

# Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



*Theo Jansen with Plaudens Vela 2*

## ***Come walk with the beests*** *Theo Jansen's Strandbeests make their Southeast Asian debut at ArtScience Museum*

**SINGAPORE (30 April 2018)** – ArtScience Museum will be unveiling the first Southeast Asian exhibition of Theo Jansen's world-famous moving sculptures, Strandbeests, on 23 June.

*Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen's Strandbeests* is a major retrospective of Theo Jansen's life work. The sculptor from the Netherlands has spent the last 28 years developing a series of wind-powered machines called Strandbeests, which he describes as “a new species on Earth”. The Strandbeests ('beach animals' in Dutch) blur the lines between art, science, engineering and performance.

The exhibition brings together 13 large-scale Strandbeests in the galleries of ArtScience Museum, from the most recent Strandbeests to 'fossils' of past beests. Made from everyday materials, Jansen's beests utilise wind power to walk in a startlingly lifelike fashion. *Wind Walkers* celebrates the thrill of the Strandbeests' unique locomotion, the processes and stories that have driven their evolution. (*See Appendix I for descriptions of selected Strandbeests.*)

Visitors will also be able to get up close and personal with these larger-than-life creatures by walking with them in the galleries and experiencing their naturalistic movement. Amongst the highlights is *Animaris Siamesis*, the largest Strandbeest in the exhibition, which measures 10 metres in body length and weighs over 240kg.

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“As a museum that celebrates the confluence of art and science, ArtScience Museum is thrilled to present the first major Southeast Asian exhibition by the world-renowned artist, Theo Jansen. There are few people working in any field today who embody the intersection of art and science as beautifully as Jansen. For nearly 30 years, he has combined his understanding of science, with his artistic skill to engineer mechanical animals that appear startlingly alive. This major new exhibition, curated by ArtScience Museum and Media Force, with support from Audemars Piguet, charts Jansen’s imaginative vision, brings the complexity and creativity of his novel world to life, and vividly illustrates the environmental science that inspired the creation of the Strandbeests,” said Honor Harger, Executive Director of ArtScience Museum.

“I am excited to bring the Strandbeests to ArtScience Museum in Singapore and I hope that the audience will enjoy interacting with them as much as I have creating them. The Strandbeests will remind visitors to push the boundaries of their creativity and never give up on their dreams,” added Jansen.

In the spirit of Leonardo da Vinci, Jansen is trained as a physicist, then became a painter, before focusing his attention on sculptures. He has applied his background in both art and science to create dozens of self-propelled Strandbeests, dedicating his life to the evolution of his unique creations. He has exhibited extensively in major galleries and museums in Europe, the United States, South America and Japan, and has been profiled by CNN, BBC, and The New York Times. Jansen has emerged as a popular culture sensation, making a high-profile appearance on the TED Conference stage, and even starring in an episode of *The Simpsons*.

Originally conceived as a solution to address the threat of flooding caused by rising sea levels, the Strandbeests were envisioned by Jansen as wind-powered creatures roaming the beaches, pushing and piling sand on the shore to form natural barriers. *Wind Walkers* shows how Jansen’s creatures have dramatically advanced in form and function over the years, becoming more than the practical machines he originally intended, and instead evolving into a new species of man-made animal.

The exhibition uses compelling design, hands-on educational displays, and original artwork to reflect Jansen’s personal philosophy that “the walls between art and engineering exist only in our minds”. It will feature a comprehensive collection of films, prints, artist sketches, and prototypes; an immersive environment that recreates Jansen’s workshop; as well as interactive activities that explore the creativity of Jansen’s engineering.

Audemars Piguet is the Sponsor for *Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen’s Strandbeests*. Media Force Ltd is the Worldwide Agent of the exhibition.

*Wind Walkers: Theo Jansen’s Strandbeests* will run from 23 June 2018 till 30 September 2018.

Tickets for the exhibition will be available soon at all Marina Bay Sands box offices and website. For more information on the exhibition, please visit <https://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/theo-jansen.html>

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## About Theo Jansen

Theo Jansen (born 1948, the Netherlands) studied physics at Delft University of Technology, but left to pursue a career in art. He started out as a landscape painter, but shot to prominence in 1980 when he flew a “UFO” – made of plastic sheeting on a light frame – across the skies of Holland. His engineering background and keen interest in physical science have continually shaped his art. Jansen’s most renowned works are his Strandbeests, which he continues to build on the Dutch seaside. Jansen has exhibited his work internationally, including at the Exploratorium in San Francisco, the Peabody Essex Museum in Massachusetts, USA; the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo, Japan; Cité des Sciences and Palais de Tokyo in Paris, France; the Reina Sophia in Madrid, Spain; the Institute for Contemporary Art in London, UK; and the Stedelijk Museum in the Netherlands. He has been profiled by The New Yorker, The New York Times, the BBC and Wired amongst others and his TED talk has attracted over four million online views. For more information, please visit [www.strandbeest.com](http://www.strandbeest.com)

## About Marina Bay Sands Pte Ltd

Marina Bay Sands is the leading business, leisure and entertainment destination in Asia. It features large and flexible convention and exhibition facilities, 2,560 hotel rooms and suites, the rooftop Sands SkyPark, the best shopping mall in Asia, world-class celebrity chef restaurants, a theatre and an outdoor event plaza. Completing the line-up of attractions is ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands which plays host to permanent and marquee exhibitions. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com](http://www.marinabaysands.com)

## About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum is a major cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. It is the cultural component of Marina Bay Sands. Since its opening in February 2011, ArtScience Museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world’s major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as exhibitions which explore aspects of science and technology – including particle physics, big data, robotics, paleontology, marine biology and space science. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html)

## Audemars Piguet and Art

Audemars Piguet has always sought to integrate creative vision with superb artistry and technical mastery. Pursuing its commitment to ingenuity, innovation, and a spirit of independence, Audemars Piguet formed a partnership with Art Basel in 2013, supporting the world’s premier contemporary art shows in Hong Kong, Basel and Miami Beach. Since then, Audemars Piguet has presented innovative concepts at all three Art Basel shows, inviting artists to creatively interpret Audemars Piguet’s heritage and origins.

Audemars Piguet supports annual projects that give artists the freedom to create works that offer their own, highly personal interpretation of the company’s cultural and geographical origins. These projects are emblematic of the company’s most deeply held values and testify to the deep and fertile dialogue between two areas of creative endeavour that have much to say to each other. For Art Basel’s 2014 show in Miami Beach, Audemars Piguet co-presented Theo Jansen’s Strandbeest, animal-like kinetic sculptures which harnessed wind power to walk along the seashore in Miami Beach. For Audemars Piguet, these complex and compelling creatures evoke the essence of watchmaking in a language that could only have been developed by an artist. For more information, please visit <https://www.audemarspiguet.com/en/experience/>

## Media Enquiries





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## For hi-res images:

[https://drive.google.com/open?id=195PgzLU2DdQnD\\_1lxOEKofWgWmU\\_UExv](https://drive.google.com/open?id=195PgzLU2DdQnD_1lxOEKofWgWmU_UExv) (Credit to Media Force)

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## APPENDIX I

	<p>Animaris Rigide Properans Tepideem, the Less-Hot Period 1994 – 1997</p> <p><i>Rigide Properans</i> is a Strandbeest that can walk sideways against the direction of the wind at considerable speed. Jansen calls it his ‘sturdy hasty beach animal’. <i>Rigide Properans</i> is now considered a fossil – a term Theo Jansen uses for his retired creatures that can no longer move.</p>
	<p>Animaris Ordis Cerebrum, the Brain Period 2006 – 2008</p> <p>Small and mobile, <i>Ordis</i> is moved using wind power generated through its sail. One of the quintessential Strandbeests, <i>Ordis</i> is also perhaps the most versatile, as it functions as the walking unit of several other larger Strandbeests. In the galleries, where there is no wind, it can be moved by assistants, who can pull it along the gallery floor. Its astonishing lifelike walking motion is typical of Jansen’s Strandbeests.</p>
	<p>Animaris Apodiacula Aurum, the Period of Gentle Breeze 2013 – 2015</p> <p><i>Apodiacula</i> is one of the tallest Strandbeests created by Jansen. It has striking protruding beams that work as outriggers, giving <i>Apodiacula</i> stability in strong winds and allowing it to walk without toppling over.</p>
	<p>Animaris Burchus Primus Bruchum, the Caterpillar Period 2016 – Present</p> <p><i>Burchus Primus</i> is an unusual Strandbeest, adopting a completely different form and function to its wind-powered cousins. Rather than being driven by the wind, it is pulled across the beach by people. It looks like a caterpillar both in appearance and movement. Its new style of walking allowed for better manoeuvring on rough and uneven sand.</p>