is for graffiti. This London-underground station of the same name, on display in the National Museum.

is for the National Arts Council. Be nice if you see them last week. Drawing on their memories, he can be seen dancing around during the Biennale's parties.

is for the inaugural Singapore Biennale is for ordinary people. If obscure foreign artists are not your thing, opt for home-grown, down-to-earth creations by the under-privileged. Japanese artist Takafumi Usman Haque has created a floating wall which exudes the motives of the artist. It will be up for three months, then dismantled and recycled again.

is for kitsch. A German term to define something sentimental or tacky, this silver fox is quite the charmer with his soft-spoken manner and grooming habits. He is for kitsch.

is for kitsch. It's actually just a fancy, expensive, large-scale work of art. For example, Cuban artist Roberto Fuster created a huge chocolate sculpture made out of 1,651 aircraft aluminum tubes, at the National Museum. It will be up for three months, then dismantled and recycled again.

is for the Last Judgment. It's the title of a 2005 documentary film by Swedish artist Mats Bigert and Marcus Bergman, which explores the ritual of priests' impalers' last work, a Capuchin skull. Japanese artist Takashi Usami's installation designed by Singapore's Chan. The frenetic scrawls and doodles just ooze urban cool.

is for kitsch. It's for the realm of the arts. To a national art gallery by 2010, this will be the grand finale of the arts.

SMU video installation shot in the London underground station of the same name, on display in the National Museum.

is for grafitti, the motif of the Biennale's free opening party on Sept 1. Oh! be nice if you see them last week. Drawing on their memories, he can be seen dancing around during the Biennale's parties.

is for the MADRE project (above), made up of balloons, which exudes the motives of the artist. It will be up for three months, then dismantled and recycled again.

is for the Madonna Tussaud's waxworks just ooze urban cool. These two are for the MADRE project (above), made up of balloons, which exudes the motives of the artist. It will be up for three months, then dismantled and recycled again.

is for the Mediterranean category. Modern art made around and after 1960, within a clean and conceptually oriented framework, is for the Mediterranean category. Modern art made around and after 1960, within a clean and conceptually oriented framework.

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is for pass. While most of the exhibits in the Bien-
nale are free and on public dis-
play, you need a pass to enter
some locations like City Hall,
Tanglin Camp, the National Mu-
seum and the Singapore Art Mu-
seum. Passes are available at $5
for single entry and $25 for un-
limited entry to all the paid ven-
ues. Buy them from the Bien-
nale Information Centre in SMU,
or at City Hall and Tanglin Camp.

is for Queen. Singapore artist
Ho Tzu Nyen's new work for
the Biennale is a rock-opera
take on British band Queen's
Bohemian Rhapsody. Ironical-
ly, this ode to subversion is be-
ing displayed in City Hall, a
site that stands for institu-
tional authority.

is for rain. Soon, there will be a
Miracle Tree which rains on pas-
sers-by outside the Asian
Civiliza-
tions Museum at Empress
Place. The brainchild of Dutch
artist IEPE (pronounced
Ee-per, short for Iepe BT Rub-
ingh), this Angsana tree will be
rigged so that its leaves produce
a shower at rhythmic intervals.
Sounds like a gag from Gotcha!. But it's not.

is for shopping. Viewing the Bien-
nale's offerings might just awaken
your collector-instinct. Well, if
you're interested in acquiring any
of the works, you are advised to
track down and contact the artists
on your own. But relax, acquiring
art can actually be quite easy.
American artist Barbara Kruger
has created a range of souvenirs like mugs, bags, T-shirts and sandals, all
printed with enigmatic slogans like "Belief equals
wisdom". Satisfy your consumer cravings at the In-
formation Centre at SMU, City Hall and Tanglin
Camp.

is for Tanglin Camp. Last time we
checked, it was a run-down, vacant,
spooky group of buildings, estab-
lished as barracks for the British
Army in 1872. The site, once used
as the Central Manpower Base for
the Singapore Armed Forces, is be-
ing done up to serve as exhibition
space. It even has a bar for those soldiering on in the
name of art.

is for Channel U. A weekly educa-
tional TV series, Shen Me Yi Si
('What does this mean?' in Manda-
rin) will be aired on the channel
during the Biennale. Hosted by Bry-
an Wong and Quan Yifeng, it fea-
tures the duo pounding the streets
to
ask
people to interpret artworks from the Bien-
nale. It
just might end up as a biennale.

is for Vernissage (pronounced
ver-nee-sarge, French for "varnish-
ing"). In the past, this was a name
for the preview or exhibition open-
ning period, where artists would put
the finishing touches to their
works by varnishing them. These
days, vernissage is mostly an ex-
cuse for a party – where people network, discuss art
and strike deals. The Biennale's vernissage is on
from Sept 1 to 3 at the various venues.

is for Walk The Talk. Have mobile
phone, can hear art. This 24-hour
audio guide allows exhibition visi-
tors to dial in from any phone to ac-
cess commentary on the individual
artworks. Call 6758-4155 and enter
a three-digit code posted at 50 exhi-
hibition points or published in the ex-
hibition guide-book to hear the recordings. Local
phone charges apply.

is for exchange. If you think
contemporary art is alienat-
ing, the organisers of the Bi-
nale are absolutely deter-
mined to change your mind.
Nineteen dialogue sessions
between art lovers, artists, cur-
rators, and the media have been
organised and since July last
year. Titled Encounters, these free sessions are
open to the public. Twenty-six more are in the pipe-
line, so no excuses now.

is for YKON. This Helsin-
ki-based art collective is inter-
ested in the idea of "microna-
tions" or utopian communities.
Its work, M8 (2006), at City
Hall, is a mixed-media installa-
tion about a fictional summit
convened by Minister Mentor
Lee Kuan Yew.

is for Zaha Hadid. The Ira-
qi-born, London-based archi-
tect has designed the exhibi-
tion setting for a show of some
150 artworks from the Deut-
sche Bank Collection. Titled
All The Best, the exhibition is
on at the Singapore Art Muse-
um from Sept 2 to Nov 20 and
features works by Joseph
Beuys, Nan Goldin, Chris Ofili
and Tracey Emin. It
is one of about 14 art-related satellite events here
which is linked to the Biennale – adding to its buzz.