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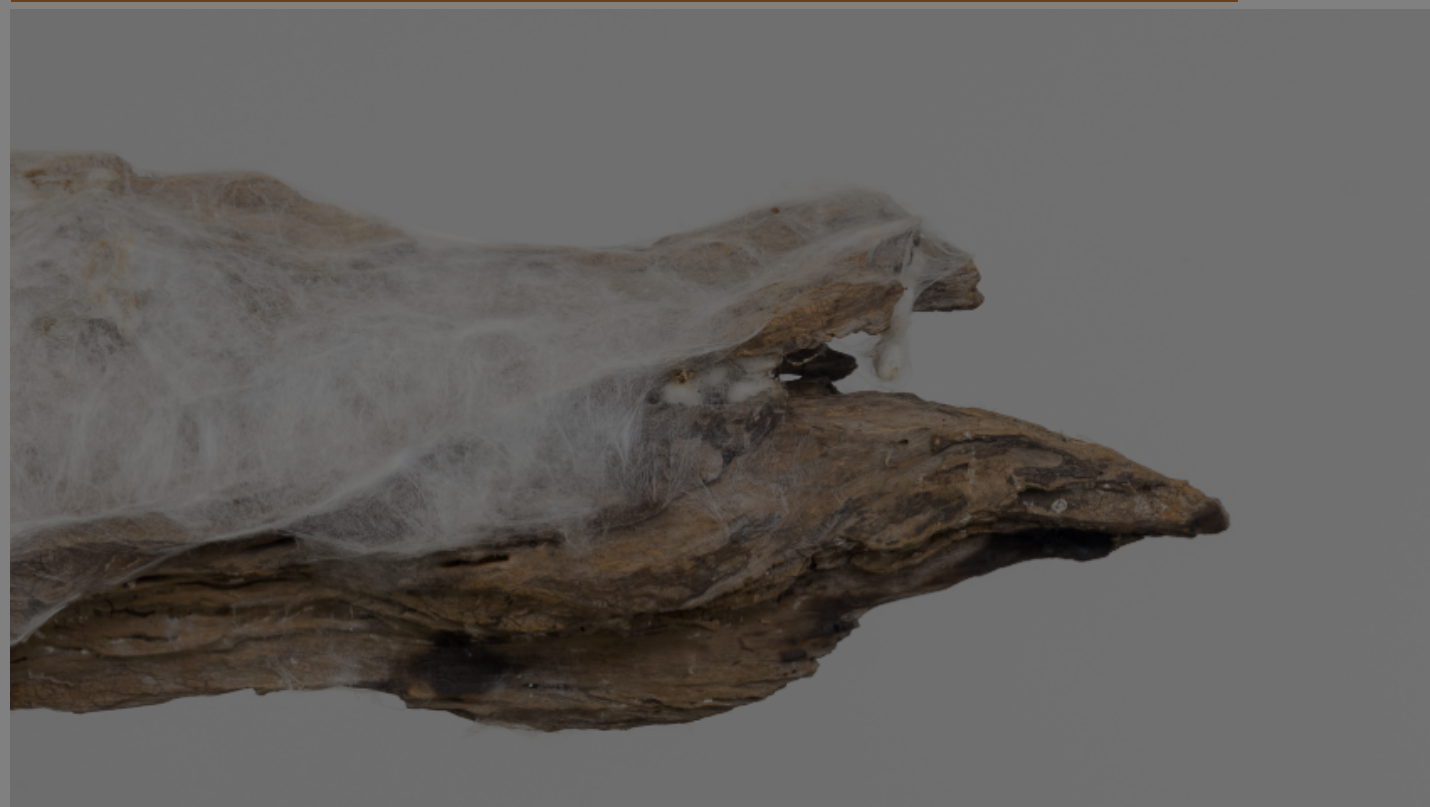
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Trees of Life – Knowledge in Material exhibition runs at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art in Singapore from 21 July 2018 – 30 September 2018. The exhibition is an exploration of natural materials through the engagement of contemporary artists from Asia with four trees/plants embedded in nature and the artistic crafts cultures of Asia.

NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore is embarking on an inquiry into natural materials, exploring the knowledge they embody as biological forms as well as within social, geopolitical, and historical contexts. *Trees of Life – Knowledge in Material* is part of the Centre's long-term research cluster CLIMATES. HABITATS. ENVIRONMENTS.

This exhibition focuses on materials from four plants deeply rooted in Asia: **indigo** (*Indigofera tinctoria*), **lacquer** (*Rhus succedanea* and *Melanorrhoea usitata*), **rattan** (*Calamoideae*), and **mulberry** (*Morus*). The works trace the ongoing involvement with these plants in the artistic practices of **Manish Nai** (India) with indigo, **Phi Phi Oanh** (United States/Vietnam) with lacquer, **Sopheap Pich** (Cambodia) with rattan, and **Liang Shaoji** (China) and **Vivian Xu** (China) with mulberry silk. While the featured installations serve as a starting point to uncover the materiality of the chosen plants, the study of their natural and cultural DNA allows further exploration into their biological processes and diverse usages at their locale.

The artworks intertwine with selected research documents that address the complex histories and circulation, as well as the effects of human intervention on these natural resources. Starting from the properties and characteristics of the materials themselves, the project expands into their cultural representation and significance for communities and their crafts.

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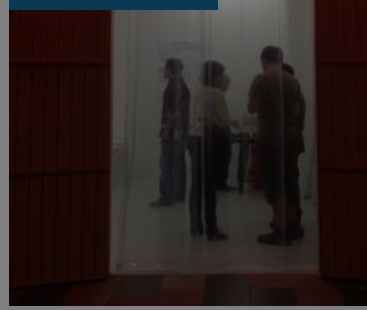
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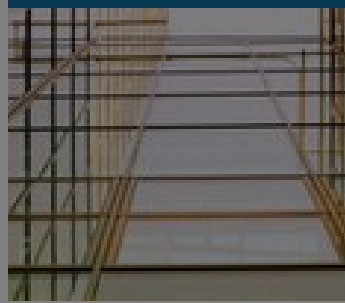


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