



MAISON VALENTINO CONTINUES ITS COMMITMENT TO THE ARTS DURING SINGAPORE ART WEEK

Singapore, December 2023 – Maison Valentino strengthens links with the art world through a special commission of unique works titled, *Gestures of Affection* by interdisciplinary Singaporean artist, Sarah Choo Jing during Singapore Art Week, another meaningful step in Valentino's dialogue with the arts.

Inspired by messages of the Creative Director through the SS24 Valentino L'Ecole collection and engaging in dialogue with key Maison codes, *Gestures of Affection* serves to highlight the body in celebration of femininity and humanity.

Gestures of Affection is a visual exploration that accentuates the minutiae of interpersonal gestures and serves as a testament to the seven qualities inherent in the female experience- sensuality, resilience, empathy, individuality, freedom, passion, and vulnerability.

The body of work comprises seven digital videos, each composition recorded in ultra-high speed, and presented through the lens of slow-motion playback at seven minutes per video. The videos center-in on seven meticulously staged scenes, each featuring a female protagonist that references the different facets of the moon- a powerful source of feminine energy, captured in a moment of raw, unfiltered authenticity of femininity, revealing the untold stories etched into the skin of every woman.

Gestures of Affection will be unveiled at the lobby of Soho Residency Singapore from January 16, 2024 until January 20, 2024 and remain on display through Singapore Art Week until January 28, 2024. It will form part of a larger immersive art experience and conversation curated by Rita Targui. The experience also includes an exclusive interactive dinner curated by Sarah Choo Jing in collaboration with Soho House, for Valentino.

Gestures of Affection is a series of seven unique digital and print artworks, each available in digital and print. Following the period of installation, Maison Valentino will donate proceeds from the sale to a charity.

The Maison continues its support for culture. Its participation in Singapore Art Week for a second time, promotes yet another space for creativity and community, supporting initiatives that promote meeting and thought both at a global and local scale.

#ValentinoOnCanvas

SARAH CHOO JING (B. 1990, Singapore)

Sarah is known for her interdisciplinary approach to photography, video and installation. Her work depicts identifiable moments and characters within contemporary urban society suggesting a plethora of private and often solitary narratives. The artist is concerned with the gaze of the flaneur, voyeurism and the uncanny.

Choo lives and works in Singapore since completing her MFA at the Slade School of Art in London, in the Summer of 2015. Choo recently clinched the 3D Interactive award for the The Lumen Prize for Art and Technology 2021, and was shortlisted as a Finalist for the Audemars Piguet Art Commission for Art Basel 2020 and invited to present her practice at Le Brassus, Geneva in Switzerland. She clinched the Gold Award in the 2019 PX3 Prix de la Photographie Competition, the 2017 Perspectives 40 under 40 Award and came in First Place in the 2015 Moscow International Foto Awards. Choo was also awarded the *ICON De Martell Cordon Bleu Photography Award* and *Kwek Leng Joo Prize of Excellence in Still Photography Award* in 2013.

The artist has since exhibited internationally at The Asian Art Museum in San Francisco (2023), Turku Art Museum in Helsinki (2019), National Museum of Singapore (2017), Busan Museum of Art in Korea (2016), ArtParis at The Grand Palais in Paris (2015), the START Art Fair at The Saatchi Gallery in London (2015) and *Photo London* at The Somerset House in London (2015). Her works are collected by both private individuals and public institutions; including the Chrysler Museum of Art, Singapore Art Museum, National Museum of Singapore and The Arts Club Permanent Art Collection in London. She is represented by Yeo Workshop Contemporary Art.

Yeo Workshop is a leading art gallery based in Gillman Barracks, Singapore since 2013. Dedicated to Singaporean and Southeast Asian art, the gallery highlights the innovative practices of contemporary artists.

RITA TARGUI (B. 1970, Singapore)

Rita has been the Director of STPI Gallery for the past 10 years (2013 – 2023). She successfully led the various departments within the Gallery in developing key strategies for sales, cultivation long-term relations and partnerships with clients and industry stakeholders, as well as broadening audience segments via diverse outreach and educational programs.

Under Rita's transformative leadership, the institution's overall mission and vision as a unique creative platform was well achieved, positioning STPI as a formidable arts institution, locally and internationally. Rita also served as Vice-President and President of AGAS (Art Galleries Association of Singapore) for 4 years from 2020-2023 to champion the values, roles and responsibilities of art dealers in Singapore.

Before relocating to Singapore, Rita worked with Christie's London in the capacity of Business Development Manager as well as with Carpenter's Workshop Gallery, London. She has an Honours Degree in English Literature at the National University of Singapore and obtained her Masters Degree in Fine & Decorative Art at the Sotheby's Institute of Art, London. In addition to her strong linguistic capabilities in English and Malay, Rita is also fluent in French, having earned a diploma in French language at the University of Paris, La Sorbonne.

SOHO HOUSE

Soho House will bring a unique pop-up- Soho Residency to The Warehouse Hotel Singapore during Singapore Art Week and it will be the venue for official parties for leading art fairs including ARTSG. *Gestures of Affection* by Sarah Choo Jing will be the official art on display within the pop-up for the period January 17 to January 20, 2024. Singapore Art Week will conclude with Soho House presents *Night Moves* ARTSG closing party at the Soho House Residency on January 20, 2024. As part of their Singapore Cities Without Houses member programming, the diverse global membership club for creatives brings together artists, gallerists, and creatives from around the world for a night of art and music.

With 38 physical locations and 75+ cities globally, Singapore creatives can still join a local creative community through Cities Without Houses and gain access to all Soho House sites and events around the world. Link to apply: <https://www.sohohouse.com/membership/citieswithout-houses>

MAISON VALENTINO

Maison Valentino was founded in 1960 in Rome by Valentino Garavani and Giancarlo Giammetti. A symbol of crafting excellence, creativity and uniqueness, Valentino continues to inspire individuality by redefining the values of mastery and emotional beauty that are deeply intertwined with its roots as the most established Italian Maison de Couture. Spurred by the visions of Jacopo Venturini, CEO from June 2020, and Pierpaolo Piccioli as the sole Creative Director since 2016, Valentino has re-signified its iconic codes by leveraging its unrivaled brand heritage. The collections include Haute Couture, Valentino men's and women's ready-to-wear, Valentino Garavani accessories, Valentino Eyewear by *Akoni Group* and Valentino Beauty by *L'Oréal*. They blend legacy and currency, placing people unconditionally at the center.

www.valentino.com