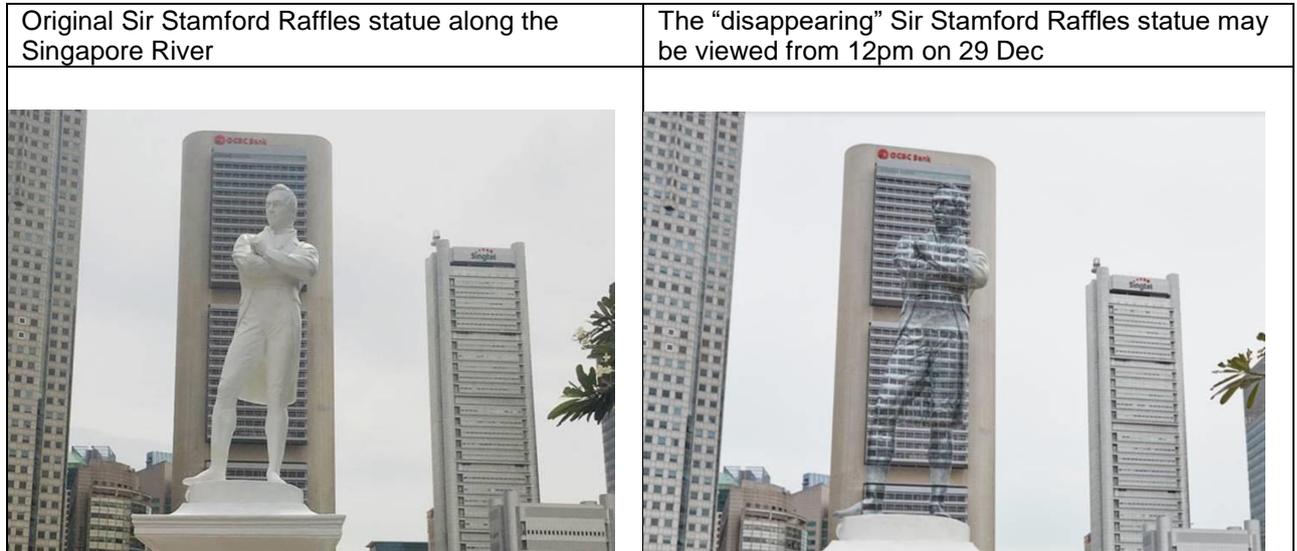


## MEDIA ALERT

2 Jan 2019

Members of the public will notice that the iconic statue of Sir Stamford Raffles along the Singapore River looks like he is “disappearing”. When viewed from the suggested vantage point, the familiar monument blends into the surrounding skyline. This is the result of an optical illusion created by strategic paintwork adhered over the polymarble surface.



Click [here](#) to download the above images.

### Singapore Bicentennial Office behind the “disappearing” of Sir Stamford Raffles

The Singapore Bicentennial Office (SBO) has confirmed that they are behind the bold “disappearing” of the statue of Sir Stamford Raffles, located along the Singapore River. SBO commissioned the optical illusion to set the context of the commemoration of the Singapore Bicentennial, and to spark fruitful conversations on the history of Singapore.

The Singapore Bicentennial, which will officially launch on 28 January 2019, marks the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the British in 1819, one of the key turning points in our history. Singapore will commemorate its 200<sup>th</sup>, just as it had its 50<sup>th</sup>, 100<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup>. However, SBO has slightly different plans for the commemoration in 2019.

It recognises that there were other significant milestones in the nation’s journey, which began some 500 years before the British arrived in Singapore. There were also many who arrived in 1819 and in the years that followed, who contributed greatly to the nation.

This optical illusion on the Sir Stamford Raffles statue is thus an opportunity to engage Singaporeans in an open dialogue on the arrival of the British, and the contributions of those who came before and after. It is an invitation to explore our longer history.

The trick-eye effect was created in partnership with local artist Teng Kai Wei, a familiar face in the Singapore art scene, who specialises in public sculptures. He is best known for his interactive light art installation, Leap Of Faith, at last year’s Singapore Night Festival.

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