

# Asian Film Archive presents State of Motion 2019: A Fear of Monsters

Singapore, 15 January 2019

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## ANNEX A

### A FEAR OF MONSTERS: FILM HISTORY EXHIBITION AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING, PLAZA

26 January – 24 February 2019

10am – 9pm daily (except Public Holidays)

Venue: National Library Building, Plaza

Address: 100 Victoria Street, Singapore 188064

- This film history exhibition offers a general historical survey of the many monsters from horror films made in or with an imagination of Southeast Asia.
- The exhibition begins with monsters based on folklore such as the *Pontianak*, the Were-tiger and the *Orang Minyak*. It then explores the mutants and other monsters that emerged out of a Cold War geopolitical landscape, defined by transnational film projects and the rise of exploitation cinema in Southeast Asia that were exported to the international and regional grind house cinemas. The exhibition then touches on urban horror stories based on real-life serial killers in cities and finally concluding with an examination of contemporary films such as Lao's first horror film *Chanthlay* which is based on folklore and the work of Apichatpong Weerasethakul that has given rise to Southeast Asian cinema on the international stage.
- By tracing the transfiguration of the (Southeast Asian) monster once based on folklore through the Cold War and to the rise of a global internationalised market for culture, the exhibition presents a constellation of monsters who have lived on our silver screens and inspired our popular culture and contemporary art.
- Artefacts in the exhibition include newspaper accounts of everyday monsters, artefacts from the Adrian Lim murder case provided by the Singapore Police Force, reproduction of film stills, posters, film memorabilia and collectible toys of horror films such as *The Oily Maniac* (1976), a Hong Kong reimagining of the Malayan *Orang Minyak*.

- The exhibition is a kaleidoscopic vision of monsters that have scared and thrilled us over the years. The exhibition design is based on Lekker's book *Horror in Architecture*, in which the cues of 'horror' are employed to construct the exhibition space. Imagined as a monster's egg cracking open at the National Library Building Plaza, the exhibition and its monsters spill out to create a visually stimulating experience with something for everyone.