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**For Immediate Release**

## **SCWO Celebrates International Women's Day (IWD) 2013**

### ***"Momentum"***

#### **Fundraising Gala Dinner with Mrs Mary Tan, Patron, SCWO**

**Singapore, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – Our Patron, Mrs Mary Tan, wife of President Tony Tan, will grace this dinner with the theme "Momentum". The Dinner will be held on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2013 at 7.30 p.m., at the Grand Ballroom, Level 6, Mandarin Orchard Hotel.**

Also gracing this dinner will be Mdm Halimah Yacob, Speaker of Parliament, Ms Grace Fu, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Social and Family Development and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence. There will also be several other Lady Members of Parliament and Lady Ambassadors joining us at this dinner.

There will be a line-up of sensational entertainment for the evening – The Singapore Dance Theatre will be setting the tone from the get-go with an exciting excerpt of Goh Choo San's signature ballet "Momentum". Our very own Mad Chinaman, the debonair Dick Lee, will also be serenading the guests. There will be a stunning jewellery showcase and show by Larry Jewellery. Silent Auction with items from Larry Jewelry, Soroptimist International of Singapore – Garden City, Gnani Gallery and Brush Gallery will raise funds for the SCWO Service Fund.

This Dinner is the culmination of events by SCWO held to celebrate International Women's Day 2013.

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, more than 300 participants attended the **MDIS-SCWO Symposium held at the MDIS Stirling Campus Auditorium**. The various participants were inspired by women leaders 1) Ms Tan Su Shan, Managing Director and Group Head of Wealth Management, DBS Bank 2) Ms Josephine Ng, Co-Founder of A-Changing Pte Ltd, 3) Mrs Laura Hwang, President, SCWO, 4) Dr Jennifer Lee, Chairman of the Agency for Integrated Care and Corporate Advisor to Temasek International and 5) Dr Jane Horan, EdD. Author and Speaker.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> March, more than 600 students from 16 schools participated in the **National Young Leaders Day – Women's Edition Symposium** held at the Kallang Theatre. The young participants were captivated by the four young unconventional leaders: 1) Chef Janice Wong, Founder of 2am:Dessert Bar, 2) Ms Gina Romero, Founder of micro-consultancy

Unconventional, Head of Athena Network, Singapore, 3) Ms Cassandra Chiu, Founder of The Safe Harbour, Singapore Woman Award 2012 recipient and 4) Ms Pamela Ho, Author and travel writer, Award winning journalist.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> March 40 Debating Teams from Secondary Schools and Junior Colleges, and Polytechnics in Singapore and Malaysia came to battle it out for the **SCWO-NUS Challenge Shield Trophy**, renowned as one of the most challenging and prestigious tournaments in the local debate calendar. In addition to gathering the best debaters, some of the best adjudicators were also invited. The debate featured issues with a special focus on gender issues facing Singapore girls and women today. This was an excellent way to create the awareness in our young future leaders of these issues.

**For media enquiries:**

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## About SCWO

The Singapore Council of Women's Organisations is the National Coordinating body of women's organisations in Singapore. Our 57 Member Organisations represent more than 600,000 women in Singapore.

Incorporated in March 1980, the SCWO serves to unite the various women's organisations, clubs, committees, groups and women leaders together, working in accordance with its various aims and objectives. The SCWO also serves to coordinate these associations into a national movement and to act on their behalf in matters for which it is authorised by its members.

The SCWO is represented on various Government and inter-ministry committees where we contribute our views in the areas of family, women, and on children's issues. We are involved in government Feedback Sessions and other discussions on issues and policies

## Our Services

**Star Shelter**—It is the only secular crisis shelter in Singapore, and is a safe temporary refuge for women and their children seeking refuge from a life of family violence. It is a place where they learn to re-build their lives, be independent, and prepare for a future free of violence.

**Maintenance Support Central** – The one-stop drop-in Centre that provides support and assistance for claimants who have difficulty recovering court ordered maintenance from their spouse.

**Legal Clinics** – Experienced lawyers from the Singapore Association of Women Lawyers (SAWL), and other volunteer lawyers are available twice a month to assist women without the means of basic legal advice and information. With the assistance and support of the Law Society of Singapore's Muslim Law Practice Committee, Muslim Law Legal Clinic is available at SCWO for Muslims seeking legal advice specifically on matters pertaining to the Syariah Law

**IT Hub**— A Training Centre run by volunteers for women and their family members to become IT connected and updated.

**New2U Thrift Shop**—Sells pre-loved apparel, shoes, accessories and household items, with proceeds going to Star Shelter.

**Function Rooms**—The Bonny Hicks Education and Training Centre consists of six rooms ranging from 9 sqm to 88 sqm, equipped for training, seminars and meetings, available for rentals to member organisations and the public.

**The Library**— The Library is named after the late Justice F.A. Chua. It is an archival library for all women's organisations -local and international.

**The Café** – The café @ SCWO offers a range of tantalizing food, desserts and coffee.

## Our Initiatives

**WR—Women's Register** is a platform for on-line Mentoring, Networking, Education and Inspiration, and reaches out to women and girls, from eighteen year and beyond.

**BoardAgender** – Provides a forum in Singapore to create greater awareness and understanding of the benefits of gender balanced business, and to facilitate the advancement of more women into senior leadership roles and onto boards.

**Wall of Fame** – In 2005, SCWO launched the Wall of Fame to honour the significant contributions of pioneering women activists who have helped shape the landscape of female advancement in Singapore.

Web: <http://www.scwo.org.sg>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/theSCWO>

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/scwo>

## About Momentum

by Singapore Dance Theatre

Staging      Janek Schergen  
Music        Prokofiev, Piano Concerto No.1

This ballet acclaimed for its clean, sculptural lines and streamlined partnering, won for Goh Choo San the Best Choreography Award in the oldest and most prestigious Varna International Dance Competition in Bulgaria, in 1983. This ballet and the award thrust Goh into the international spotlight of dance. Critics have praised Goh for vividly translating into bodily motion the mass choral effect, driving rhythms and pronounced leaps of Prokofiev's Piano Concerto

The Singapore Dance Theatre (SDT) was founded in 1988 by Goh Soo Khim and Anthony Then. Since then, SDT has developed into Singapore's premier professional dance company comprising 37 professional dancers. In the course of each year, the Company performs six to eight seasons annually, including the widely popular *Ballet Under The Stars* at the Fort Canning Park, two full length classics and also *Masterpiece in Motion* which brings together three works of the finest international choreography.

The Company's repertoire ranges from classical to contemporary ballet, from renowned choreographers like Goh Choo San, George Balanchine, Nacho Duato, Jiri Kylian, Stanton Welch, Xing Liang, Val Caniparoli, Graham Lustig, David Dawson, Jorma Elo, Edmund Stripe, Adrian Burnett, Edwaard Liang, Nils Christie, Toru Shimazaki and Christina Chan.

In 2009, Janek Schergen took over the post of Artistic Director of SDT. Under his leadership, the Company has made new achievements in the international and Singapore dance arena. Janek is also the Artistic Director of the Choo-San Goh & H. Robert Magee Foundation which oversees the licensing and production of Choo San Goh's ballets and the annual Choo San Goh Awards for Choreography.

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## About Dick Lee

DICK LEE b. 1956 - Multi-talented Dick Lee has firmly established himself as a performer and composer, often recognised through his works as the spokesperson for the New Asian generation. The Dick Lee phenomenon started in 1971 when, at the age of fifteen, Dick participated in various talent contests with the group, Harmony, and Dick and the Gang (teaming with his siblings). His first album, LIFE STORY, featuring his own compositions, was released in 1974. Throughout the 70s and 80s, Dick championed the inclusion of Asian elements in pop music. His pioneering album, LIFE IN THE LION CITY (1984), won acclaim for just that. but the album that shot him to regional prominence was his 1989 release, THE MAD CHINAMAN, which achieved platinum status in Singapore in 3 months.

In 1990 Dick moved to Japan where he continued to develop the new Asian identity through his solo work, as well as collaborate with top Asian artistes like Sandy Lam from Hong Kong and Japanese group Zoo. He has to date, written countless songs for the top singing talents in Asia including Jackie Cheung, Andy Lau, Sammi Cheng, Anita Mui, Miyazawa of The Boom and Stephanie Sun amongst others.

Dick is also passionate about musicals. He has written many staged musicals including BEAUTY WORLD (1988), FRIED RICE PARADISE (1991, 2010), KAMPONG AMBER (1994), SING TO THE DAWN (1997), FORBIDDEN CITY

(2003), which opened the Esplanade in Singapore, and Jacky Cheung's acclaimed SNOW.WOLF.LAKE (1997), which toured Asia in 2005.

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### Auction Items:

#### Item No. 1

#### **SCWO Pendant by Larry Jewelry**

White Diamond 48pcs 0.78ct

Blue Sapphire 8pcs 0.20ct

Yellow Sapphire 8pcs 0.17ct

Pink Sapphire 24pcs 0.45ct

Tsavorite 8pcs 0.18ct

**Starting bid \$6000**



Inspired by SCWO's official logo, the pendant is exclusively handcrafted by Larry Jewelry's master craftsmen using a symphony of 96 pieces of high-grade white diamonds and precious stones, aggregating at 1.78carat. Uniquely custom-made for this special occasion, the pendant jewelry features rare blue, yellow, and pink sapphires as well as green tsavorite, in an 'O' circle embrace.

"We chose to honour SCWO's logo as we wanted to celebrate the organisation, its mission and the wonderful women behind it." says Mr Charles Chan, General Manager of Larry Jewelry. "It is also a privilege to partner SCWO and a wonderful opportunity for us to give back." he adds.

#### **About Larry Jewelry**

Larry Jewelry (1967) Pte Ltd is a leader in fine quality diamonds and gems, and the sole distributor of Lazare Diamonds® in Singapore and Indonesia.

Larry Jewelry has also been accorded recognition for its quality diamonds and gemstones, exceptional, "one-of-its-kind" designs and outstanding craftsmanship over the years. It was the first Singaporean winner of the De Beers Diamond International Awards, thus placing Singapore on the world map for fine diamonds and craftsmanship. Its accolades also include a South Sea Pearl Design Bronze Award in 2003. Recognised for its excellence including business practice, customer service and quality diamonds, Larry Jewelry has been chosen as one of the national model companies in Singapore by SPRING for high work performance standards, and is one of the winners of Superbrands 2004 / 2005. It has been granted the Singapore Service Star consecutively for three years in 2010, 2011 & 2012, awarded the Excellent Service Award from 2005 to 2010, and also received the Tourism Host Award (Retail Category) in 2001, all conferred by the Singapore Tourism Board (STB). Singapore Tatler also presented Larry Jewelry with the "Best Local Premium Jewellery 2008" Award and "Best Luxury Accessories-Jewellery (Premium)" Award in 2010, 2011 & 2012.

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#### Item No. 2

Brush Gallery

#### **Parrot by Tatiana Alieva (Moscow)**

Oil and Acrylic on canvas

71cm x 65 cm

**Starting bid \$1500**



#### **About the Artist**

Tatiana Alieva was born in Baku, Azerbaijan, and graduated from the National University of Azerbaijan with a Biology degree. During four years in Moscow she studied art alongside Russian artists now widely recognised for their artistic achievements. She and her family then moved to Wellington, New Zealand, where her artistic passion blossomed, capturing spectacular city, ocean and mountain scenery. Images of a very different kind graced her canvas during four years in Thailand, after which she moved to Singapore, where her two, very international children, completed high school. Art Enrichment



Programs at the La Salle SIA College of Arts provided yet another dimension to her vibrant and colourful style, now focused in Asia. For the past eighteen years, Tatiana and Firoudin her husband have settled in Singapore, their home away from home.

Sunny childlike joy and mature feminine grace reveal the depths of Tatiana's world experience and imagination. Lavender blooms of the French landscape, wild animals of Africa, lithe forms of Spanish Flamenco dancers, Singapore motor racing and the brilliant colors of her butterflies. These are just some of the favourite subjects that she explores through her prolific art.

Tatiana's art works have featured in South East Asian art auctions, and are collected world wide by private and corporate art lovers and investors, including The National Art Museum of Azerbaijan.

"My paintings are always very colorful, because they are about the things that attract me and show how I feel. In my work I try to portray the atmosphere around me and find the artistic language that can translate my vision of the world"

#### **About Brush Gallery**

Brush Gallery is a contemporary art gallery, online gallery and space for exhibition in Singapore, Hong Kong and Indonesia. It showcases the most dynamic, cutting edge and distinctive works of art from established and emerging artists.

Brush Gallery strive to bring the most exciting works from around the world into Asia. Their personal connections with the artists they represent ensure a bespoke service they are able to offer their clients.

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#### Gnani Gallery

##### Item No. 3

##### ***Mother and Child (2012) – 04 by P. Gnana***

Oil on Canvas

25 x 51 cm

**Starting bid \$800**

Gnani Gallery



##### Item No. 4

##### ***Relentless Ruler (2012) – 01 by P. Gnana***

Bronze and Steel

69 cm (h), 36 cm (diameter)

**Starting bid \$3200**



#### **About the Artist**

P. Gnana paints, sculpts and creates conceptual installations, as one of Singapore's leading artists. Indeed, he has obtained a highly-captivated audience in the Lion City and internationally, for the aesthetic and conceptual niche that he has created for himself within the ever-competitive dynamics of urban art-making. This, he continues to achieve, by constantly counter-challenging or taming the forces that urge him to dispel his obsessive fascination towards the cow, a recurring symbol in his art since the past four years. It is a fact that exemplary paintings by Gnana are also in the collections of the President of the Republic of Singapore and the Singapore Art Museum of the National Heritage Board. Gnana is a recipient of the LASALLE Scholarship of the LASALLE College of the Arts (Singapore), from where he received his formal training in the art of painting. Gnana was granted the honour of being selected (in 2005) to undertake a project commissioned by Singapore's Ascendas to create fourteen large-scaled paintings with an abstract expressionistic motivation for the International Tech Park in Chennai.

#### **About The Gallery of Gnani Arts**

Founded in early 2003, **The Gallery of Gnani Arts** has been a local and regional trend-setter within its area of research, curation and collection expertise – South Indian contemporary art by masters and international artists. Apart from curating and marketing its primary collection of art by masters and senior artists, the Gallery continues to launch the careers of a selective number of artists from Singapore (where it is based) and from other parts of the globe. Clients of The Gallery of Gnani Arts include the Singapore Art Museum of the National Heritage Board (Singapore) and numerous corporations and individuals in Europe and Southeast Asia.

In the Tamil language, the word 'Gnani', pronounced as 'Niyani', refers to one who is enlightened, spiritually or intellectually.

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Item No. 5

Soroptimist International of Singapore (Garden City)

**Germination by Elsie Yu** (M Des RCA PhD LSE)

Art Glass Sculpture

58cm (h) x 19cm (d)

**Starting bid \$1200**



**About the Artist**

Dr Elsie Yu is the fifth woman in Singapore awarded the *Singapore Council of Women's Organisations Award* in 2001. Her social and creative achievements are well recognised in the past 40 years.

Elsie's artwork covers a full spectrum of median: stone, wood, metal and glass. The diverse effect of various material offer challenges for her to explore infinite innovative possibilities. She ventured into art glass panel by accident when the late Brother Joseph McNally commissioned her to create an appreciation gift for the Minister of Finance, Dr Richard Hu and specified that it must be in glass.



Her monumental wall murals adorn the Changi Airport Terminals, Banks, Hotel, University Campus, Hospitals and Statutory Organisations in Singapore. The major sculpture in stainless steel won her the nickname "Lady of Steel".

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Dr Elsie Yu welcomes all constructive invitations to advance humanitarian causes. She can be contacted at 65-9634 7063 (mobile) or [drelsieyu@gmail.com](mailto:drelsieyu@gmail.com)