

**SPEECH BY MS CHONG SIAK CHING, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,
NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE
AT PRESS CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN UNION FILM FESTIVAL,
9 APRIL 2017**

Your excellencies,

Barbara Plinkert, European Union Ambassador to Singapore,
Karin Fichtinger-Grohe, Austrian Ambassador to Singapore,
Miguel Angel Navarro, Spanish Ambassador to Singapore,
Håkan Jevrell, Swedish Ambassador to Singapore
Dorte Vizard, Danish Ambassador to Singapore
Ulrich A. Sante, German Ambassador to Singapore

**Friends from the media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Welcome

1. Good morning, and a very warm welcome to National Gallery Singapore, the venue partner for the 28th edition of European Union Film Festival.
2. Following our successful collaboration last year, where we saw close to 5,000 attendees to the festival, I would like to thank the organisers of the European Union Film Festival for choosing to partner with us a second time. It is a tremendous honour for us to host this longest running foreign film festival in Singapore.

Gallery and EUFF

3. The European Union Film Festival is an excellent showcase of Europe's multicultural heritage. The Gallery is thus excited to support the Festival again, because we are similarly committed to facilitate exchanges, encourage a diversity of voices and conversations between them.

Painting with Light

4. It is in this spirit that the Gallery launched its own film festival—*Painting with Light: Festival of Films on Art*—last year. It is the only film festival in Singapore that examines the significance of art in society by looking at how people live and work with art around the world.
5. *Painting with Light* includes a fine selection of European films. The opening film last year—*The New Rijksmuseum*— particularly struck a chord with me. The Rijksmuseum, home to the finest collection of works by Dutch masters like Rembrandt and Vermeer, closed for a major renovation in 2003. The film follows its 10 years of renovation, documenting the challenges and achievements of the massive restoration project. It is not unlike the sweat, tears, pride and joy we experienced in the course of our own transformation, which I fondly reminisced from time to time.
6. With a successful inaugural edition, *Painting with Light* will continue into its second edition in October this year. We hope to invite the

audience to see and feel the transformative power of art through this year's film selection.

Closing

7. Art inspires, uplifts, moves and stimulates us, just like how films broaden our minds and perspectives. By developing meaningful programmes with partners such as the European Union Film Festival, we hope to inspire a thoughtful, creative and inclusive society.

8. As with the last European Union Film Festival, attendees will be given free admission to our galleries. We hope they will be inspired by our art as much as they enjoy the films.

9. Congratulations to the organisers on another exciting edition of the European Film Festival. I look forward to this year's film selection.
Thank you.