

Media Release

Sentosa wraps up Golden Jubilee with a ‘Giant’ bang – Thomas Dambo’s recycled art installation unveiled in Southeast Asia for the first time

- *The hidden family of giants, Explorers of Sentosa, are adorned with upcycled accessories crafted by local volunteers*
- *Approximately 5.5 tonnes of reclaimed wood materials donated by local enterprises used in the construction*



Singapore, 13 December 2022 – Little Lyn, Reef the Chief, Curious Sue, Dreamer Dee - collectively known as *Explorers of Sentosa*, have landed on the shores of Palawan Beach in Sentosa! Sentosa Development Corporation (SDC) officially launched the installation, comprising a family of four giant sculptures created by internationally renowned Copenhagen-based recycling artist Thomas Dambo, to conclude the island’s Golden Jubilee with an experience centred on sustainability – a strategic imperative at SDC.

Joining Thomas’ other sculptures located around the world in Australia, Denmark, France, Germany, China, South Korea, Chile and the United States, the *Explorers of Sentosa* cleverly combines storytelling and upcycling of sustainable materials to articulate the message of circularity. Breathing new life into trash, the newest exhibit revolves around an allegorical fairytale of how the man-made Eternity Material can disrupt our natural environment. The full story is told in poetry (Annex A), authored by Thomas Dambo. The detailed personalities and beliefs behind each giant can be found in Annex B.

Each requiring approximately 700 hours to build, the sculptures have been constructed with reclaimed wood materials, such as pallets and floorboards, donated by local enterprises. Collectively, they weigh almost 5.5 tonnes – approximately the weight of three passenger cars.

Not-for-profit organisation and volunteers work together to create upcycled plastic art

From flowers to animals (Annex C), the sculptures have also been accessorised with artwork upcycled from discarded plastic waste sourced on Sentosa and other parts of Singapore. The eye-catching art was created by local volunteers and not-for-profit organisation The RICE Company Limited (TRCL).

Discovering more about the *Explorers of Sentosa* with “breadcrumbs”

With the help of an interactive online treasure trail map, visitors can join the search for the *Explorers of Sentosa*, an experiential mixed-media installation, by first discovering “breadcrumbs”, which contain codes to unravel clues that would lead them to the sculptures.

“Having hidden four upcycled giants in Southeast Asia for the first time, I hope the exhibits will bring both magic and meaning to the adventurer in all of us. Trash does carry value – it can be repurposed, reused and transformed, so I truly encourage people to think before they throw,” explained Thomas.

“Our collaboration with Thomas Dambo reflects Sentosa’s desire to bring meaningful sustainable experiences within the unique context of our island. Through the *Explorers of Sentosa*, we invite guests to explore the hidden side of Sentosa and learn about how the waste we collectively generate can impact the natural areas around us,” said Ms Thien Kwee Eng, Chief Executive Officer, SDC.

The sculptures will be situated along Palawan Beach till 2024 and access to the installations is free throughout the year.

Additional photographs and videos can be downloaded [here](#).

About Thomas Dambo

Born in the city of Odense in Denmark, Thomas Dambo became interested in building sculptures at a young age. As a child, he would hunt for leftover material that would become the building blocks for enormous treehouses and soapbox cars. Thomas Dambo’s signature folklore-inspired giant sculptures built from recycled materials, has amazed and delighted visitors of all ages. The giants never cease to inspire with their larger-than-life scale and presence. Like many of Thomas’ sculptures, each giant has been created from reclaimed wood, highlighting the artist’s passion as a recycling art activist. His vision is to recreate art that will inspire people to explore and create new adventures in nature while demonstrating that what we call “trash” has value and should not be discarded. His work is scattered across the globe and has driven large audiences at every venue, no matter the country or the giant.

About The Rice Company Limited (TRCL)

TRCL (The RICE Company Ltd) is a not-for-profit arts and culture charity with Institute of Public Character (IPC) status. The organisation is committed to addressing the social divide through creative and artistic intervention for the underserved with the aim of building a more resilient Singapore community. In this, TRCL manages three funds – The Business Times Budding Artist Fund, which provides arts education to financially disadvantaged children and youth; The #Engage Initiative, which seeks to bridge the digital divide; and the Fund for Fun, which seeks to provide arts and wellness programmes and public artworks in spaces that invite interaction, provide positive distraction and uplift the spirit of the community. For more information, please visit www.trcl.sg

About Sentosa


Sentosa is Asia's leading leisure destination and Singapore's premier island resort getaway, located within 15 minutes from the central business and shopping districts. The island resort is managed by Sentosa Development Corporation, which works with various stakeholders in overseeing property investments, attractions development, and operation of the various leisure offerings and management of the residential precinct on the island.

The 500-hectare island resort is home to an exciting array of themed attractions, award-winning spa retreats, lush rainforests, golden sandy beaches, resort accommodations, world-renowned golf courses, a deep-water yachting marina and luxurious residences – making Sentosa a vibrant island resort for business and leisure. Making Sentosa its home, too, is Singapore's first integrated resort, Resorts World Sentosa, which operates Southeast Asia's first Universal Studios theme park.

Situated on the eastern end of Sentosa Island is Sentosa Cove, an exclusive oceanfront and residential enclave bustling with some 2,000 homes, romantic quayside restaurants, retail and specialty shops. The Island is also proud to be home to Sentosa Golf Club and its two acclaimed golf courses, The Serapong and The New Tanjong. Sentosa Golf Club hosts the SMBC Singapore Open and the HSBC Women's World Championship, featuring some of the world's best golf professionals.

As a testament to its commitment to sustainability, SDC has been conferred the Global Sustainable Tourism Council – For Destinations (GSTC-D) certificate, making Sentosa the first island destination in Asia to receive this accolade.

Welcoming a growing number of local and international guests every year, Sentosa is an integral part of Singapore's goal to be a global destination to work, live and play. For more information, please visit: www.sentosa.com.sg.

 /SentosaOfficial
#Sentosa, #Sentosa50, #DiscoveryNeverending

 @sentosa_island

 @sentosaisland

ANNEX A

The Explorers of Sentosa and the Eternity Material!

By Thomas Dambo

Way beyond the highland, on a tiny little island
Where the waves were rolling silent, lived a family so giant
Few in number, only four, but they were old in days
The golden sands of laguna was, to them, the only place

Reef the Chief, the tallest, he was always on the guard
Curious Sue, the youngest, playful in her heart
Little Lyn could see it all and every little thing
Dreamer Dee could feel the feelings burning from within

They walked the beach from end to end, they did it every morning
To see what snails, seaweed and shells the ocean had brought in
But then, one morning, something changed; the golden sand was gone
Covered in a million pieces, shining, colorful, strong

And Reef the Chief says, "this deceives, I know it looks fantastic
But this is made by human beings, it is cursed with their magic
This, Eternity material, is a line that lasts forever
The wheel of life is a circle, never mix the two together."

"The humans use it recklessly, but they neglect, forget to see
It lasts forever endlessly, so always treat it preciously"
Now all the giants gathered, and they picked up every piece
They made a chain and hung it, on the trees along the beach.

In hope the sight would reach, the humans one day would come back
To help the giants, make the spell of magic break and snap
Because together every - island, giant, and human being
Deserves to have an ocean, clean not only in their dream.

ANNEX B

Sculpture A: Curious Sue
As the youngest of the giants, Curious Sue has adventure in her heart and joyfully searches for hidden treasures in the sand — a cargo container being one of the biggest she’s found so far, a representation of the marine litter that can come from both the cargo ships seen from Sentosa and from us as island visitors. Sue reminds us to be more conscious of our consumption and to keep the beaches beautiful and clean.



Sculpture B: Dreamer Dee
Dreamer Dee is a lover of nature — that’s why he surrounds himself with it! He is an optimist, ever hopeful for a sustainable future preserved by tourists today. Dee inspires us to think about the potential of what is waste today and to be mindful of what we leave behind.



Sculpture C: Reef the Chief
Reef the Chief leads the other Explorers. He is a craftsman who takes plastic trash and recycles it into beautiful treasures. As recycling uses less energy and produces less pollution, Reef encourages us to be more aware of our carbon footprint and reduce it one small step at a time.



Sculpture D: Little Lyn
The rich resources of nature are what Little Lyn forages and eats for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. Lyn nudges us to pause and appreciate the thriving biodiversity that can be found all around us, as it serves as a reminder of how important it is to preserve the delicate ecosystem of nature.



ANNEX C

Upcycled Plastic Art

