

Press Release



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ArtScience Museum dives into *The Deep* in June

*Over 40 rare deep-sea creatures shown for the first time
in Southeast Asia*

Singapore (30 March 2015) – The mysterious world of the deep oceans will be illuminated this June at ArtScience Museum, as it presents the largest collection of over 40 deep sea creatures in the exhibition, *The Deep*. Opening on 6 June 2015, *The Deep* invites visitors to discover the beauty of the ocean life in an immersive environment.

The deep sea is Earth's largest reservoir of life but has remained largely uncharted by Man, with only 10 percent of the seafloor mapped so far. In fact, more men have walked on the Moon than have dived down to the deepest part of the oceans. This exhibition will help to reveal the mysteries lurking in the deep through the display of perfectly preserved and extremely rare animals in crystalline detail. Odd and mesmerizing, these breathtaking specimens – making their debut in the region, at ArtScience Museum – will be accompanied by 67 images of captivating sea fauna and ethereal bioluminescent creatures, some photographed for the very first time. The images selected for the exhibition attest not only to the diversity of ocean life below 4,000 metres, but also to the technically demanding challenge of conducting research at these depths.

Honor Harger, executive director of ArtScience Museum says, "*The Deep* is a truly unique exhibition that celebrates the incredible diversity of life on Earth. In this exhibition, visitors will have intimate encounters with the rarely seen and unusual creatures which inhabit the deepest parts of our ocean. These creatures are not only stunningly beautiful, but also give us valuable scientific information about how life evolves in the dark depths of the sea, where light from the Sun cannot penetrate. Through *The Deep*, we hope to help raise public awareness about the fragility of these deep sea ecosystems, and how important it is for us to take action to conserve them."

Claire Nouvian, curator of *The Deep* adds, “*The Deep* is a work that I hope will captivate and remind us that we belong to a vast, living chain that is incredibly beautiful, terribly fragile and – until proven otherwise – miraculously unique in the universe.”

In 2001, then wildlife and scientific film director Claire Nouvian visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium in California, USA. There, she watched a film with spectacular images of sea creatures that live up to 4,000 metres beneath the surface. Fascinated by this new world, Claire collaborated with some of the world’s most respected researchers to create an extensive and unprecedented archive of abyssal images and specimens, many of which had never been seen by the public. The works led her to create the book, *The Deep*, the first visual encyclopedia of the abyss, as well as this exhibition, which premiered at Paris’ Natural History Museum in 2007.

At ArtScience Museum, *The Deep* will be presented in a unique, pitch-black environment, virtually immersing visitors into the realm of the deep sea. Organized into eight zones, the exhibition unfolds to reveal the different depths of the sea, such as life in the mid-water (up to 4000 metres beyond the surface) and life on the ocean floor. The final zone will be dedicated to Nouvian and her efforts to raise public awareness of the urgency to protect and preserve the fragile ecosystem of the deep sea.

The specimens presented in *The Deep* are extremely rare, with very few existing in good condition elsewhere. Several deep-sea fauna included in the exhibition have been captured in situ by scientific samplers on submersibles or tethered robots. Others have been carefully trawled during oceanographic missions conducted throughout the world.



Tiburonia granrojo (The Big Red)

Grimpoteuthis sp. (Dumbo octopus)

Some of the fascinating creatures that will be on display include *Tiburonia granrojo (The Big Red)*. This large dark and velvety ball was discovered in 1993 in California. It is so vastly different from other jellies that biologists had to create a new subfamily for it. Another deep-sea creature that will be exhibited is *Grimpoteuthis sp. (Dumbo Octopus)*. This little octopus looks almost like a character out of a Japanese cartoon. While 14 species of *Grimpoteuthis* have been identified to date, their behaviour remains an enigma. They are found close to the sea floor in all of the oceans, with the largest known specimens growing up to 1.5 metres.

Due to the differences in the environmental elements such as pressure, temperature, salinity and oxygen levels between deep and shallow waters, it is impossible for deep-sea fauna to

survive on the surface. Deep-sea animals can therefore only be exhibited in preserved forms. Most of the animals in *The Deep* have been specifically collected for the exhibition and are preserved in formalin, instead of ethanol. This method ensures there is no loss of pigment or alteration to their natural colours. Preserving the specimens in formalin also prevents dehydration of tissue which can cause changes to their body structure. The specimens are then suspended in a fluid environment by invisible threads embedded in resin walls to create a naturalistic effect.

The Deep will run for a limited season at ArtScience Museum. Tickets will go on sale from 11 May 2015 onwards. For more information on *The Deep*, please visit <http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum/the-deep.html>

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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 and an outdoor event plaza. Its two theatres showcase a range of leading entertainment performances including world-renowned Broadway shows. 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

About ArtScience Museum

ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands is Southeast Asia's leading cultural institution that explores the inter-relationship between art, science, technology and culture. Featuring 21 galleries totaling 50,000 square feet, the iconic lotus-inspired building has staged major exhibitions by some of history's most important artists, including Leonardo Da Vinci, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as major exhibitions which explore aspects of scientific history.

About Bloom Association

Founded by Claire Nouvian in 2005, BLOOM is a non-profit organization that works to protect the oceans and the fishermen that depend on them through a process of raising awareness and explaining environmental problems using scientific mediation, by producing relevant and independent scientific studies, as well as by participating in public consultations and institutional processes. Our actions target both political and economic decision-makers, as well as the general public. For more information, visit www.bloomassociation.org

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For video on the exhibition:

<https://www.hightail.com/download/UIRUUWV0Q1IxUUJqQTIVaq> (Please credit to Clément Beauvais)