

We are “white space bandits”.  
We are a posse of creative  
outlaws with a common  
passion for doodling, drawing  
and illustration. Armed with  
markers, we rid the world of  
blank spaces by filling them  
with characters and doodles.



*52 Singapore Tales* is a collection of unique illustrations. This compilation follows the Singapore narrative and is based on local legends, passions, facts and folklore as interpreted through the perspective of artists from the Band of Doodlers.

Like the many hands that built this country, each illustration is a co-created piece between two artists. From the story of Sang Nila Utama or the hidden purpose behind the dollar coin, to the reason the Singapore Flyer rotates upstream or why Singaporeans love to queue, over 100 local and international artists co-created to give their own spin to each uniquely Singapore tale.



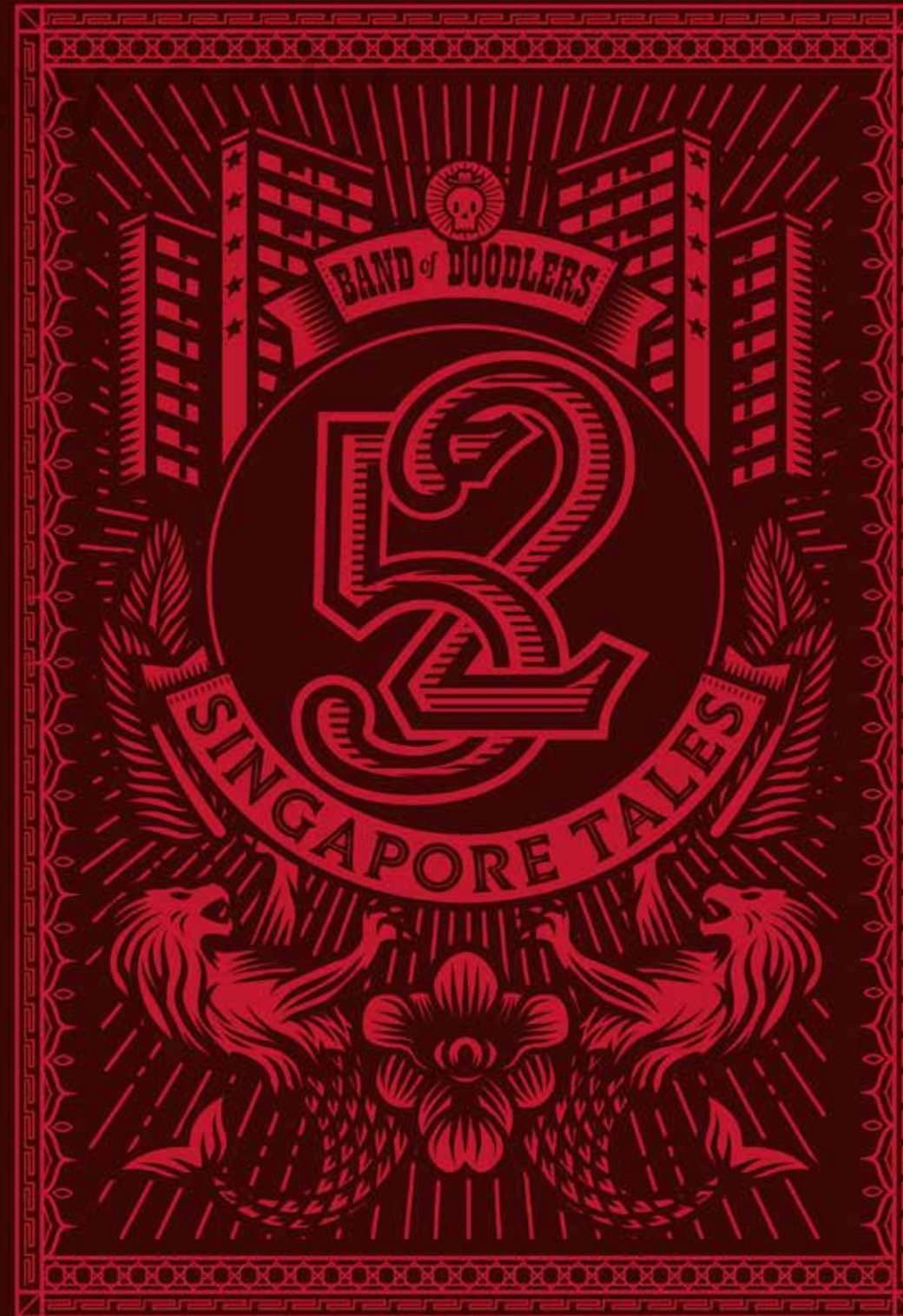
**bandofdoodlers**

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**52 SINGAPORE TALES**

Marshall Cavendish  
Editions

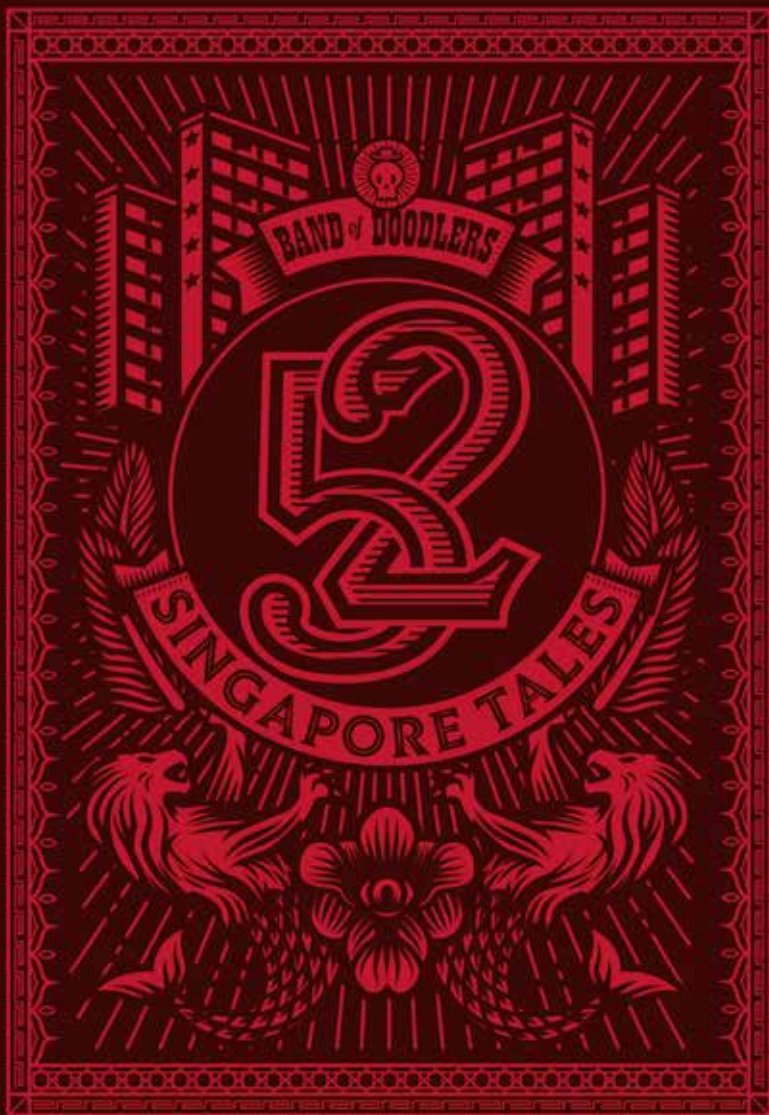


*52 Singapore Tales* is a collection of Singapore stories, both fact and fiction.

This is the Band of Doodlers' first collection of illustrations in a book. In the spirit of collaboration which they ferociously believe in, each artwork is co-created by two artists. Each pair of artists would decide on how they would reinterpret each tale. This book is the result of that magic and the surprise that comes from collaboration – in some cases the final artwork may not even look like they were done by two artists.



For Review only



For Review on

To our family, friends and community partners who have supported us on our amazing adventure towards world domination, this book is for you. As for the rest of you, what are you waiting for? Come join our doodling revolution!  
bandofdoodlers.com

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## INTRODUCTION

*52 Singapore Tales* is a collection of 52 illustrations by the Band of Doodlers based on popular and infamous Singapore tales, myths and idiosyncrasies. In the spirit of collaboration, which is what we stand for, each artwork is a co-creation between two artists. This also reinforces the point that there are usually two sides to every tale.

We chose the 52 tales based on their uniqueness, familiarity and, for some, their outrageous nature. More than 100 of the Boldest, most Outstanding and Distinguished bandits were selected to reinterpret and breathe new life into these Singapore stories. From facts to folklore, passions to pastimes, expect elaborate illustrations to match their equally outlandish narratives.

## ABOUT BAND OF DOODLERS

We are a posse of creative outlaws with a common passion for doodling, drawing and illustration. Armed with markers, we are known as “white space bandits” and we have but one mission: to rid the world of blank spaces by filling them with characters and doodles.

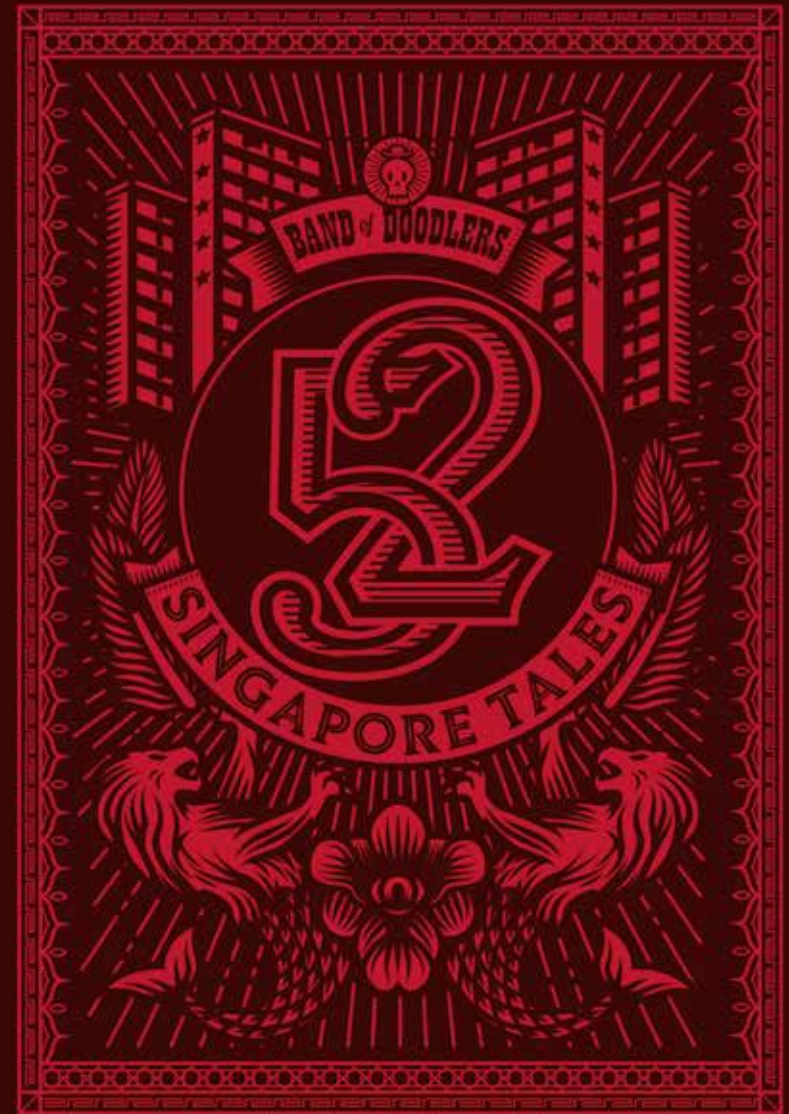
Intent on spreading the gospel of collaborative and co-creative drawing, the Band of Doodlers was started in 2014 by Mas Shafreen (Wanton Doodle) with the aim of creating an inclusive community via doodling, an all-accessible art form.

With a collective of over 200 artists, we have made a name for ourselves as the quickest draw east of the frontier by robbing white spaces for international brands such as Google, McDonald’s and the F1 Grand Prix, spreading fun in activations locally and abroad.



## LEGENDS AND FOLKLORE

Accounts of bravery abound within these tales that form the fabric of Singapore's folklore and legends. While some are based on fact, and others are based on myth, the stories of these heroes and heroines from times old and new never fail to inspire. They highlight the tribulations upon which the foundation of Singapore was built.



## LEE KUAN YEW

Lee Kuan Yew was the first prime minister of Singapore, governing for three decades since June 1959. Meritocracy and multiculturalism were key features in his leadership. His policies were pragmatic and offered long-term social and economic solutions, and led Singapore to transition from “third world to first world in a single generation”. Here he stands as we imagine, his arm raised to the future, against the backdrop of the landscape which he built.

ILLUSTRATION BY

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**DARIUSDRAWS**

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## SANG NILA UTAMA

The story of Sang Nila Utama is one of Singapore's favourite legends. It is said that in the 13th century, the ruler of the Srivijaya Empire of Sumatra set sail on an expedition, only to be washed upon an island called Temasek as a result of stormy weather. As his crew set foot on its white, sandy beach, they spotted a strange, unfamiliar beast from afar — a lion. Through artists' eyes, we imagine him looking ashore, as his gaze fell upon that wondrous creature.

ILLUSTRATION BY

**CAPTAINCHOWDER**

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## SISTERS' ISLANDS

Legend has it that there once lived a pair of sisters, Minah and Linah, who loved each other dearly. But Linah's beauty caught the eye of a pirate chief who forcefully brought her to his ship. Upon seeing her beloved sister taken away, Minah dived in to save her but tragically drowned in the stormy waters. Crying, Linah fought her way free and jumped in as well. The following day, two islands emerged from the site where the sisters had drowned and were henceforth known as Sisters' Island.

We opted for a more cheerful depiction of these sisters, with bright colours in rainbow hues to represent their happier days spent in each other's company.

ILLUSTRATION BY

**CAMELAW**  
iamcaramelaw.com

**PUFFINGMUFFIN**  
puffingmuffin.com



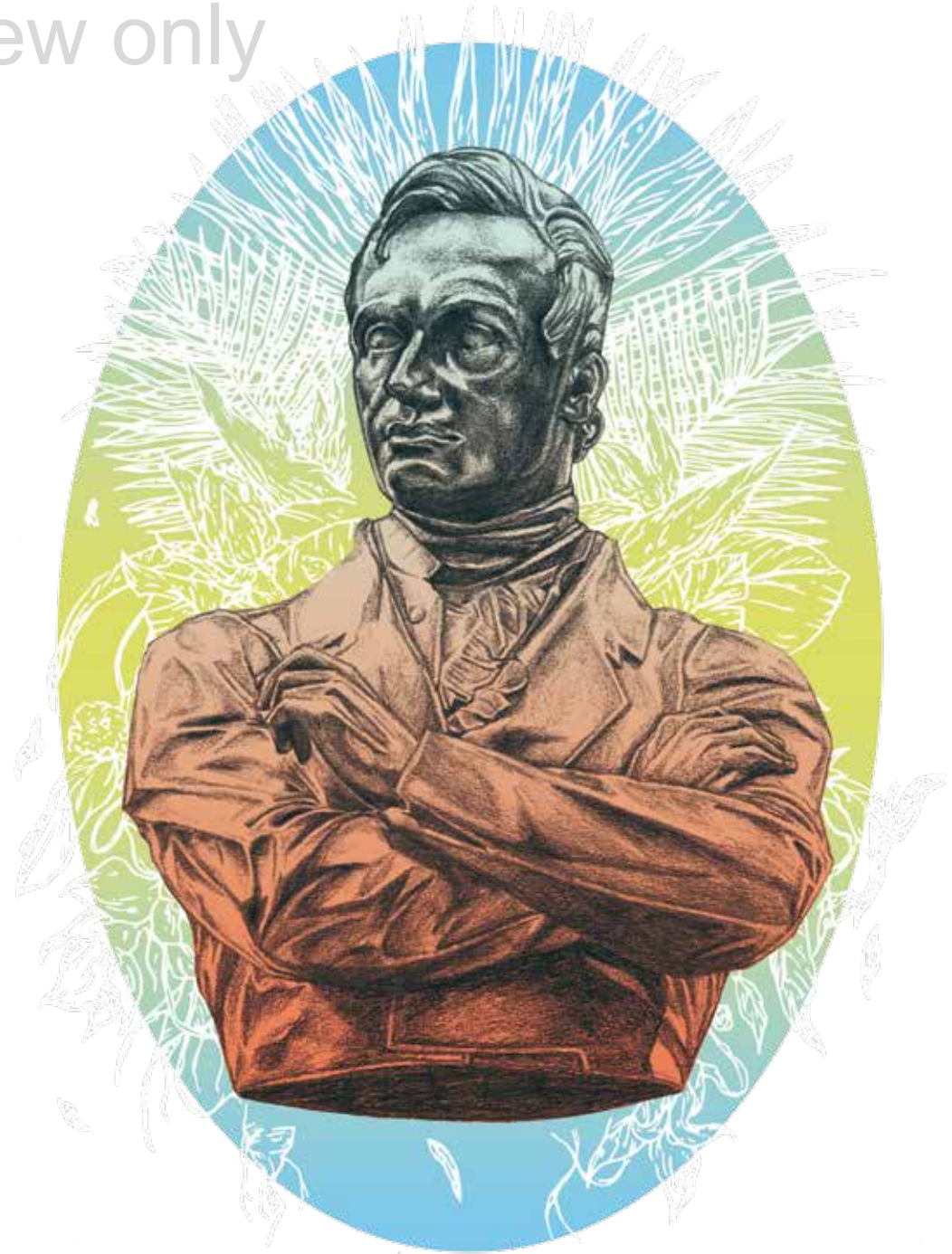
## SIR STAMFORD RAFFLES

A prominent statue stands proudly at the Singapore River – this is Sir Stamford Raffles, the man who is widely regarded as the founder of Singapore. Believing that the East held potential for a British trading post, he set sail and landed upon the shores of Singapore in 1819, immediately finding it to be strategically located. Raffles then proceeded to establish a town plan to set up roads, schools and government districts. Our illustration shows the eagle-eyed Raffles in his iconic pose, keeping watch over the city.

ILLUSTRATION BY

**AVERINEYOU**  
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**SPAZAK**  
[keithang.com](https://www.keithang.com)





## SINGAPORE SLING

In the days of yore, it was considered uncomely for ladies to be seen imbibing alcohol. Blushing in rosy hues and assuming the colours of an innocent fruit drink, this gin-based cocktail was concocted in 1915 for the ladies by bartender Ngiam Tong Boon in Raffles Hotel and quickly became regarded as the national drink. Our illustration pays tribute to the times when this drink gave Singapore screen time and, along with the Singapore Girl commercials, branded the country as exotic.

ILLUSTRATION BY

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**NATS BATS**

instagram.com/natsbatsarts





## HDB MARRIAGE PROPOSAL

“Shall we apply for a flat?” is the local way of asking, “Will you marry me?” The average Singaporean is destined to live in public housing and this option is only available to married people (or singles over 35, implying that the government thinks you are a lost cause). Asking one’s partner to apply for a flat has since become synonymous with a wedding proposal so what better way to show this than through a bouquet of built-up, cramped future homes.

ILLUSTRATION BY

**MUFFINSAURS**  
muffinsaurs.com

**PAINTINKS BY MELT**  
paintinks-by-melt.com



## THE NATIONAL GALLERY

The former Supreme Court and City Hall exude grandeur with their Corinthian and Ionic columns. They have been converted into the National Gallery Singapore with great care having been taken to retain the dignity of the building by restoring the original finishes. Visitors come here not just to admire the largest collection of Southeast Asian art in the world, but to simultaneously step back in time and imagine the days when justice took centre stage in the great halls. Here, we portray the building in a youthful light – a nod to how a sombre and stately site has been given new life.

ILLUSTRATION BY

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**YUBOID**

[yuboid.wixsite.com/home](http://yuboid.wixsite.com/home)



## THE TREASURE OF MACRITCHIE

The Japanese occupation of Singapore lasted from 1942 to 1945. They built shrines during their much-hated reign, and one of these shrines, Syonan Jinja is located in MacRitchie. When they were close to being ousted, the Japanese buried their treasure around Singapore, and one of these locations of hidden treasure was believed to be Syonan Jinja. A fierce Japanese warrior guards the sacred shrine in our painting, his life pledged to protecting the precious gold hidden within.

ILLUSTRATION BY

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