



NAFA Alumni Cupid Series



A (Fine) Art Couple



Janice Chin and Arron Teo

BA (Hons) Fine Art : Painting & Drawing, 2007

Diploma in Fine Art, 2003

1. Please share with us how did you meet and the art forms that you are currently majoring in individually?

J,A: We met on Orientation Day, the first day of our Year 2 studies. We both majored in Western Art and graduated in 2003 from NAFA's Diploma in Fine Art course.

J: My main focus now will be on drawing and painting mediums, e.g. soft pastels, watercolor, oil, acrylic, charcoal, and pencil.

A: I am focusing on photography as my main medium now.

2. What are some differences you see in NAFA from your school days and the present?

J: As one of the most prestigious and comprehensive art institutions in Singapore, NAFA changed a lot in two decades. The curriculum is more structured now and students are exposed to more art forms and opportunities.

A: NAFA has developed quite a lot over the years. Students get a more structured curriculum to learn and grow within their 3 – 4 years of education. Campus facilities have been expanded to include a student gym, study areas and lounge too. There are also more exhibition spaces for students to showcase their creativity.

3. What are some challenges you face as art educators now?

J: Students are much more demanding today than in the past, but this gives us the motivation to challenge and improve ourselves constantly.

A: Art education today is not simply about picking up technical skills such as in the past. An art educator today not only imparts technical skills but also has to guide students in their search for their own unique artistic direction conceptually and aesthetically. It is important that they do not become our shadows. To quote Bruce Lee, "A teacher is never a giver of truth; he is a guide, a pointer to the truth that each student must find for himself."



4. What are some changes you hope to see in the current local art scene?

J: I hope local artists get the same exposure and opportunities as overseas artists. The general public overseas are more educated in art appreciation.

A: Frankly speaking, the whole arts industry had grown quite a bit over the last two decades. The public is more exposed to the arts than before, there are also more platforms and activities for both artists/creatives and the public to get engaged.

What I can really hope for is better appreciation and understanding of who we are and what we do as an artist/creative.

After all, we are contributing to make Singapore a more culturally rich country, right?



Nude figurine study in watercolour by Janice

5. Do you think that social media has changed the way art is exposed to the masses and what are your thoughts on this?

J: Definitely. We have a lot more chances and exposure nowadays, but this also means that it is very competitive. Social media should not be the main way to understand art where works are beautified by filters and effects.

A: Social media is a wonderful platform to reach out to the masses, and it can also be a double-edged sword when we over rely on it. People who view art on social media might have the skewed perception that the more likes received on a post, the better the artwork...

However, I hope that instead of narrowing people's views, social media can open up our perception to see that art not exists on social media and understand that it is always better to see real works physically to fully understand and appreciate it.



6. Do share with us a fun moment you had while studying at NAFA.

J: Lying on the sofa in our studio till midnight.

A: NAFA Funday (at the Sentosa). You might find it a waste of time now, but when you look back... yeah... those were the days!

True teachers use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross.

Then, having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to build bridges of their own.

-Nikos Kazantzakis



Que Sera Sera by Arron

Image credits to Janice and Arron