

life

D **STRANGE HAPPENINGS**
 Night Vale stories
 move from podcast
 to novels and TV
D5

#FIRSTMEAL2018
 Straits Times readers
 post first meal of the
 year on Instagram
D8



Singapore Art Week

Walk on the art side

The visual arts celebration returns with over 100 works and experiences



Akshita Nanda
 Arts Correspondent

Art gets personal in the sixth edition of Singapore Art Week, an annual celebration of visual arts which will be held from Jan 17 to 28. More than 100 events will transform museums and public spaces around the island in this festival organised by the National Arts Council, Singapore Tourism Board and Singapore Economic Development Board. Highlights include Artwalk Little India, where pedestrians can view new murals, listen to music and hear urban legends retold in the lanes around Serangoon Road. Galleries at Gillman Barracks in Lock Road will showcase new installations. Street artists will transform

the ArtScience Museum and Aliwal Arts Centre. At National Gallery Singapore, viewers can put their stamp on an interactive installation by Thai artist Pinarée Sanpitak or receive a personal concert from an opera singer. Works from private collections are also out for public viewing in shows at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre in Straits Boulevard and through home visits for art collectors organised by art fair Art Stage Singapore. akshitan@sph.com.sg [Go to www.artweek.sg](http://www.artweek.sg) for the full listings of Singapore Art Week.



Murals, tours and performances in Little India

Mr M. Govindasamy never expected his newsstand at 82 Serangoon Road to interest anyone apart from regular readers of the Tamil, Hindi and English magazines he imports from India. But to his delight, the nearly 40-year-old Siyamala Bookstore has inspired a mural commissioned for Artwalk Little India, a public art project presented by Lasalle College of the Arts and Singapore Tourism Board, with the support of the Little India Shopkeepers & Heritage Association. Artwalk Little India will be held from Jan 17 to 28 and is meant to bring to life the history and traditions of Little India, as well as the personal stories of its community. It was first held in 2015 as part of Singapore Art Week and last year featured 17 artworks which attracted 140,000 visitors. This year, it will have eight new murals at various locations in and around Serangoon Road. There will also be film screenings and performances of music and theatre at various locations. Walking tours will start from Clive Street. There will be workshops on yoga, making traditional puppets and the decorative art of rangoli. Storyteller Kamini Ramachandran will retell urban legends in a

shophouse in Dunlop Street. The Indian Heritage Centre will host theatre piece The Mother Goddess by Ravindran Drama Group and screen K. Rajagopal's film, The Day I Lost My Shadow. Both are based on urban legends or the history of Little India. A committee of students from Lasalle organises and curates Artwalk Little India every year. Second-year arts management student Khairina Khalid, 22, is one of the organisers this year. She and her fellow students spent months getting to know shopkeepers and small-business owners before deciding on the programme. She says: "We wanted to do something with the community, not just go there and plonk our events in." Artist Eunice Lim, a graduate of Lasalle, created cattle-themed murals for Artwalk 2015 and last year. Working on murals for the Little India precinct changed her attitude to the area. "Before Artwalk, I had come to Little India maybe three times in my life. Now, I come 10 times a year for the food or to hang out," she says. She got friends and volunteers to interview the Tamil-speaking Mr Govindasamy several times before starting work on Book-a-Meeting, a 10m-long mural meant to look like

ARTWALK Little India 2018



BOOKIT/ARTWALK LITTLE INDIA

WHERE: Various locations in Little India
WHEN: Jan 18 to 27
ADMISSION: Walking tours and some performances are free with registration. Go to artwalklittleindia.sg for updates and tickets to workshops

Artist Eunice Lim (centre) is painting a mural of a bookstore in Little India next to one owned by Mr M. Govindasamy (left), who has operated there for about 40 years. PHOTOS: ONG WEE JIN, INSTAGRAM/ZADIM

an extension of his shop. Her mural features mash-ups from the covers of the magazines he stocks. She says: "It's interesting that he's been here for more than 30 years and will not change the

contents of his store." Mr Govindasamy, 71, says through a translator: "People of my generation prefer books." The Singapore-born bookstore owner has two daughters and a son

in India. They have no interest in continuing his trade. He says: "I'm very happy when young people come to talk and seek my advice. I feel a little emotional that at last I am getting recognised."

MORE STORIES ON D2