

## **“SKYSCRAPER” (THE BRUGES WHALE), ARRIVES AT ARTSCIENCE MUSEUM IN SINGAPORE AS FIRST STOP OF ITS INAUGURAL ASIA PACIFIC TOUR**

*11 metres tall and made from recycled plastic from the North Pacific Gyre, the sculpture is a stark reminder of the amount of plastic waste in the ocean*



**Singapore, 8 November 2019** - “Skyscraper” (*The Bruges Whale*), “*Have We Breached the Limit?*”, an 11-metre tall sculpture made from recovered ocean plastic and steel support, totalling 5 tonnes, was officially unveiled at the ArtScience Museum yesterday, the first stop of its inaugural Asia Pacific tour.

Designed by award-winning architects and designers **Jason Klimoski** and **Lesley Chang** from the acclaimed **StudioKCA** in New York, the piece is an interpretation of the theme “liquid city” for the 2018 Bruges Triennial. Inspired by the biggest liquid city on the planet – the ocean, Jason and Lesley collected as much plastic from the seas over four months to form the basis of the installation.

Brought to Asia by the NGO, [Ocean Recovery Alliance](#), StudioKCA’s sculpture comes from work with the [Hawaii Wildlife Fund](#) which helped to collect the plastic used in *Skyscraper* over a period of four months. After sorting the plastic by size and colour, as well as working on the engineering of the internal steel structure, the firm ran a successful Kickstarter campaign for the fabrication and shipping of the enormous installation.

Several tonnes of plastic waste – ranging from hangers and kitchen bowls to toilet seats and car bumpers – was shaped into the iconic *Skyscraper*, an imposing, 11m tall whale serving as a stark visual reminder of the 150 million tonnes of plastic polluting our waters. With an estimated 8 million tonnes added every year, pound for pound, there is more plastic waste in the ocean than there are whales.

“A whale, breaching from the water, is the first ‘skyscraper of the sea’, and as the largest mammal in the water, it felt like the right form for our piece to take in order to show the scope and scale of the problem,” said Jason Klimoski, STUDIOKCA.

*Skyscraper*, originally installed in the canal at Jan Van Eyck Plein, was the centrepiece of the 2018 Bruges Triennial and visited by over 380,000 people who took and shared over 2 million images of the installation on social media. It then moved to Utrecht in the Netherlands in 2019, to be part of a nearly yearlong campaign by Utrecht University and the City of Utrecht to educate citizens about plastic waste and its effects on marine life.

“We created *Skyscraper* to serve as a physical example of why we need to change how we use and dispose of plastic in the world today,” said Lesley Chang, STUDIOKCA.

Ocean Recovery Alliance focuses on creative solutions, innovations, building awareness, and education to reduce plastic pollution and works globally to spread this message. It has partnered with StudioKCA to bring *Skyscraper* – one of the first public art exhibits to illustrate the impact of plastic pollution – on its inaugural tour of Asia that will unite key cities with a common cause and inspire communities to do better in tackling this issue.

“Ocean Recovery Alliance has always been committed to creating strategic, long-term solutions to reduce plastic pollution on land and water,” said **Douglas Woodring, Founder and Managing Director, Ocean Recovery Alliance**. “It is a wonderful opportunity to be able to bring *Skyscraper* to different communities and countries and use it to raise awareness around this pressing issue. We are excited for the positive impact we are sure this will have on society at large.” The exhibit is supported by the ArtScience Museum, as well as Swiss-based Kuehne + Nagel, one of the world’s leading logistics companies, which helps to ship the whale from Europe to various locations in Asia, and Security Cargo Network for the freight forwarding and logistics.

“ArtScience Museum is delighted with the reception we received for our recent Season of Sustainability – Climate S.O.S, which shone a spotlight on the urgency to protect our marine ecosystems. We are pleased that *Skyscraper* is now making its Asia Pacific debut right here at ArtScience Museum, as a continuation of the Season. This impressive public art installation vividly conveys the scale of plastic pollution in our ocean. It amplifies awareness of how vulnerable marine species like whales are, and why we must take action to address plastic pollution in the ocean, now” said **Honor Harger, Executive Director, ArtScience Museum**.

“*Skyscraper*” (*The Bruges Whale*), “*Have We Breached the Limit?*” is a free public exhibit that will be on display outside ArtScience Museum until 19 December 2019.

Hi-res images can be found [here](#) and the video behind Skyscraper's inception and installation in Bruges can be found [here](#).

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### **About Ocean Recovery Alliance and Founder, Douglas Woodring**

The "Skyscraper's" Asia Pacific Tour, "Have We Breached the Limit?" has been organized by Ocean Recovery Alliance, an NGO based in Hong Kong and California, which has focused on solutions and innovations for reducing plastic pollution on a global scale, including work with the World Bank, UN Environment and Clinton Global Initiative. They are the founder of the [Plasticity Forum](#), focused on solutions for second-life plastic, the [Plastic Disclosure Project](#), and the [Global Alert](#) platform, each of which helps to create a world without the plastic footprint. The founder, Douglas Woodring, was awarded the 2018 Prince's Award from Prince Albert of Monaco for his work for the ocean and is an honoree of the Int'l Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame.

### **About STUDIOKCA and creators, Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang**

STUDIOKCA is a multidisciplinary art, architecture, and design studio based in Brooklyn, New York founded by Jason Klimoski and Lesley Chang in 2012. Their practice focuses on creating unique sculptures and spaces that respond to site or program requirements in imaginative ways, with the goal of bringing joy and wonder to those who see and interact with their work, while raising awareness of real-world issues.

STUDIOKCA has received numerous awards including four American Institute of Architects honors. Their public sculptures have been exhibited at The Huntington Library, Art Collection, and Botanical Gardens in Southern California, The Exploratorium Museum in San Francisco, and on Governors Island and Brooklyn Bridge Park in New York City. Their ongoing work includes public art for the cities of Denver, Oklahoma, and Rochester in the United States.

### **ArtScience Museum**

ArtScience Museum is a major cultural institution in Singapore that explores the intersection between art, science, technology and culture. It is the cultural component of Marina Bay Sands. Since its opening in February 2011, ArtScience Museum has staged large-scale exhibitions by some of the world's major artists, including Leonardo da Vinci, M.C. Escher, Salvador Dalí, Andy Warhol and Vincent Van Gogh, as well as exhibitions that explore aspects of science and technology – including particle physics, big data, robotics, palaeontology, marine biology and space science. For more information, please visit [www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html](http://www.marinabaysands.com/museum.html)