

Art & Design



Drawing attention Gillman Barracks hosts the new Centre of Contemporary Arts in Block 9

From army to arty

Former military compound Gillman Barracks is now home to some of the world's top gallery brands. **Berwin Song** rounds up the exhibitions to catch as the art cluster opens this month

A key undertaking in Singapore's plan to become a global arts destination has been the \$10 million transformation of the historic Gillman Barracks – originally built in 1936 as a military encampment for the British Army – into a major art hub, complete with international gallery brands, a sculpture park and a new arts institution, tentatively named the Centre for Contemporary Arts. The project was announced earlier this year, and after a sneak peek of the building site during the second Art Stage Singapore (another major element in the city's art development), Gillman Barracks is finally ready for its official unveiling on 14 September. Over ten galleries will open across five buildings in the compound, with more to follow; here we round up the inaugural exhibitions, arranged by building then by closing date.

BLOCK 1 'Untitled' (Singapura #90) 14 Sep-28 Oct

Titled in homage to the late Cuban-American artist Félix González-Torres (who named all of his works 'Untitled', followed by a parenthetical subtitle), as well as referencing Singapore's ranking on 2012's Happy Planet Index, this exhibition from local gallery director Stephanie Fong – moving to Gillman Barracks from FOST's former shophouse space on Kim Yam Road – features seven local artists including Heman Chong, Anthony Chua, Joo Choon Lin and Tang Da Wu.
FOST Gallery #01-02, 1 Lock Rd (6836 2661, www.fostgallery.com).

BLOCK 5 Untitled 14 Sep-24 Oct

Since 1994, Manila gallery The Drawing Room has discovered and represented young Filipino artists, such as Alfredo Aquiluzan and Jose Legaspi, who have gone on to feature in international biennales. This opening exhibition features both artists, as well as 12 others from Manila, each with their own unique method and view of the Philippines.

The Drawing Room
#01-06, 5 Lock Rd (www.drawingroomgallery.com).

The Big Picture 14 Sep-11 Nov

Owner of one of the major Chelsea-area galleries in New York City (also with branches in Hong Kong and LA), Sundaram Tagore has represented some of photography's biggest names, from Henri Cartier-Bresson to Annie Leibovitz, Edward Burtynsky to Sebastião Salgado. Plenty of iconic images from these artists and more are on display in this show.
Sundaram Tagore Gallery #01-05, 5 Lock Rd (www.sundaramtagore.com).

BLOCK 22 Hyung Koo Kang: Crossing Gazes 14 Sep-18 Nov

Singapore has already seen a major survey of this South Korean artist's work at SAM in the final quarter of

2011 (awarded a five-star review in our November 2011 issue), featuring wall-sized, hyper-realistic portraits of the artist himself and other famous figures such as Warhol and van Gogh. It's an interesting selection for the Mizuma Gallery, whose gallery roster features a number of prominent Japanese artists.
Mizuma Gallery #01-34, 22 Lock Rd (www.mizuma-art.co.jp).

BLOCK 47 Christian Thompson: We Bury Our Own 14 Sep-14 Oct

Offering a showcase of Australian art, Singapore art platform Future Perfect has already been active on the local scene. Co-helmed by David Teh, formerly at NUS, the gallery opened last month with a show of work by the late Archibald Prize-winning artist Adam Cullen. For Gillman's official grand opening, it's presenting works from Thompson's self-portrait series 'We Bury Our Own', which references elements of his Aboriginal heritage (posing in a manner similar to archival photos), with his eyes covered with flowers.

Future Perfect #01-22, 47 Malan Rd (9030 1744, futureperfect.asia).

Luis Lorenzana: Beautiful Pain 14 Sep-14 Oct

Specialising in contemporary art from the Philippines, Silverlens is based in Makati City and also runs a foundation offering grants and workshops to emerging photographers and artists. Its opening exhibition at Gillman Barracks is a solo show from award-winning Filipino artist Lorenzana, whose works are peopled with surreal, hauntingly expressive characters.
Silverlens #01-25, 47 Malan Rd (www.silverlensphoto.com, slab.silverlensphoto.com).

Prelude

14 Sep-21 Oct

To kick off this offshoot of Korean gallery Cottonseed, co-founded by director Janice Kim (previously at Gallery Hyundai), this exhibition is a group show featuring five artists from the gallery's roster: Moon Hyungmin, Lee Sea Hyun, Lee Hunchung, Ng Joon Kiat and Yu Ji.

Space Cottonseed #01-24, 47 Malan Rd.

Yoshitomo Nara, Hiroshi Sugito and Masahiko Kuwahara

14 Sep-21 Oct

The opening exhibition for this Tokyo-based gallery, which since its opening in 1996 has expanded to include a ceramics gallery in Kyoto, features three notable artists from its extensive roster. Nara, known for his cartoon-like child characters (and associated merchandise), is perhaps the most famous of the group, but each artist is known within Japan's pop-art circle for their simple, pastel-hued styles.

Tomio Koyama Gallery #01-26, 47 Malan Rd (www.tomiokoyama-gallery.com).

Marcel Duchamp in South-East Asia

14 Sep-28 Oct

A new gallery from Deddy Irianto – founder of the influential Langgeng Gallery in Magelang, Java – and art writer Tony Godfrey (formerly of Sotheby's), Equator Art Projects focuses on artists from Indonesia and around South-East Asia. Its first exhibition, curated by Godfrey, features 37 contributing artists – including award-winning local names such as Amanda Heng, Michael Lee, Donna Ong and Heman Chong – all of whose pieces reflect on the influential French avant-garde artist Duchamp.

Equator Art Projects #01-21, 47 Malan Rd.

Yayoi Kusama: Solo Exhibition 14 Sep-28 Oct

There's been plenty of Kusama's work shown around town before – including at the recent 'Spots & Dots' exhibition at Pop and Contemporary Fine Art, and the pop-up Louis Vuitton/Kusama concept store at Ngee Ann City (until 1 November) – but Tokyo's Ota Fine Arts has been her official homeland promoter since its opening in 1994. Expect exclusive works from the superstar artist's new painting series at their Gillman Barracks premiere.

Ota Fine Arts #01-23, 47 Malan Rd (www.otafinearts.com).

COMING SOON

Also look out for branches of notable Chinese galleries **ShanghART** (www.shanghart.com) and **Pearl Lam Galleries** (www.contrastsgallery.com), as well as **Kaikai Kiki** (gallery-kaikai.com), the workshop/gallery of famed Japanese superflat artist Takashi Murakami.

Gillman Barracks Malan and Lock Rds (www.gillmanbarracks.com).

▣ Labrador Park. Tue-Sat 11am-8pm; Sun 10am-6pm. Free entry.