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Benesse Holdings, Inc.
Representative Director and President CEO
Tamotsu Adachi

【Press release】

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Announcement of artists shortlisted for the 12th Benesse Prize

Benesse Holdings, Inc. (Benesse) and Singapore Art Museum (SAM) are pleased to announce the names of the five artists shortlisted for the 12th Benesse Prize:

	Amanda Heng (b. 1951, Singapore)
	Dusadee Huntrakul (b. 1978, Bangkok, Thailand)
	Haifa Subay (b. 1992, Dhamar City, Yemen)
	Hera Büyüktaşçıyan (b. 1984, Istanbul, Turkey)
	Robert Zhao Renhui (b. 1982, Singapore)

About the Benesse Prize

Organised by Benesse, in conjunction with the Singapore Biennale 2019 (SB2019) organiser SAM, the 12th edition of the Benesse Prize will award an outstanding SB2019 artist whose art practice embodies an experimental and critical spirit, and for his/her potential to develop a reflection around the theme of “Benesse” (Well-Being). The winning artist will be chosen from the short-list by Benesse Art Site Naoshima, and the award presentation will take place during Singapore Art Week on January 11th, 2020. The winning artist will receive a commission to create a work to be exhibited at Benesse Art Site Naoshima, Japan, or the opportunity to have their works collected at the Site and a cash prize of JPY 3,000,000 from Benesse.

The international jury for the first selection has been jointly appointed by Benesse and SAM.

-**Ade Darmawan:** Artist and member of ruangrupa (Indonesia)

-**Eugene Tan:** Director of Singapore Art Museum and National Gallery Singapore (Singapore)

-**Gong Yan:** Director of Power Station of Art (China)

-**Valentine Willie:** Director of Ilham Gallery (Malaysia)

-**Akiko Miki:** International Artistic Director of Benesse Art Site Naoshima (Japan)

Jury Statement

“Our jury was unanimous in its decision to select these five Singapore Biennale artists for the shortlist of the Benesse Prize. The shortlisted artists come from different backgrounds, countries and generations, but we believe they share a potential to create inspiring works that reflect on the environment, history and community around Benesse Art Site Naoshima. Each artists’ practice is unique in its approach and we are excited to see what the winner creates in this insular context of the Seto Inland sea”.

[For more information regarding to publishing or press]

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