

VILLA ALICIA

A new project by
Singaporean artist Alecia Neo
about homes and memories.

16 JUNE 2011, Singapore – A winebar owner and his mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's, are about to move out of the house they have lived in for the last 40 years. Artist Alecia Neo (Home Visits) and sound artist Clarence Chung, both 25, hope to preserve the memories and personality of the 1970s home in their latest art installation, Villa Alicia.

This August, the house in Binjai Park will play host to a sound and photography installation before it is vacated by its occupants, Tan Ying Hsien, a winebar owner, 49, and Dr Nalla Tan, 88, a prominent physician and feminist.

Visitors will get a chance to wander through the bungalow, which is split into two parts. Ying Hsien's is filled with his marathon medals and wine magazines, and the other, belonging to his mother, is filled with paintings, drawings, kitchenware in rooms that have seen little change since the 1970s.

About forgotten memories and the act of remembering, Villa Alicia looks into how memories and histories are shaped by time, mind and disease. Human memory is fragile. Can we preserve and reproduce memories through physical objects and documentation? How accurate is it? How true?

Neo, 25, says: "I see the value in capturing the fragility of memories, people and spaces, through a rare opportunity in having access to the home of a prominent person; the contrast of generations, the new and the old, and the loss faced as memory fails you."

The house is slated to be demolished a few days after the exhibition closes. Come by, visit and help us bid a fond farewell to the old home.

For Ying Hsien, the decision to sell and move out of the house was a heart-rending one. "I've lived there for the better part of a lifetime and most of my memories are inextricably tied to the house. Whilst I carry away these memories, their physical link will be severed when the house disappears."

VILLA ALICIA

A new project by
Singaporean artist Alecia Neo
about homes and memories.

Event Details

Villa Alicia

Dates: 6 to 12 August 2011, from 9 am to 9 pm

Where: 43 Binjai Park, Singapore 589843

Admission is free

For media enquiries, please contact:

Alecia Neo

Mobile: +65 9384 2916

Email: villaalicia@gmail.com

About Villa Alicia

In August 2011, a bungalow in Binjai Park will play host to a sound and photography installation by Singaporean artist Alecia Neo and musician Clarence Chung. The 1970s house is home to wine bar owner Tan Ying Hsien and his mother, Dr Nalla Tan, a prominent physician and feminist who suffers from Alzheimer's Disease. Visitors will be allowed to wander through the perfectly preserved house in Villa Alicia, before it is demolished a few days after the exhibition closes.

About Alecia Neo

With a great love for people and cultures, Alecia Neo's documentary-based work is often about common human experiences of alienation and loneliness, dislocation and belonging, and the search for self. Portraiture is the main focus of her work. Her latest body of work, "Home Visits" has received a Honorable Mention in the 2009 Berenice Abbott Prize by juror Tim B. Wride, Curator of the Department of Photographs at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. "Home Visits" has also been selected for the 2nd Singapore International Photography Festival (SIPF), that opened on 15 Oct 2010.

VILLA ALICIA

A new project by
Singaporean artist Alecia Neo
about homes and memories.

About Clarence Chung

Paid to perform for the first time in 2006 at the tender age of 19, Clarence has been performing professionally ever since. Today, he entertains as resident musician at Reddot Brewhouse at Dempsey Road. In 2010, Clarence found an interest in contemporary sound design and post-modern composition and hence began to take on freelance motion picture projects that require the manipulation of sound effects and music to create emotive and abstract commentaries.

About Dr. Nalla Tan (Mother)

Nalla Tan, (b. 1923, Ipoh, Perak), nee Navarednam, is a well-known physician, counsellor and educator in sexual matters in Singapore. She was also the first woman in Southeast Asia to be awarded the Fellow of the Faculty of Community Medicine from the Faculty of Medicine of the Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom. She has published short stories and books about poetry (Beyond the Navel, Hearts and Crosses, Villa Alicia etc), women issues, as well as sex education.

About Tan Ying Hsien (Youngest Son)

Tan Ying Hsien (b. 1961, Singapore) is a lawyer by training and spent most of his professional career providing legal and compliance advice in-house to major international banks. He started tasting and studying wine in 1983 while pursuing university studies in the United Kingdom. He was on the tasting panel of Wine & Dine Singapore for a number of years and has served as a judge in International Wine Challenges held in Singapore. He currently tastes for the The Local Nose, gives wine talks and is engaged in wine education. Tan Ying Hsien is the owner of Taberna Wine Bar.



Dr Nalla Tan's writings on the walls of the house, which help her remember what the photos and paintings are of.



The Tan family's house is an almost undisturbed and fully preserved area with anachronistic furnishing which has seen little changes since the 1970s. This house will be treated as a gallery space where guests will be able to experience the artwork and explore the house.