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Image: *Motherland 'XiaoJing'* (film still), 2015

## Sherman Ong

*NUSANTARA: the seas will sing and the wind will carry us*  
at Southeast Asia Forum, Art Stage 2016

Singapore-Ikkan Art Gallery is pleased to present *NUSANTARA: the seas will sing and the wind will carry us*, a multimedia installation by Sherman Ong, at the Southeast Asia Forum as part of Art Stage 2016. An allegorical work based on archipelagic Southeast Asia's maritime history and patterns of migration both past and present, Ong looks at how these parameters have shaped the nature of diasporic identities in the region.

Central in the work is an anthology of short films featuring documentary-style first-person monologues and conversational dialogues. The films relay lives caught between the cracks of interregional histories, geography and social customs. Delving into issues of the human condition within time-place socialscapes, Ong articulates the socio-cultural anatomy of diasporic communities, of transborder and transcultural identities, myth and memory through narratives of the personal. That the documentary-style confessions in Ong's films are fictive enactments (albeit based on a mosaic of real-life accounts) makes a discursive point on the often hazy boundary between fact and fiction in storytelling.



Image: *Motherland 'Firdaus'* (film still), 2015

**Sherman Ong** (b. 1971) is a filmmaker, photographer and visual artist born in Malaysia and based in Singapore. His work centres on the human condition and our relationships with others within the larger milieu. Winner of the Prudential Eye Awards 2015 for Photography and the ICON de Martell Cordon Bleu Photography Award 2010, Sherman has premiered works in Art Biennales, major Film Festivals and Museums around the world, including the Venice, Singapore and Jakarta Biennales, Mori Art Museum Tokyo, Centre Pompidou Paris, Institute of Contemporary Arts London and Rotterdam International Film Festival. In 2009, he was invited to participate in the Singapore Pavilion, Venice Biennale, and garnered a Special Mention. His works are in the collections of the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Singapore Art Museum and the Seoul Art Centre Korea.

**Ikkon Art Gallery**

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**Opening Hours:**

Tues to Sat, 12 to 7 pm  
Closed on Public Holidays  
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