

Profiles of Top Award Recipients

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal

Ang Xue Ning

Diploma in Fine Art

Xue Ning is a multidisciplinary artist and an animal enthusiast. Her time at NAFA offered her unparalleled experiences through projects of self-discovery and Singapore's cultural identity. She has collaborated with the Changi Airport Group, presented at Sculpture Society of Singapore and interned at Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. Beyond her spirited focus as an art practitioner, Xue Ning possesses woman leadership for the youth in her values and philosophy of being.



Awards and Achievements

- Harvard Prize Book, Harvard University Association of Alumni in Singapore (2020)
- IWF Education Grant for Young Women, International Women's Forum (AY19/20)
- Tan Chay Bing Scholarship (Diploma), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY19/20)
- Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Entry Scholarship (Diploma), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY17/18)

Events, Exhibitions and Highlights

2019

- 'Chado Across The Sea', The Japanese Association, Singapore
- '200', Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Singapore
- LKY Marker Design Competition, Sembawang Town Council, Singapore
- 'Seriously' 3D Showcase, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- Changi Airport Group Live Project, Changi Airport Group, Singapore
- Bras Basah Complex Mural Painting, Bras Basah Complex, Singapore
- Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Glass Bencoolen Showcase, Singapore
- 'DING DING DING', National Library Building, Singapore
- Thow Kwang Pottery Jungle Artists, Singapore
- Annual Sculpture Exhibition, Sculpture Society of Singapore

2018

- 'DING DING DING', Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- Atelier Workshop Showcase, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore
- 'Tale of 3 Cities', Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Professional Experience

- Intern, Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre, Singapore (Jul-Nov 2019)
- Artist Assistant, Justin Loke, Garden of HeARTs, PAssionArts, Singapore (Jun 2019)
- Art Teacher, Umistrong, Singapore (Mar 2018-2019)
- Artist Assistant, Tang Ling Nah, An Other Space 《另•外•空間》, Esplanade Jendala, Singapore (Oct 2018)
- Artist Assistant, Yoko Choi, Very Special Arts' Alive Programme, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore (2018)
- Gallery Sitter, Tang Ling Nah, Dreaming in Black and White 《幻境黑白》, The Arts House, Singapore (Dec 2017)

Academic Participation

- Student Representative of Fine Art Programme, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (2017–2020)
- Open House Student Ambassador, Certificate of participation, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (2020)
- NAFA Freshmen Orientation Programme, Orientation Leader, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (2018)
- NAFA Open House Student Ambassador, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (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

Looi En Qi

Diploma in Fashion Design

En Qi was given advanced standing to NAFA's Diploma in Fashion Design course after her studies with School of the Arts (SOTA). Her ability to progress and aligned learning with the cohort has demonstrated a keen passion for knowledge to hone her skills in Fashion Design.

She is always well-prepared and organised when attending consultations and displayed a great depth and understanding in her research and design development work.



En Qi has also shown excellent abilities with applying critical thinking to solving and exploring design problems and issues in her creation processes. Her final collection reflects strongly of her commitment and professionalism to her craft, substantiated by the impeccably constructed and finished garments submitted for her final project.

Awards and Achievements

- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY2018/19 Semester 1)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY2019/20 Semester 1 and 2)

Events, Exhibitions and Highlights

- NAFA x LTA Transport Authority Singapore (LTA) | Stylist | Nominated as one of the 10 participating students
- Assistant Costume Designer:
 - Tanah Air – by Drama Box, directed by Kok Heng Luen
 - Infinite Island – by Singapore Chinese Orchestra, directed Goh Boon Teck
 - A Fiends Diary – by The Finger Players, directed by Oliver Chong

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

Zhang Ziyi

Diploma in Arts Management

Zhang Ziyi is a dedicated and passionate student. She worked hard to excel in her academic modules at NAFA, while volunteering at arts organisations including the Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI), The Esplanade and The National Gallery of Singapore (NGS) to enrich her learning experience. During the school holidays, she worked at NAFA's Institute of Southeast Asian Arts & Galleries as a student assistant.



As a participant in NAFA's Talent Development Programme, Ziyi focused on training courses in visual arts management which she completed with flying colours. Upon completion of her diploma studies, she successfully applied for entry into Nanyang Technological University (NTU)'s BFA in Art, Design & Media. As a good role model for all students, Ziyi does not rest on her laurels and she is always looking out for more opportunities to learn and improve.

Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Merit Award (Diploma) (AY19/20)
- NAFA Merit Award (Diploma) (AY18/19)
- NAFA Talent Development Programme (2019)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY2018/2019 Semester 2)
- Top Scorer for 3 modules in AY2018/2019 Semester 2

Events, Exhibitions and Highlights

- Participated in The Singapore Bicentennial Conference organised by The Institute of Policy Studies 30 Sep 2019 –1 Oct 2019
- Participated in Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2019

Professional Experience:

- Student Assistant – Institute of Southeast Asian Arts & Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (August 2018 - August 2019)
- Volunteered at: STPI - Creative Workshop & Gallery; National Gallery Singapore; Esplanade –Theatres on the Bay; People's Association

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

Chew Kai Xin

Diploma in Music

Kai Xin believes in the power of Music and is passionate about passing on knowledge by sharing music with people through encouraging, supporting, performing with respect. She makes every effort to bring her beliefs about Music into life. Kai Xin does this through teaching, serving and bringing cheer to people in society who are less fortunate.

Besides her humanitarian efforts as a musician, Kai Xin hones her individual clarinet skills with excellence and gained a wealth of performing experience by playing in chamber groups and orchestras. She also collaborated with other musicians and artists of various disciplines such as dancers, artistes and producers in the multimedia, cinematography and screen industries. With a spirit of excellence, passion and care for others, Kai Xin is set to make a difference in our world.



Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Scholarship (Diploma) (AY19/20)
- Tan Chay Bing Merit Award (AY18/19)
- Lee Foundation Malaysia Study Grant (AY17/18)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY2018/2019 Semester 1)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY2018/2019 Semester 2)

Events, Performances and Highlights

- Volunteered as music teacher at Marymount Centre- a self-initiated involvement in a non-profit community that helps abused children and women, Mar to Dec 2019
- Collaborated with NAFA Dance programme in the da:ns festival *The Third Space* at Esplanade Recital studio Oct 2019
- Collaborated with NAFA Dance programme and performed in the TARI International Festival in Oct 2019 at ASWARA, Malaysia.
- Collaborated with Connexions International (CXI) and the Asian Women Welfare Association in a community music project for the elderly in Sep 2019
- Organised and initiated a project to Good Shepherd Student Care to hold a 7-week music programme for the underprivileged children in July 2019
- National Gallery-NAFA dance and music improvisation collaboration showcase April 2019

- Co-founded “For 3 Clarinets” in 2018 and performed in the Esplanade Concourse
- Planned and delivered a music workshop for students at Punggol Primary School, Mar 2020
- Performed clarinet in Guest Artists Series: Janet Hilton with NAFA Wind Ensemble, Jan 2020
- Performed in Alumni Series: Donald Law and the Wind Quintet, January 2020
- Performed clarinet in The Philharmonic Orchestra: Sibelius 2 & 4 at Victoria Concert Hall, Oct 2019
- “Old Worlds for New” Concert with Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra April 2019
- Performed clarinet in “Yellow River Cantata” Concert with Braddell Heights Symphony Orchestra, Dec 2018
- Performed clarinet in Opera *Die Fledermaus* in conjunction with NAFA 80th Anniversary, Oct 2018
- Performed clarinet in NAFA Concert Series:
 - 37 (Chamber) at LFT Oct 2019
 - *Respirations* with Wind Ensemble at LFT Oct 2019
 - Expeditions with NAFA Wind Orchestra Sep 2019
 - 80th Anniversary Concert at VCH April 2018,
 - *Music for the Soul* Mar 2018
 - *Old Wines. Taste Better!* Feb 2018,
 - *Viva Verdi* Nov 2017
 - *Symphony for Fun* Sep 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. 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

Lua Boon Kai

Diploma in Design (Furniture and Spatial)

Lua Boon Kai is a member of the second batch of the NAFA Talent Development Programme in 2019. He was introduced to the design world by her sister, who is also a NAFA alumna from the 3D Design Programme.

Some of the key highlights of his time at NAFA include the One Day Challenge Roca 2018 and IKEA Singapore's Young Designer Award 2018, where his team won the TOP 10 award. He also led a team in a collaborative project with Thai university KMUTT. In his Final Year Project, Boon Kai's work was selected by the client to be fabricated and will be part of the revamped proposed site in Changi Business Park.



Possessing an inquisitive quality as a multidisciplinary designer, these achievements and opportunities have ignited his passion to continue his work in design.

Awards and Achievements

- BenBelle Scholarship (Diploma) (AY19/20)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY19/20 Semester 1)
- Dean's List Award, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (AY18/19 Semester 1 & 2)
- Young Designer Award-Top 10, IKEA, 2018
- NAFA Talent Development Programme, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (2019)

Events, Exhibitions and Highlights

- Inside innovation exhibition, A*STAR x NAFA, 2020
- AIDIA Student Workshop, SIDS, 2019
- Southeast Asia Arts Forum, NAFA, 2019
- Singapore Night Festival, A*STAR x NAFA, 2019
- 'FurnitureOrigins' Collaboration, King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT), Thailand, 2019
- Countdown VIP Room, Mediacorp X NAFA, 2019

- 'After 2' Exhibition, NAFA, 2019
- Saturday Indesign, Fraction, 2019
- Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival Street Light-up Design, 2018 & 2019
- Philips Carnival, Philips, 2018
- 'In Process' Exhibition, NAFA, 2018
- Overseas Immersion Programme, Bangkok, 2018

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Embassy of Peru Award

Wong Gin Ming

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art Practice

Gin Ming is a multidisciplinary artist and an advocate for local Singaporean lifestyle. She takes a keen interest in everyday objects and finds associations between them; sometimes even re-discovering their relationships. Her humorous and quirky approach to work provides a relatable platform for locals to reflect on their relationships and creative perspectives – personal, professional, political and social.



A recipient of scholarships and academic accolades from NAFA, Gin Ming has adopted multiple roles – student assistant, student editor, and currently, Teaching Assistant with NAFA's Fine Art Programme. Some of her most notable achievements include being featured twice in NAFA's annual Best of Best Show (2019/2020), receiving the Woon Brothers Killiney Commendation Art Prize (2020) and representing Singapore on the global stage by being shortlisted for the ARTS THREAD Global Graduate Design Show.

Gin Ming has collaborated with key local organisations including the OCBC Premier Client (2018) and Facebook, as well as volunteered as an art facilitator at the Children's Cancer Foundation (2019). She is also the founder of her own start-up enterprise, 'ArtinMondays' (2017). Displaying strong leadership qualities through her endeavours, Gin Ming will be a key contributor to the Singapore art and design scene in the years to come.

Awards and Achievements

- NAFA Entry Scholarship (Degree) (AY2019/2020)
- NAFA Best of Best Show, 2020
- Singapore Creator Awards I Merit Award, 2020

Professional Experience

- Content Creator, Thye Guan Textiles, Singapore, 2020
- Teaching Assistant, Fine Art Programme, NAFA, Singapore, 2020
- Self-employed, ArtinMondays, Singapore, 2017 to current

Academic Involvement

- Student Assistant, Fine Art Programme, NAFA, 2017 to 2020
- Artist Talk (Degree), Fine Art Programme, NAFA, 2020
- Student Editor (Graduation Catalogue), Fine Art Programme, NAFA, 2020

Events & Highlights

- Mural Assistant, Facebook Artist in Residence Programme, 2019
- Singapore Creator Awards, Singapore Press Holdings, 2019

Volunteer Experience

- Art and Sports Facilitator at The Salvation Army Gracehaven Children's Home, Singapore, 2019
- Art Facilitator at Children's Cancer Foundation, Singapore, 2019

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.