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# open call



 thumb\_letswalk\_fukuoka

M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2018 announces the theme for the call for artworks - on the theme of Let's Walk, a street performance originally created by the Singaporean artist Amanda Heng in 1999 and created around the world. Fringe 2018 is looking for proposals for progressive works that pick up on the provocations of the original walking performances and voice the concerns of today.

**Let's Walk** is the first in a series of Fringe instalments themed around iconic Singaporean artists and their signature works. Each year we will nominate an artist and a selected work, and invite artists from a range of disciplines from Singapore and around the world to respond to them with their own new or existing works. Through the borrowing of their work, we aim to honour the artist and recognise and build on the lasting universal significance and resonance of his or her work.

The 2018 theme **Let's Walk** comes from the title of a series of striking street performances by eminent Singaporean contemporary artist, Amanda Heng.

For Fringe 2018, we invite you to consider this culturally significant work by one of our most important artists. Amanda began this series in 1999 and performed the work in Singapore, Japan, France, Poland, Indonesia, Sweden and Spain.

Amanda Heng has worked in a range of mediums, and perhaps her most notable works such as **Let's Walk** are so immediately engaging and participatory. While charmingly simple in form, they are arresting and deeply effective in drawing much needed attention to some of the most important social concerns of our times.

**Let's Walk** is one of a series of walking performances that she has created over the years. The walks are designed and carried out with spectacular simplicity and intimacy, managing to carry both the potent

provocation of a protest, and the peaceful contemplation of a walking meditation. From the title itself, Amanda clearly signals her invitation to engage, connect, collaborate and move forward.

**Let's Walk** invited us all to think about the beauty business, and the lack of progress for women in society. In her performance, she invited members of the public to join her in walking backwards along the streets with high-heeled shoes in their mouths, while trying to guide themselves with handheld mirrors.

Amanda created the work in response to a range of worrying trends she was concerned about in the late 1990s, and are still concerns to this day. In 1997, Asia had been hit hard with a financial crisis. Many people lost their jobs and businesses, but women seemed to be the first to get retrenched.

Curiously and disturbingly, the beauty business did especially well at this time, as women were pressured to look better than their natural best. In Amanda's own words, "A lot of Singaporean women were 'upgrading' themselves, going to beauty salons, having plastic surgery and so on to keep their jobs. A woman's looks are still worth more than her abilities."



So in tribute to Amanda's work, to this work

in particular, and to the many important ideas and questions it evokes, we invite you to propose your own works, to build on the provocations in **Let's Walk**.

We are looking for progressive works that voice the concerns of today. Whether you are exploring themes of gender, beauty, inequality, injustice, economics, or all of the above, and more. And in whatever form or discipline you practise.

Look out for a range of stimuli that we will be sharing to get you more acquainted with Amanda and with this work—photos, videos, and other archival materials and start getting your proposals ready, whether they are existing or new works, that can build on the spirit of concern and creation inherent in Amanda Heng's **Let's Walk**.

So, let's walk.

Get involved.

Sean Tobin

Artistic Director, M1 Singapore Fringe Festival

Please download the application form [here](#).

## The deadline for applications is Friday 3 March 2017.

*Images: Let's Walk Fukuoka (top) and Let's Walk Sweden (bottom)*

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