



Lee Hock Moh 李福茂

Fort Canning 山花迎朝晖 ( 福康宁山 )

Born 1947 in Singapore, Lee Hock Moh received his training in traditional Chinese ink and Western oil painting at NAFA from 1968–1970. He co-founded the Siaw Tao Chinese Seal Carving, Calligraphy and Painting Society in 1971. Best known for his orchids, he specialises in the gongbi style of traditional painting, featuring superfine and controlled brushwork, vibrant colour and meticulous detail. He received the highest accolade for his achievements receiving the Cultural Medallion award in 1981.

Fort Canning was believed to be the palatial site of former Majapahit kings that became the residence of colonial governors after Sir Stamford Raffles's landing in Singapore in 1819. Today it is known as Bukit Larangan, or Forbidden Hill. In "Fort Canning", Lee depicted Singapore's historic landmark as a mist-filled mountain with lush greenery and trees dotted with yellow and red flowers; a group of workers is seen sweeping and clearing fallen leaves at the base of the hill. Historic colonial buildings decorate the route with small groups of people basking in the scenery around them, slowly wandering their way up the hill. Faraway, a flock of birds soar into the sky, this is Lee's impression of a morning at Fort Canning.

As a Singaporean second-generation artist, Lee has made contributions to Singapore's art scene in over 4 decades of art practice. The acquisition of this work is a remarkable documentation of traditional ink painting technique applied to local context that charts the progress of the artist's repertoire in recent years.



Chieu Shuey Fook

Breakthrough 突破

Chieu Shuey Fook was born in Singapore in 1934. A second-generation artist and NAFA alumnus, he graduated with a Diploma in Western Painting in 1953. Chieu was greatly influenced by the pioneer artist Cheong Soo Pieng who was also his teacher. Cheong's prolific career and practice reflected his own sense of originality and innovation. Besides integrating painting traditions with conceptual elements, Chieu sought to transform his art by exploring unconventional materials and experimenting with new techniques. This enabled him to produce inventive new textures and expressive surfaces that are distinctively his own.

Breakthrough (1972) is a batik work where the artist employed sawdust and paper to create an abstract and geometric layout with textural qualities. Since the 1960s, Chieu has been in the forefront of the Singapore batik scene, developing innovative and modern compositions. This work was exhibited in his recent 15th solo exhibition, Art and Alchemy, an exhibition that documented the artist's practice covering early batik works, metal reliefs and murals. This work exemplifies his creative endeavors in the past decades and how his practice has shaped Singapore's art landscape.



Lim Soo Ngee  
Ah Hoon

Singapore born artist and NAFA senior lecturer Lim Soo Ngee studied sculpture at NAFA before continuing his MFA at Edinburg College of Art at the Heriot-Watt University in 1997 under an NAC overseas bursary. He participates actively in international sculpture symposiums in Hong Kong, Beijing, Switzerland, France as well as group exhibitions in Singapore and abroad.

"Ah Hoon" is an example of his recent explorations in woodcarvings that link contemporary art expression and traditional craftsmanship. Carved from block of an old pillar the artist salvaged from demolished house, "Ah Hoon" was named after her windswept hair that took the shape of a cloud. Lim's wicked sense of humour and sensibilities reflect in his metaphorical figures of humans with wings and sometimes animals, reflecting about humanity and the human condition through these whimsical characters. Ah Hoon was born in Singapore on 1 October 2009, has black eyes but white hair and weighs 1.2kg and is 48cm tall.



Syamil Dasuki  
Thinking Baby

Syamil Dasuki graduated from NAFA with a Diploma in Fine Art with distinction in 2014.

Syamil has explored many mediums when creating his art but he found comfort in using wax and felt that it helped him to convey his concept about procreation to the audience. A baby figure, for him, is an impetus for continued existence as well as a symbol for a living. *Thinking Baby* is a series of 50 wax babies made in conjunction with the 'SG50 Baby Jubilee gift' state campaign. This installation evaluates the association between Singapore and nationalism – what does it mean for the nation to reward the parents of jubilee babies upon their contribution to the population and what should the other do in other ways to contribute to the nation.



Laing Man Sze

Decoration Decorated 繁中简出

Born in 1946, Singaporean and NAFA alumna Laing Mansze was a secondary school teacher who taught mathematics and music for 34 years before her retirement. In between the teaching years, she obtained a Diploma in Fine Art at NAFA in 1969 and continued to paint actively and exhibit with local art groups.

Painting exclusively still-life allows time for manipulating composition and colours. The intense observation of still-life objects underscore her formal and academic approach to painting. Laing confesses her penchant for old things, interposing different material cultures or experimenting with a mix and match, of objects from different eras.

In “Decoration Decorated”, her work refers to an antique table against a small yellow spotted animal figurine, both of which exist in her home



Boo Sze Yang

12 Apostles

Boo Sze Yang graduated from NAFA in 1991 before receiving his postgraduate Diploma in Fine Art from University of Reading in 1995. He went on to obtain his Master of Arts Degree at the University of the Arts London in 2004. He was Head of Fine Art Department at NAFA from 2008-2009 before becoming a full-time artist to focus on his practice.

“Twelve Apostles” is a composite work on 12 square canvases presented in a 4 by 3 grid. Completed in 2011, the work marks a departure from his earlier series on churches to every-day objects. Drawing comparisons between the functions of the humble plastic stool and a cathedral, Boo suggests that both provide support and a means of rest for the weary, exhausted and jaded. The surface resemblance between the arches of the stool and cathedral are truly as they are, compelling the viewers to draw visual congruence, yet ponder more deeply, the biblical references of Christian thought: the apostles as symbols of truth and guidance.



Lee Rui Xiang

Don't Copy Them Lah!

Born in 1989, Lee Ruixiang graduated from NAFA with a Diploma in Fine Art (Printmaking) in 2012.

Raised on a diet of comics, cartoon and science fiction films, Lee is greatly influenced by the images of superheroes and fantastical illusions that offer an upbeat and contemporary expression of his reality in the ordinary world. His works contain references to popular culture, imposing combinations that appear radical and culminate in some kind of action-packed chaos. In 2012, he ventured to assemble tiered paper cutouts to amplify this perspective to dramatic effect, provoking the viewer to appreciate the order and humorous quality of his work.