



Art Photography Centre Ltd
Annual Report as at 31 March 2021

1 ABOUT US

Established in 2014 as a container-art space for photography, DECK was created to fill a gap between critical art institutions in Singapore. It provides support and opportunities to artists in all stages of their careers while working closely with the community. DECK embodies these vision and mission values to shape the arts in Singapore:

Vision

Promote literacy & champion diversity in photography arts.
Present all facets of photography to the widest possible audience.
Cultivate photography as a contemporary medium of expression.
Bridge global conversations through international content.
Be a conduit between artists and the public.

Mission

Discovering diverse contemporary values through photography.
Engaging all minds in new ideas and critical thinking in photography
Connecting the global community through the exchange of visual cultures.
Knowledge sharing through exhibitions, public programmes and photobook collection.

DECK is the organiser of the biennale Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), an international platform for photography in the Southeast Asian region. DECK is a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant from April 2019 to March 2022.

DECK

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2 OVERVIEW OF CHARITY

Art Photography Centre Ltd (“APC”) is registered as a company limited by guarantee on 22 June 2012. APC was registered as a charity under the Charities Act (Chapter 37) on 27 March 2020.

Unique Registration Number (UEN)

201215478E

Registered Address

120A Prinsep Street
Singapore 187937

Auditor

TASSURE ASIA LLP
Public Accountants and Chartered Accountants

Banker

Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited

3 DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Sustaining the arts and connecting the community through photography

It is needless to say the year 2020 of the COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone including DECK, the arts centre where Art Photography Centre Ltd conducts its core programmes. The pandemic that took over the city immediately brought us to adapt and to remain steadfast to the DECK's vision as a core arts centre dedicated to photography. During these challenging times, we made adjustments to our approach, method and channels to actualise a gamut of programmes. Photography became a medium for us to stay together in solidarity with our arts community.

As an art organisation that champions photography arts, we believe that the medium of photography has enormous power to build connections in our contemporary society. Our programmes aim to enable new creations and nurture a next generation of young practitioners in shaping the future of photography in Singapore. During this challenging period, supporting our young practitioners and providing a place for their art has become ever more important.

The 6th edition of *Undescribed* presented the works of six young individuals through a mentorship and exhibition process with favorable media coverage and attendance of 1,500 visitors. To the best of our capabilities, DECK also supported arts practitioners with free and subsidised rental space for their artwork presentation. This included *ThisConnect* by Hunny & Lumpy, *ON/OFF/SCREEN/*, *MMCC* with Susan Sentler and Valerie Phua.

In FY2020, DECK managed to present the 7th edition of Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF) which received over 230,000 local audiences. Audiences engaged with international works from around the world at public spaces including six MRT Downtown Line stations, and more. The festival piloted a public arts participation with JR, a renowned French artist to actualise *Inside Out Singapore*. Over 1,000 portraits of Singaporeans were captured via a mobile mobile photobooth that was activated across different cultural zones in Singapore. *Inside Out Singapore* presented a tapestry of people standing in solidarity, embracing diversity and togetherness. The project attracted the attention of local news channel Channel 8, featuring the arts activation and public engagement at different locations.

7th SIPF 2020 successfully took place at 37 Emerald Hill (former Singapore Chinese Girls' School). Over two months, we welcomed over 6,000 visitors to this new avenue to spend their weekends with art despite closed travel borders. We are very fortunate to have the support of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) and the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) in activating the ground at 37 Emerald Hill for SIPF. This gave us the opportunity to create meaningful art encounters for our community in Singapore.

Internally, the organization had to adapt quickly in implementing safe management measures. Working from home through countless video conferences, the team of six stayed resilient in ensuring our arts programmes can be enjoyed by our audiences in a safe manner. Despite the social restrictions, DECK's continued operation is testament of the team's resilience and determination to bring arts to our community.

Ongoing school programmes adapted and were conducted via online sessions. In addition, our Education Manager and Intern worked hard at creating a tutorial video on cyanotype printing. DIY cyanotype kits were packed and delivered to the public, and the creation of image-making was made possible from the safety of participants' homes. However, we do realise that the conversion to digital classrooms will never replace the experience of photographic creation where uninhibited sharing of knowledge can take place. It is the hope of DECK and our school educators that physical programmes will resume in our onward path to resilience against the pandemic.

Inevitably, the arts organisation was hit hard financially by repeated closures of public spaces and restrictions of on-site activities. Our earned income has reduced drastically with the cancellation of public and school programmes and lease rental at DECK.. Our only tenant under lease at DECK's premises expired in July 2020 and was not renewed given that our container-building license was slated for demolition. Corporate sponsorships have crawled back due to cutbacks on marketing budget and event-related rentals. Compounding factors in this situation resulted in the depletion of organisation reserves.

Despite the bleakness, grants that were pushed out during the pandemic, and commissioned projects have enabled the organisation to retain our full-time and part-time staff, and

freelancers on contract. Prior to grant arrival, APC carried out a temporary pay cut to sustain cash flow, and pay freeze for long-term staff members who were supposed to receive industry-standard wage revision. The management hopes to relook into these salary revisions when the economy recovers in 2022.

During the Circuit Breaker, APC took the opportunity to deep dive into DECK's branding and programme marketing. This resulted in improved our public messaging of DECK's vision and programme offerings. During this phase of digitisation, individual staff members also took this time to acquire skills in video editing and other media-related processes.

The construction and fundraising of DECK's new building was heavily affected by the COVID-19 situation. Originally, demolition of the container-building was planned to take place in late-December 2020. This was derailed by a series of delayed submissions, and the construction industry's woes of labour shortage. On a brighter note, our #SAVEDECK fundraising campaign which began in September 2020 received media attention from The Straits Times and was featured in a full page coverage. It alerted the public of the building's demolition, rallied community support on Giving.SG, and catalysed donation pledges from private donors.

Moving forward, we remain committed in braving through this storm. APC is steadfast in its vision and mission as an arts organisation to nurture our talents, to provide an international platform that positions Singapore globally through arts, and to foster inclusivity and confidence among the community to galvanise for a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Gwen Lee' in a stylized, cursive script.

Gwen Lee
Director and Co-Founder
DECK and SIPF

4 LEADERSHIP

Advisory Board

Mr Kelvin Mun

Board Chairman

Ms Ho Hui May

Board Member

Dean, Office of Academic Affairs

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Mr Ho Tzu Yin

Board Member

Managing Director

LAUD Architects Pte Ltd

Mr John Clang

Board Member

Visual Artist

Ms Gwen Lee

Board Member

Ms Jayvis Lau

Board Member

Management

Ms Gwen Lee

Director and Co-Founder

DECK and Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF)

Ms Jayvis Lau

Director and Co-Founder

DECK and Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF)

5 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Adapting to the New Normal

In response to the new changes brought about by COVID-19, DECK's mission to bring photography arts to our community had a renewed rigour. We believed in the arts to revitalise communities and inspire hope among people. This optimism manifested in the **7th biennale edition of Singapore International Photography**, and a slew of **online programmes** to support cultural exchange among our local and international artists and audiences.

Building a future for photography arts in Singapore

The past year was also filled with anticipation and excitement for DECK. In April 2020, DECK's first container-building at 120A Prinsep Street was demolished to make way for its new brick-and-mortar building. This means providing an independent and permanent space for generations of photography artists to develop their careers in the arts, for our audiences to encounter a gamut of stories through the photographic medium, and for us to spearhead Singapore as a nexus for photography arts in the Southeast Asian region.

Financial Performance (Income)

Revenue	2021 (\$\$)	2020 (\$\$)
Education Programmes	10,930	23,840
Donations	17,000	9,412
Rental of Space	36,127	165,035
Programmes	19,458	35,847
Photobook and Exhibition Ticket Sales	17,802	43,319
Artwork Sales	8,900	21,059
SIPF Programmes	39,579	-
SIPF Tickets	29,235	-
Sponsorship	34,250	
Others	240	-
<i>Timing of transfer of goods or services</i>		
Point in time	177,394	133,477
Over time	36,127	165,036
	<u>213,521</u>	<u>298,513</u>
Other Income		
Wages Credit Scheme	639	5,727
National Arts Council Major Grant	255,200	145,000
Jobs Support Scheme	74,522	-
Other Grants	20,700	-
Fundraising on Giving.SG	30,153	-
Other Income	114,654	1,264
	<u>495,868</u>	<u>151,991</u>

Financial Performance (Expenditure)

(Deficit)/Surplus before Tax	2021 (S\$)	2020 (S\$)
Depreciation of plant and equipment	9,487	8,974
Programmes Fees	203,108	25,778
Short-Term Lease	82,917	51,996
SIPF Programmes	304,295	2,330
Employee Benefits Expenses (Salaries and CPF Contribution)	172,322	150,060
Income Tax Expense		
(Deficit)/Surplus before Tax	(227,131)	8,295
Tax calculated at a tax rate of 17% (2020: 17%)	(38,131)	1,410
Tax effects of:		
- Non-deductible expenses	1,613	153
- Unrecognised deferred tax	36,999	-
- Utilisation of unutilised losses	-	(1,563)
	=	=

Overview of Income and Expenditure

Decreased Income in FY21

In FY21, a reduction in income is attributed to a decrease in revenue from event space rental at DECK as Singapore enters its Circuit Breaker phase. However, revenue stream from SIPF Ticket and Programme Sales and Sponsorship came through for the 7th Singapore International Photography Festival organised by DECK.

Increased Expenditure in FY21

DECK (Art Photography Centre Ltd) is festival organiser for Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF). In FY21, DECK organised the 7th biennale edition of SIPF despite the challenges of restricted social gathering and closed border travel for international art practitioners and visitors. Increased expenditure for Programme Fees and SIPF Programmes is attributed to the festival costs of adapting to the COVID-19 pandemic through the digitisation of festival programmes, following Safe Management Measures across festival venues, and honorarium fees

6 KEY PROGRAMMES & ACTIVITIES

7th SIPF 2020

Departing and Arriving

5 Nov 2020—30 Jan 2021

The festival theme's Departing and Arriving addresses the sense of identity, belonging and journey in artistic creation. The theme connects to the heart of Singapore; as a young nation we question, search, trace and grow into being "Singaporean" – a nationality of diverse religion, beliefs, and languages.

From a global perspective, Departing and Arriving also points to ongoing human movement, of commonalities between the experiences and encounters of a myriad of communities around the world.

SIPF received over 20,000 visitors on-site, and over 848,00 attendees for its digital programmes.



7th SIPF 2020 Key Highlights

Inside Out Singapore An island-wide art community project

For three months, SIPF roamed the public spaces and invited people from all walks of life to have their stories told through portraiture. During a time when physical social connections have come to a hiatus, Inside Out Singapore brings our communities together and amplifies the voices of ordinary folks through the power of imagery.

Over 1,000 public portraits were taken and exhibited at Tekka Centre, the Malay Heritage Centre, The Substation, 37 Emerald Hill, and Chinatown.



7th SIPF 2020 Highlights

Public art showcase on the Downtown Line

At the heart of SIPF is its mission to bring art to the everyday lives of people. In this edition, the festival lined our Downtown Line stations (Beauty World, Rochor, Chinatown, Newton, Little India, Bugis, Bencoolen) with photography artworks from all over the world.

116,294 commuters encountered worlds of photography in their daily commute through the festival duration.

Space activation at 37 Emerald Hill (former Singapore Chinese Girls' School)

SIPF is no stranger to activating spaces with art. As an effort to bring art out of the Arts District and closer to our local communities, the festival took over the former Singapore Chinese Girls' School with works of over 100 artists.

Asia Meet

To overcome the travel restrictions, SIPF inaugurated its first edition of Asia Meet, an online platform to support cultural exchange among international artists, curators, and art thinkers from around the globe. Professional workshops were held for our artists' capabilities development, and online public talks brought our audiences into a dialogue with local and regional art practitioners.

Other exhibitions and programmes are held at:

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands
Esplanade Tunnel
DECK



Singapore Youth Photography Award 2020 (SYPA)

Nurturing youths through art photography

Presented by City Developments Limited (CDL) and organised by DECK, the Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA) is a national award that aims to promote the art of photography amongst young Singaporeans, as well as to recognise and nurture budding photographic talents.

Youth-centric programming

To promote visual literacy and cultivate expression through art, SYPA 2020 invited youths to participate in online talks and workshops with local artists. This provided opportunities for youths to respond to their curiosities through meaningful dialogues with art practitioners.

Programmes:

Photodialogue 1: An Insight to Artist Processes
Photodialogue 2: Insights to Visual Storytelling
Photodialogue 3: Photography Education beyond School
Photodialogue 4: Photography with a Purpose
Adobe Lightroom Workshop with Marvin Tang

House of Photography (HOP)

Community and Education

All-year round programming for the public and schools

Initiated in 2012, House of Photography (HOP) was created as a roving container-darkroom to introduce analogue photography to the community. For an art form that has been quickly displaced by digital photography, HOP invites people to get hands on with bringing an image to life on paper.

Workshops include:

Shooting and Developing Film Negatives
A Crash Course to Darkroom Printing
Cyanotype: The Art of Sun Printing
Basic Photography
Shooting and Developing Film Negatives

Participating schools:

Meridian Secondary School
Evergreen Secondary School

A Self I Once Knew

**10th edition of Kwek Leng Joo
Prize of Excellence in
Photography 2019**

Celebrating excellence in art among young artists

The Kwek Leng Joo Prize of Excellence in Photography is an award to celebrate and encourage young and graduating artists in their art practice. As a long-standing supporter, DECK has played a crucial role in providing a platform for graduating artists to present their artwork creation and to springboard their trajectory in the local arts scene.

Winners:

Fitri Ya'akob and Rifdi bin Rosly
Graduates from NTU-ADM

Undescribed #6

Industry Development

Discovering emerging talents in Singapore

Undescribed is an annual platform for emerging artists to present new ways of approaching photography and the moving image. It challenges and rethinks current image-making practices through mentorship opportunities with established photography artists in Singapore.

Selected artists by curator Gwen Lee and artist Robert Zhao:

Amelia Yuliana
Crystal Sim
Ivan Ong
Lin Shiau-yu
Michelle Tan
Yen Yun Ni Odelia

Loose Relations by Sherman Ong (TRACE series)

Industry Development

Research-driven showcase exploring Singapore photography

TRACE is an annual series of art research initiated by DECK to map Singapore's art photography development that has been understudied in the local arts arena. It catalyses new thinking and important discussions about how photography as an art medium has been used and is still being used to illustrate the development of visual culture in Singapore and the region.

What Artists Read

**Community and Education
(online)**

Creating conversations between artists and the public

An artist-led book sharing programme that hopes to ignite an innate interest to explore books beyond conventional reading material. This programme provides audiences with the opportunity to hear from artists on books that inspire and shape their practice and voice.

Featured Artists:

Farizi Noorfauzi
Shyue Woon
Marvin Tang

A Studio of One's Own

**Community and Education
(online)**

Bridging connections with Southeast Asian artists during the quiet times of Covid-19

of weekly online dialogue sessions that seeks to reach out internationally to the quiet voices of Southeast Asia, catching up on their changing creative routines having been confined to their own home space. In casual conversation with DECK, the invited artists will share their thoughts on creativity and creation under lockdown and the impact of quarantine on their respective practices and involvement in the scene.

Featured Artists:

Mayco Niang
Robert Zhao
Wimo Bayang
Wawi Navarroza
Vandy Rattana
Alecia Neo
Tristan Cai
Linh Pham
Sherman Ong

Fundraising Events

#SAVEDECK Campaign

In April 2020, DECK's container-building reached its lifespan as a temporary building on 120A Prinsep Street and was demolished to make way for a new and permanent building.

As an independent initiative to build Singapore's first arts centre dedicated to art photography, DECK began its fundraising campaign on Giving.SG from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. The fundraiser campaign raised \$32,308 from 171 donors.

With a new and permanent space, DECK can continue to provide an independent arts platform with the community at its heart. The permanence of DECK in the future also marks the continuity of our nurture of local and regional photography artists for generations to come, a community where arts can be encountered by people from all walks of life, and the development of art photography research in the region.

The fundraising campaign is an ongoing crowdfunding effort till date.



7 THE YEAR AHEAD

In the year ahead, DECK (Art Photography Centre Ltd) will be working towards a new milestone—a building development for a permanent arts centre for photography in Singapore. As an independent initiative, DECK will be tapping into crowdfunding efforts from public and private donors to realise this flagship project for Singapore's arts scene. Programming of photography exhibitions and outreach workshops will resume (in line with Safe Management Measures) as Singapore gradually opens up. The production of DECK's online programmes series such as *What Artists Read* and *A Studio of One's Own* will continue as we reach out to and engage with our local and regional artists and audiences. In its commitment to bring art photography to our community, DECK has begun its festival programming for the 8th biennale edition of Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), to take place in end-2022.

Building a legacy for art photography in Singapore

#BUILDECK Fundraising Campaign

DECK's new building is slated to begin construction in April 2022. As an independent building development project, DECK has to raise SGD\$6 million through public fundraising efforts and private donations.

Cultivating generations of photography artists Connecting with people through art photography

With space expansion and museum-quality facilities, DECK is better equipped to support the presentation of mid-career local and regional photo-artists. DECK's library has a growing collection of over 3,000 photobooks and art publications. This makes it Southeast Asia's most comprehensive photography-related collection for curators, researchers, and practitioners. Our structural improvements also allows DECK to reach out to various sectors of our community through the power of art and photography.



8th SIPF 2022

Arts encounter in everyday lives

Organised as a biennale festival, SIPF believes in the power of imagery to share stories and connect communities. As a flagship photography event in Southeast Asia, SIPF brings international artists, curators, and thinkers together in a global cultural exchange of new art developments in photography.

For the upcoming 8th edition, SIPF will activate public spaces again through a visual tapestry of photography artworks from across the globe. SIPF workshops for schools, professionals, and the public will be a hybrid of on-site and online programmes as it continues to engage new and existing audiences from Singapore and overseas.

Upcoming Programmes

Deeper engagement and diverse programming for our arts community in Singapore and the region

In anticipation of DECK's new arts centre for photography to be opened in November 2022, DECK has lined up new programmes to deepen our engagement with our arts community from all walks of life:

Youth for Youth (new)

Led by young and accomplished photo artist, a programme to inspire and build confidence among youths through expression in photo creation

Punctum (new)

Punctum presents a series of exhibition series that seek to connect the community to their immediate surroundings and the world beyond Singapore

Fringe Access (new)

A series of guided tours in mother tongue languages and dialects to engage unreached audiences in our community. To create access and remove barriers to the arts, DECK aims to provide chartered transport for young families and children from underprivileged families.

Visual Arts Literacy: School Education Programmes for Secondary and Tertiary School Students

Year-round programmes and hands-on workshops catered

to secondary and tertiary school students

History of Image-Making

Public outreach workshop that share the history and techniques of image-making

DECK Publishing

An independent publishing line of photobooks featuring Singapore and Southeast Asia photo artists

TRACE

An annual series of research-driven exhibition to map Singapore's art photography development

Undescribed

An annual platform for emerging artists to present new ways of approaching photography and the moving image

Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA)

A national award that aims to promote the art of photography amongst young Singaporeans, and to recognise and nurture budding photographic talents.

8 GOVERNANCE

Art Photography Centre Ltd adheres to good practices and code of governance for charities in Singapore. This ensures accountability and responsibility placed upon the organisation.

In FY21, Art Photography Centre Ltd and its Advisory Board held three Board Meetings and one Annual General Meeting. All Board Members were present for the meetings. To overcome social gathering restrictions, video conferences were held successfully and meeting agendas were fulfilled. The Board undergoes annual declaration to ensure open and transparent involvement within Art Photography Centre Ltd.

Board Governance

1. All six members of Art Photography Centre Ltd's Advisory Board are Singaporean citizens. Two members Ms Gwen Lee and Ms Jayvis Lau hold executive positions within Art Photography Centre Ltd.
2. The remuneration received by Lee Gim Lay and Lau Mei Leng is declared and audited by appointed auditor Tassure Asia LLP.
3. The Annual General Meeting is carried to examine, to approve and to adopt the audited Annual Financial Statement carried out by the appointed auditor.
4. The Annual General Meeting is carried out in either physical in person or online video conference with all members in view of travel constraints and covid-regulation
5. In addition to the AGM, the Board of Directors conferenced three times a year to be updated of the organisation's financial health and activities.
6. The Board Chairman holds the authority to examine and to verify the submission of materials and information of the organisation.
7. The Board Chairman is the approver in report submission for funds received by Art Photography Centre Ltd
8. The Board Chairman is the approver for budgetary planning and activities under Art Photography Centre Ltd for the following financial year.

Internal Governance

In compliance with the organisation's objectives, each role is conferred with defined responsibilities and authority to carry out necessary works in daily operation at Art Photography Centre Ltd. The reporting lines including the preparer, the reviewers and approvals are defined to ensure internal control and risk control.

1. Employees declare conflict of interest in relation to their roles and duties. This includes procurement of services and products from family members and relatives.

2. The hiring of staff is procured through interview and assessment by two Managing Directors. The staff hiring will be updated to the Board during quarterly meetings. The exit interview will be conducted by the Director and Operation Manager.
3. Account assistant as the preparer for payroll, invoices, which will be reviewed and approved by Director, provided sum is \$9,999 and below.
4. The approval of sum \$10,000 & above for service and product requires the approval of Board Chairman prior to its proceedings.
5. Procurement of services above \$10,000 requires open call for quote and tender. The preparer (Manager) will seek review from the Director, and finally to be approved by the Board Chairman.