

Media Release

For Immediate Release

ACM's first-ever Andrew Gn retrospective makes bold statement on the need to celebrate Singapore's fashion talent

- *Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World* features over 100 creations by Paris based Singaporean designer Andrew Gn.
- The special exhibition is spread over five immersive sections across the museum, where the public will discover Andrew Gn's global impact on fashion and learn how Singapore and Asia continue to inspire his distinctive designs.



Gn's creations adorn powerful women around the world, in politics, high society, and the entertainment industry. Image courtesy of Asian Civilisations Museum.

Singapore, 23 May 2023 – Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) presents ***Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World***, an exhibition that traces the fashion journey of one of Singapore's most prolific designers and celebrates his major gift to the nation. This is ACM's largest exhibition celebrating a contemporary Singapore fashion designer. Through five sections and over 100 representative works, it explores Gn's roots in Asia, cross-cultural expressions of Asian and Western art in his work, and celebrates the distinctive aesthetics, craftsmanship, and global impact of the House of Andrew Gn. With an emphasis on inclusive and contemporary representations of Asia and fashion, the exhibition aims to celebrate local talent and inspire the next generation of designers.

Mr Kennie Ting, Director of Asian Civilisations Museum and Peranakan Museum, explains, “*Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World* cements ACM’s shift into the space of contemporary fashion and design; and in particular, to exploring Asia’s impact on global fashion and design. For the first time, we are spotlighting a Singaporean fashion designer at the top of his game – we believe it is important to champion our own, and to tell young Singaporeans that we can succeed internationally in the creative fields. Andrew’s design philosophy blends east and west, beauty and comfort, innovation and tradition; and speaks directly to ACM’s curatorial focus on the heritage of cosmopolitan, cross-cultural, port cities in Asia. Andrew has maintained extensive archives documenting his successful 28-year career, and this exhibition honours an exceptional and unprecedented gift of 160 works from these archives. We invite the public to join us in rediscovering and celebrating ANDREW GN.”

“While my label House of Andrew Gn flourished in France, it is Asia where my story began and where my roots lie. The exhibition presents a 28-year voyage, featuring cherished archival pieces that hold great significance to my story and work as a designer. I hope this gift of my archive to Singapore and the ACM collection inspires more people to embrace their roots and enrich audiences with contemporary fashion presentations celebrating the rich, diverse cultures and histories of Asia and beyond.” said Andrew Gn.

Empowering influential women through fashion

From North America and Europe to Asia and the Middle East, Gn’s luxury, ready-to-wear creations adorn powerful women in politics, high society, and the entertainment industry. Emma Stone, Fan Bing Bing, Maggie Cheung, Kareena Kapoor, Kit Chan, Lady Gaga, Lily J. Collins, Queen Rania of Jordan, Yang Mi, and many others have worn his creations – in print and screen, and from red carpet to royal catwalk.

Cross-cultural inspirations and influences



Gown with butterflies

Inspired by a 19th-century porcelain bowl from Gn's collection, this gown features designs that were originally hand-painted and reflects Gn's deep admiration for Asian Art.



Coat with dragonflies, butterflies, and "pagoda" shoulders

The exhibition reveals Gn's diverse sources of inspiration, which include art, fashion, literature, film, and his Singaporean roots, and explores how they offer a wealth of access points to discover diverse Asian cultures. Echoing Singapore's history as a cross-cultural port city, Gn's works blend Chinese, Indian, Malay, Indonesian, and Peranakan influences. Many directly resonate with objects in the ACM collection, such as Chinese porcelain, Indian textiles, Indonesian batiks, Iznik ceramics, and other forms of hybrid material culture.

Gn is also inspired by vibrant natural imagery, adopting corals and butterflies as House Codes (distinctive visual elements).

Inside the designer's mind and studio

With a couture-like approach to quality and fabrication, Gn’s ready-to-wear designs are designed almost entirely in-house – from fabric and embroidery to buttons and trimmings. The Contemporary Gallery on Level One evokes Gn’s atelier in Paris, where he develops designs and experiments with materials and techniques. His holistic design process reveals the exceptional artistry and craftsmanship that defines the House of Andrew Gn. This section of the exhibition is free for all ACM visitors.

Delve into the world of design and fashion



Various motifs can be collected and customised in the “Fashion Try-On” interactive RFID experience

Continuing ACM’s efforts to engage contemporary audiences through digital initiatives, the exhibition introduces a “Fashion Try-On” interactive – a multimedia experience that allows visitors to embark on their own fashion journey. Using Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, visitors can collect motifs , such as butterflies and corals, across the various exhibition

spaces. At the end of their journey, these can be used to create a personalised outfit that visitors can model at augmented reality kiosks in the Contemporary Gallery. These self-designed outfits can be kept as souvenirs in the form of printed and digital photographs. Visitors can also collect and learn more about the motifs at *Take Flight* in the Level 2 Foyer, a multimedia display by artist Koh Dawn that brings Andrew Gn's watercolour butterflies to life.

ACM will also organise a series of complementary family-friendly programmes, guided tours, lectures, and weekend festivals. This includes a talk by Andrew Gn in conversation with Jackie Yoong, ACM's Senior Curator of Fashion and Textiles, and Circe Henestrosa, Fashion Curator and Head of the School of Fashion at LASALLE College of the Arts. Please refer to **Annex C** for more information on programmes.

Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World runs from **27 May 2023 to 17 September 2023** at ACM. Admission charges apply. For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg.

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For additional details, please refer to:

- Annex A: About *Andrew Gn: Fashioning Singapore and the World*
- Annex B: Exhibition highlights
- Annex C: Exhibition programmes and activities

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About the Asian Civilisations Museum

Asian Civilisations Museum (ACM) is Singapore's national museum of Asian antiquities and decorative art. As the only museum in Asia with a pan-Asian scope, ACM is devoted to exploring the rich artistic heritage of Asia through our outstanding collection of masterpieces, and through ground-breaking special exhibitions. Opened in 1997 and in its present building by the Singapore River since 2003, the museum traces its roots to the Raffles Museum, founded in the middle of the 19th century. ACM focuses on the many historical connections between cultures and civilisations in Asia, and between Asia and the world.

ACM presents the history and art history of Asia through the lens of Singapore as a cosmopolitan Asian port city – connecting people and cultures in Asia and beyond. ACM celebrates Asian aesthetics, craft, and imagination through four broad, cross-cultural, and pan-Asian themes – Maritime Trade, Faith and Belief, Materials and Design, and Peranakan heritage and culture.

For more information, visit www.acm.org.sg or follow the museum on Facebook (@asiancivilisationsmuseum) and Instagram (@acm_sg).

About Andrew Gn

Andrew Gn was born in Singapore and established the House of Andrew Gn in Paris in 1995. He studied Western art and fashion at prestigious institutions in London, New York, and Milan; followed by a year-long position as an assistant to renowned Parisian couturier Emanuel Ungaro. His distinctive designs carefully blend contrasting cultural influences, with an emphasis on quality and

craftsmanship. A recipient of the Singapore President's Design Award for Designer of the Year in 2007, his is the first and only label by a Singaporean to show consistently at Paris Fashion Week.