

NAFA Alumni Cupid Series

Newly Minted Arts Management Couple



Classmates turned couple Kathie and Joel (middle) during the NAFA Convocation 2019.

Kathie Koh & Joel Benn

Diploma in Arts Management (2019/2020)

1. First things first, please share with us how did you meet?

K, J: We met through a mutual friend and started off as friends when we enrolled in NAFA's Diploma in Arts Management course in late 2014 at the same time. We then became a couple in 2016.

2. As you've just graduated, what are your aspirations at this point individually or as a couple?

K: We're looking at financial stability now and finding what's right for us in terms of employment.
J: Currently I'm still searching for myself. But end of the day I would like to create something to call my own.

3. What do you think is the top 3 important skills for an arts management graduate to possess at this point?

K: I think it's important to have good interpersonal and marketing skills. Not to forget, the ability to multitask especially during stressful situations.

4. Your batch is one of the recent ones to have gone through compulsory internships, how has this helped you or shaped your views on the industry so far?

K: I had the opportunity to intern at an art gallery. I've never had any experience in the visual arts sector and this experience has taught me the various aspects of operating a gallery. I even learnt how to do linocut and screen printing. My internship experience was a fruitful one.

J: As an arts management student, I've had the opportunity to complete my internship in NAFA itself. Working in the school helped me understand the management aspects of an arts school and how NAFA constantly provides opportunities and events to enhance students' learning.



5. Share with us a fun memory you had with each other/your classmates while at NAFA?

K: I had way too much fun with my classmates every day during the three years of our studies! During our final year, I remember how stressed up we were while working on our heritage trail. We stayed in school till late and ended up having to rush through the other assignments, sometimes within 10 hours before the deadline. It wasn't so fun at that point of time, but thinking back now, we really stuck through together and made it work.

J: I always share fun moments with Kate till this day! Even though our last year of study was more stressful, school was fun throughout. I had the most fun during our FYP when we had to do a heritage trail in little India. It was out of my comfort zone dealing with kids, however my teammates and I managed to pull through together and we had lots of fun throughout the process!

6. What is the best advice you've received while studying in NAFA?

K: You can't buy experience. **J:** It's never too late to study and open yourself up to more possibilities.

7. What are some ways that you hope the academy can aid you in your early stages of your career?

K: I haven't had the opportunity to reach out to any available aids. I was lucky to get job opportunities shortly after graduation. However, for those who might be lost, the **Education and Career Guidance office*** can be one way to seek help, you may also consider seeking advice from lecturers.

J: Though I've yet to reach out for any aids, I am sure that by reaching out to the career guidance services that NAFA provides, they will do their best to help.

**Diploma in Arts Management
Class of 2019**



***NAFA Education and Career Guidance office
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