

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore



Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) is Singapore's pioneer arts institution. NAFA is known for providing a transformative creative education based on mastery of practice and lifelong learning. The academy affords a rigorous and high-quality curriculum, innovative and practitioners-led teaching approach, showcasing diverse artistic creations while championing community outreach for positive social impact. As part of the UAS alliance, NAFA will draw on synergies to bolster its aspiration towards the pinnacle of arts education.

NAFA has nurtured 13 recipients of the Cultural Medallion — Singapore's highest accolade bestowed on art practitioners who have significantly impacted arts and culture. Another 15 alumni have been presented the Young Artist Award. NAFA graduates are enterprising changemakers, highly skilled, and well-rounded in interdisciplinary approaches. Many of the academy's alumni have gone on to make their mark in the professional arts scene, clinching awards at prestigious international competitions such as Cannes Lions, Prix de la Photographie, Paris, Red Dot Design Awards, and Venice Biennale.

The academy offers full-time diploma, bachelor's, and master's degree programmes across three faculties: Faculty of Art & Design comprising the School of Fine Art, School of 3D Design, School of Design & Media, as well as the School of Fashion Studies; Faculty of Performing Arts comprising School of Dance, School of Music, and School of Theatre; Faculty of Interdisciplinary Practices comprising School of Arts Management and School of Interdisciplinary Arts.

A stronghold for Southeast Asian Arts, NAFA reflects its commitment to regional arts through leading research, accompanied by artistic practice and development. Helming the Southeast Asian dimension, NAFA's programmes are also designed and

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delivered by experienced art educators and leading industry practitioners. The academic schools regularly review and refine their curriculum to reflect the changing needs of the world. Diploma programmes are aligned with the undergraduate and post-graduate degree programmes offered in partnership with top universities in the world, namely University of the Arts London (ranked 2nd globally for Art and Design since 2019) and Royal College of Music, London (ranked 1st globally for Performing Arts in 2022), and under the auspices of University of the Arts Singapore.

About Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA)

Established in April 2010, the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA) aims to develop the capabilities of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in a niche area of global art being practiced in the region. This endeavour is of benefit to the multidisciplinary nature of NAFA's contemporary arts training, which includes 3D Design, Design & Media, Fine Art, Arts Management, Fashion, Theatre, Dance, and Music.

As a research and resource development agency within NAFA, ISEAA leverages the library's holdings as well as the academy's art collection and archives to develop Southeast Asian study resources and contextualise practice-based and practice-led learning for NAFA's students and faculty. The manifestations of the programming are critically integrated into the curriculum and course modules to expand the academic investigations of conventional disciplines into the realm of Southeast Asian art.

ISEAA also builds a network of external partners to represent the spectrum of visual and performing arts in Singapore and the region. Activities include artist talks, masterclasses, workshops, artist-in-residence and interdisciplinary projects of participatory nature, which harness heritage and contemporary arts, leading to collaborative outcomes such as exhibitions, performances and publications.