

NATURE AS PRACTICE



Photograph Courtesy of Singapore Timber Association

Conversations Across Art, Science, Ecology and Everyday Life.
NUS Museum - Friday 1st & Sunday 3rd August
Singapore Botanic Gardens - Saturday 2nd August 2014

Nature as Practice is a six session interdisciplinary symposium collaboration between the School of Art Design and Media (ADM) at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National University of Singapore (NUS) Museum and the Singapore Botanic Gardens. Curated by Lucy Davis and Shabbir Hussain Mustafa in conjunction with the NUS Museum exhibition, *“When you get closer to the heart, you may find cracks...”* *Stories of Wood by the Migrant Ecologies Project*.

There are many things that humans do to nature in Southeast Asia. The emphasis in this symposium is upon what nature does to us, about nature as an active partner in human practice, and the modes of human practice that are provoked by encounters with the natural world, as experienced by natural scientists, historians, cultural theorists, artists, writers, architects, ethnomusicologists, ecologists, urban planners and museum curators.

By collating these different activities under a banner of ‘cultural practice’, our objective is to gather together dynamic fragments of culture-nature co-production that both vary across time and context and that also are as resistant to singular storytelling as the diversity of the natural world.

The timing of this conference is opportune, coming prior to opening of the new Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum in Singapore and following a series of films and exhibitions about the human relationships with the natural world in Singapore and elsewhere in our region.

Key & End Note speakers 1 & 3rd August: Marco Kusumawijaya and Marian Pastor Roces.

Morning Address Saturday 2nd August: Vibeke Sorensen.

Panelists: Yu-Mei Balasingham Chow, Geoffrey Benjamin, Kevin Chua, Kiri Dalena, Isabelle Desjeux, Lisa Ito, Lai Chee Kien, Nirmal Ghosh, Daniel Goh, Ray Langenbach, Lee Weng Choy, Laura Miotto, Shabbir Hussain Mustafa, Lisa Onaga, Tony ODempsey, Budi Prakosa, Stéphane Rennesson, Paul Rae, Andreas Siagian, Tan Shzr Ee, Kenneth Tay, Nigel Taylor, John Van Wyhe, Wong Joon Ian

Walking Tours: Singapore Botanic Garden with Nigel Taylor and Michele Rodda

Exhibition Tour: *“When you get closer to the heart you may find cracks ...”*

Special Screening: The King of Plants by Roxana Waterson

Performance: *Letters To a Tortoise* by Lucy Davis & Kate Pocklington



Photograph by Nirmal Ghosh

NATURE AS PRACTICE

Conversations Across Art, Science, Ecology and Everyday Life.

NUS Museum Friday 1st & Sunday 3rd August. Singapore Botanic Gardens Saturday 2nd August 2014

Day 1, Friday, 1 August 2014 – NUS Museum

Time	Programme
0930-1000	Conference Registration @ NUS Museum Coffee & Tea Opening Remarks Ahmad Mashadi
1000-1045	Welcome Keynote Address by Marco Kusumawijaya <i>Everything is Alive</i>
1045-1300	Panel 1 – Nature Time, Space & Scale Lai Chee Kien – <i>Seasons Greetings: Botanical Calendars in the Tropics</i> Wong Joon Ian – <i>Gutta Percha: The Southeast Asian Gum Behind A Victorian Technology Boom</i> Kevin Chua – <i>"On the Balinese Origins of Gregory Bateson's 'Plateau'"</i> Moderator/Respondent – Marian Pastor Roces
1300-1400	Lunch
1400-1500	Guided Tour of “ <i>When you get closer to the heart, you may find cracks...</i> ”
1500-1700	Panel 2 – Sonic Communities and Community Trees Tan Shzr Ee – <i>Stories about environment, ecology, climate change and music</i> Andreas Siagian & Budi Prakosa – <i>Jogja Soundings: LifePatch & Hackteria Experiences</i> Daniel Goh – <i>A Post-Natural Geography of Queenstown</i> Kiri Dalena – <i>Recreations in Washed Out and Tungkung Langit</i> Moderator /Respondent – Marco Kusumawijaya
1700 - 1720	Tea break followed by commentary by Shabbir Hussain Mustafa
	End of Day 1 for guests

Day 2, Saturday, 2 August 2014 – Singapore Botanic Gardens
(Function Room @ Botany Centre, Tanglin Gate)

Time	Programme
0930-1000	Arrival of participants. Coffee & Tea
1000-1030	Special Morning Address by Vibeke Sorensen <i>Bio-Art: Insights into the Lives of Plants</i>
1030-1330	Panel 3 – Plants Moving People Screening of <i>The King of Plants</i> by Roxana Waterson Nigel Taylor – <i>Lawrence Niven, the English Landscape Movement and a giant orchid</i> Moderator /Respondent – Lucy Davis
1330-1500	Lunch Guided Tour Singapore Botanic Gardens with Nigel Taylor (continuation of presentation) and Michele Rodda
1500-1700	Panel 4 – Plants Moving People Cont'd Geoffrey Benjamin – <i>Animals, plants and people in Temiar religious life</i> Tony O Dempsey - <i>Early Agricultural Settlers of Singapore</i> Lisa Ito-Tampang – <i>(Un)natural histories: Hybrid ecologies and the Flora de Filipinas</i> Ray Langenbach – <i>Lalang-Lalanged-Lalanging</i> Moderator /Respondent – Kenneth Tay
1700-1730	Tea followed by commentary by Shabbir Hussain Mustafa
	End of Day 2

Day 3, Sunday, 3 August 2014 – NUS Museum

Time	Programme
0930-1000	Arrival of delegates. Coffee & Tea
1000-1200	<p>Panel 5 – Curators & Collectors Great & Small</p> <p>Lee Weng Choy – <i>The Address of Art, and the Natural Origins of Metaphor</i> Nirmal Ghosh – <i>Elephant-Human Ecologies in Burma</i> Yu-mei Balasinghamchow– <i>Sizing Nature in Singapore: recent experiences of exhibition curation.</i> Isabelle Desjeux -- <i>Buang, the Lost Malay Scientist</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator /Respondent –David Teh</p>
1200-1400	Lunch – Performance: Letters to a Tortoise: Lucy Davis & Kate Pocklington
1400-1600	<p>Panel 6 – Insects & Islands</p> <p>John van Wyhe – <i>Accounting for adaptation naturally</i> Stéphane Rennesson – <i>Challenging human distinctiveness: Interspecies games in Thailand</i> Lisa Onaga – <i>The Tactile Silkworm: Spinning Japanese Bioscience into the 20th century</i> Paul Rae – <i>Archipelagic Performance</i></p> <p style="text-align: right;">Moderator /Respondent– Kevin Chua</p>
1600-1630	Tea followed by commentary by Shabbir Hussain Mustafa
1630-1700	Endnote by Marian Pastor Roces
	End of Day 3



NANYANG
TECHNOLOGICAL
UNIVERSITY

Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

NUS MUSEUM