



THE MAKER'S LAB

by The Finger Players

Call for application for The Maker's Lab

About The Maker's Lab

The Maker's Lab is an initiative by The Finger Players to nurture and grow builders and designers of puppets and objects.

As one of Singapore's key industry stakeholders in the design and build of puppets, The Finger Players hopes to maintain its signature aesthetics and philosophy, and to continue innovating the way it presents puppetry. At the same time, we have also identified a gap in the industry where makers of performative objects (props and puppets) face a lack of opportunities to research and develop their artistic curiosities and techniques.

Besides providing the space and resources for designers and builders to hone and refine their craft, The Maker's Lab aims to:

- Develop and promote puppetry and puppet-making in Singapore
- Pioneer a culture of research and experimentation in the creative process
- Nurture a strong team of Singaporean makers and designers who would possess unique aesthetic sensibilities

In this lab, the Maker will be supported for 9 months, focusing on the exploration of:

- (i) Creative and Technical Design
- (ii) Material and Technological Exploration
- (iii) Prototyping and Fabrication

The Maker will get to choose to go for courses/exchanges with other artists or experts in the field of proposed interest, whether in Singapore or overseas. The Maker will eventually be able to see her/his design into fruition in a final production, where the design is the starting point for the story and performance.

The Maker's Lab also aims to expand conversations around design and fabrication in the local arts scene and beyond. She/he will be invited to lead masterclasses and sharing sessions for both industry professionals and interested design enthusiasts.

In order to further the archival of knowledge and encourage discussions beyond the programme, The Finger Player's website will also document the entire process over the course of the lab.

About the theme "Puppetry and Flexibility"

2020 marks the first year of the newly revamped The Finger Players. In its first year, The Finger Players would like to reframe "puppetry"; to consider how "puppetry" is framed and how we negotiate and challenge these perspectives.

Therefore, for the company's inaugural The Maker's Lab, we are interested in examining **Puppetry and Flexibility**. Taking into account: Material, Functional and Cognitive Flexibility, we would like to invite a Maker to think about reframing the puppet – its build, function(s), relationship with the puppeteer, and the imagery it conjures.

Flexibility is a physical range of motion, a potential for varying functions and a consideration of multiple viewpoints. The material flexibility of a body or raw material lies in its effective ability to stretch and bend. Functional flexibility lies in the capability of an object or person to adapt to changing conditions and roles. Cognitive flexibility indicates an understanding of multiple perspectives and concepts. However, common to these different definitions lies the ability for the object, person or system to return to its original form without being damaged or changed permanently.

The Maker is encouraged to consider the theme from one's own practice and experiences. What are the processes required in designing and building a puppet? How can the use of certain materials allow different series of movements in the puppet? What are other means or technology that can be explored? How can a puppet transform and serve different functions, outside of the theatre stage? Does the puppet lose its function without a puppeteer's touch? How can a puppet challenge its own existence?

Application Form

Guidelines for application

Deadline	29 February 2020, 6pm
How to apply	Email your application form and supporting documents to tfpmakerslab@gmail.com , with the subject title: "Application for Maker's Lab: Your Name".
Supporting documents	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1) 2-pg CV2) 5-pg Portfolio3) Any other supporting documents that you deem necessary <p>Zip all supporting documents into <u>one archive file</u>. Upload the file to a file-sharing site such as www.wetransfer.com or www.yousendit.com, or a dropbox link. <u>Do not attach the supporting documents in the email.</u></p>

If you have any enquiries, please contact us at tfpmakerslab@gmail.com.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by 20 March 2020 for an interview.
Late or incomplete application forms will not be accepted.

Maker's Details	
Name:	Contact Number:
Email:	
Biography (Maximum 100 words)	

Create a proposal to tell us more about yourself and how you would respond to the theme.

Guiding Questions for the proposal

Reason for application:

- Why do you want to apply for The Maker's Lab?
- What would you like to achieve at the end of the lab?

Description of project:

- What would you like to do?
- Is there any particular material/technology/concept you would like to research and experiment on?
- What are the objectives of your project?
- What do you envision the final presentation to be?

Relation to the theme:

- How would you like to engage with the given theme?
- What is puppetry to you?

Research Process and Timeline:

- How would you plan your process throughout the 9 months?
- What are the milestones you'd like to achieve, leading up to the final presentation?
- How would you measure or evaluate your process?
- Aside from the compulsory requirement of a monthly reflection that will be shared on TFP's online platforms, are there any additional ways you would like to record and document your process?

Additional Collaborators:

- Are there other designers/puppeteers/collaborators that you would like to work with?
- Please also include explanation on choice of collaborators and how you envision for them contribute to your project (whether during the research process or final presentation)