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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

T:>Works launches T:>NFT with the first collection of 30 unique #Metazomia NFTs

SINGAPORE, November 1, 2022 — T:>Works launches T:>NFT, a dedicated digital platform for non-fungible tokens (NFT) created by artists commissioned and presented by T:>Works. The first NFT collection to be minted is **#Metazomia NFTs**, generated by award-winning and multi-hyphenated artist, Brian Gothong Tan as the second commission of his T:>Works Artistic Atelier season.

With the release of these 30 unique 1/1 **#Metazomia NFTs**, T:>Works becomes the first performing arts company in Singapore to create and mint an NFT collection. All 30 artworks will be available for silent auction from 8 till 18 November 2022. Each piece will begin at a reserve price between \$2500-\$3800. Following the silent auction, the pieces will be minted in December using the polygon blockchain.

Details of the process of auction and minting are available at the all-new T:>NFT website: www.tworksntft.com.

The establishment of T:>NFT and the release of **#Metazomia NFT** collection marks T:>Works' continuing exploration and experimentation across the physical-digital-hybrid worlds. In the last two years, T:>Works has embraced the challenges and experimented committedly with the digital. It generated several key digital initiatives beginning from scratch. These include the transformation of *Festival of Women, N.O.W.* into a fully digital festival, the creation of successful hybrid productions such as *The Swimming Pool Library*, Tan's first commission under the Atelier, *How To Break A Window* and *project SALOME*, the purely digital enterprises such as *Curating No-Thing* of the Curator's Academy, *PerForm* webinar lecture series and the collaborations with Berlin's Maxim Gorki Theatre on the *Digital Young Curators Academy* in 2021. The most recent endeavour is *T:>Digital*, a subscription-based site with access to T:>Works digital lectures and specifically edited hybrid productions.

These initiatives are testaments to the company's enduring engagement with digitality. Locating itself within the NFT world is an extension of T:>Works bold digital presence and furthers T:>Works pioneering of thought leadership in the arts.

Explains T:>Works Artistic Director, Ong Keng Sen,

“By initiating T:>NFT, we continue to invest deeply into the digitalisation of T:>Works. We tripped into it during the pandemic. We quickly decided to generate only new work with this digital advent, rather than digging into our archive of former productions. After all, the digital is the trajectory of some contemporary artists today, and the first language of many young audiences. Most of us are already experiencing on a daily basis the digital world with our smart phones. Brian’s creations are ripe and accessible for the digital world. Curious audiences who are fascinated can continue to take this plunge with us.”

Initiatives such as T:>NFT allow T:>Works and the artists it collaborates with to experiment with diverse mediums and forms not limited to the physical presence.

The 30 NFTs are part of the larger collection of still and moving images drawn from the on-site **#Metazomia** production that will be staged at 72-13. The production will premiere on 31 December 2022 and ring in the new year of 2023. Tan first conceived of the idea for **#Metazomia** when he encountered James C. Scott’s 2009 epic Zomia hypothesis¹. By this time, he was already fascinated by the writings and ideas of Satoshi Nakamoto and the ideals of bitcoin creation. In both, Tan saw parallels with his own interest in considering alternative ways of living, relating and governing.

“The margins and the peripherals have always been central to my creation. If we could build a different world, what would that be? How would we wish to imagine the air we breathe, the atmosphere we imbibe and the possibilities away from the present boundaries we have? Where can that alternative be? For me, art is one space where the imagination is free to create, and in spite of its limitations and perhaps because of it, we dare to push further and search for the alternative.”

Resisting the clichés of utopian-dystopian binary of imagined futures, Tan’s **#Metazomia** re-imagines what alternate worlds may be. He spins off illustrative genres such as cypherpunk, solarpunk and desertpunk. He harnesses history, literature, popular culture, film and digitality to playfully critique and comment on reality and the desires for alternatives. In doing so, Tan creates a non-state reality that reflexively looks back at the proposal of better futures.

¹ James C. Scott published *The Art of Not Being Governed: An Anarchist History of Upland Southeast Asia* (Yale University Press, 2009) is an anthropological and historical study on the large massif at elevations above 300 meters stretching from the Central Highlands of Vietnam to North-eastern India.

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#Metazomia transforms 72-13 into a visual performance where the audience is invited into this world as actors. From the point of entry to when they leave, audience decides their experience. There are interactive circles from which they activate the digital images to experience independently. Or they could work collectively with other audience members to trigger the entire suite of images as a total experience.

Tickets sales begin from 1 November 2022, with details below.

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Details:

T:>Works presents a series of new commissions

by Brian Gothong Tan

#Metazomia NFT –

launched on T:>NFT with silent auction from 8 till 18 Nov 2022.

At www.tworksnt.com

#Metazomia at 72-13 –

31 Dec 2022, 11pm till 1 Jan 2023, 1am

Gala Opening Fundraiser & New Year Countdown Party

Tickets at S\$200 (including an open edition signed #Metazomia print, plus champagne and light bites)

2 Jan till 20 Jan 2023

- 2pm-10pm (2 Jan, Fri till Sun)

- 5pm-10pm (Tue till Thu)

- Closed on 9 & 16 Jan

Tickets at S\$23 and S\$15 (students/NSF/senior concessions)

Group bookings available, email ticketing.tworks@gmail.com for details.

Tickets are available on Peatix: bit.ly/MetazomiaTicketing

For more information or requests for press interviews and images, please contact:

Deirdre Chang at deirdre.tworks@gmail.com / call 67377213 or 84187246.

T:>NFT

T:>NFT is a gathering of NFT collections created by artists commissioned and presented by T:>Works, an independent and international arts company based in Singapore. At T:>NFT, collaborations are important to us. From conversation to final creation, we commit our artistry, care, and share resources. Together, we investigate how we think and make art and our relationships with each other in the digital-material-hybrid spaces.

Brian Gothong Tan

Brian Gothong Tan is one of the leading creatives in Singapore, and is best known for his cutting-edge and highly engaging works in theatre, film and installation art. He graduated from California Institute of the Arts in 2005 under the Shell-NAC Scholarship. His works have been featured in numerous productions which have toured successfully in Italy, USA, Korea and the United Kingdom. His latest projects include “Tropical Traumas” (Singapore International Festival of Arts 2016), “Lost Cinema 20/20” (Esplanade, 2021) and “Havoc Girls and Kamikaze Boys” (2021, M1 Fringe and NAFA). He was conferred the Young Artist Award in 2012, and the Singapore Youth Award in 2015. He was Multimedia Director for the Singapore Bicentennial Experience, National Day Parade, SEA Games, Youth Olympic Games, and most recently, the Singapore Pavilion at the Expo 2020 Dubai. In 2021, Brian began his multi-year Artistic Atelier with T:>Works, and created his first work *The Swimming Pool Library* – a four month production which began sold-out performances in October 2021 and ended with a highly successful exhibition in January 2022.

T:>Works

Established in 1985, **T:>Works** is an independent and international arts company based in Singapore at its space, 72-13. It is current led by Artistic Director, Dr. Ong Keng Sen.

T:>Works’ mission and vision are the pioneering of thought leadership in the arts focused on transdisciplinary, transcultural, and inclusive processes.

To this end, there is a strong educational perspective with research and discourse contextualising histories, contemporary experiences, and situated art practices of the global south.

T:>Works also serves to investigate the current urgencies of being located in Singapore, and larger Asia, through different creative expressions in the public sphere. It is a recipient of the National Arts Council Major Company Grant from 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2025.

T:>Works is an Institute of Public Character with charity status.