Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) presents
Shifting Images: Photography from Singapore 2000-2025

System of Seeing: Where Images Gather

Artist: Chua Chye Teck, John Clang, Geraldine Kang, Lai Yu Tong, Bob Lee, Robert Zhao Renhui, Zen Teh, Chow and Lin
Exhibition Period: 11 October 2026 - 10 November 2026

Singapore, October 2026 — Photography has often been understood through the singular image—the decisive moment, the iconic photograph, the picture that stands alone. Yet meaning can also emerge through relationships between images. Through repetition, accumulation, comparison and connection, photographs become part of larger structures through which we observe, organise and understand the world.

Systems of Seeing: Where Images Gather brings together eight Singapore artists whose practices approach photography as a means of gathering, classifying, connecting and constructing knowledge. Across the exhibition, images form collections, inventories, sequences and networks of relationships. Rather than functioning independently, individual photographs become components within larger systems, gaining meaning through their relationship to one another and to the structures in which they operate.

Geraldine Kang's ***By Unit of Measurement*** (2016), extending from the gallery entrance into its interior, introduces the exhibition's central proposition: the ways we see and assign value are shaped by systems that are rarely neutral. Kang considers how people, objects and experiences are measured, while ***Under the guise of surface*** (2014) extends this inquiry into public space. Through a staged act resembling municipal maintenance, Kang draws attention to how the urban environment is continually regulated, maintained and represented, determining what remains visible and what disappears.

Questions of classification and authority continue in Robert Zhao Renhui's ***A Guide to the Flora and Fauna of the World*** (2013), which adopts the language of scientific documentation to construct a speculative archive of nature. Lai Yu Tong's ***Corners*** **(1–35)** (2015) turns repetition into a sustained exercise in looking, transforming overlooked corners into a sequence shaped by duration, constraint and persistence.

Elsewhere, comparison becomes a means of understanding larger social structures. Chow and Lin's ***The Poverty Line*** (2010–2026) brings together photographs made across different cities to examine inequality, allowing individual observations to become part of a broader comparative study. Chua Chye Teck's ***Memories*** (2015) gathers discarded construction wire as traces of Singapore's changing built environment, turning accumulation into an act of remembering. 4 selected works from this series are titled *Remains of Memories.*

Bob Lee's ***Memory Blocks*** (2009-ongoing) similarly builds meaning through accumulation. Portraits of families living in HDB flats come together as a collective image of domestic and social life in Singapore. In John Clang's ***Being Together*** (2010–2012), photography becomes

a means of connection, temporarily bringing together families separated by migration and physical distance.

Zen Teh's ***Un-knowing*** (2014) shifts these processes towards landscape. Combining fragments photographed across Singapore's parks and nature reserves, Teh constructs landscapes that appear familiar yet cannot be located in any single place, unsettling the distinction between observing the environment and producing it through images.

Across *Systems of Seeing: Where Images Gather,* photography extends beyond recording what is before the camera. Through measurement, classification, repetition, accumulation, comparison and connection, these artists reveal how images participate in constructing ways of knowing. The exhibition asks us to consider not only what photographs show, but the systems through which they acquire meaning: what is gathered, measured, classified, connected, preserved or erased—and how these structures ultimately shape what, and how, we see.

Systems of Seeing: Where Images Gather is part of *Shifting Images*, a series of exhibitions exploring the diversity and evolution of photographic practices in Singapore. Across eight exhibitions, Shifting Images brings together different generations of artists and approaches to photography, reflecting on how the medium has developed, expanded and responded to changing social, cultural and technological contexts.

Curated by Gwen Lee, with curatorial assistance from Cavin Lim and Luna Chang.

About Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF)

Founded in 2008 and organised by DECK, an independent arts organisation dedicated to contemporary photography in Singapore, the Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) is a biennial gathering of photographers, curators and audiences advancing the art and appreciation of photography. As one of Southeast Asia's longest-running photography festivals, SIPF is a critical platform for contemporary discourse on the medium, discovering and propelling Southeast Asian photographers onto the international stage while engaging public audiences and deepening visual literacy.

For more information about the other exhibitions & programmes, visit sipf.sg

About ShanghART

ShanghART Gallery was established in Shanghai in 1996. It has since grown to become one of China's most influential art institutions and a vital player in the development of contemporary art in China, working with over 50 pioneering and emerging artists, including DING Yi, LI Shan, LIN Aojie, Arin RUNGJANG, SUN Xun, Melati SURYODARMO, TANG Da Wu, Apichatpong WEERASETHAKUL, XU ZHEN®, YANG Fudong, ZENG Fanzhi, and ZHAO Renhui Robert.

ShanghART Singapore was established in 2012 as the gallery's Southeast Asia wing, located in the contemporary art cluster Gillman Barracks. The gallery's first overseas space serves as a platform to introduce Chinese contemporary art to the region while developing collaborations with Southeast Asian artists, facilitating cross-cultural dialogues and enriching artistic exchanges within the global art community.

Presented By 10th Singapore International Photography Festival 2026

Organised By DECK

Supported By National Arts Council Singapore

Venue Partner ShanghART 香格纳画廊

Official Print Partner AVS

Official Fine Art Print Partner KPP-Antalis

Advertising and Media Partners

STELLAR Ace · catch. · 1000 Words · British Journal of Photography · ASIA-EUROPE FOUNDATION · culture360.ASEF.org

@shanghart.singapore

For interviews & enquiries, please contact:
Tian Lim
T: +65 6734 9537 | tianlim@shanghartgallery.com