

Annex 2: Profiles of Top Award Recipients

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal

Nattawat Luantampol Diploma in Music

Nattawat poured his heart and soul into his diploma studies at NAFA's School of Music (SOM), with his self-revelation that "NAFA is not a place; it's a people." Nattawat emerged as the winner at the 2017 NAFA-Kris Foundation Fund Concerto Competition, where he performed as a soloist in the NAFA Orchestra led by Maestro Lim Yau. The performance held at the Victoria Concert Hall won him much critical praise.

Nattawat was appointed Concertmaster of the NAFA Orchestra, and represented NAFA at various events locally and abroad. He considers the performances at these events to be his proudest moments.

By participating in various outreach programmes, Nattawat has realised that improvement should not only be for himself but for others as well:

"Previously, when I purposed myself to study, it was just to obtain good grades and let others see that I am good. However, now I realise that I want to improve myself so that I can contribute to society. I want my performances to convey the composers' intended message."

Nattawat is immensely grateful and honoured to receive The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal 2018. He aspires to ascend to greater heights and hopes to contribute to NAFA and the society, just like NAFA and his lecturers had invested in him. He hopes that more of his Thai compatriots will experience for themselves, the unique and wonderful tertiary artistic opportunities at NAFA.

Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Talent Scholarship (Diploma), AY2017/18
- NAFA Talent Scholarship (Diploma), AY2016/17
- NAFA Talent Scholarship (Diploma), AY2015/16
- Grand Prize Winner, NAFA-Kris Foundation Fund Concerto Competition, 2017
- Silver Prize, Nanyang International Music Competition Ensemble Division, Open Category, 2017
- Semi-finalist, Princess Galyani Vadhana International Ensemble Competition (Thailand), Chamber Ensemble Category, 2017

Performances and Activities

Solo Performances and Recitals

- Diploma Graduation Recital, Lee Foundation Theatre, 2018
- Featured soloist at Concert Series: NAFA-Kris Foundation Fund Concerto Competition Finalists' Showcase, Esplanade Recital Studio, 2017
- Concert soloist at NAFA Concert Series: *Stabat Mater*, Victoria Concert Hall, 2017

Orchestral Experiences

- NAFA Orchestra (Singapore), Violinist (since AY2015/16) and Concertmaster (since AY2017/18)
- The Philharmonic Orchestra (Singapore), Violinist, 2015 - 2018
- Singapore Lyric Opera Orchestra, Violinist, 2016 - 2018

Ensemble and Chamber Music Experiences

- Jesselton Philharmonic Orchestra Outreach Camp (Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia), June 2018
- SMAI Festival Weekend (Jakarta, Indonesia), October 2017
- Re:mix (Singapore), Violinist, 2015 - 2018

Outreach Experiences

- Conducted outreach workshops for children at the NAFA Arts Kindergarten (now known as NAFA Arts Preschool), 2018

About the Award

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal is presented each year to the most outstanding diploma graduate at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. The medal recognises the all-round achievements and attributes of the recipient including strong academic performance, discipline, diligence and leadership qualities, as well as contributions towards the class, Academy and arts community.

The medal is funded by The Ngee Ann Kongsi, a foundation that is actively involved in educational, cultural and welfare activities in Singapore. The award was presented for the first time in 2015.

NAFA Chairman Award

Chew Yi Wei

Diploma in Design (Interior and Exhibition)

Yi Wei is a designer and artist who has great enthusiasm to learn new things. His passion for art and design spurred him to start his own online store selling unique hand-illustrated and handmade products, artofchris in 2015.

As a passionate creative, Yi Wei lent his services as a part-time interior designer during his diploma studies. He often participates in flea markets to keep himself active in the art field and build stronger relationships with other artists, designers and customers.

Yi Wei continuously finds ways to share and give back to the community through his knowledge of art and design. He has conducted several workshops for children to teach them to create works of art. He hopes to inspire the children to express themselves and unleash their inner creativity through drawing.

Awards and Achievements

- Tan Chin Tuan Merit Award (Diploma), 2017/18
- Tan Chay Bing Entry Scholarship (Diploma), AY2015/16
- Finalist, Interior Design Confederation Singapore Design Excellence Awards, Retail Design Category, 2017
- Certificate of Achievement for Outstanding Team Performance, NAFA Entrepreneurship Bootcamp, 2017

Exhibitions and Activities

- Internship and Part-time Junior Designer at Root Studio, 2016 - Present
- Exhibited at *Pameran Poskad*, ION Art Gallery, June 2018
- Part of the design team of 10, Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival, 2018
- Exhibited at 'Insane Artists', NAFA Open House, 2018
- Featured in The Straits Times – Life! 'Fad for locally themed souvenirs going strong', 2017
- Conducted June school holidays art and craft workshop 'It's all about Me!', organised by WP Community Fund, 2017
- Exhibited at *Pameran Poskad SG50*, Gillman Barracks, 2015
- Conducted ARTSEEN illustration workshop 'It's all about Me!', organised by National Library Board, 2015

About the Award

The NAFA Chairman Award is presented each year to an exceptional student from amongst the best diploma graduates of each graduating cohort.

The award recognises the all-round achievements of the recipient who has excelled academically and distinguished himself/herself in other areas.

The award was presented for the first time in 2015.

NAFA President Award

Mendoza Klievert Jon Junia Diploma in Dance

Klievert is a dance dynamo from Tacloban, Philippines. Just two years after the city was struck by a devastating typhoon, he began his illustrious journey at NAFA as a recipient of the prestigious NAFA Discovery Scholarship.

Klievert is a dancer with tremendous talent, skills and ambition. Since the beginning of his studies at NAFA, he had performed in every major dance production. He excels in ballet, and had won competitions in classical dance hubs France and New York. Upon graduation, he was talent scouted by T.H.E Dance Company, one of Singapore's leading contemporary dance companies.

There could not have been a more apt challenge after NAFA for Klievert, whose motto in life is 'Get up and never give up.'

Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Discovery Scholarship (Diploma), AY2017/18
- NAFA Discovery Scholarship (Diploma), AY2016/17
- NAFA Discovery Scholarship (Diploma), AY2015/16
- Finalist, Youth America Grand Prix, (New York, the United States of America), 2018
- Gold Medal, Pre-professional Category, Concours International de Danse Classique de Grasse (France), 2015

Performances

Dancer

- Crossings 2018: Diploma in Dance Showcase, Lee Foundation Theatre, NAFA, April 2018
- Dancers @ Work: A Triple Bill, NAFA, November 2017
- The Next Generation, Esplanade Recital Studio, October 2017
- Dancers @ Work, NAFA, September 2017
- Crossings 2017: Diploma in Dance Showcase, Lee Foundation Theatre, NAFA, April 2017
- Intensi-5: Dancer at the Intersections, library@esplanade, March 2017
- The Next Generation, Esplanade Recital Studio, October 2016
- Crossings 2016: Diploma in Dance Showcase, Lee Foundation Theatre, NAFA, April 2016
- Dancers @ Work, NAFA, February 2016
- ASEAN Para Games Opening Ceremony, Singapore Indoor Stadium, December 2015
- The Next Generation, Esplanade Recital Studio, October 2015

Choreographer

- 'Conformity', Dancers @ Work, Studio Theatre, NAFA, May 2018
- 'The Dawn of Light', Intensi-5: Dancing Left of Centre, library@esplanade, January 2018
- 'A Limitless Boundary', Intensi-5: Youth Dance Jam in the City, Singapore Dance Theatre, October 2017
- 'A Limitless Boundary', Dancers @ Work, NAFA, September 2017

About the Award

The NAFA President Award is presented each year to an exceptional student from amongst the best diploma graduates of each graduating cohort.

The award recognises the all-round achievements of the recipient who has excelled academically and distinguished himself/herself in other areas.

The award was presented for the first time in 2006.

Wu Tsung Kan Book Prize

Amaryllis Puspabening Diploma in Arts Management

During her three years at NAFA, Amaryllis consistently enriched her academic training with real-world practice, focusing on her passion in visual and literary arts. In her freshman year, she joined NAFA's Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA) and Art Galleries as a student assistant for over two years.

In 2017, she was selected for a three-month internship programme at the International Partnerships department of National Gallery Singapore. That same year, she joined the Singapore Writers Festival team as an artist liaison officer to host acclaimed authors such as A.L Tait and Jason Reynolds.

Amaryllis recently completed a two-month internship at ROH Projects, a renowned art gallery in her hometown of Jakarta, where her insights into the Southeast Asian art scene were deepened.

Amaryllis aspires to be a curator and art critic, and her writings have been published on The Huffington Post and Whiteboard Journal.

Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Scholarship (Diploma), AY2017/18
- NAFA ASEAN Grant (Diploma), AY2016/17
- NAFA Entry ASEAN Grant (Diploma), AY2015/16
- Top Cumulative GPA Award, Diploma in Arts Management, NAFA, AY2016/17 & AY2017/18
- Top Scorer Award in 8 modules, Diploma in Arts Management, NAFA, AY2016/17

Events and Activities

- Gallery Assistant (Intern), ROH Projects, 2018
- Artist Liaison Officer, Singapore Writers Festival, 2018
- Artist Liaison Officer, Singapore Writers Festival, 2017
- Intern (International Partnerships), National Gallery Singapore, 2017
- Festival Ambassador, Singapore Night Festival, 2016 - 2017
- Bookstore Assistant, Singapore Writers Festival, 2016
- Student Ambassador, NAFA Open House, 2016
- Fair Assistant, Affordable Art Fair, 2015

The Academy grew in national and international stature as a result of Mr Wu's vision and dedication.

The Wu Tsung Kan Book Prize has been made possible by a generous donation from Mr Wu and his family on the occasion of his 97th birthday on 23 April 2016.

Wu Tsung Kan Book Prize

Jeremy Jiang Yong Joon Diploma in Fashion Design

Jeremy is a passionate learner and displayed a high level of commitment for his Fashion Design final year collection. He was always well prepared and organised when attending consultations with his lecturers, displaying great depth and understanding in his research and design development work.

Jeremy has shown a high level of critical thinking, which enabled him to resolve and anticipate problems in his design and creation processes. The impeccably constructed and completed garments for his final year collection showcased his commitment and professionalism to his craft. His leadership qualities were also evident in which he led his team members, from beginning to end, for various tasks.

Awards and Achievements

- Tan Chay Bing Scholarship (Diploma), AY2017/18
- Tan Chay Bing Scholarship (Diploma), AY2016/17
- Top 4 finalists, Nefful International Fashion Discovery Design Competition, 2018
- Top 10 finalists, Men's Folio Designer of the Year, 2017

Exhibitions and Activities

- Exhibited at *Best of Best Show*, NAFA, 2018
- Selected to create an artwork (fashion-based) for the exhibition/collaboration with National Gallery Singapore (NGS) in relation to artist Danh Vo's work at NGS
- Works showcased at 'Accolades', NAFA Open House, 2017
- Student Ambassador, NAFA Open House, 2016 & 2017

About the Award

The Wu Tsung Kan Book Prize is a premier award for all-round excellence. Two awards are presented to exceptional students from amongst the best diploma graduates at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. The recipients are selected based on academic excellence and other outstanding achievements.

Mr Wu Tsung Kan served as Principal of NAFA from 1979 to 1988. He had a long and distinguished career in Singapore's education sector. Among his many significant achievements in NAFA were the introduction of new diploma courses in Music, Dance and Design, a revamp of the curriculum and assessment system, ensuring the building of new campus facilities including an art gallery, and establishing new sources of funding.

Embassy of Peru Award

Lai Yanru Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion

Yanru graduated with a Diploma in Fashion Design from NAFA in 2011. After accumulating more than 6 years of work experience, she enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Fashion degree course.

Hardworking and meticulous, Yanru always strives to do her best in every project. Her lecturers were impressed with her ability to incorporate an individual approach into her designs and the effort she put into the presentation of her works. The External Examiner from the United Kingdom was particularly impressed with her works showcased at Graduate Fashion Week 2018 in London.

Yanru is very focused on her career and is eager to contribute her new-found knowledge to the fashion industry.

Awards and Achievements

- Grand Prize Winner, Nefful International Fashion Discovery Design Competition, 2018
- Represented NAFA at the Graduate Fashion Week (London, the United Kingdom), 2018

Events and Activities

- Showcased works at India-ASEAN Weaving Textiles Relations (New Delhi, India), 2018
- Submitted print design for Tokyo Olympics 2020's Imagine One World Kimono Project

About the Award

The Embassy of Peru Award was first presented in 2006. It is presented to the most outstanding degree graduate at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. The award recognises the all-round achievements of the recipient who possesses strong academic performance, good attributes including discipline, diligence and leadership qualities, as well as contributions towards the class, Academy and arts community.

The award is a *Tumi* from Peru. It is made of solid silver. The *Tumi* is one of the symbols of Peru. It has its origin in one of the main cultures in ancient Peru between 1050 – 1476 AD, known as the Chimú Culture. One of the important accomplishments of the Chimú was the establishment of the goldsmith workshops. Among the most famous pieces made were the great ceremonial knives called the *Tumi*. During the ancient times in Peru, it was used as a knife in ceremonies and surgeries. Later on, it evolved into an art object.

Peru is a country where gold, silver and other metals with artistic character are in abundance and so the *Tumi* is symbolic of the art and culture of Peru. In Peru, hanging a *Tumi* on a wall brings good luck.