automatically plays every ten minutes.



Piano Walk by Amigo & Amigo, presented by Marina Bay Sands



Take a walk through the meadow with me by Megan Tan and Tan Shao Xuan, presented by DesignSingapore Council

At Clifford Square, located next to The Fullerton Bay Hotel Singapore, *Elementary* by Tonoptik (Montenegro) brings a seemingly regular, flat screen to life, where visitors' movements alter a virtual landscape on the screen inspired by the ocean, highlighting our relationship with nature's unpredictable rhythm. At the pontoon near the Red Dot Design Museum, 24 illuminated letters are suspended over the water at *Urban Oracle* by Ultravioletto (Italy). With a press of any of the three buttons along the boardwalk, light will pulse through the letters and reflect on the water surface Al-generated messages that are inspired by Singapore's past, present and future.



Elementary by Tonoptik, presented by The Fullerton Heritage



Urban Oracle by Ultravioletto, presented by Alibaba Cloud

### Radiating the iLSG experience beyond Marina Bay

For the first time, iLSG introduces new satellite sites along the Singapore River and at Raffles Place, bringing the Festival to more people. Set against the iconic Singapore River and on the façade of the UOB Plaza, *Reverse Waterfall* by UxU Studio (Taiwan), presented by UOB, will offer visitors a visual treat by creating the semblance of a waterfall flowing in the

reverse direction, inviting festival goers to reflect on what we often accept as 'natural', and in doing so, uncover new perspectives on reality.



Reverse Waterfall by UxU Studio, presented by UOB



Bridge of 1,000 Dreams by Studio Toer, presented by UOB and DesignSingapore Council

Presented by UOB and DesignSingapore Council, the *Bridge of 1,000 Dreams* will transform the Cavenagh Bridge across the Singapore River with illuminated bamboo sticks, reflecting the dreams and visions of Singaporeans that collectively build a stronger tomorrow. These two installations will be on display till 20 July 2025. **Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB**, said, "UOB has always been steadfast in doing right by our communities. The i Light Singapore 2025 installations celebrate SG60 and UOB's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary, symbolising our shared growth with the nation. The *Reverse Waterfall* represents our symbiotic relationship with the community, while the *Bridge of 1,000 Dreams* reflects our dedication to nurturing the aspirations of the young and building a strong future for all."



The Guardians by Matthew Aberline and The Beautiful And Useful Studio, presented by Raffles Place Alliance

In partnership with Raffles Place Alliance, Raffles Place Park will host a stunning inflatable garden, *The Guardians* by Matthew Aberline and The Beautiful And Useful Studio (Australia), which will showcase local flora in its designs, creating a space for visitors to gather.

Returning as a satellite site, South Beach will host *Saulux* by SPLACES.STUDIO (Malta), at its Fountain Plaza, where wind transforms into light and sound manifested within a field of swaying willow twigs, creating an immersive, auditory experience where visitors can connect with nature in a different yet delightful manner. Near South Beach's entrance to the Esplanade MRT station, *This is Not a Screen* utilises polarised screens that have been recycled from electronic waste, such as everyday digital devices, to offer changing perspectives when gently spun, prompting reflection on how digital technology can portray reality differently to each individual and questioning the extent to which these experiences are shared by all.



Saulux by SPLACES.STUDIO, presented by South Beach Consortium



This is Not a Screen by National University of Singapore, presented by Aedas

#### Encouraging communities to gather with exciting line-up of programmes

- 9 Adding to the vibrancy of the Festival is a line-up of new and exciting programmes that invite visitors of all ages and from all walks of life to converge and celebrate our collective aspirations for a sustainable future.
- Among them is the popular Festival Village, *GastroBeats*, which returns to the Bayfront Event Space from 29 May to 22 June 2025, serving as a lively gathering ground and culinary melting pot for the community. Leveraging the universal languages of food, music and shared experiences, GastroBeats introduces vibrant retail and pet-friendly zones as well as a new activation *Let's Trouble The Water!* where maverick Jelilo characters take centre stage to rally visitors to take action against marine pollution. There will be something for everyone all ages and across generations, creating opportunities for new memories to be created, connections to be forged, and unique experiences to be enjoyed.

More details of the artworks and programmes can be found in the Annex, with the full line-up announced closer to the opening of the Festival.

iLSG 2025 will be held from 29 May to 21 June 2025, 7.30pm to 11.00pm daily, with extended hours to 12 midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Admission is free while charges apply for certain programmes<sup>2</sup>. Visit <a href="https://www.ilightsingapore.gov.sg">www.ilightsingapore.gov.sg</a> for more information.

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#### **About Urban Redevelopment Authority**

The Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) is Singapore's land use planning and conservation agency. Our mission is "to make Singapore a great city to live, work and play". We strive to create an endearing home and a vibrant city through long-term planning and innovation, in partnership with the community.

We have transformed Singapore into one of the most liveable cities in Asia through judicious land use planning and good urban design. Adopting a long-term and comprehensive planning approach, we formulate strategic plans such as the Long-Term Plan and the Master Plan to guide the physical development of Singapore in a sustainable manner. Developed to support economic growth, our plans and policies are focused on achieving a quality living environment for Singapore.

We take on a multi-faceted role to turn plans and visions into reality. As the main government land sales agent, we attract and channel private capital investments to develop sites that support planning, economic and social objectives. Through our regulatory function, we ensure that development works are aligned with our plans. As the conservation authority, we have an internationally recognised conservation programme, and have successfully conserved not just

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> More information on ticketed programmes will be shared at a later date.

single buildings, but entire districts. We also partner the community to enliven our public spaces to create a car-lite, people-friendly and liveable city for all to enjoy.

In shaping a distinctive city, we promote architecture and urban design excellence, and innovate to build a resilient city of opportunity that fulfils the aspirations of our people.

Visit <a href="www.ura.gov.sg">www.ura.gov.sg</a> for more information.

#### Annex: Details of selected artworks and programmes at i Light Singapore 2025

#### **Marina Bay**



#### **PIANO WALK**

Amigo & Amigo (Australia)
Commissioned musical score by Otis
Studio

Location: Marina Bay Sands Event Plaza

Presented by Marina Bay Sands

With this larger-than-life piano, strangers become collaborators. What was once confined to a soloist is now spread among many hands and feet, gliding across an expanded landscape of sound.

Magnifying the carefully crafted elements that are typically hidden within a conventional piano — felt hammers, brass strings, wooden soundboards — *Piano Walk* plays an original composition by John McHugh (Otis Studio) every five minutes, following visitors' interaction with it. It then returns to silence, awaiting new visitors to step, walk or hop into the space to continue the melody.

Crafted from durable materials, its robust design enables visitors, separated by geography, to connect over time and space through the shared experience of touching the same keys. In this way, *Piano Walk* creates space to gather for shared communal experiences around the world.

#### About the artist

Founded in 2012, Amigo & Amigo specialises in the creation of permanent and temporary interactive artworks. With an extensive history, the company takes pride in having successfully delivered hundreds of projects and being featured in more than 50 light festivals worldwide.

Amigo & Amigo produces art that connects with audiences through meaningful narratives and physical interactivity, with the intention of igniting a transcending moment of lightness, joy and play. Renowned for their expertise in custom design and fabrication, they consistently deliver world-class, technology-driven projects.



# TAKE A WALK THROUGH THE MEADOW WITH ME

Megan Tan and Tan Shao Xuan (Singapore)

Location: Lawn beside NTUC Building

Presented by DesignSingapore Council

Take a walk through the meadow with me is an immersive, interactive installation that responds to movement and human presence. As you get close to the artwork, flowers begin to glow and music follows. As more people gather, more lights appear, and melodic notes play in tandem — the sensory experience intensifies as the crowd grows.

Once-discarded acrylic waste has now been shaped into flowers, and industrial fragments have found renewed purpose in this garden, creating a backdrop where collective memories take shape.

This installation invites visitors to reflect on the hidden beauty in discarded items, and explores how human presence can co-create a landscape of renewal, connection and transformation.

It also resonates with Singapore's ongoing journey as a "Nation by Design", where thoughtful design can help us shape meaningful experiences and solutions for a more sustainable future. "Nation by Design" is part of DesignSingapore Council's initiatives for SG60 and celebrates Singapore's transformation into a liveable and loveable city by design.

#### About the artist

Shao Xuan is a multidisciplinary designer from Singapore, currently based in London, United Kingdom. She specialises in graphic design, illustration, creative technology and immersive design for interactive installations. Her work engages people through digital and analogue realms, where she creates light-hearted, play-centric projects that are also emotional and reflective.

Megan is a Singaporean illustrator, animator and designer who explores interactive and video media. She loves creating characters and environments that bridge the gap between the familiar and fantastical. She is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree in Interaction Design Arts at the London College of Communication.



#### **ELEMENTARY**

Tonoptik (Montenegro)

Location: Clifford Square

Presented by The Fullerton Heritage

*Elementary* transforms a flat screen into an illusion composed of light, depth, physics and control. It brings deep waters and abstract worlds into our urban environment. Within the cube's virtual space, these otherworldly interactive shapes float in response to viewers' movements. Viewers on both sides attempt to take control of the shapes, only to find unpredictability.

Elementary shows how minute actions can lead to big changes. Just like nature itself, the installation follows its own rules and unusual laws of physics, responding to human presence yet without being controlled by it.

The artwork is a reminder that nature's elements and forces follow beautiful and mysterious patterns. We can learn and engage with them — but their essence remains their own.

#### About the artist

Tonoptik, a new media art project, operates within the fields of audiovisual, sound art, and the intersection of art and science. Their minimalist aesthetic serves as the foundation for technological experimentation and free exploration of how modern technologies intersect with the human experience.

They have exhibited at international music and new media art festivals worldwide. Their accomplishments include the Spanish MADATAC Award, a 2020 special prize from the Cyland MediaArt Lab for audiovisual work, and an Honorary Mention from the Share Prize XV jury.



#### **URBAN ORACLE**

Ultravioletto (Italy)

Location: Pontoon near Red Dot Design Museum

Presented by Alibaba Cloud

Twenty-four illuminated letters are suspended along the pontoon's edge, their light reflected in the water below.

Red buttons stand at three points along the boardwalk. When pressed, light pulses through the letters steadily like a heartbeat, triggering thought-provoking Al-generated messages inspired by Singapore's past, present and future.

Urban Oracle is Ultravioletto's reimagining of divination. Where ancient pilgrims once sought wisdom from temple oracles, modern society now turns to digital systems and algorithms for guidance. Visitors can consult Urban Oracle in a similar fashion, as it merges cultural heritage with environmental imperatives in its answers, drawing on ancient knowledge while gently guiding us towards a more sustainable future.

#### About the artist

Ultravioletto is a multimedia art and interaction design studio that explores the boundaries between the physical and digital worlds. Their practice combines architecture, design and storytelling with emerging technologies to forge new expressive art forms.

Their multidisciplinary team of designers, creative coders, 3D artists and researchers pursues experimental paths, driven by innovation. The studio strives to create interactive and immersive experiences that transport audiences beyond reality's limits, generating environments where physical and digital realms intertwine to produce new, hybrid realities.

#### Singapore River



#### **REVERSE WATERFALL**

UxU Studio (Taiwan)

Location: UOB Plaza Façade

Presented by UOB

Waterfalls have captivated mankind for centuries, and we continue to recognise them as attractions today. In *Reverse Waterfall*, thousands of LED meteor tubes are hand-arranged in vertical patterns to create the semblance of falling water. As you approach this digital cascade, the unexpected unfolds — light flows upward, defying gravity, and time itself becomes an enigma, deliberately confounding expectations. The artwork evokes familiarity, only to disrupt it through change and fragmentation.

Reverse Waterfall challenges us to question what we take for granted as "natural". It invites reflection on how our beliefs shape our understanding of the world and how those beliefs evolve when we take the chance to look at them more closely. The artwork explores the space between what we think we know and what we eventually come to understand, urging a deeper look at our preconceived notions.

Extended viewing till 20 July 2025.

#### About the artist

UxU Studio, founded in Taiwan by Kuan-Hung Chen and Ying-Chu Chen, creates multidisciplinary work spanning object design to monumental installations, with a focus on bridging architecture, design and art through innovative space creation.

Their exhibition journey began in Taiwan with the Yuejin and Taiwan Lantern Festivals. International recognition followed in 2018 at Amsterdam Light Festival — a first for Taiwanese artists. Their light installations have since illuminated festivals across Europe (the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Sweden), Asia (Japan, South Korea), and the Middle East (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates), reflecting their ambition to showcase Taiwan's creative energy globally.



#### **BRIDGE OF 1,000 DREAMS**

Studio Toer (The Netherlands)

Location: Cavenagh Bridge

Presented by UOB and DesignSingapore Council

A thousand bamboo sticks shape a corridor of dreams shining bright, featuring Singapore motifs created by local design studio Binary Style. Each one carries the mark of a different hand, a different mind. A thousand futures, translated into designs by those who will live them.

As UOB commemorates 90 years of service to the community, this glowing structure bears the aspirations of children in our society. The drawings speak of UOB's enduring focus – to support the dreams of its community by building a stronger tomorrow for all.

This bridge also reflects a country designed through collective imagination, ambition and determination. As a "Nation by Design", a theme celebrated by DesignSingapore Council for SG60, Singapore has transformed into a liveable and loveable city – not by chance, but through deliberate and intentional design. *Bridge of 1,000 Dreams* reminds us that design has always been at the heart of our nation's development.

From a distance, personal expressions blur into unified light. One sees not the individual sticks but the entire bridge — a metaphor for how society functions when personal aspirations become public possibilities.

Whose dreams will shape tomorrow? Here, the answer is everyone's.

Extended viewing till 20 July 2025.

#### About the artist

Toer is a multidisciplinary design studio from the Netherlands, founded in 2011 by Castor Bours and Wouter Widdershoven.

Characterised by a strong exploratory and experimental approach, Studio Toer pushes both the technical and aesthetic limits of design across a wide range of applied arts, from light installations and objects to interactive experiences and innovative products.

Toer's interactive installations have been presented at numerous international festivals, enjoyed by audiences worldwide.

#### **Raffles Place**



#### THE GUARDIANS

Matthew Aberline and The Beautiful and Useful Studio (Australia)

Location: Raffles Place Park

Presented by Raffles Place Alliance

The Guardians is an immersive landscape of vibrant inflatable sculptures. Recycled materials are transformed into abstract representations of tropical flowers and foliage in a studio that operates solely on solar power.

With a family history of florists spanning three generations, the artist's grandmother, mother and sister all arranged real-life blooms. In this work, the artist explores enduring connections between landscape, identity and kinship through vibrant artistic forms.

These silent guardians create a space for gathering where, for a shared moment, no one remains a stranger to beauty.

#### About the artist

Matthew Aberline and The Beautiful and Useful Studio are based in Sydney, Australia, and have shown their work all around the world. They are best known for their gorgeous prints, fabulous use of colour and large-scale inflatable works.

They have collaborated with organisations such as the United Nations, the World Trade Centre and World Pride in New York, the Art Gallery of New South Wales, the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney, the National Library and the National Science Centre in Canberra.

#### South Beach



#### **SAULUX**

SPLACES.STUDIO (Malta)

Location: Fountain Plaza, South Beach Avenue Level 1

Presented by South Beach Consortium

Saulux reveals the invisible currents that surround us daily. As wind moves through this dense field of willow twigs, the stems respond with light — a warm glow at 2200K, the corresponding colour temperature of warm, natural sunlight. The name itself tells this story: saule (willow) meets lux (light).

At the centre of this artificial grove sits a weatherproof case housing a microcomputer. Sensors detect the movement of each twig in the breeze, and a neural network processes these signals into patterns of light and sound. Like the natural world itself, no two moments produce identical configurations.

Saulux both represents nature and responds to it, highlighting the magic found in the everyday. It is an invitation for all to pause and connect with nature in a profoundly new and beautiful way.

#### About the artist

SPLACES.STUDIO connects artists, scientists and engineers globally. Founded in 2024 in Malta, they create interactive sculptures that engage with both nature and humans.

Their award-winning work transforms natural phenomena into art. Using AI technology, they build systems where nature and technology work together harmoniously.

SPLACES.STUDIO believes art can bridge the gap between people and nature, offering new perspectives on environmental challenges through immersive experiences, and fostering positive transformations through the integration of light, sound, kinetics and living elements.



#### THIS IS NOT A SCREEN

National University of Singapore (Singapore)

Location: South Beach Avenue, Level B1

Presented by Aedas

Screens permeate modern existence, from small screens in pockets and medium screens on desks to large screens on walls. Each presents a curated version of the world, filtered through invisible algorithms.

This is Not a Screen examines this phenomenon using polarised screens recycled from our devices, altering light in fascinating ways. Depending on the viewing angle, no two visitors see the same image. You can create new visual perspectives by rotating the screens, which distort light to create unique perceptions of the monolith in the centre, much like how digital interfaces customise reality for their users.

This installation prompts reflection about collective experiences. When individuals receive personalised versions of information, the nature of common experience and discourse shifts. Our screens simultaneously create both a shared platform and individual realities.

Offering no easy judgement about digital life, *This is Not a Screen* simply makes visible the usually invisible process of filtering. It reveals how screens transform not only *what* we see but also *how* we see.

#### About the artist

Saw Hnin Thundray, Kaung Htet, Hnin Ei Lwin, Thinzar Hlaing and Moe Htet Nyunt Aung are a group of Master of Architecture students from the National University of Singapore.

A collective formed in 2024, they approach design as a way to question the status quo and inspire change and seek to create works that are artistically and personally transformative. Their artistic mission: to reveal what is typically unseen through design, and to challenge perceptions and prompt alternative perspectives through reflection, conversation and reinterpretation.

#### **Programmes**

# GastroBeats – Festival Village of i Light Singapore: A feast of flavours and a symphony of sounds



Embark on a culinary adventure, where irresistible flavours from around the world await — from delectable street food to gourmet delights, there is something to satisfy every craving!

GastroBeats is a celebration of diversity and community spirit. Explore vibrant retail zones offering unique products and treasured finds from local creators and small businesses. Do not forget to bring your furry companions along to the pet-friendly zones. There is fun in store for everyone!

Feel the pulse of GastroBeats with daily live music performances that keep the energy pumped up all night long!

Do not miss this year's exciting talent showcases:

- **GIG-ers**: Discover emerging music stars as they take the stage, mentored by the beloved local band 53A, who serves as the Chief Music Officers (CMOs) of GastroBeats.
- GB-LETs: Watch aspiring food content creators as they showcase their culinary skills under the guidance of Aiken Chia and Nina Tan, the Chief Content Officers (CCOs) of GastroBeats.
- GastroBuds: Watch passionate home cooks turn their culinary dreams into thriving food ventures, guided and mentored by The Meatmen Group, the Chief Foodie Officers (CFOs) of GastroBeats.

This year, GastroBeats brings you "Let's Trouble The Water!" — an activation that transforms the Festival Village into a vibrant space for change. Jelilo characters — Captain Skull, One Eye, and Scarface — take centre stage and rally festivalgoers to take collective action against marine pollution and encourage environmental sustainability. Using energy-efficient lights, the installations embody i Light Singapore's curatorial theme "To Gather" whilst serving as both a visual spectacle and an educational platform.

As part of our efforts to be sustainable, we are also serious about going green with rechargeable batteries, solar-powered facilities, and absolutely no plastic straws! Bring your reusable cups and containers to join our crew of eco-warriors!

It is the ultimate fusion of food, music and fun at GastroBeats! From bites to beats, do not miss this celebration that will tantalise your taste buds and keep you dancing through the night!

Find out more information at: <a href="https://gastrobeats.com.sg/">https://gastrobeats.com.sg/</a>

#### Location

**Bayfront Event Space** 

#### **Dates**

29 May to 22 June 2025

#### **Time**

4.00pm to 11.00pm daily

#### **Pricing**

General admission is free, while charges apply for selected activities

#### Design your own meadow memory: Take home a piece of the festival with you



Join us for a hands-on workshop where creativity meets sustainability. Using offcuts from the meadow flowers from our installation, Take a walk through the meadow with me, craft personalised charms for yourself and your loved ones!

This workshop will explore how discarded materials have potential to be transformed into beautiful, functional pieces through thoughtful design.

Each participant will create a unique accessory whilst reflecting on the value of sustainability and creative reuse.

Take home not just a handmade charm, but a meaningful reminder of the installation's message — that with a little imagination, everyday waste can be turned into something truly special. This also echoes Singapore's ongoing journey as a "Nation by Design", where thoughtful design can help us shape meaningful experiences and solutions for a more sustainable future.

#### Find out more at:

https://www.ilightsingapore.gov.sg/programmes/design-your-own-meadow-memory/

# Location

Lawn beside NTUC Building

# Dates

31 May 2025 and 7 June 2025

### Time

6pm and 7.30pm

# Pricing

\$3 per pax