

 **Successful Prison Art Exhibition *THE SWIMMERS* to be extended until 13th April 2014.*****The Swimmers*****14 February - 13 April 2014**

Mizuma Gallery announced today that its ongoing exhibition “The Swimmers” by Angki Purbandono and PAPs (Prison Art Programs) has received a positive response from both the public and the media. Since the opening on 14 February, many visitors, ranging from international and local collectors to NTU School of Arts, Design and Media students as well as participants to tours organized by Friends of Museum have enjoyed the show. Due to its public and commercial success, the exhibition that was formerly scheduled to close on 23 March 2014 will be extended until 13 April 2014.

The show has already met the standard for a public success according to the industry, with more than 500 visitors during the first five weeks. The gallery currently hosts 22 pieces and ensembles worth over S\$200,000. More than half of them have been sold, which makes this exhibition a successful business as well.

Angki Purbandono, one of Indonesia’s leading photography artists, has been working with scanography as his primary media for eight years. His transition from camera to scanner is inspired by [Man Ray](#), a 20th century modernist artist known for his photography work with different media approaches other than the camera. Angki still considers himself as a photography artist despite the medium he works with, because he believes that the essence of photography as an art lies in the story behind.

In an interview, Angki explained why the exhibition is titled “The Swimmers.” It is because during his 10-month imprisonment in the Yogyakarta Narcotic Penitentiary he was struggling to “keep his ground” in the midst of uncertainty of what lies ahead, “swimming” together with the rest of the inmates in their search for a “shore.” Angki started to work with other inmates who joined in PAPs to collect items from around the prison area and created concepts for his artworks. They started a sort of rehabilitation process for the period of their stay inside the prison. Angki and PAPs hope that they can continue to contribute to rehabilitation through art in prison. In addition, Mizuma Gallery will donate 5 % of the sales to the Yellow Ribbon Fund in Singapore to support ex-offenders in the process of their come back to society.

“The Swimmers” has been featured in the “Business Times” and “Pipeline” magazine among other publications. Of the exhibition success, Mizuma Gallery CEO comments: “The Swimmers’ received such a good response because it is socially engaging. Angki’s first hand experience of a prisoner’s life motivates him to work together with Prison Art Programs to create a cutting edge rehabilitation system through art. We are also hoping for future partnerships with Yellow Ribbon Fund in Singapore.”

## Gallery Profile

Mizuma Gallery was first established in Tokyo by Sueo Mizuma in 1994 with the mission of promoting Asian and Japanese artists both on the local and international contemporary art scenes. Its Singapore opening will be the 3rd expansion for Mizuma Gallery with current spaces in Tokyo, Japan and Beijing, China. Mizuma Gallery is a key gallery for the development of Japanese contemporary art and has exhibited at important art fairs such as ARCO (Madrid), Armory Show (New York), Frieze (London), FIAC (Paris), Art Basel Miami Beach (Miami) and Art Basel Hong Kong (Hong Kong).

## About Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks (GB) is Asia's up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. It is distinguished as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art. Named after British general Sir Webb Gillman, GB is set amid lush greenery and was once a stronghold to the First Battalion of the Middlesex Regiment. The conserved colonial barracks house galleries and creative businesses, as well as the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore, opening on 23 October 2013. The international galleries feature diverse and ever-changing contemporary art exhibitions, while CCA Singapore will bolster the region's visual arts landscape through its international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes. By fostering cultural exchange and creation, showcasing the best and most innovative art of our times, as well as generating discourse and research, CCA Singapore will establish Singapore as an important centre for contemporary art in Asia. Gillman Barracks was officially launched on 14 September 2012, and open to the public from 15 September 2012. More information on Gillman Barracks can be found at [GillmanBarracks.com](http://GillmanBarracks.com).

## Contact

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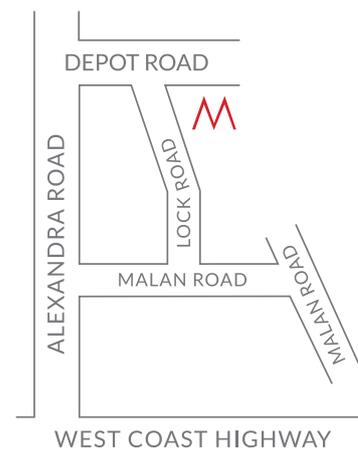
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## Exhibition view of “The Swimmers” at Mizuma Gallery

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