

Debbie Ding

Artist & Technologist

Debbie Ding (DBBD.SG) is a visual artist and technologist whose interests range from historical research and urban geography to visions of the future. She reworks and reappropriates formal, qualitative approaches to collecting, labelling, organising, and interpreting assemblages of information – using this to open up possibilities for alternative constructions of knowledge. Using interactive computer simulations, rapid prototyping, and other visual technologies, she creates works about subjects such as map traps, lost islands (Pulau Saigon), World War II histories, soil, bomb shelters, and public housing void decks.

DBBD received a BA in English Literature from the National University of Singapore and, as a recipient of the NAC Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate), an MA in Design Interactions from the Royal College of Art, London. She has had solo exhibitions at The Substation Gallery, Singapore (2010) and Galerie Steph, Singapore (2013). Notable group exhibitions include “Wikicliki” (Singapore Art Museum, 2021); “President’s Young Talents” (Singapore Art Museum, 2018); “After the Fall” (National Museum of Singapore, 2017); Singapore Biennale (2016); Radio Malaya (NUS Museum, 2016). Residencies include Australian War Memorial Artist Residency, Canberra (2017) and Dena Foundation Artist Residency, Paris (2012). Her work was shortlisted for the President’s Young Talents 2018 and Impart Art Awards 2020 and is collected by the Australian War Memorial.

EDUCATION

2013-2015: M.A. Design Interactions. Royal College of Art. Thesis & Practice.
2003-2007: B.A. English Literature. National University of Singapore.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS & PROJECTS

- 2015 “*The Library of Pulau Saigon*”
National University of Singapore Museum, Archaeology Library
- 2013 “*A Survey of the Singapore Psychogeographical Society*”
Galerie Steph, Singapore
- 2013 “*Fragments and Traces*”
Supported by The Substation. ArtStage Singapore 2013.
- 2011 “*The Singapore River as a Psychogeographical Faultline*”
ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.
- 2010 “*The Singapore River as a Psychogeographical Faultline*”
The Substation Gallery, Singapore. Part of The Substation Open Call.

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 Group Exhibition. “[Wikicliki](#)”
Curated by Shabbir Hussain Mustafa. Singapore Art Museum.
- 2021 Group Exhibition. “[Otherworlds](#)”
Curated by Hilda Chan. Organised by Instinc (SG) & Altermodernists (HK)
- 2021 Group Exhibition. “Work in progress”
SEED Art Space.
- 2020 Group Exhibition. “*SUPER-TRAJECTORY Life in Motion*”
Curated by INTER-MISSION. ArtScience Galleries.

- 2019 Group Exhibition. "[2219: Futures Imagined](#)"
Marina Bay Sands ArtScience Museum.
- 2019 Group Exhibition. "[SUPER-TRAJECTORY Media / Life Out of Balance](#)"
Curated by INTER-MISSION. Tainan Art Museum, Taiwan.
- 2019 Group Exhibition. "[Drawing Neurons](#)". ([Schreckstoff Tracks](#))
Collaboration with Suresh Jesuthasan (Associate Professor of Behavioural Neuroscience, Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine) Neuroscience Singapore 2019, Yale-NUS.
- 2019 Group Exhibition. "[Bachelorette Machines](#)". ([Sub-Monument](#))
Curated by Caterina Riva. LASALLE Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore.
- 2019 Live Performative Event. "[The Last Meal](#)".
Collaboration with Chef Tan Huang Ming. The Substation.
- 2019 Group Exhibition. "[Adaptations](#)" ([MEMEME](#))
Curated by Supernormal. Gillman Barracks. Singapore Art Week.
- 2018 Finalist's Show. President's Young Talents 2018, Singapore Art Museum. ([Soil Works](#))
Curated by Andrea Fam. Mentored by Zaki Razak.
- 2018 Group Exhibition. "[Spaces](#)"
Curated by Jodi Tan. Ota Fine Arts. Singapore.
- 2018 Group Exhibition. "[ArtxTechforGood](#)".
Curated by Meshminds. ArtScience Museum, Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.
- 2017 Group Exhibition. SIGGRAPH Asia 2017 Art Gallery (Bangkok) – DiMoDA 2.0 ([Trailer](#))
Curated by Nhung Walsh, Indochina Arts Partnership
- 2017 Group Exhibition. "[How to Do/Undo...](#)" Future Flux Festival 2017. Rotterdam. ([Faking Bad](#))
Curated by Michelle Kasprzak.
- 2017 Duo Show. "After the Fall" with Angela Tiatia. ([War Fronts](#))
Curators Anthea Gunn (Australian War Memorial) and Kathleen Ditzig (National Museum Singapore)
Reciprocal Residency between Australian War Memorial and National Museum Singapore.
- 2017 Group Exhibition. "[A Brief History of Trapdoors](#)", Discipline the City.
Curated by Joshua Comaroff. The Substation, Singapore.
- 2017 Group Exhibition. "[Radio Malaya: Abridged Conversations about Art](#)"
Curated by Ahmad Mashadi and Siddharta Perez. NUS Museum.
- 2017 Group Exhibition. "[Emotional Departure](#)" Performing Home.
For The Substation.
- 2016 Singapore Biennale 2016, "An Atlas of Mirrors". ([Shelter](#))
Curated by Michael Lee. National Museum of Singapore, History Gallery
- 2015 Curator of "[Making Space: 25 Years of The Substation](#)"
National Library Board, Singapore
- 2014 Group Exhibition. "[Ghost on the Wire](#)". ([From Dust to Dust](#))
Curated by Suzanne de Emmony and Gavin Maughfling. Bermonsey Project Space. London.
- 2014 Group Exhibition. "[Unearthed](#)"
Curated by Tan Siu Li. Singapore Art Museum.
- 2013 Group Exhibition, "[The Artist, The Book, and The Crowd](#)"
The Substation Gallery. Curated by Ho Rui An, Ang Siew Ching and Karen Yeh.
- 2013 Finalists' show. 2013 Sovereign Asian Art Prize 2012/2013.
The Rotuna at Exchange Square, Hong Kong
- 2013 Group exhibition. "[Engaging Perspectives: New Art from Singapore](#)"
Curated by Eugene Tan of NTU Centre for Contemporary Art.
Block 1 and Block 39, Gillman Barracks, Singapore.
- 2012 Group Exhibition. "[Prima Vera](#)"
Immanence, Paris, France. Curated by Valentine Meyer.
- 2012 Group Exhibition. "[Retroalimentacion \(Feedback\): Interactive art from Southeast Asia](#)"
Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Toluca City, Mexico.

COMMISSIONS

- 2021 New Commission for Asian Film Archive. “*State of Motion*” ([The Legend of Debbie](#))
Curated by Syaheedah Iskandar and Thong Kay Wee. Asian Film Archive.
- 2018 New Commission for Singapore Art Museum. (*Soil Works*)
President’s Young Talents 2018, Singapore Art Museum.
Curated by Andrea Fam. Mentored by Zaki Razak.
- 2017 New Commission for The Substation. “*A Brief History of Trapdoors*”, Discipline the City.
Curated by Joshua Comaroff. The Substation, Singapore.
- 2016 New Commission for Singapore Art Museum, Singapore Biennale 2016, “*An Atlas of Mirrors*”.
Curated by Michael Lee. National Museum of Singapore, History Gallery
- 2010 Open Call Commission for The Substation

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

- 2017 Artist-in-residence, Australian War Memorial (Canberra, Australia)
& National Museum of Singapore (Singapore)
- 2014 Artist-in-residence, ZK/U (Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik)
Berlin, Germany
- 2012 Artist-in-residence, Dena Foundation Artist Residency.
Paris, France. Curated by Valentine Meyer.
- 2012 Artist-in-residence, Seoul Art Space_Mullae and The Substation
Seoul, South Korea and Singapore

SCHOLARSHIPS / GRANTS

- 2015 National Arts Council P&P Grant
For the publication of “25 Years of The Substation”
- 2014 National Arts Council Arts Creation Fund (2014)
For the production of the work “The Library of Pulau Saigon”
- 2013 National Arts Council Singapore – Visual Arts Overseas Scholarship (Postgraduate)
To study at Royal College of Art, MA Design Interactions
- 2012 National Arts Council Arts Development Grant (2012)
For ZK/U Residency, (Berlin)
- 2012 National Arts Council P&P Grant (2014)
For the production of the work “Kensington Gall”
- 2012 National Arts Council Arts Creation Fund (2012)
For the production of the “Archive of Contemporary Singapore Monuments”
- 2012 National Arts Council International Development Grant (2012)
For Dena Foundation Residency (Paris)

ADVISORY ROLE

- 2021-2023 NUS Public Art Committee

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Essays & Conference Papers by Debbie Ding

Ding, Debbie. "The Substation at 25: On Institutional Memory and Forgetting". *Contemporary Arts as Political Practice in Singapore*, edited by Wernmei Yong Ade and Lim Lee Ching. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016. ([Springer](#))

Ding, Debbie. "PPTs, PDFs, and Proprietary formats: On the problematic forms of the digital," *The Digital in Cultural Spaces*. Culture Academy Conference, National Heritage Board, Singapore. December 2016. ([mccy.gov.sg](#))

Ding, Debbie. "An "Un-forgetting" Machine: Resurrecting Archaeological Ambiguities from Pulau Saigon," *Hard State, Soft City: The Urban Imaginative Field in Singapore*. Asia Research Institute, in collaboration with NUS Museum, at the National University of Singapore. 2016 ([ARL.nus.edu.sg](#))

Ding, Debbie. "Alien Probes, Archaeological Ambiguities, and Un-forgetting Machines," *13th Annual Conference of the Contemporary and Historical Archaeology in Theory Group (CHAT)*, Sheffield, 2015.

"25 Years of The Substation: Reflections on Singapore's First Independent Art Centre". Edited by Debbie Ding. Ethos Books: Singapore. 2015. ([Ethos Books](#))

Essays in Publication about Debbie Ding / Debbie Ding in Context

Chua, Kevin. "Archive as Figure in Singapore Contemporary Art." *Art Journal*, Volume 77, Issue 4, Winter 2018, pp 62-71. ([tandfonline](#))

Merewether, Charles. "Future Imaginaries". *Contemporary Asian Art and Exhibitions: Connectivities and World-making*, edited by Michelle Antoinette and Caroline Turner. ANU Press, 2014. pp. 129-142. ([jstor](#))

Gaik, Cheng Khoo. "Of Diminishing Memories and Old Places: Singaporean Films and the Work of Archiving Landscape" *Concentric: Literary and Cultural Studies* 39.1 March 2013: pp. 31-52 ([researchgate](#))

PRESS COVERAGE / BROADCAST AND MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

Newspaper Articles about Debbie Ding / Debbie Ding in context

Yusof, Helmi. "The eternal and the ephemeral: Two museum exhibitions explore vastly different concepts of art and beauty." **Business Times**. 23 April 2021.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/lifestyle/arts/the-eternal-and-the-ephemeral>

Toh, Wen Li. "COVID-19 Special: Covid-19 sparks questions about arts in the digital age" **The Straits Times**. 27 Apr 2020.
<https://www.straitstimes.com/opinion/covid-19-sparks-questions-about-arts-in-the-digital-age>

Yusof, Helmi. "Young Guns" **Business Times**. 12 Oct 2018.
<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/lifestyle/arts/young-guns>

Sim, Melissa. "Soil and scars on display as part of the President's Young Talents 2018 exhibition". **The Straits Times**. 2 Oct 2018.
<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/soil-and-scars-on-display-as-part-of-the-presidents-young-talents-2018-exhibition>

Said, Nabilah. "National Museum of Singapore's new exhibition presents fresh perspectives on WWII" **The Straits Times**. 19 Sep 2017.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/national-museum-of-singapores-new-exhibition-presents-fresh-perspectives-on-wwii>

Yusof, Helmi. "The Substation and the politics of space" **Business Times**. 25 Aug 2017.

<https://www.businesstimes.com.sg/lifestyle/arts/the-substation-and-the-politics-of-space>

Said, Nabilah. "Explore reconfigured spaces at The Substation's exhibition Discipline The City". **The Straits Times**. 23 Aug 2017.

<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/arts/down-the-trapdoor-to-explore-the-substation>

Hardy, Karen. "Australian War Memorial hosting young artists" **Canberra Times**. 19 May 2017.

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6032807/australian-war-memorial-hosting-young-artists/>

Martin, Mayo. "How The Substation's toilets became art spaces" **Today Online**. 17 Sept 2015.

<https://www.todayonline.com/entertainment/arts/how-substations-toilets-became-art-spaces>

Martin, Mayo. "Spatial Moments". **Today Online**. 19 April 2013.

<https://www.todayonline.com/blogs/forartssake/spatial-moments>

Martin, Mayo. "3 S'pore artists up for latest Sovereign Asian Art Prize". **Today Online**. 18 Jan 2013.

<https://www.todayonline.com/blogs/forartssake/3-spore-artists-latest-sovereign-asian-art-prize>

Chow, Clara. "Asian artists to watch in 2013". **South China Morning Post**. 24 Feb 2013.

<https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/arts-culture/article/1156191/asian-artists-watch-2013>

Magazine / Radio Interviews and Articles about Debbie Ding

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| 2021 Apr | Kiu, Joella. Object Lesson Space . "Debbie Ding on Notetaking, Material Intentionality and Building Dream Worlds" (Objectlessons.space) |
| 2020 Oct | Article by Debbie Ding. National Gallery Singapore Magazine : out of isolation: artists respond to covid-19. "What Keeps Us Making? Art, Motherhood, and Productivity"(National Gallery Singapore) |
| 2020 Sep | Cheng, Mun Chang. ArtAsiaPacific . "Whose Land? Examining claims to sand and memory" (artasiapacific) |
| 2020 Jul | Kik, Agata. Clot Magazine . "In conversation: Vanessa Lorenzo and Debbie Ding on expanding the human ways of perceiving the world" (Clot Magazine) |
| 2020 Mar | Radio Interview on Money FM 89.3 . "SUPER-TRAJECTORY: Life in Motion" on #WeekendMornings. Live segment with Glenn van Zutphen and Neil Humphreys, artist-curator Ulrich Lau of INTER—MISSION and artist-technologist Debbie Ding. (omny.fm) |
| 2019 Oct | Public Libraries Singapore . "Singapore Writers Festival: An Interview with Debbie Ding" (medium) |
| 2019 Apr | Loh, Desiree. The Peak Magazine . "SAD: The Last Meal art exhibition serves up dystopian versions of beloved hawker dishes" (thepeakmagazine) |
| 2019 Jan | so-far online . "On the Un-Forgetting Machine and Other Rogue Trains: Conversation between Former Govtech Director Liu Feng-Yuan and Artist Debbie Ding" (so-far) |
| 2018 Oct | See, Grace Ignacia. The Artling . "Of Soil & Scars: The President's Young Talents Finalists 2018" (The Artling) |
| 2018 Oct | Sandran, Arawin. buro247 . "How to be an artist in Singapore, according to President Young Talents' artists" (buro247) |
| 2018 Oct | Tee, Ian. Art & Market . "President's Young Talent 2018: Five Singaporean Artists to Watch" (artandmarket.net) |
| 2017 May | Radio Interview on ABC Radio Canberra . Artists Debbie Ding and Angela Tiatia on the Reciprocal Residency between Australian War Memorial and National Museum of Singapore. |

- 2016 Dec Live Television Interview on Channel News Asia.
 2016 Feb **Buymedesign**. Debbie Ding's Space Geodes at Singaplural 2016.
 2015 Aug Cheng, Kelly. **COBO**. "How The Absent Is Externalised & Exterminated – "Ex Parte" at The Brick Lane Gallery, London". ([cobosocial](#))
 2013 Sep **Time Out Singapore**. Debbie Ding Interview. ([gwenpew.com](#))

TALKS, LECTURES & WORKSHOPS

- 2021 July (Upcoming) Workshop. "Bread and Butter in a Field of Dreams
 For Singapore Art Museum, Wikicliki Exhibition.
- 2021 May Artist Talk: "Wikicliki: Debbie Ding in Conversation with Shabbir Hussain Mustafa"
 For **Singapore Art Museum**, Wikicliki Exhibition. ([youtube](#))
- 2021 Mar Artist Talk. Fine Arts BA Studio seminar
 For **LASALLE College of the Arts**
- 2021 Mar Artist Talk. Art and Urban Memory, Contextual & Theoretical Studies. Fine Art Diploma.
 For **Nanyang Academy of Fine Art**
- 2021 Feb Artist Talk. "The Legend of Debbie".
 For Asian Film Archive. ([Video](#))
- 2021 Jan Workshop. 360 Painting. ([youtube](#))
 For **Instinc & Alternmodernist**.
- 2021 Jan Artist Talk.
 For **ArtsXplore 2021**. ([Video](#))
- 2020 Feb Artist Talk. *Art Studio: Final Project Seminar*.
 Fine Art Diploma, **Nanyang Academy of Fine Art**
- 2021 Mar Panel Speaker. **NUS Arts Festival 2021 Critical Conversations**. ([Youtube](#))
 Dialogue with Dr John Solomon (NUS History), moderated by Dr Kamalini (NUS Geography).
- 2020 Apr Panel Speaker. Framing Criticisms: SUB-Spaces. Speakers: Debbie Ding, Ila Ila, and Sonia Kwek.
 For **Theatrex Asia and The Substation**.
- 2019 Nov Panel Speaker: "The Poem as Machine"
 Dialogue with Jacob Sam-La Rose, and Qamar Firdaus Saini. Moderated by Joses Ho.
 For **Singapore Writer's Festival**.
- 2019 Oct Panel Speaker. Dialogue with Gilles Massot and theatre practitioner Richard Chua.
 Moderated by Foo Su Ling. For **NUS Museum**. ([cfa.nus.edu.sg](#))
- 2019 Apr Artist Talk.
 For Institute of Contemporary Art Singapore, **LASALLE College of the Arts**
- 2019 Apr Panel Speaker. Book Launch of *Singapore Chronicles: Art - Something New Must Turn up*.
 Dialogue with Susie Wong, Ho Tzu Nyen, Seng Yu Jin, and Shabbir Hussain Mustafa. For
National Gallery Singapore.
- 2019 Jan Artist Talk, For **Supernormal**. Singapore Art Week. As part of "Adaptations" exhibition.
- 2018 Jul Artist Talk. *Art Innovators in the Digital Age*.
 For **NOISE, National Arts Council**.
- 2017 May Artist Talk. For Australian National University, School of Art & Design.
 College of Arts & Social Sciences. Canberra, Australia. ([anu.edu.au](#))
- 2017 Sep Panel Speaker. Dialogue with Angela Tiatia. Moderated by Kathleen Ditzig.
 "Witness to War After the Fall: A Panel on Making Art about World War Two History"
 For **National Museum of Singapore**.
- 2017 Sep Panel Speaker. "How Digital Art Can Change The World"
 Dialogue with artist Debbie Ding, Creative Technologist from Iris, Dean Reinhard,
 and Beth Ann Lim from Facebook Singapore. For **MeshMinds**.
- 2017 Aug Artist Talk. For The **Substation**. Debbie Ding, Kuang-Yu Tsui and Joshua Comaroff.
- 2017 May Artist Talk. For **Gorman Arts Centre**, Canberra.
- 2016 Dec Conference speaker. *The Digital in Cultural Spaces*.
 For **Culture Academy, National Heritage Board**. ([mccy.gov.sg](#))
- 2016 Dec Workshop. Building a model shelter. For Singapore Art Museum.

- 2016 Nov Workshop. Introduction to Blender. For **FabCafe Singapore, ArtScience Museum**.
- 2016 Nov Artist Talk: A Model Home. For Singapore Art Museum, as part of Singapore Biennale 2016. With Guest Speakers Mr Cho Sai Chee, a retired URA model-maker and Dr Lilian Chee.
- 2016 Nov Workshop: Computational Poetry: The School of Uncommon Knowledge. For The Substation.
- 2016 Mar Artist Talk: Pulau Saigon - Artefact to Art.. With Guest speaker Mr Koh Lian What. For NUS Museum and University Scholars Programme.
- 2016 Feb Artist Talk: The Prototype as a Mode of Artistic Production. For Betwixt Festival.
- 2015 Oct Artist Talk: The Library of Pulau Saigon. For NUS Museum.
- 2016 Jun Artist Talk: Ex Parte. At Brick Lane Gallery, London.
- 2014 Oct Artist Talk: SEA Arts Fest UK. At Embassy Tea Gallery, London.
- 2014 Aug Artist Talk: Z/KU Berlin.
- 2013 Sept Artist Talk: For **Goodman Arts Centre** 3rd Open House.
- 2013 Sep Artist Talk: For Singapore Quantified Self Meetup ([youtube](#))
- 2013 Aug Artist Talk: FORK4 5 People doing Curious Things. For Syinc. ([syinc.org](#))
- 2013 Aug Artist Talk: The Artist, The Book, and the Crowd. The Substation.
- 2013 July Artist Talk: Wawi Navarroza Terraria Project. Talk at Terminal Garden. With Debbie Ding and Gene Kogan. Manila, Philippines.
- 2013 June Artist Talk: Silverlens Gallery, Philippines.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Nanyang Polytechnic, School of Design & Media, Singapore

2017-Present Lecturer, Interaction Design

Module Leader for:

Drawing & Illustration

Fundamentals of Interaction Design

3D Forms & Space (Blender and Unity3D)

Independent Work Project

Studio Project 1 & 2

Supervisor for Final Year Projects

Module Tutor for:

Introduction to Coding (Python)

Project Management

Nanyang Technological University, School of Art Design and Media, Singapore

2011-2012 Part-time Lecturer, Interactive Media

Courses taught:

Screen-based Interaction (Flash Development and Front-end Development)

Singapore Polytechnic, School of Digital Media and Infocomm Technology, Singapore

2011-2012 Part-time Lecturer, DMIT

Modules taught:

2D Game Development (Game Art & Flash Development)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS / TRAINING

- 2021 Feb NIE-NYP (National Institute of Education & Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore) Specialist Diploma in Teaching and Learning. [Teaching & Learning Studies](#).

- 2020 Oct Unity Certified Associate: Game Developer.
[Verified by Unity Technologies until 30 Oct 2023.](#)
- 2017 Oct Intellectual Property Management Course on Registered Designs
IP Academy Singapore, 5-6 Oct 2017
- 2016 Methods and Sources for Historical Research
Institute of Historical Research, University of London, 2016

TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE

- **Interaction Prototyping:** with Arduino, Raspberry Pi, Microbit, vvvv, Processing, Pure Data, TUIO, Kinect, AR, VR (HTC Vive, Oculus Quest 2) and WebVR.
- **3D Design:** Blender, Google Sketchup, Solidworks, 3ds Max, Zbrush, OpenSCAD
- **UX Design:** Adobe XD, Sketch
- **3D and 2D Game Design:** Unity3D, Adobe Flash
- **Graphic Design:** Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign
- **Video and Animation:** Adobe Flash, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe AfterEffects, Articulate Storyline 360
- **Programming:** Mainly Front End Development. HTML5/CSS, PHP, PERL, SQL, XML, Ruby on Rails, Javascript, Actionscript 3, C#, Python.
- **Web Analytics:** Setting up A/B and Multivariate Testing, Heuristic Evaluation.
- **3D Prototyping:** Preparing, fixing and optimising files for 3D Printing and laser cutting. Experienced with configuring and setting up Ultimaker 3D printers and Raise3D 3D printers.
- **3D Photogrammetry:** Agisoft Metashape, Zbrush

FURTHER DOCUMENTATION

Portfolio: <http://dbbd.sg/works.php>
Process Blog: <http://dbbd.sg/blog/>
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