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## Singapore deploys mysterious metal cubes 7,000 meters beneath the ocean

Each cube, measuring 10 cm on each side and made from corrosion-resistant stainless steel, showcases five designs inspired by the "Universal Language of Symbols."



One of the cubes was produced using a new hybrid manufacturing process developed by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore. (Photo: NTU)



India Today Science Desk

New Delhi, UPDATED: Mar 24, 2025 16:42 IST

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### In Short

- The installation was executed by NuStar Technologies
- It is developed collaboration with Japan's Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology
- They are intended to resonate with communities worldwide

Singapore has made history as the first country to install an art installation 7,000 meters beneath the ocean, featuring three metal cubes designed by local artist Lakshmi Mohanbabu.

This new project, which is both an artistic expression and a tribute to those affected by natural disasters, was deployed near the Mariana Trench off the coast of Japan in December 2024.

The installation was executed by NuStar Technologies in collaboration with Japan's Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC).

The cubes are part of a specially designed early warning seismic sensor system that monitors undersea earthquakes and tsunamis.

Mohanbabu, who gained recognition as the first Singaporean to send artwork into space in 2022, emphasized the importance of merging art with scientific innovation. "Art is not just something that hangs on a wall; it's about exploring how and where it can be viewed," she stated.

#NTUsg #3D-printed steel cube is part of world's first deep-sea art installation



Each cube, measuring 10 cm on each side and made from corrosion-resistant stainless steel, showcases five designs inspired by the "Universal Language of Symbols."

The designs – "Nautilus, Primary, Secondary, Windmill, and Dromenon" – are intended to resonate with communities worldwide by embodying nine existential elements common to humanity, including Creation, Lifecycles, and Movement.

One of the cubes was produced using a new hybrid manufacturing process developed by Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore. This innovative technique ensures that the artwork can withstand the immense pressures of the deep ocean.

The historic milestone was celebrated at Gallery ART NOW in Singapore during the SG60 celebrations, attended by NTU Board Chair Goh Swee Chen.

This project not only highlights Singapore's pioneering spirit but also showcases how art can play a vital role in addressing global challenges through collaboration and creativity.

*Published By: Siby Kumar Tripathi*

*Published On: Mar 24, 2025*

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