

PRESS RELEASE

136 GOETHE: A NEW SPACE FOR THE ARTS AT GOETHE-INSTITUT SINGAPORE



**GOETHE
INSTITUT**

Sprache. Kultur. Deutschland.

Recognizing the importance of physical spaces for the arts in a dense urban environment, the Goethe-Institut Singapore welcomes members of the arts community to its project space 136 GOETHE for new partnerships and shared initiatives.

Once library and reading room, the souterrain space in the historic shophouse on Neil Road has been transformed into a project space for the arts. Corresponding to both address and occupant, the space is called 136 GOETHE. At about 100sqm (1076sqft), equipped with professional sound and lighting, and with a separate access point, it lends itself to multiple functions and uses, be it workshops, performances, or exhibitions.

DATE

13 April 2021

INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

The meaning and utilization of 136 GOETHE shall be as much defined by its users and visitors, by artists and independent cultural practitioners, as by the Goethe-Institut Singapore. Everyone who is interested in intercultural collaboration and innovative practices is invited to engage in and access the new project space.

“We intend to create opportunities that allow new ideas and practices to unfold for a space of innovation and experimentation”, explains Han-Song Hiltmann, Director of the Goethe-Institut Singapore. “We provide our own framework, our institutional expertise, our support, and our resources. At the same time we want to explore ways of shared ownership and collaborative modes of working.”

In this sense the Goethe-Institut Singapore hopes to continue the conversation with its partners, audiences and the arts community of Singapore. Throughout 2020, a number of surveys and evaluations were conducted to discuss and ideate the reconceptualization of the space, most notably a series of sharing sessions with 40 practitioners from various disciplines including theatre, dance, music, visual arts, literature and critical writing.

PROGRAMMING FOR 136 GOETHE

As a first intervention, artist Rizman Putra created a *chonteng* (Malay for doodle) at GOETHE 136. Lines, dots and patterns extend from the floor across the walls to the ceiling of the entrance landing. Through the transparent floor coating part of the work will become permanent.

“The utilisation of the space will be part of our ongoing programming”, says Valerie-Ann Tan, Programmer at the Goethe-Institut Singapore. “It is our idea to provide a platform which allows openness and engagements that will shape the constitution and meaning of the space.”

Next up is the pilot programme *Project Work*, calling independent curators, dramaturgs, or art collectives to propose a process-driven project involving practitioners who will inhabit the space, develop their works in relation to the site as a temporary intervention, and present its outcome – whether work-in-progress, performance, exhibition, or event. During the short residency the space will remain open to the public. Details are to be released soon.

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MORE INFORMATION

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ABOUT GOETHE-INSTITUT

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach. It promotes knowledge of the German language abroad and fosters international cultural cooperation. It conveys a multi-layered and contemporary image of Germany by providing information about its cultural, social and political life.

With a worldwide network of institutes and centres, the Goethe-Institut forms close partnerships at both the local and the regional levels with artists, cultural professionals, researchers, educational experts and institutions. Its cultural and educational programmes encourage intercultural dialogue and enable cultural involvement. They strengthen the development of structures in civil society and foster worldwide mobility.

The Goethe-Institut is a partner for all who actively engage with culture and education, working independently and without political ties. Its interdisciplinary work brings together people from different practices, cultures and countries. These encounters are open and creative, paving the way for new developments and creating sustainable relations for the future.

In Singapore, the Goethe-Institut was established in 1978 and has become a relevant partner for local cultural and educational institutions.

PHOTOS

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<https://ablage.goethe.de/?f=f1cab5511>

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