

Waterfront lighting

Marina Bay becomes the backdrop for a new art installation festival which uses light as a medium

By corrie tan

Floating jellyfish containing lightbulbs and glowing 'flowers' in 12m-tall vases are going to be part of Marina Bay's new skyline.



Singapora-Flora, a light sculpture by Australian Warren Langley, is one of 20 art installations that will brighten up Marina Bay in October.

-- PHOTO: WARREN LANGLEY

From Oct 15 to Nov 7, 20 light art installations will jazz up the Marina Bay waterfront promenade every night as part of a \$2-million festival called i Light Marina Bay.

At a press conference held at The Fullerton Hotel yesterday to announce the event, festival director Mary-Anne Kyriakou, 36, said: 'The city is an open gallery. It's no longer just about architecture. It's also about the atmosphere - light, smell and sound.'

She adds: 'Light is intangible and very connected to how we feel. At night, it can really transform the space. Marina Bay is an amazing backdrop for the works.'

The 'i' in the name alludes to the festival's innovative content, its intelligent use of lighting and an international line-up of creative talent.

It will be Asia's first sustainable light art festival, presented by the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) in collaboration with Smart Light Singapore. The latter is a non-profit body established this year to develop urban light festivals here and raise awareness about energy reduction.

The exhibits do not waste much energy as they use LED lights, energy-saving lightbulbs and surfaces that reflect existing light sources in the area. The organisers have also asked buildings in the area to turn their lights off for short periods to offset the power consumed by the festival.

Kyriakou, who is Australian, said that each of the works needs ample space and cover of night to shine - hence, the need for intrusive lights nearby to be masked or turned off.

One of the highlights of the festival is Jellight, by Singaporean Aamer Taher and Frenchman Pascal Petitjean, an installation which allows visitors to touch the tentacles of a couple of jellyfish-like objects that are about four metres wide.

Resembling flying saucers with tentacles and lit from within by energy-saving lightbulbs, the floating sculptures contain helium and will be anchored to the ground by steel cables, allowing them to sway in the wind. Representing the escape of jellyfish from polluted oceans, they are meant to raise public awareness about the natural environment.

Taher, 48, the principal of AAMER Architects and director of Aamer Taher Design Studio, said he had 'imagined an invasion of alien species'.

The festival is part of the URA-initiated, community-driven Marina Bay Public Art Programme, which aims to integrate public art into the area and transform it.

Forty applications from artists keen to exhibit were received through a regional open call that went out in April this year. Eventually, 10 installations by Singapore-based artists were chosen. They will be on display alongside 10 works by international artists, who were invited to participate in the festival because they are well known in the field. These artists include OCUBO, a group of multimedia artists based in Portugal, and Australian artist Warren Langley, who recently did a light installation for the 2010 Winter Olympics Village in Vancouver.

An installation named Wattfish?, by Singapore's Meinhardt Light Studio's team of Dan Foreman, Janice Tan, Cherry Wang and Lee Zi Chang, features fibre optic poles resembling fishing rods that will be mounted on the Helix Bridge.

These 'fishing rods' will light up only when visitors use the handle crank on the rods to 'reel' in the lines. In this way, the viewer-participant literally powers the exhibit.

Co-creator Wang, 29, said: 'We hope that, through this work, people will think of Singapore when it was still a fishing village and many people fished at what is now Marina Bay.'

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view it

i LIGHT MARINA BAY

Where: Various locations around Marina Bay

When: Oct 15 to Nov 7. Open from 7.30pm to midnight daily

Admission: Free

Business Times, 13 Aug 10 (Page 31)

A showcase of light art

i Light Marina Bay is Asia's first sustainable light art festival, reports NATALIE KOH

ONE used to go 'wow' at light festivals, when sculptures or buildings are lit up at night. In these ecologically-sensitive times though, a light show will only make you think: 'This is certainly a lot of wasted electricity.'

That's why i Light Marina Bay, Asia's first sustainable light art festival, aims to light up the nightscape of Singapore in as sustainable a way as possible.

Co-curator Randy Chan, one of Singapore's leading young architects, explains the rationale of the light festival: 'What we wanted to do was to tie in the festival as part of the whole Marina Bay completion. We want to use the light festival to highlight the unique site that is Marina Bay to portray the image of Singapore being a city of the future.'

The festival, which has the theme of People, Place & Time, is also a part of Marina Bay Invitations 2010, a series of events planned to promote Marina Bay as a vibrant venue and a destination for a brand new live-work-play experience. The small letter 'i' in i Light Marina Bay stands for innovative content, intelligent use of lighting as well as an international lineup.

Mr Chan adds: 'The whole aim of the festival is to raise awareness about energy usage of artificial light, encourage public participation in the festival, create opportunities for professional lighting designers and to promote Singapore's night skies.'

Light walk

The key highlight of the festival is a light walk to view 20 light sculptures, half of which are by local designers while the others are by international designers.

Among the international artists are experienced designers such as award-winning Ingo Bracke from Germany, world-renowned Australian artist Warren Langley and OCUBO, a multimedia atelier based in Sintra, Portugal.

Local designers include contemporary artist Michael Lee, architect Aamer Taher and the lighting design team from Meinhardt Light Studio Singapore, one of the leading international consultancies in Singapore.

Meinhardt's design, Wattfish? is an interactive installation that pays tribute to the days when Singapore was a mere fishing village. Four fibre optic poles that resemble fishing rods will be mounted onto the balustrade of the four pods on the recently opened Helix Bridge and is specially designed to complement the bridge's existing DNA form.

But whether or not the designs are from Singapore or overseas, the curators aim to showcase them using sustainable methods. Co-curator Kelley Cheng, who is also Editor-in-Chief of Singapore Architect magazine, as well as founder of publishing & design consultancy, The Press Room, says: 'Going back to what Randy said about the city of the future, as you know there are a lot of disasters in the world right now and people should be aggressively doing their part to save the world. So ideally, a city of the future would be ecologically friendly, which ties the light festival in with what the URA (Urban Redevelopment Authority) wants to do, which is obviously to aspire to be a sort of a model for the rest of the world that see.'

i Light Marina Bay, developed in partnership with URA is helmed, together with Ms Cheng and Mr Chan, by festival director Mary-Anne Kyriakou, who has experience in light festivals as she founded and directed both Smart Light Singapore 2010 and Smart Light Sydney 2009.

Low energy

Ms Cheng further explains that they will make sure most of the lights used would be LED which has low energy consumption. 'Also, some of the light sculptures don't even use any artificial light. They will rely on existing light and some will only be done in the day. One design even borrows light, forming a sort of mirage that actually mirrors existing light in the city,' she says.

Mr Chan adds, 'Our participation in sustainability extends beyond technology, to how we actually look at the city. Sustainability in cities is always about making things last longer, keeping them in optimum position and I think this encompasses that . . . We don't plan to throw the sculptures and installations away when the festival ends, we're hoping to move them somewhere and continuously showcase them.'

In the future, Ms Cheng and Mr Chan hope to bring the light festival back every two years with an even larger variety of the different ways to showcase light art. 'There're so many ways of presenting art and this light walk of 20 sculptures is but one way. There are actually some light artists in Singapore that people don't know so we wanted a segment where we would also invite performance light artists and even visual artists. But right now the festival is new, and with limited resources, so we'll just focus on what we have now,' Ms Cheng says.

'i Light Marina Bay' runs from Oct 15 to Nov 7 for free. One of the art pieces, Flight to Light, will be showcased as a preview to the festival at The Fullerton Heritage Gallery from Aug 12 to Nov 7

Title translations:

Bright lights to light up Marina Bay in Oct

Summary Of Article: The URA is presenting a light art festival in October which will add colours to the Marina Bay waterfront promenade and enhance the night city skyline. The three-week festival will showcase more than 20 light art installations and sculptures.

At the media conference yesterday, Ms Fun Siew Leng, URA's Group Director (Urban Planning & Design) said that this is Asia's first sustainable light art festival which would help to inject buzz into Marina Bay's nightscape. Although the various light art installations would require power, energy-efficient lighting would be used to avoid adding on to the environmental burden.

Festival Director Mary-Anne Kyriakou said that lighting could make a difference to a space; and that there is a global emerging trend for such light art festivals. She added that cities are no longer just about architecture, but also the atmosphere created by different sensual lighting.

10 local artists will be involved in the Festival. Some of the artworks will focus on interactivity; others will work on complementing the surrounding buildings, exploiting creativity within a limited urban space.

The installation by design team from Meinhardt Light Studio has fishing-rod like fibre optic poles mounted on the pods on The Helix Bridge. The designers hope that this will remind people of Singapore's fishing village past as they admire Marina Bay's nightscape. Team member Cherry Wang said that the installation is also environmental-friendly as it is powered by human energy - by winding the reel to illuminate the fibre optic pole.

Architect Aamer Taher's inspiration came from the ocean. His sculptural light art installation depicts the jellyfish which has escaped the over-polluted oceans. The message is to mind people to be aware of the impact of environmental pollution on marine life. Taher shared that the challenge is to prevent the installation from being swung by heavy winds and rains during the Festival.

The installation by Angela Chong is an art piece that illuminates the night and which also serves as a seat. The acrylic sheets allow the reflection of different colours of lights which could be turned into a colourful light show.

i Light Marina Bay will be held from 15 Oct to 7 Nov at Marina Bay waterfront promenade. Admission is free.

News Article:

滨海湾 灯光艺术展

华灯10月照亮滨海湾

为期三个星期的“照亮滨海湾”展览，将在滨海湾滨水步道展出海内外艺术家的20多件灯饰作品，为新加坡的夜晚增添色彩，注入活力。

吴淑贤 报道

市区重建局将在今年10月为滨海湾的滨水步道办一场五彩斑斓的街头灯光艺术展，让夜晚的滨海湾景色更迷人，展现灯饰魅力。

为期三星期“照亮滨海湾”（i Light Marina Bay）展览，展出海内外艺术家的20多件灯饰作品。展示的实体雕塑，以不同颜色灯光照亮，增添光彩，并与滨海湾沿岸建筑的灯光相映成辉，让滨海湾夜景更添韵味，更添绚丽。

尽量采用低能源灯泡 减低环境负担

市区重建局城市规划与设计高级副司长范秀均昨天在记者会上说，这是滨海湾首次举行类似的灯饰装置艺术展，有助于为加波夜的景观注入活力。

虽然五光十色的灯饰艺术需要电力运作，不过当局将尽可能采用低能源灯泡，避免增加环境负担。

灯光艺术展创意总监克拉克说，灯光可改变一个空间的氛围，让它们散发与白天截然不同的魅力。基于灯光的发展潜能大，欧洲近年来已主办越来越多灯光艺术（light art）展。

她说：“现在，一座城市讲究的不只是建筑，它的氛围也同样重要，这可透过声色光影等元素来营造。”

本地10名艺术家将参与滨海湾灯光艺术展。一些作品强调互动元素，一些则与附近建筑融为一体，在有限的城市空间发挥无限创意。

Meinhardt Light Studio的灯光设计师，就准备从螺旋桥上，把20至25条细长的灯饰垂挂下来，看起来就像一排垂钓者从桥上伸出一根根的鱼竿。他们希望公众在欣赏滨海湾的繁华夜色时，也能回忆起它的历史面貌，回想起当年常见的钓鱼情景。

参与构思的灯光设计师王程翰受访时说，这个作品也是强调环保，因为它不靠电供电，只要转动桥上的渔钩，灯饰就会亮起，转动速度越快，灯饰也会更快亮起来。

建筑师陈永也以海洋为灵感，所创作的艺术品则像浮出海面的水母，他希望提醒人们，环境污染会对海洋生物构成威胁。

每个水母灯饰约五六公尺高，所需电压的增长灯饰，可让公众触摸，增加互动乐趣。

她不说，这个户外展览举行三个星期，其中一个考量是避免灯饰在强风大雨时猛烈摇摆。因此，他打算在天气转弱时调整水母灯饰的高度，以免它们过度晃动。

不同于其他作品，艺术家陈文健创作的不单是件艺术品，也是具有实用价值的椅子。椅子以亚克力（acrylic）板制成，白天看似透明，晚上则摇身一变，散发五颜六色的光芒。

陈文健说，公众不但可坐在椅子上休息，特殊的C型设计，也让他们能与坐在对面的人交谈。

“照亮滨海湾”灯光艺术展从10月15日举行至11月7日。艺术品在滨海湾滨水步道展出，入场免费。

资料来源：市区重建局

■ 单位水母的灯饰浮出海面，提醒人们污染对海洋生物构成的威胁。

■ 从螺旋桥上垂挂的灯饰犹如一根根的鱼竿，让人忆起当年常见的钓鱼活动。

Channel NewsAsia, 12 Aug 10

S'pore to hold Asia's first sustainable light festival this Oct

By Lynda Hong

SINGAPORE: Singapore looks set to hold Asia's first sustainable light festival, which will be run from October 15 to November 7.

Over 20 light art installations will be featured at the i Light Marina Bay Festival, to promote energy-efficient lighting for the urban environment.

Street lights along the 3.5km Marina Bay area, which are deemed intrusive to the installations, will be switched off.

i Light Marina Bay festival director Mary Anne Kyriakou said organisers are hoping to rally buildings, especially those in the Marina Bay area, to save energy.

"We hope there will be enough uptake from Marina Bay stakeholders and other buildings and offices to turn off lights for a period of time during the festival period, so there's an offset of lamp power use, in terms of turning off lights in commercial office buildings with lamp power consumed in the festival," she said.

Germany and Sydney have held similar festivals.

-CNA/wk

Xin.MSN, 12 Aug 10

Title translations Only:

Light Art Festival to come to Marina Bay

News Article:

灯光雕塑节即将在滨海湾登场

不需要大量供电也能散发光彩的灯光雕塑节，即将在滨海湾登场。



灯光雕塑节即将在滨海湾登场

请点击收看视频。

新传媒新闻报道，不需要大量供电也能散发光彩的灯光雕塑节，即将在滨海湾登场。为期三个星期的滨海湾灯光节 10 月 15 日开始举行，将展出超过 20 座灯光雕塑，而主题将围绕在能源节约上。到时滨海湾一带大约 3.5 公里长的街道上街灯将熄灭，以让灯光雕塑更显光彩夺目。