



Endless Possibilities at NAFA

YEAR IN REVIEW 2024/25

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Chairman's Message





As I reflect on the past year, I am deeply heartened by the many ways NAFA has continued to grow as an institution of learning, creativity, and cultural exchange. Over the years, I have witnessed how our students, faculty, and alumni carry the arts beyond the studio and stage, using their talents to touch lives, spark conversations, and build bridges across communities.

At the Arts & Disability Forum 2025, NAFA served as the knowledge partner in advancing conversations on representation and inclusion. The workshops and dialogues reminded us that true leadership in the arts lies in shared voices, and recognising the gap in representation and access for artists with disabilities.

The inaugural Singapore Children's Book Festival in 2024 was a monumental moment that resonated deeply with me. As the Guest-of-Honour this year, I had the privilege of witnessing our students' contributions first-hand. The winners of the Student Illustrator Book Prize worked closely with the publishers to bring two lovely children's books to fruition following a year-long journey that started last year. They even brought their stories to life by narrating and presenting to the little learners at NAFA Arts Preschool. Seeing the children's eyes sparkle with wonder and the students' faces glow with pride was a touching reminder of how creativity can unite generations and ignite the interest in storytelling.

Our School of Dance graduation production, *Crossings*, featured a strong display of artistic courage and expression. Collaborating with international choreographers from Spain, Vietnam, Korea, and fellow dancers from Taipei National University of the Arts, our students pushed boundaries, explored new movement vocabularies, and created works that resonated across cultures.

Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the School of Young Talents brought together thousands of young musicians, dancers, actors, and artists through months of performances and exhibitions, highlighting creativity thriving across generations.

From nurturing young talents to celebrating renowned artists, NAFA supports creativity at every stage of life. The same passion that drives students continues in our alumni, whose work shapes the Singapore landscape in the arts. We are proud that the celebrated, second-generation Nanyang artist, Siew Hock Meng, was awarded the Cultural Medallion 2024 for his exceptional contributions. His mastery of pastel, oil, and allegorical works began at NAFA in 1960.

This past year's stories reflect four enduring values: care for our community, *courage* in creativity, *cross-cultural* exchange, and a *commitment* to craft. Together, they form the compass guiding NAFA into its next chapter.

Ms Low Sin Leng

Chairman

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Leadership Spotlight

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National University of Singapore

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Managing Director (GLG)
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Dean, College of Integrative Studies
Singapore Management University

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Organisation Planning & Strategic Infrastructure and Cancer Service Line Development
National Cancer Centre Singapore

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National Heritage Board

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Academy of Fine Arts

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A/Prof John Fung
Associate Professor
Department of Architecture
College of Design and Environment
National University of Singapore

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Senior Partner
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National University Health System
(NUHS)

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Head
Corporate Marketing & Communications
SPH Media

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Ms Low Sin Leng

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Mr Ernest Kan (until 31 December 2024)
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Ms Lee Mei Hui Amanda
Mr Simon Ong Chin Sim
Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan
Prof Jesvin Yeo Puay Hwa

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Mr Ernest Kan (until 31 December 2024)

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Ms Christine Low Chi Kien

Co-opted Member

Mr Koh Chin Beng

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Members

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Mr Aun Koh

Co-opted Members

Ms Ning Chong
Ms Fen Peh

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Mr Chia Wee Boon
Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan
Ms Lee Mei Hui Amanda

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Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan

Co-opted Members
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Deputy Management Representative (EduTrust)

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Prof Cheong Hee Kiat
Senior Academic Advisor

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Vice President (Corporate Services)

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Dean, Office of Academic Affairs
Dean, Teaching & Learning Centre

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Dean, Faculty of Art & Design
Principal, School of Young Talents

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Dr Caren Carino
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Dr Jeffery Tan
Dean, Centre for Lifelong Education

A/Prof Michael Thaddeus Tan Koon Boon
Dean, Research & Knowledge Exchange,
Research Division

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Artistic Director, School of Music

Mdm Fang Yuan
Principal Mentor, School of Young Talents
Head, Junior Music

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Senior Director, Institute of Southeast
Asian Arts & Art Galleries
Academic Advisor (Southeast Asian Arts)

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Head, Library

Ms Cindy Seah Wee Choo
Head, Ed Tech Unit

Mr Joshua Tan Guang Liang
Quality & Governance Lead, Quality &
Governance Division

Our Year in Numbers

TERTIARY EDUCATION

3

Faculties

9

Schools

25

Diploma and
Bachelor's
Degree
Programmes

3

Master's
Degree
Programmes

1

NAFA
Foundation
Programme

Around

600

diploma and
degree students
travelled abroad for
Overseas Immersion
Programmes, Study
Trips and International
Placements

More than

24

Memoranda of
Understanding signed
with prominent
educational institutions
and organisations

Over

**S\$1.2
million**

given out to

230

students in
scholarships, merit
awards and bursaries

2,000

attendees at NAFA
Open House 2025

LIFELONG EDUCATION

1,000

places taken up in Certificate Courses

15

new Short Courses in craft, design, fine art and wellness

1,623

places taken up in Short Courses

CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT AND ARTS PRESCHOOL

4,859

young talents in art, dance, drama and music weekend classes

139

children enrolled in the Bencoolen and Luzerne Campus Programmes

ALUMNI AND EMPLOYMENT

Over

20,000

full-time graduates to date

73%

overall employment rate for diploma and degree graduates

777

graduates from the Class of 2024

76%

secured jobs before or within three months of graduating

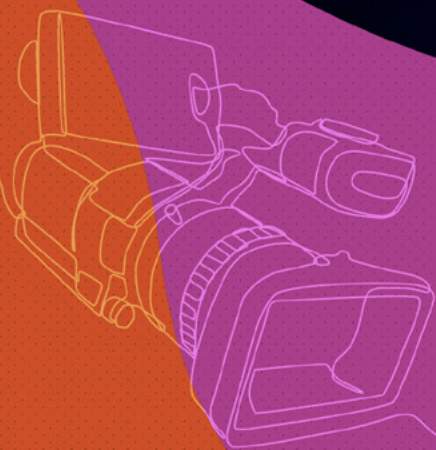
40%

of interns received offers for full-time employment following their internship

ORGANISATIONAL CULTURE

**Charity
Transparency
Award 2024**

A Meeting of Creative Minds





When passionate individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences and cultures come together, ideas ignite and inspiration flows. These dynamic exchanges spark creative exploration and open doors to collective growth.

Arts & Design Practice Research Exchange (ADPRex)

Held for the second year running, ADPRex, themed “Precarious Art: How Do We Make Art in a World on Fire?”, saw 225 participants from more than 16 institutions across Asia, Europe and America participate in the hybrid event to discuss

how artmaking can respond to worldwide states of disruption.

Over the two days, artists and researchers explored concepts of precariousness and precarity, sharing their experiences and responses to global disruptions and localised instability in work, sexuality and gender identity across 10 curated panels and a dialogue session.



↑ Performers from the ASK Dance Company with Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan, President of NAFA, Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, Senior Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Arts & Art Galleries (back row, fourth and fifth from left) and invited guests.

UOB-NAFA Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2024

The UOB-NAFA Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2024: “Way of the Valiant: Paving Art through War”, attracted over 400 attendees who engaged in discourse on how art and creative practices can assert their relevance amid post-pandemic uncertainties and an overwhelming surge of geopolitical conflicts, violence, and destruction.

The event, which showcased 21 presenters from the Southeast Asian region, featured two exhibitions titled, “Light Permeates the Wounds” by Vietnamese painter Hoang Duong Cam and “Xenomech: Enigmas Inside the Margins” by Malaysian artist Choy Chun Wei

that further enriched the Forum’s focus. NAFA-UAS degree students had the opportunity to participate in the signature masterclasses taught by both artists.

In line with the forum, an online game titled “Treasures of Angkor” was created to encourage players to learn about war, resilience and recovery by collecting historical artefacts on UOB World.

The forum also featured the inaugural Southeast Asian Arts Alliance (SEARCh), a collaboration between NAFA-UAS and eight other Southeast Asian universities to respond, collaborate and harmonise on research and educational ventures in Southeast Asian Arts.



← Presenters from across Southeast Asia sharing their diverse perspectives and thoughts at the Forum.

Digitally Engaged Learning (DEL) Conference

Set to boost educators' confidence in integrating innovative digital technologies into art and design learning, NAFA's Teaching & Learning Centre partnered with the University of Arts London, Texas Tech University, Parsons School of Design and Pennsylvania State University to organise the DEL 2024 conference.

Over 100 attendees and 30 presenters from institutions in Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, New Zealand, UK and US gathered on the NAFA campus during the two-day conference to explore evolving digitally engaged teaching and learning practice, and pedagogy in art and design higher education.



Arts & Disability Forum 2025 (ADF)

NAFA is the knowledge partner for the Arts & Disability Forum 2025 (ADF), held from 25 to 29 March 2025. Led by Dr Michael Tan, Dean of Research & Knowledge Exchange at NAFA-UAS, and co-developed with ART:DIS, the NAFA X ART:DIS Collaborates – Arts and Disability Forum (ADF) Learning Enrichment Initiative aims to raise awareness of ongoing support for individuals with disabilities within local and global arts communities. Twenty artists with disabilities had the opportunity to harness their leadership skills in the arts at the ART:DIS X Sync Leadership workshop.

Dr Tan also moderated a panel discussion exploring what authentic representation and access mean in the cultural sector, and how more inclusive narratives and platforms can be created for professional artists with disabilities.



The Power of Collaborative Synergy

Possibilities expand when creative minds join forces. By harnessing unique perspectives, skills and strengths, artistic boundaries are broken and positive impact ripples through the community, shaping a more connected and inspired world.

after 20 home
20th Anniversary: Celebrating the
Intricate Connection Between
Design and Craftsmanship



The Heritage Project

As part of the Heritage Project module, NAFA Year 3 Arts Management students collaborated with National Heritage Board (NHB) to conceptualise and deliver a 90-minute programme at the Children's Museum Singapore. Specially designed for lower primary students from Student Care Centres, the programme began with immersive storytelling, followed by classroom activities to reinforce key learning points, and a tour at the Children's Museum.

The project exemplified how arts management education can foster heritage appreciation among the young while nurturing socially attuned and community-minded arts practitioners.



Singapore Children's Book Festival 2024

NAFA co-organised the inaugural Singapore Children's Book Festival 2024 with the Singapore Book Publishers Association. Over three days, students from the School of Design & Media developed illustrations for three unpublished children's book

manuscripts. The festival showcased the work of three student groups, while the School of Young Talents held eight Art and Drama workshops across two days, offering young participants engaging, hands-on activities.

Additionally, the event showcased the visual branding, content adaptation,

and festival programming by students, giving them valuable learning opportunities to balance creativity with professional expectations under tight timelines and gain a deeper understanding of the cultural and economic impact of children's publishing in Singapore.



LTA x NAFA Art Activation Project 2024

For the second year running, NAFA partnered Land Transport Authority (LTA) to enliven six MRT stations from 12 August to 23 September 2024. Themed “Your adventure awaits at [Insert Station Name]”, students came up with the “Finding Benji” campaign to showcase the identity, character and uniqueness of the spaces within and around the Bencoolen and Woodlands MRT stations, inviting commuters to explore the respective areas.



Move in Groove 2024

Travelling was a little more festive for commuters between 27 November 2024 and 2 January 2025 when NAFA partnered LTA and public transport operators, SBS Transit Ltd and SMRT Corporation Ltd to transform selected train stations and buses serving services 14, 65, 197 and 960 into a festive wonderland. The designs were a collaborative effort by three NAFA students currently pursuing their Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture), Diploma in Graphic Communication and Diploma in Fine Art.

Designing New Uniforms for SBS Transit Bus Captains and Station Staff

More than 6,800 SBS Transit bus captains and station staff sported a fresh look in March 2025, marking the operator's first uniform refresh in over a decade.

Featuring lighter shades of SBS Transit's corporate

colours of purple and orange, the uniforms were designed by NAFA students from the School of Fashion Studies, who had since graduated. Made with breathable, anti-wrinkle fabric to suit the humid weather in Singapore, the uniforms feature reflective strips to enhance visibility during low-light settings, eliminating the need for a separate vest.



Performative Practices Lab 2025

As part of the Singapore Art Week, over 30 students and alumni from NAFA and Central Saint Martins participated in the Performative Practices Lab 2025. The project was a timely response to current issues such as cultural hybridity, post-pandemic mobility, and the evolving search for artistic identity in a rapidly shifting global environment, providing an inclusive space for emerging artists to negotiate

their relevance and sense of belonging within international contexts.

The international, multidisciplinary exchange challenged conventional boundaries of art-making, encouraging critical self-inquiry and artistic expression across geographies and disciplines. It also strengthened NAFA's position in the global arts landscape while offering the local community access to bold, thought-provoking performances.



M1 Singapore Fringe Festival: Dancing with the Ghost of My Child

NAFA Performance Making Diploma Year 2 students' "Dancing with the Ghost of My Child" theatre production premiered at the final M1 Singapore Fringe Festival 2025.

Co-directed by Noor Effendy Ibrahim and Ruby Jayaseelan, leading figures in Singapore's experimental performance scene, the production exemplified the programme's interdisciplinary framework, which nurtures artistic inquiry, creative risk-taking, and original devised work across dance,

theatre, and other performance forms.

The performance also showcased the core ethos of the socially engaged, and future-ready performance makers who lead with imagination, resilience, and empathy.



Campus Rhapsody 2025

The annual collaborative concert between the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO) and NAFA saw 41 NAFA students performing two chamber pieces, “Dance of the Golden Snake” and “Ripples in Jade Water”, and two orchestral works, “Zhongruan Concerto No. 2” and “Ode to the Sun”, alongside 50 SCO musicians.

This year’s Campus Rhapsody marked the renewal of the partnership between SCO and NAFA for another three years, until 31 March 2028, to grow Singapore’s Chinese music ecosystem and nurture the next generation of music professionals. This is the second renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) since it was first inked in 2022 and renewed in 2025.



UOB Better U Campus Project

As part of the five-year strategic partnership between UOB and NAFA, NAFA students created a heritage wall and four generative AI videos to enliven the UOB Better U Campus located at 41 Namly Avenue.

The heritage wall titled “Flowing Nature” was designed by NAFA’s Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice students, while the four digital mural featuring AI-generated animations and music, divided into “Spring”, “Summer”, “Autumn” and “Winter” themes, were the result of a multidisciplinary collaboration involving students from Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Illustration with Animation, Fashion Business Management and Music.



Geragogy and the Arts 2024 Conference

The Geragogy and the Arts 2024 hybrid conference highlights the impact of sustained arts practices on Singapore’s elderly. A collaboration between NAFA’s Centre for Lifelong Education (CLE) and Community Cultural Dimensions, funded by the National Arts Council, the event allowed CLE to connect with the community and build capacity in arts geragogy.



A Showcase of Artistic Talents

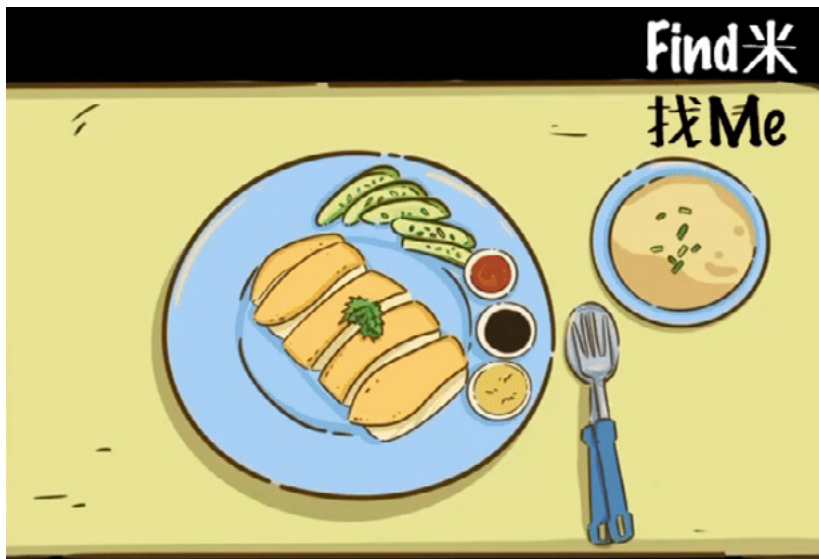




Learning, practising and seamlessly bridging the two underpin our pedagogy. By providing students with opportunities to showcase their work, they can apply their skills, gain exposure, and build the confidence needed to step into the professional arts landscape.

Beras Basah Wet Rice Exhibition

Curated by NAFA Talent Development Programme (NTDP) enrollee Koh Kai Ting, the Beras Basah Wet Rice exhibition, which took place from 5 to 22 September, was part of the Singapore Night Festival 2024 highlight. Bringing together 13 artists at different stages of their careers, the exhibition explored the history and rich heritage of the Bras Basah-Bugis precinct through playful interaction, paying tribute to the area's early history when the Bras Basah river played a crucial role in rice trading in the region.



↑ Illustration by Jervis Wirady, BA (Hons) Design Practice



Crossings

In this edition of NAFA School of Dance's graduation show, "Crossings", the production kept up the tradition of celebrating Singapore's emerging young talents and the next generation of professional dancers.

Featuring cross-disciplinary collaborations with various international institutes, the dance works from both local and international guest choreographers, including Daniel Navarro Lorenzo (Spain), Nguyen Ngoc Anh (Vietnam/UK), and Son Yu Joung (Korea) challenged NAFA students to push their individual strengths and artistic courage. The resulting repertoire is a testament to the versatility that NAFA's conservatory-style trained dancers are known for.



←↑ Photo credits: Bernie Ng (Crossings 2024)

The Grad Expectations 2024

Artworks and designs from over 300 graduating students from the Faculty of Art & Design's Schools of 3D Design, Design & Media, Fashion Studies, and Fine Art were featured at The Grad Expectations 2024.

Carrying forward the theme from the previous edition, "Venture—Boldly.", the graduation showcase, held from 10 May and 22 June 2024, offered more than 10,500 visitors a glimpse into the potential of these up-and-coming creatives as well as how creative disciplines are pushing boundaries to shape new perspectives.



NAFA Arts Preschool K2 Graduation Performance

The 2025 NAFA Arts Preschool K2 graduation exemplified the academy's commitment to nurturing confident, expressive young learners through an arts-integrated curriculum. The multidisciplinary performance, which blended music, dance, drama and visual storytelling, provided students with an opportunity to apply their learning in a meaningful public setting, highlighting their ability to communicate ideas, emotions and narratives through the arts.

The performance was well received by families and the wider community, strengthening NAFA Arts Preschool's position as a leader in arts-based early education, at a time when academics and creative thinking are increasingly valued.



School of Young Talents (SYT) 25th Anniversary Celebration: Seeds of Hope

SYT commemorated its 25th anniversary between 26 May and 12 November 2024 with a series of activities built on the theme “Seeds of Hope”, a timeless reminder of the enduring legacy of arts education and the perpetual cultivation of creativity among young minds.

The celebrations kicked off on 26 May with Junior Dance, featuring two performances by 277 students and 15 guest dancers from Sabah and Jakarta. In June, Junior Music followed with a series of concerts and seminars. Highlights included performances by star violinist Chloe Chua

and Wong Kai Xuan Travis, winner of the 31st Andrea Postacchini International Violin Competition in Fermo, Italy. The concerts also featured piano, flute, and Chinese instrument recitals, with seminars conducted by professors from the Central Conservatory of Music and The Purcell School, UK.

As part of the celebrations, 52 Junior Drama students also staged two performances for over 230 guests in October. The anniversary celebrations concluded with the biennial Junior Art exhibition, which drew 6,263 visitors over two weeks. In addition to a wide showcase of paintings, sculptures, digital works, and interactive activities, the exhibition featured 10 specially designed tote bags created by Junior Art students.



National Day Parade 2024

For Singapore's 59th birthday celebration in 2024, NAFA's alumni and faculty participated and contributed in various capacities. While NAFA School of Music alumnus Dr Darius Lim led the 250-strong choir in a medley of songs during Chapter Five of the NDP, NAFA Theatre alumni Joakim Gomez and Ebi Shankara hosted the National Day Parade (NDP).

Additionally, Senior Lecturer and alumnus Deric Shen from NAFA Diploma in Interior Design (Exhibition Design) took charge as production and large props designer and designed the props for the 40th Anniversary



Total Defence showcase in the parade, while NAFA Diploma in Fashion Design alumnus Max Tan created the costumes for over 3,000 performers and

four hosts. Diploma in Fashion Design student Tansii Mui also designed an outfit for Senior Parliamentary Secretary Baey Yam Keng.

↑ Photo credit:
NDP
Photographer

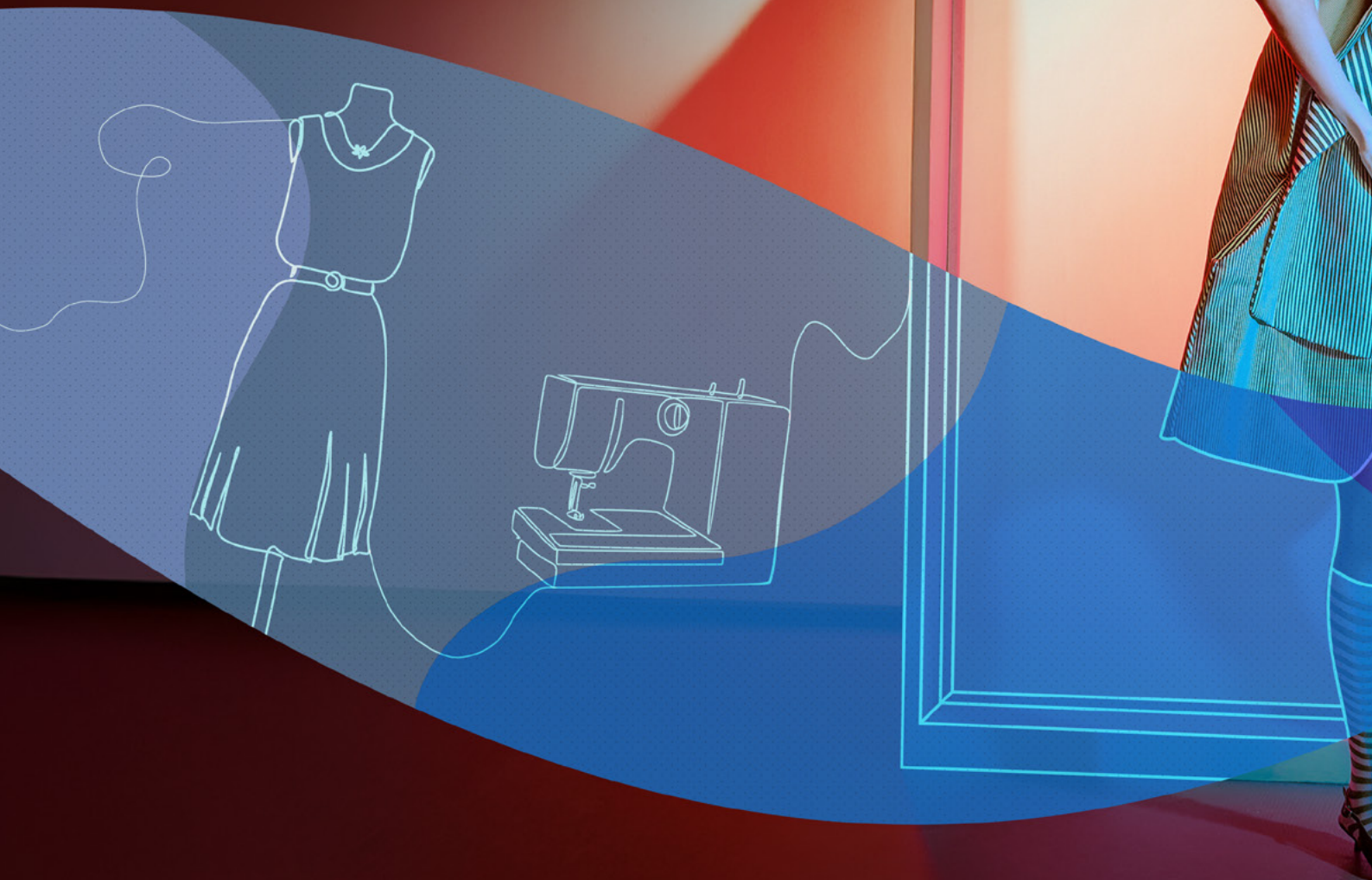
Minister for Education Visit to NAFA

Minister for Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing, and Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Mr Shawn Huang, visited NAFA on 23 October 2024. During the visit, NAFA faculty, students and alumni treated Minister Chan to an immersive 360-degree music experience that integrated technology with traditional ethnic instruments, an educational game designed for the Children's Museum Singapore, Chinese ink paintings enhanced with AR integration, and sustainably designed furniture.

These works were part of the students' design solutions to address real-world challenges at the intersection of art and technology, shaping the future of art and design.



A Celebration of Creative Excellence





Proactive participation in competitions and the arts scene offers students and alumni alike opportunities to hone their artistic flair and showcase their talents beyond the classroom. Their outstanding achievements affirm their growth as creatives but also bring pride to the school.

Igniting Musical Dreams: Singapore Chinese Music Competition 2024

NAFA's Chinese Instrumental Studies students did the school proud with their success at the third edition of the Singapore Chinese Music Competition, organised by Singapore Chinese Orchestra.

Out of 409 participants, the NAFA team not only clinched the Grand Prize in the Grand category, but also achieved outstanding results in the Ensemble B, Pipa Senior, Guzheng Senior, Yangqin Senior, Erhu Senior, Suona Senior and Guzheng Intermediate categories.



SILA Student Design Awards 2024

Two pairs of NAFA's Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture) students won the COEN Design Award (Gold) and ONG & ONG Award for Social Impact Through Design

(Tertiary) at the SILA Student Design Awards 2024.

Do Manh Hung and Puan Nasya Airin's "Nature Odyssey" impressed the judges with its effective use of graphics to communicate the project's response to the

surrounding natural context. Meanwhile, Panthita Jittakul and Timothy Lee Wei Liang's submission, "Blossom Beyond" was recognised for its strong effort in connecting each design strategy with the shift in societal perceptions of people with disabilities.



The Crowbar Awards 2024

The creativity and design capabilities of students from NAFA's School of Design & Media were recognised at The Crowbar Awards 2024, the region's leading design and advertising awards for emerging talent. Chang Kai-Ju from Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice clinched Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards across the Design, Branding, Communication and Digital/Innovation categories. She also received the Gold Award, Best of Category for Digital/Innovation.

The event also saw NAFA students bagging eight Bronze awards in the Good and Health & Wellness categories, bringing the total number of awards to five Gold and 22 Bronze across various categories.



Visa Financial Inclusion Designathon

Visa Financial Inclusion Designathon, organised by Visa, DesignSingapore Council and Singapore Design Week, was a four-day event which saw Team Orien, made up of four NAFA Year 2 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice students—Michelle Angeline Sutandi, Maria Felicia, Van Rene Rasmei and Keane Tay—pitching their idea of leveraging familiar payment methods (physical cards) alongside hyper-targeted location tracking and other payment management features against nine other teams.

The team won. Two team members also secured internship opportunities with Visa in 2025.

The NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship

Receiving the prestigious NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship marked a significant milestone for both Zhuang Chuhan, a graduate of the Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama), School of Theatre, and NAFA. The award recognised Zhuang's dedication and artistic growth as well as affirmed the School of Theatre's commitment to nurturing outstanding talents in contemporary Chinese theatre.

This achievement also underscored the impact of theatre education in shaping the next generation of theatre practitioners, and highlighted the school's role in fostering excellence in the evolving arts landscape.



2024 Cultural Medallion

Siew Hock Meng, a celebrated second-generation Nanyang artist, was awarded the 2024 Cultural Medallion in recognition of his exceptional contributions to Singapore's arts scene. Known for his mastery in pastel compositions, oil portraits, and allegorical works, Siew's artistic journey began at NAFA in 1960.

He received numerous accolades over the past 60 years, including the National Day Medal for Fine Arts (1977) and the Visual Arts Creation Award from the NAFA Alumni Association (1981, 1984). Notably, his painting *Noon Rest* (1986) displayed at the *Feminissima* art and fashion exhibition in Paris in 1987 earned international acclaim,

alongside works by icons like Andy Warhol and Salvador Dalí. His other celebrated works include *The Dawn of an Era* (2000), *Life Cycle* (1999), and *Bathing in the Holy River* (1999).

Beyond his artistic practice, Siew also served as a committee member on the Singapore Watercolour Society and the Equator Art Society.



2024 UOB Painting of the Year

NAFA alumni, Yong Wee Loon, Tan Chin Boon and Chan Mi Ki, were recognised at the 2024 UOB Painting of the Year. Yong's "A Sip Through Time" clinched the 2024 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore

award, and the top honour, 2024 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year. As part of his achievements, Yong will participate in the upcoming UOB-NAFA, UAS artist residency, which was launched in 2023 to provide Southeast Asian artists with opportunities for creative growth, global

exposure, and cultural exchange, at the Cité internationale des arts in Paris.

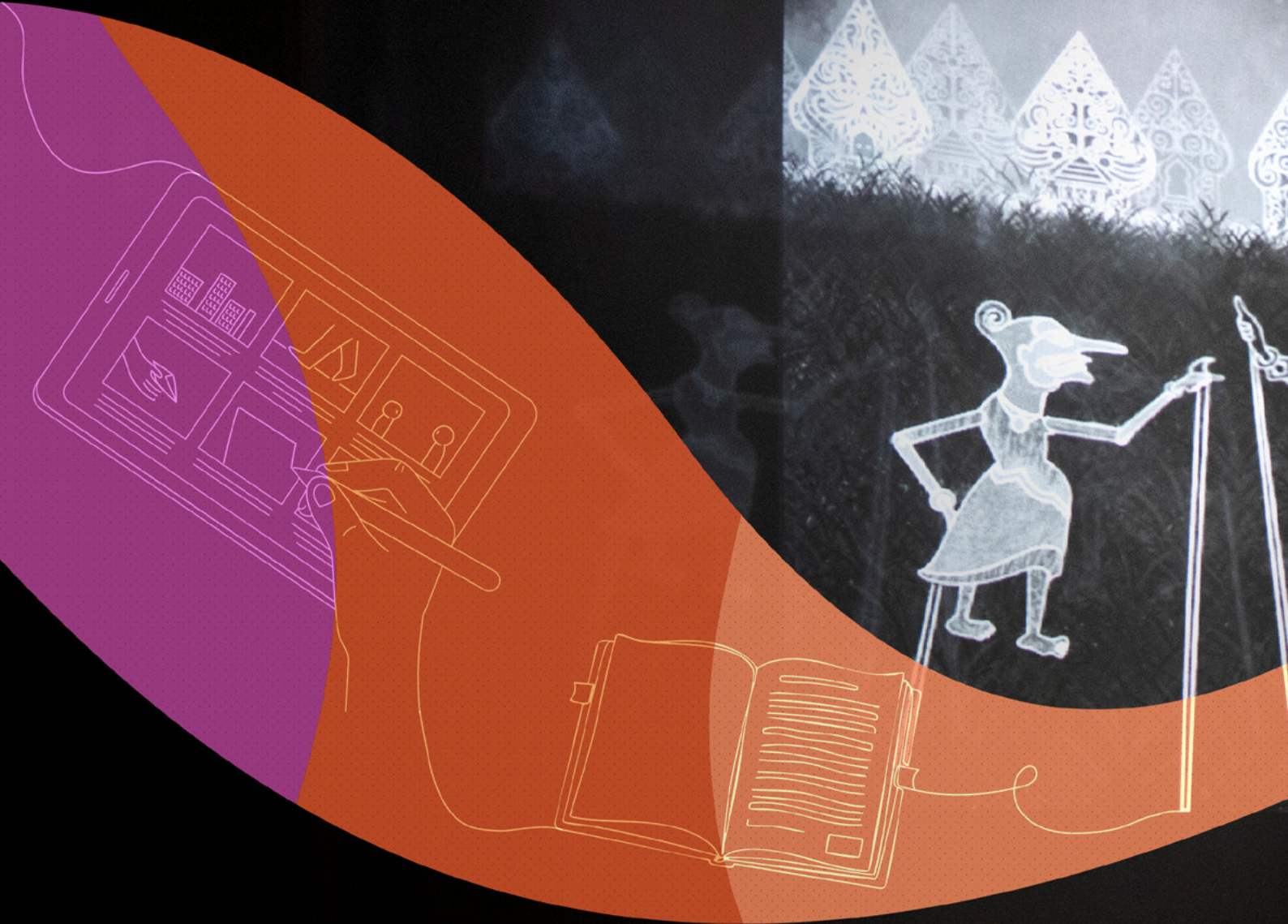
Meanwhile, Tan's "An Immortal Realm" and Chan's "Transit of Hope" were awarded Gold and Bronze Awards respectively at the Singapore Established Artist and Emerging Artist categories.



Young Designer Award 2024

A social responsibility initiative initiated in 2015 with the support of the Design Singapore Council. The Young Designer Award, organised by Design Intervention, aims to raise industry standards and encourage design students to explore the sub-speciality of residential design. Four students from the Diploma in Design (Interior and Exhibition) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Design Practice were among the top 10 finalists, with Vanessa Meera Wijay as the Grand Prize winner.

An Exchange of Ideas and Inspiration





Engaging in global exchanges broadens students' perspectives, enriches their cultural understanding and strengthens their global networks. These meaningful interactions spark new ideas, inspire creative growth, and prepare them to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world.

In 2024, NAFA students engaged in a wide range of overseas learning experiences.

Learning Beyond Borders

While study trips took NAFA students to major cultural events and industry sites such as Venice Biennale, Melbourne Design Week, and Maxim Technology (Johor Bahru), Overseas Immersion Programmes (OIPs) enabled them to spend their school

breaks at partner institutions, deepening their learning and cultural perspectives in global cities, including Bangkok, Beijing, Berlin, Hangzhou, Hanoi, Shanghai, Yogyakarta, and Zhejiang.

During the year, 42 NAFA students from Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Education

in Instrumental & Vocal Teaching, Master of Performance and Master of Composition were also offered the opportunity to participate in seven-week International Placements (IPs) with the Royal College of Music, London, from 20 January to 7 March 2025.

For the five NAFA Chinese Instrumental Studies students from the Bachelor of Music and Master of Performance, the seven-week International Placements took place at the Central Conservatory of Music (CCOM), Beijing, from 8 October to 26 November 2024.



↑ Study trip to Melbourne Design Week.



↑ Fine Art students visiting Venice Biennale in 2024.



← School of Music students at the Royal College of Music, London.



Global Exchange at Home

NAFA hosted 17 students and three staff members from the University of the Arts London (UAL) for a creative exchange. Apart from conducting ethnographic research to better understand Singapore and the region's cultural history, visiting students toured the NAFA campus and engaged with the students and staff to get a flavour of campus life.

The global exchange provided students from low-income households, with caring responsibilities or who are refugees or asylum seekers, an insight into student life at NAFA. Their visit reflected NAFA's commitment to supporting underrepresented global communities and strengthening institutional partnerships.

Gaining International Experiences

Active participation in international exhibitions, performance showcases, and collaborations provided NAFA students with valuable experiences and opportunities to foster global networks. Some of these engagements included the 10th anniversary showcase of 'furnitureOrigins' with King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, School of Architecture and Design, Thailand, "Anagard: From Nasi Padang to the World" by Indonesian street artist Anagard, "Crossings 2024", where NAFA students collaborated with the Focus Dance Company from Taipei National University of the Arts, and a performance by

Master of Fine Arts Fine Art student Chng Xin Xuan at the Villaggio Italia Festival.

In addition, the residency at NAFA Studios @ Cité internationale des arts in Paris provided Southeast Asian artists with opportunities to advance their practice through research, creation, and engagement

with the local art scene. In some instances, students also brought glory to NAFA, with Junior Music student Travis Wong winning an award at the Andrea Postacchini Violin Competition in Fermo, and work premieres by lecturers Dr Joyce Beetuan Koh, Alicia De Silva, and Chua Jon Lin at Festival Puente in Chile.



↑ Arts Management students on Overseas Immersion Programme at Yogyakarta.

A Journey of Continual Progress





Looking ahead, NAFA constantly explores ways to refine pedagogy, upgrade learning environment and adopt cutting-edge teaching approaches. The goal is to deliver world-class arts education and equip students with a competitive edge to shape the future of the creative industries.

NAFA Convocation 2024

Held on 3 and 4 October, the NAFA Convocation 2024 celebrated the graduation of 777 students from the diploma and degree programmes. They join an alumni network of over 19,000 artists and creatives to drive the continued growth and advancement of the creative industries.

Notable graduates included Zhuang Chuhan from Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama), recipient of the NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship and currently in the pioneer cohort of Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Contemporary Chinese Theatres programme; Monica Tan Mei Yee from Diploma in Graphic Communication, a recipient of

The Ngee Ann Kongsii Gold Medal (Diploma); and Diamond Nabilah Misson from Diploma in Fine Art, who is a NAFA President Award (Diploma) recipient and a winner of the Prix du Talent Award at the 2023 Jeune Pinceau International Young Artist Competition for her award-winning, "The Attunement to Our Digital Chasm".

At the event, the Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, Mr Edwin Tong, also presented the NAFA Distinguished Alumni Award to luminaries Dr Ho Kah Leong and Dr Lim Kian Siong Darius for their meaningful contributions to the global arts landscape and beyond.



↑ Dr Ernest Lim, Dean of Faculty of Performing Arts presents the Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama) to NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship and Best Graduate Award recipient, Mr Zhuang Chuhan.



Open House 2025

Every year, the NAFA Open House serves as a key platform to attract high-calibre, passionate creative talents to join the school, indirectly contributing to the creative renewal and advancement of the industry. The NAFA Open House 2025 was no exception.

The two-day event, held on 17 and 18 January 2025, featured over 50 activities ranging from workshops and exhibitions to performances and hands-on demonstrations. Guided tours and consultations with various faculties gave prospective students insights into creative careers and the skills needed by aspiring creative professionals beyond the arts.

The NAFA Open House 2025 welcomed 2,000 visitors.





↑ Photo credit: University of the Arts Singapore

UAS Career Fair 2025 and Portfolio Night

To equip students for future careers, the inaugural UAS Career Fair 2025 and Portfolio Night was held from 26 to 28 February at the National Design Centre. The event brought together 1,900 students and 145 employers across three days of talks, networking, and portfolio showcases.

Organised by the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) in partnership with the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) and LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE), the fair connected students and recent graduates with leading employers and industry experts.

Highlights included panel discussions, career workshops, one-to-one consultations, and networking sessions. At Portfolio Night, students met with creative directors and industry professionals for personalised feedback to strengthen their portfolios and presentation skills.



← Photo credit: University of the Arts Singapore

NAFA Rejuvenation Project

In December 2024, NAFA launched a rejuvenation project to refresh its façade and communal spaces, aiming to foster greater interaction, collaboration, and creativity across the academy. The transformation works are slated for completion in the third quarter of 2026.



Artist impression of → the NAFA Campus.

Gifts of Opportunity



The virtuous cycle of giving goes beyond furthering NAFA's mission to make arts more accessible. To nurture aspiring talents and help them realise their potential, donors create a ripple effect that enables the school to grow in the creative and cultural landscape.



Inaugural NAFA Giving Month

March 2025 marked the successful launch of the inaugural NAFA Giving Month, a new annual fundraising initiative established to coincide with the founding month of the academy. The campaign sought to rally the collective strength of our community in support of financially disadvantaged students, enabling them to pursue their artistic education without worries of financial responsibilities.

The campaign drew generous support from our community, surpassing the initial goal to raise a total of S\$70,302. The additional

funds helped us award 30 bursaries to support aspiring artists, empowering them to continue their creative journey with confidence.



NAFA Fundraising Golf Tournament

The 9th NAFA Fundraising Golf Tournament, held on 19 September 2024 at Tanah Merah Country Club (Tampines Course), saw participants enjoying a day of golf, followed by an evening of fellowship and performances by students from the NAFA School of Young Talents and School of Music.

Inclusive of the support from the Tote Board Enhanced Fundraising Programme, the event successfully raised a total of S\$450,000. Proceeds were directed to the NAFA Development Fund to further our work in advancing the arts.

Why Give?



Students can focus on their studies, without the worries of financial responsibilities.



Underprivileged students can pursue their education regardless of financial challenges.



NAFA can continue to support talented students.

Benefits of Giving



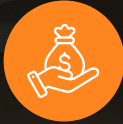
Tax Benefits



Opportunities for Naming Rights



Acknowledgement and Recognition on NAFA's Communication Platforms



Eligible for Cultural Matching Fund

NAFA Giving Programmes



Scholarships and Financial Awards



Student Relief Fund



Special Projects Award



Overseas Travel Grant



Research

