

NAFA

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts



COURAGE
TO CREATE

Year in Review
2021/22



NAFA,
A LEADER WITH HEART:

INNOVATES
AND
BOLDLY
TAKES THE
FIRST STEP

REMAINS
RESILIENT
AND
GROUNDED IN
EXCELLENCE

NURTURES
AND
INSPIRES
PASSION

EXPRESSES
OUR
CREATIVE SELF
THROUGH
AUTHENTICITY

CONTENTS

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE **2** / OUR LEADERSHIP **4** / OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS **6** / COURAGE TO CREATE **8**
GIVING BACK **44** / OUR BENEFACTORS **50** / OUR SCHOLARS **53**

“As we look to the future, and our next chapter, I remain confident that NAFA is well-positioned to meet new challenges at this pivotal point in our journey.”

MS LOW SIN LENG



“Creativity,” the pioneering French artist Henri Matisse famously said, “takes courage”.

At its core, creativity can be characterised as changing the status quo, going against the grain—which demands compassionate leadership and bold aptitude. This is exemplified in our Founding Principal Mr Lim Hak Tai and his fellow pioneer artists’ journey in 1938, where they valiantly built their vision of a dynamic, vibrant arts institution that is Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA). In the same vein, the academy has been and continues to boldly explore the future, while remaining steadfast in our mission to inspire learning and growth through the arts.

This Year in Review (YIR) is an excellent opportunity for us to reflect on the extraordinary achievements of the past year, and to renew our commitment in enriching the lives of our students and communities through our exciting brand refresh. As we embark on the academy’s dynamic transformation, it is crucial that we embrace radical new ways to strengthen existing offerings, particularly through mutually beneficial

relationships and partnerships in Singapore and across the globe.

Our landmark partnership with the eminent University of the Arts London (UAL) took off in August 2021 and we were delighted to welcome the pioneer batch of students enrolled in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice, and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making programmes. In April 2022, NAFA marked a momentous milestone with the Royal College of Music (RCM) London to commemorate 10 years of partnership for the Bachelor of Music (Honours) programme with a celebratory concert. Over the span of a decade, both institutions have elevated classical musicianship from both western and eastern influences to the highest level, benefiting more than 200 graduates in the process. The concert received tremendous positive feedback for the performances from NAFA students and alumni, and the repertoire which included an exclusive composition *TEN ON (Variations and Interruptions for 10 Players)* by Professor William Mival, former Head of Composition at RCM.

NAFA also established several collaborative projects with key industry partners such as National Parks Board, M1, and National Museum of Singapore, expanding the opportunities to co-develop and co-nurture the next generation of talents and propel them towards fruitful careers. Additionally, our educators are readily pushing boundaries and refreshing existing pedagogies as evinced in the collaboration with the University of Otago (Otago) for the publication led by Dr Rebecca Kan from NAFA, and Associate Professor Joyce Koh Hwee Ling from Otago, *Teaching and Learning the Arts in Higher Education with Technology: Vignettes from Practice*, where they delved into evolving teaching methods and effects, and provided stimulus for our staff to continue reinvigorating the classroom.

The outcome of effective teaching pedagogies is further reflected in our student achievers as they clinched prizes in prominent competitions such as the Nippon Paint Asia Young Designer Awards 2021/2022, The Crowbar Awards 2021, SPADE Awards 2021, and the Marina Bay Sands Countdown 2022 Share the Moment Competition. Embodied with the NAFA spirit of creativity, exploration, and resilience, our students continue to scale heights and position the academy at the forefront of arts education. We are indeed proud of them.

Any journey worth taking, will have its fair share of ups and downs. Nevertheless, I am inspired by Matisse’s courage and creativity in the face of challenges as he was unyielding in his pursuit of artmaking despite losing his mobility in his later years. The NAFA community is similarly inspired and encouraged by the determination and passion for the arts by the members of ART:DIS—Singapore’s only arts

charity for persons with disabilities. Partnering with the organisation has opened our community’s perceptions while reminding us to anchor NAFA’s values of care and passion in every aspect of our lives. Likewise, I encourage our community to always think about how we can bring more meaning to our endeavours.

Here at NAFA, we must capitalise on the incredible momentum we have unleashed this past year. Together with the refreshed NAFA brand, we will lean on our heritage to strengthen our identity yet reinvent ourselves as we approach the cusp of a new journey as a founding member of Singapore’s first arts university.

We take pride in NAFA’s remarkable accomplishments in the past year, which also signals our potential for future achievements. My heartfelt gratitude to our fellow Board members, management, faculty, and staff as well as students for your continued commitment and dedication.

As we look to the future, and our next chapter, I remain confident that NAFA is well-positioned to meet new challenges at this pivotal point in our journey. With new frontiers and as opportunities beckon, we will soar towards greater growth and achieve excellence in the arts. Let us forge ahead with courage to create positive change, with the spirit of creativity guiding us on an ever-evolving path to greater success.

MS LOW SIN LENG

Chairman
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

OUR LEADERSHIP

OUR LEADERSHIP

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Nanyang Technological University

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Mr Kennie Ting Wei Jin

CO-OPTED MEMBER

Mr Koh Chin Beng
(co-opted on 1 May 2022)

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Mr Tan Li Sheng
Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan

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Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan

CO-OPTED MEMBER

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Ms Charlene Ganesan-Lim
Acting Head, Human Resources Office

OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

NAFA ranked

#116

in the list of Top 200

Singapore's Best Employers 2021

TERTIARY EDUCATION

18

diploma courses in visual and performing arts, and arts management, with approximately

2,300

current students



6

degree courses validated by partner universities in the United Kingdom, with approximately

250

current students



NAFA Foundation Programme, with an annual intake of approximately

50

students



CONTINUING EDUCATION

1,780

places filled, an increase of

50.85%

for places taken up in Certificate Courses



1,795

places filled, an increase of

179.6%

for places taken up in Short Courses



962

graduates from the Class of 2021—largest cohort to date

80.3%

employment rate based on Graduate Employment Survey 2021



CHILDREN'S ENRICHMENT AND PRESCHOOL

5,057

young talents in art, dance, drama and music weekend classes



332

children on 2 campuses at NAFA Arts Preschool



S\$990,000

given out to **195** students in scholarships, merit awards and bursaries



COURAGE TO *CREATE*

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND COLLABORATIONS

As the world emerges from the COVID-19 pandemic, NAFA's role as one of the region's leading arts institutions remains steadfast. With the spirit of creativity, exploration and resilience, we continue to inspire current and future generations of artists by pushing the boundaries of learning, collaborating and creating. Technology remains a significant feature and an essential enabler of our endeavours to find new ways of expression, as well as to bring artists together to foster discourse, and to advance learning and collaboration.

In 2021, we celebrate the resilience and achievements of our faculty, students, staff, and that of artists across the region. We will forge ahead with the courage to create positive change on an ever-evolving path to success.

ACADEMY HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

NAFA Convocation 2021: A Celebration of Resilience

Congratulations to NAFA's Class of 2021!

On 10 September 2021, we celebrated the achievements and commencement of a new journey for 962 graduands from NAFA's 18 diploma and nine degree courses. This is the academy's largest graduating cohort to date. Hallmark awards such as the Embassy of Peru Award, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Gold Medal and the Wu Tsung Kan Book Prize were presented to outstanding graduands. Alumnus Yeo Yeok Chuan was presented with the NAFA Distinguished Alumni Medal in recognition of his achievements in design and for giving back to NAFA.

Due to prevailing pandemic restrictions, the ceremony was held virtually for the second time,

giving the families and friends of our graduates the opportunity to celebrate this momentous milestone together. The effort reflected NAFA's future-readiness as a premier, progressive and leading arts institution and more importantly, signified a new chapter of growth as NAFA graduates look to chart new paths and make their mark as changemakers of tomorrow.

To date, over 16,000 individuals have graduated from NAFA. Many have gone on to contribute to the arts and creative landscape at home and abroad, garnering numerous accolades and awards as the academy moves towards a brighter future.



Valedictorian, School of Art & Design

NAFA Open House 2022

Attended by 1347 attendees, NAFA Open House 2022 presented visitors with a glimpse of campus life in one of Singapore's leading arts institutions, helping aspiring students to discover what awaits them in the modern arts landscape. A range of on-campus and digital touchpoints were incorporated to fully showcase the Open House's activities, demonstrations and performances.

Registered visitors were welcomed to discover more about NAFA's three campuses, and attend one or more of the 35 showcases, performances and recitals that took place during the Open House. Faculty members were also available for one-on-one consultations regarding the courses available.

Over 25 webinars, interactive forums and hands-on workshops were also simulcasted on Zoom to reach even more prospective students and their parents locally and within the region.



NAFA Career Week 2022



NAFA Career Week 2022 was held from 19 to 21 January 2022 and co-organised by the School of Art & Design, School of Arts Management, Dance & Theatre, School of Music, Alumni Relations Office, and Education & Career Guidance Office. Conducted for the first time in a hybrid format, the career awareness campaign week consisted of 23 webinars, five focused forums, one masterclass and six Creative Portfolio Review (CPR) sessions.

The highlight of the event, the CPR, was conducted over two days on Zoom and on campus, and involved 43 reviewers and 85 students. It was a valuable opportunity for students to obtain feedback from the creative professionals on elevating their portfolios and be talent-spotted.

An online platform was also introduced to host a Recruiter's Booth segment that attracted 68 companies with 182 job opportunities posted. Nearly 400 students and 100 alumni registered on the online platform.



STEP Sunburst Youth Camp 2021: A Virtual Journey Across Asia

The Sunburst Youth Camp is a key initiative of the STEP Endowment supported by Temasek Foundation. For the second time, NAFA hosted the camp which brought together youths across Asia to Singapore for a dynamic programme. In 2021, the camp aimed to foster the sharing of cultural diversity through dance, music and the arts, as well as the learning of Asian cultures through intercultural projects and activities.

In view of the pandemic, the camp blended physical and online interactions and participants were able to forge meaningful friendships and create memorable artworks based on the theme 'literary arts and its impact or inspiration on performing and visual arts'.

All workshops conducted on campus at NAFA were livestreamed and a virtual campfire was held on Zoom.

Crossings 2021

Crossings 2021 was a highly anticipated event for anyone interested in Singapore's emerging talent and the developing dance community. In 2021, the programme paid homage to Singapore's contemporary dance scene through the works of Gillian Tan (Senior Lecturer, Dance, NAFA); Kenneth Tan (2013 Graduate, NAFA), Shahrin Johry (Dance Artist, Maya Dance Theatre) and Zhou Zihao (Associate Artist, T.H.E Dance Company and 2012 Young Artist Award recipient). The edge and versatility of NAFA's conservatory-style trained dancers brought to fruition the works of these Singapore choreographers and was furthered featured in selected student choreographies and classwork.

The production was performed in NAFA's Lee Foundation Theatre with Safe Management Measures in place for a live audience and livestreamed to a virtual audience.



Photo credit: Bernie Ng



Photo credit: Memphis West Pictures/Don Wong

M1 Singapore Fringe Festival: 0.01

Devised and performed by 12 multitalented Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making Year 2 students, *0.01* explores the collective loneliness and estrangement we are experiencing today and asks how connection might play a part in our healing. The original production premiered at the 2022 M1 Singapore Fringe Festival and was co-directed by Rei Poh (Programme Leader, Mandarin Drama and Senior Lecturer, Theatre) and Goh Shou Yi (Adjunct Lecturer, Dance).

The immersive performance received four out of five stars in a [review](#) on Bakchormeeboy, an online platform dedicated to media coverage of the arts scene. Praising the performance, the review notes: "Facilitators Rei, Shou Yi, and dramaturg Zee Wong have brought out the best in this group. Not only have they conceptualised an ethereal performance

that captures both the stress and beauty of urban living; they've also given each student a chance to play to their strengths, leading to precise movements from the dance students, and clear, emotive delivery from the theatre students."

ArtsEquator reviewer Rebecca G. also [noted](#) the ensemble's cohesive performance: "The show is ultimately a celebration of a strong cast of performers, and a testament to the efforts of both co-creators and dramaturg Zee Wong in creating a space that enabled such a heartfelt sharing of experiences. Loneliness, distance, silence, comfort, and the stories in between—*0.01* invites the audience to take a closer look at what divides us, and to imagine what could happen when we cross that liminal boundary."

Tending Tenderness

In their mission to advance art and education, the Woon Brothers Foundation has always generously supported the academy with awards to be presented to outstanding Fine Art diploma and degree graduates. The awards seek to nurture these young artists as well as recognise and promote promising talents.

Tending Tenderness is a homecoming exhibition organised by the Fine Art programme, which gathered six past award recipients—Ho Seok Kee, Kim Hyesu, Koh Kai Ting, Michelle Wong, Shairah Rohazam and Wong Gin Ming—to honour the generosity of the Woon Brothers Foundation over the last six years. The artists featured created works across a range of mediums, materials and processes that reflected the concerns and preoccupations of this emerging generation of art practitioners.

These emerging artists have had to adapt to adversity and shift modes of artmaking in an art ecosystem that has been profoundly impacted by the global pandemic, yet continues to quietly and resolutely exist. The narratives are tender and urgent and themes prevalent in their works



include spaces of intimacy, invisible networks and microcosms, artificial intelligence, data and technology, identity and embodied memories, domestic soundscapes, and acts of remembering.

Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) for Art and Business

Responding swiftly to public interest, the Centre for Lifelong Education introduced a new Short Course—Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) for Art and Business—presenting a valuable opportunity for participants to develop a clear understanding

of the concept, functions, technology and implementation of NFTs. The course ran twice after it commenced in March 2022 and was met with enthusiastic market response as places were fully taken up for both runs.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival 2021

Year 3 students from the Interior and Exhibition, Furniture and Spatial, and Object and Jewellery courses, guided by Dr Ang Chiat (Senior Lecturer, 3D Design), were involved in the design of the light-up concept for the 2021 Chinatown Mid-Autumn Festival. Themed 'Reunion', the iconic street light-up brought festive cheer to the streets of Chinatown and paid tribute to how Singaporeans have stood together to overcome challenges brought about by the pandemic. The centrepiece of the display was a stunning 12-metre-tall statue of Chang-E, the Chinese goddess of the moon.



Photo credit: Maxhouzez



FRAME by Lim Wei Bin

NAFA x DMK

On Final Year Project assessment day, the Year 3 Diploma in Design (Furniture and Spatial) students presented their unique design proposals to DMK's Chief Creative Officer Eileen Goh. The aim of the proposal was to design a new retail experience for the fashion footwear label that reflects its history, brand and vision. *CALLA* by Celina Prema Citro and *FRAME* by Lim Wei Bin were selected as the winning works. Ms Goh also selected four other works to be part of The Grad Expectations 2022 which showcased thought-provoking works by talents from the NAFA School of Art & Design.

NAFA x Singapore Airlines

In collaboration with Singapore Airlines (SIA), Year 3 Diploma in Design (Object and Jewellery) students worked on an upcycling project for their Final Year Project (FYP). Students designed and proposed object and wearable jewellery from materials and parts of a retired Airbus A380 aircraft. The design proposals were presented to a team from SIA comprising Joanne Toh, Design & Branding Manager and Xin Yu Tan, Senior Service Designer. Three works won top honours and five others were presented at The Grad Expectations 2022. The winning works are *LuMill Lighting* by Gwee Yu Fang, *Rowi Jewellery* by Chen Zheng Xin and *CUBIT Stool* by Raven Ashley.

In addition, the arts and aviation industry converged in a live client project featuring the following creative brief from SIA—‘BRINGING THE SINGAPORE AIRLINES EXPERIENCE AT 30,000 FEET TO YOU: To enable our customers to reminisce their journey with us and inspire the public to dream about their next travel experience’.

Students from all four Diploma in Fine Art classes were engaged across varying mediums and they operated both physically and conceptually within the framework of upcycling. After a period of ideation, students executed their ideas in the studio, breathing new life into the textile and metal-based inventory from SIA.



LuMill Lighting by Gwee Yu Fang



Rowi Jewellery by Chen Zheng Xin



NAFA x National Parks Board

For the second year running, the National Parks Board (NParks) worked with Year 2 Diploma in Screen Media students on a series of documentaries surrounding the theme of ‘Documenting Life in Our City in Nature’. Students were provided with a valuable opportunity to work



with a live client, gaining industry experience and honing their soft skills. They worked on one of six topics provided by NParks, learning how to research a topic, conduct interviews as well as produce non-fictional film content.



NAFA x Kidney Dialysis Foundation

Following a fruitful collaboration with the Kidney Dialysis Foundation (KDF) for their 2021 calendar, the KDF reached out to NAFA’s Design & Media Programme to design their 2022 calendar themed ‘Commitment’.

The winning artwork by Diploma in Graphic Communication student Jovina Princessca, as part of a competition held for the programme’s students, was adapted into the calendar. The charity calendar was available for purchase via e-commerce platforms and distributed to KDF’s benefactors.



NAFA x The Front Row 2021

Although only in its second year, The Front Row has become Singapore’s definitive virtual fashion festival. The carefully curated programme of fashion shows, podcasts and interviews with industry heavyweights also showcased the best works of graduate designers from NAFA’s Fashion Studies Programme. These works were also available for in-person viewing in an exhibition that was open to the public at the NAFA Fashion Gallery from 27 August to 30 September 2021.

The works presented in this edition were created during the COVID-19 pandemic and reflected our graduates’ incredible talent, dedication to their



craft, and passion for fashion as they continue to push the boundaries of creativity and redefine sartorial norms.

Renew Earth Sweat Shop 2021

Organised by independent cultural and social enterprise, Post-Museum, and supported by Temasek Shophouse, the second edition of the Renew Earth Sweat Shop presented works which included the artistic creations of 19 Year 2 NAFA Fashion Studies students at a pop-up store. The young designers were given donated old garments to redesign and recreate new items for sale. Creativity and skill went into making reversible bags, pouches, dresses, aprons, indoor slippers, oven gloves, baby bibs, necklaces, mask strap extensions and mask holders.

The Renew Earth Sweat Shop is a community and participatory art project that focuses on fashion sustainability. In 2021, the community was invited to save 200kg of fashion waste from incineration by turning them into something useful through innovation, upcycling and repair. The pop-up store ran from 30 August to 31 October 2021 at the Temasek shophouse.



NAFA x Assisi Hospice

Stories of Care is a collaboration with the Assisi Hospice that spotlighted the experiences of palliative care nurses and patient care assistants. Through interviews and exploration of spaces in the hospice, NAFA’s Year 2 Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art students worked closely with the partner nurses to translate their experiences

and personal perspectives into meaningful artworks.

Videos, publications and two-dimensional works were produced, reflecting the introspection and retrospection of care.



Our second year BA (Hons) Fine Art student, Sarah Kwek Jing-Wen (left) presenting *My Gift of Time & Care*, an informal publication of story cards to share stories about palliative care.



Assisi Hospice’s nurse Shu Cing with the work titled *Marks of Care*, a project by NAFA’s second year BA (Hons) Fine Art students. This artwork ties together the notions of calligraphy and the physical bodily gestures of mark-making.



NAFA x Public Health Council – Trashemon Bins

To encourage the public to take ownership of public cleanliness and deposit trash into litter bins, the Public Health Council collaborated with NAFA to create Trashemon bins to be placed around Singapore. Three quirky designs were conceptualised by NAFA’s Year 2 Design & Media students and translated into eye-catching Trashemon bins placed at 15 locations in the heartlands. The Trashemon bins are named Timmy TumTrash, Claire ClawTrash and Eddy EyeTrash.



Photo credit: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay

March On 2022

As part of Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay’s annual March On festival, students from the Arts Management Programme conceptualised and successfully presented two charming productions—*Pirate Attack!* and *Mu-cycle*. Students were also involved in the performance of the productions, in collaboration with the T3at3r Muzikal Collective.

This is the second year NAFA has worked with Esplanade for this significant children-centric festival which was launched in 2021 during the pandemic.

The students had an impactful learning opportunity on how to apply lessons learnt in class to real-world performances in the national performing arts centre.



Photo credit: Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay



A Life Well-Lived

A Dance Science Production

Celebrating Wellness

Friday, 30 April 2021

* Dance Performance: 2pm to 2.45pm

* Panel Discussion: 2.45pm to 3.30pm

Livestreamed from NAFA Campus 3, Studio Theatre on the NAFA Singapore YouTube Channel

A Life Well-Lived: Celebrating Wellness

This dance science production was livestreamed from the NAFA Studio Theatre, where the NAFA dancers performed with students from the Quinn Special Student Care Centre. Overseas partners from Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines were also virtually present via projection on screen and played a special part in the 60-minute live performance.

Capping off the performance was an hour-long panel discussion with international medical

practitioners and movement professionals congregating to discuss the importance of dance and movement for people with disabilities, the elderly, and those with Parkinson’s disease. The panel featured Dr Dominic Jamora (St. Luke’s Movement Disorders Service); Dr Jennifer Marie Yang (College of Arts & Social Sciences and College of Health & Medicine, Australian National University); and Novy Bereber (Bereber Sayaw PD). The meaningful session was moderated by Dr Filomar Tario (Senior Lecturer, Dance, NAFA).

SG Façade Art @ Tanjong Pagar – Tiong Bahru

The wall façade art project, organised by the People’s Association, took place under the guidance of NAFA’s Design & Media alumnus Sean Lam. The prominent artist led the residents of Tanjong Pagar and Tiong Bahru to create a seven-storey high artwork that portrayed the importance of Total Defence.





Photo credit: Memphis West Pictures/Joe Nair

(I)SOLATE

Following the successful partnerships with Toy Factory Productions Ltd in 2019, and The Finger Players in 2020, the NAFA Theatre Programme for its Year 3 Industry Project module collaborated with Teater Ekamatra to present *(I)SOLATE*. The triple bill of three short plays, directed by acclaimed local directors, Rizman Putra and Ong Kian Sin, were presented by the Year 3 Diploma in Theatre (English Drama) and Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama) students.

The collaboration offered students a valuable opportunity to work in a professional setting and perform to public audiences. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these performances were presented to a reduced capacity audience and shared online after the live performances had ended.



Photo credit: Memphis West Pictures/Joe Nair

The new plays were written by three ethnic minority female writers and were developed under Teater Ekamatra's Playwrights Development Programme. The showcase aimed to highlight the talent of NAFA students as they deftly tackled complex themes such as mortality, loss and solitude on stage.

INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



International Placement at UAL

The first international placement with the University of the Arts London (UAL) took place in 2022 and saw students from NAFA's Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art, and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making attend classes alongside UAL students.

Apart from the classes and projects which highlighted global issues, students were also exposed to the international and multicultural aspects of design in the lively capital city. Students benefitted immensely from the immersive programme, studying with international practitioners and experts in their fields, and experiencing design and performance making from fresh perspectives.



Review of RCM-NAFA Bachelor of Music (Honours) Programme

An important review of the Royal College of Music (RCM)-NAFA Bachelor of Music (Honours) programme is carried out every five years to align the strategies of the two institutions, and plan future development. In March 2022, the review was conducted by a panel from the RCM—comprising Kevin Porter (Deputy Director), Diana Salazar (Director of Programmes), Vanessa Latache (Head of Keyboard & Associate Director for Partnerships in China), and Elly Taylor (Academic Registrar). Apart from ensuring overall quality and developing the programme to meet evolving academic and artistic standards, the Review Panel also validated the new postgraduate programmes.

As part of collaborative staff development, Salazar gave two presentations, titled 'Educational Leadership in the Conservatoire' and 'Faculty Research Series XVI: Towards Digital Artistry: Digital Opportunities in Higher Music Education' to the NAFA academic staff on 29 March at Interval @Library. Degree students studying the Musician in the Digital Age module also had the opportunity to attend the second presentation to learn about harnessing technology to learn music.

Over the span of a decade, the successful partnership between NAFA and RCM has seen more than 200 NAFA students graduate from the degree programme.

SOUTHEAST ASIAN ARTS DIMENSION



Day 1: A group of students from NAFA's gamelan programme performing alongside their teacher, Alicia de Silva. Titled *A Creative Journey with Gamelan*, this opening performance explored unconventional forms for the gamelan, which also included the use of piccolo and erhu.

Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2021: Schoolhouse Mavericks

The second iteration of the Southeast Asian Arts Forum—Schoolhouse Mavericks—was a hybrid forum that included both in-person and livestreamed presentations, performances and dialogues. The goal was to inspire practice-led teaching and learning of Southeast Asian arts by facilitating an exchange between the community and the classroom.

The speakers featured in this forum are mavericks in their field and unconventional thinkers from a diverse background of creative and academic disciplines. With the aid of technology, travel restrictions and other limitations caused by the pandemic did not stop the 32 creators and makers located in eight different cities across Southeast Asia from coming together to share their thoughts and experiences. Over three days, several hundred people online and in the live venues were able to participate in the dialogues about how to collaborate, teach and learn in such unprecedented times, as well as how to adapt to keep the arts and the spirits of creators vital and alive.

Inspiration abounded as techniques were revisited, and discussion was lively on new methodologies that had developed and surfaced across the arts and in the livelihoods of craftsmen and communities—opening our eyes to a Southeast Asian world that is steeped in tradition but ever evolving.

16 videos-on-demand, including a recording of the eight in-person presentations from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand are available at [Southeast Asian Arts Forum 2021 \(nafa.edu.sg\)](https://nafa.edu.sg).



Day 3: Panelists discussing the relationship between urban and rural communities in the Southeast Asian context of making art

From left: Grace Leong, Muhammad Norisham bin Osman, Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, Preeti Gaonkar



The NAFA Dance Programme students take their curtain call. Costuming by the Thai Dance Society in Singapore and Kansadaeng Watthanatham, Thailand

Flagship Genius featuring Ayutthaya III

The exhibition for *Ayutthaya*, the academy-wide Southeast Asian Art project, opened on 13 January 2022. For the third year running, students from different disciplines presented performances and outcomes from the modules inspired by research into Ayutthaya's history.



Installation view of *Flagship Genius featuring Ayutthaya III*

Gamelan musicians from the NAFA Music Programme, led by Alicia de Silva (Programme Leader and Lecturer, Office of Academic Affairs), performed *Ladrang Perang* and *Dancing Shadows in the Temple*, the latter being the denouement of the evening. The piece was inspired by the ruins of Ayutthaya and Nang Yai (Thai shadow play), and featured fragmentary motifs performed on the gamelan instruments as well as the guzheng. The blend of sounds sought to capture the different facets of Ayutthaya's past, and played the role of a storyteller transporting their audience's imagination to the actual ruins of the historic city itself.

Students of the Dance Programme performed three pieces titled *Kritda Phinihan*, *Ton Vorachet* and *Sat Chatri*. The English Drama and Mandarin Drama theatre students each put up a captivating performance.



The NAFA Theatre Programme students assemble *A Story Only Time Tells*, in a cast of three.

With the exhibition *Flagship Genius*—featuring works by NAFA's brightest artistic talents—sharing space with *Ayutthaya*; the entire event celebrated the works of students past and present, and served as a testament to the academy's mission to promote learning and growth through the arts.

In-curricula academic collaborations with NAFA Dance Programme

The Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA) initiated and facilitated a series of important collaborative projects between the NAFA academic departments and industry professionals.

Workshops conducted by established Southeast Asian performing arts groups in collaboration with the NAFA Dance Programme gave students exposure to specific Southeast Asian cultures and traditions. As part of their growth of becoming culturally aware creators, the students acquired not only technical knowledge, but also learnt about the historical narrative and cultural significance of these artistic practices.

Ramwong Mattathan Thai Dance Workshop with Absolutely Thai by Kansadaeng Watthanatham

As part of the *Ayutthaya* project, students were taught the Sat Chatri dance, which is derived from *Lakhon Chatri*—one of Thailand's oldest extant dance dramas that originated during the Ayutthaya period. The students performed the Sat Chatri to a live audience at the opening of *Flagship Genius featuring Ayutthaya III*.



Students performing the complete movements of Ramwong Mattathan in their respective groups based on lecturer Dr Paphutsorn Koong Wongratanapitak's comments and feedback

Silat: Martial Arts in Dance Workshop with Sri Warisan

In this workshop, students were taught by Cultural Medallion recipient Madam Som Said and Silat master Fareed Sallim. The lessons combined theory and practice, and included a field trip to



Students performing Silat movements for a typical bersanding ceremony (at a Malay wedding), including the use of kompong (hand frame drum)

Sri Warisan—Singapore's first fully professional Malay dance company—for Year 2 students. These culminated in dance presentations that incorporated Silat movements.

Through the workshop, students learnt to transfer basic dance movement principles and concepts across dance forms, all while developing keener kinaesthetic awareness, movement efficiency and safe practices in dances.

Balinese Legong Dance Workshop with Eka Suwara Santhi

This introductory lecture on Balinese culture and dance was conducted by Eka Suwara Santhi and covered the eight basic movements of the Balinese Legong dance. After completing the 14-week module centred on the technically challenging and physically demanding dance form, students performed for an audience consisting of their peers and faculty.



Students perfecting the Agem Kanan (right), an essential posture in Balinese Legong dance



The artist, Mr Wee Beng Chong, with his works



Installation view of the exhibition

Depth of Being: Wee Beng Chong

Wee Beng Chong is one of Singapore's most iconic artists, an illustrious NAFA alumnus and a well-loved teacher. He is also one of the nation's first recipients of the Cultural Medallion for his contributions to the visual arts. *Depth of Being: Wee Beng Chong* is the distinguished artist's 16th solo exhibition which presented close to 80 works created throughout his longstanding career. Oil paintings, mixed media works, sculptures, seal engravings, Chinese calligraphy and ink paintings spoke volumes of Wee's mastery, versatility and pursuit of excellence in his craft. Rooted in Chinese writing and Western modern art concepts, Wee's works are bold and innovative.

The exhibition spotlighted Wee as an individual who personifies NAFA's spirit of creativity, exploration and resilience.

Crashing Waves, Billowing Clouds: A Tribute to Tan Kian Por

In memory of the late artist Tan Kian Por—a Cultural Medallion recipient, long-serving teacher and alumnus of NAFA—*Crashing Waves, Billowing Clouds* was an exhibition which presented 70 of Tan's best works. Included amongst them were seal carving, calligraphy and ink works created between 1985 and 2016.

Curated by the Estate of Tan Kian Por, the exhibition reflected how NAFA provides a strong

foundation for the pursuit of arts education and practice while highlighting the values of creativity, spirit of adventure and resilience.

A commemorative book of the same title containing memorable anecdotes, essays and photos contributed by the accomplished artist's family, close associates and students, accompanied the exhibition.

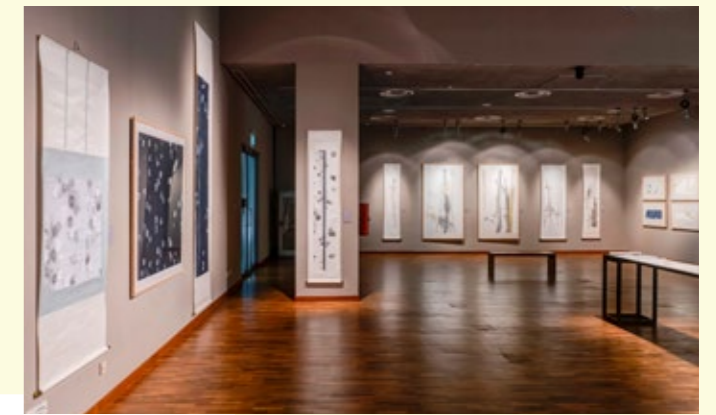


Panoramic view of the exhibition

Underwater Series 2020 by Tay Kiam Hong

Over 40 large-scale works including paintings, poems and handscrolls were presented at NAFA alumnus Tay Kiam Hong's third solo exhibition. On display was the artist's delicate yet powerful freehand brushwork or 'xieyi', and other techniques that were honed over two decades of artistic research.

Tay's obsession with marine biodiversity and ecology has long fueled his imagination and inspired the expressive vocabulary of his art. This exhibition was his tribute to marine life—a subject not commonly explored in Chinese ink painting.



Installation view of the exhibition

Tay's free, playful and dynamic work which is steeped in artistic heritage and tradition embodies NAFA's pioneering spirit of exploration.

The Field Beyond: works by contemporary Malaysian artists

Malaysian artists Ivan Lam, Choy Chun Wei and Yau Bee Ling who are based in Malaysia, alongside emerging young artist and NAFA alumna Kimberley Boudville, are known for their conceptual ideas and ability to push the boundaries of their art practice. *The Field Beyond* was the product of their painstaking labour and reflected the artists' experiences and viewpoints on politics, community, culture and personal memories.

A 360-degree view of the exhibition with commentary was made available to NAFA students and audiences worldwide.

In conjunction with this exhibition, the eighth instalment of the Southeast Asian Art Clinic explored the theme of storytelling in artmaking through the eyes of the artists. The two-part series consisted of a forum discussion and live dialogue session with selected students from the School of Art & Design (SOAD) discussing works from the exhibition and sharing their reflections online through soundtracks, collages and objects. The sharing session was an enhanced opportunity for peer learning and an exchange of new ideas.



Speaking to a student audience on Zoom, Dr Bridget Tracy Tan provides an insight into the exhibition in a live broadcast from the Lim Hak Tai Gallery.

ISEAA facilitated an in-curricular collaboration with SOAD, with close to 500 students from the NAFA Foundation Programme attending the General Studies module online. This was the first time the module was adapted for online delivery and was very well received by the students and faculty. Live guided tours were conducted by ISEAA staff who also hosted livestreamed discussions with the artists over several sessions. Boudville presented her work in person at the gallery.

RESEARCH

Action Research Chronicles (ARCH) Phygital Exhibition



Installation Design: Emily Seck

The inaugural instalment of [ARCH](#) was a hybrid online and in-person exhibition that took place from 26 July to 26 August 2021.

The exhibition featured findings from more than 20 NAFA staff members from the Educational Inquiry and Action Research series. Collectively, the e-zines and posters represented a collage of curriculum, pedagogy and assessment literacies in the performing and visual art disciplines.

Teaching and Learning the Arts in Higher Education with Technology: Vignettes from Practice

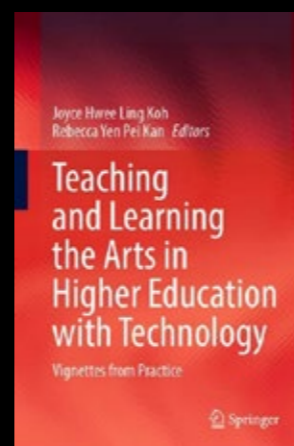
Written by artist educators for artist educators, [Teaching and Learning the Arts in Higher Education with Technology](#) illustrates how technology can enhance the education of artists and designers as they continued to create, make, and add value to life and society through their artistry. Nine authors worked with the co-editors Associate Professor Joyce Koh Hwee Ling (University of Otago) and Dr Rebecca Kan (Vice Dean, Pedagogy and Research, NAFA) to create a nuanced view of their practices in technology-enhanced learning, capturing the educational and performative contexts of our time.

The publication was launched on 4 March 2022, and the online event was graced by Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan (President, NAFA) and Professor Helen Nicholson (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic, University of Otago). The launch featured a keynote by Associate Professor Koh; a visual conversation

Data was collected from NAFA's learning environment to solve instructional questions and enhance instructional practices. Research topics included the creative applications of design thinking, problem-based learning, mentoring, arts pedagogies, technology-enhanced learning, and interdisciplinary practices for higher education through the arts.

between Georgette Yu and Jacinta Freeman; video abstracts about products in design presented by Tan Choong Kheng and Winson Ho; a panel discussion with Alicia de Silva, Gillian Tan and Grace Leong; and concluded with an open discussion with all the authors, moderated by Dr Kan. The impactful programme provided key insights into unique and established pedagogies by the NAFA faculty members, the effectiveness of which paved the way for more research-informed teaching and learning through the arts.

Click [here](#) to view the book launch.



Diversity in Artistic Research: Exposition (DAR:E)

NAFA's first exposition on artistic research ran as an online discourse over three days in August 2021. The seminars showcased how NAFA's artist-educators drew upon their personal experiences in the arts to question, ponder and theorise new possibilities. Their artmaking processes were seen as acts of research grounded in text. By focusing on the relationship

between creating art and articulating their encounters, the NAFA faculty was setting out a way to explore diverse inquiries in greater depth by weaving artistic practice with reflective pedagogical and research considerations.

The 10 NAFA artist-educators across the performing arts and visual arts were engaged in projects that demonstrated a wide range of performative, visual and theoretical dimensions. The practice-based research inquiry evoked the multiple identities of artist, researcher and teacher that NAFA practitioners occupy.

The research catalogue can be accessed [here](#).



Design credit: Nandy Rhea

Research in Education and Arts Practice (REAP)—Issue 3: Living in Liminality



Design credit: Nandy Rhea

NAFA's third annual edition of Research in Education and Arts Practice (REAP) was released in January 2022 and served as a space for practitioners to reflect on the challenging circumstances experienced in teaching and learning during the second year of COVID-19. The publication *Living in Liminality* celebrates liminars who were not afraid to engage in new ideas, practices and innovations in arts education and practice research.

In the issue, contributors explored how technology could enhance the education of artists and designers, and how NAFA had seeded a culture of research in processes that supports research and professional learning. International partners from New Zealand, Norway and the United Kingdom were also featured.

The final chapter includes a closing note from Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan (President, NAFA), who highlighted the importance of artistic research and the progression of the academy's practice-oriented research efforts.

Click [here](#) for full access to *Living in Liminality*.

Collaborative Research in Creative Engagements

Principal Investigators: Dr Rebecca Kan, Dr Ernest Lim, Georgette Yu (NAFA)

International Research Collaborator: Professor Rose Martin (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)

This research collaboration captured the voices of professional musicians-educators and students as the arts academy reflected on evolving notions of artistic identity, community of practice, values and beliefs in the process of music making and learning.

The project provided engaging points of departure into how contemporary music educators and student-professionals see themselves in the modern-day academy. It focused on uncovering how creative processes reflect the cultural and social contexts of Singapore today.

Two peer-reviewed international publications emanated from this research project:

Kan, R., & Martin, R. (2021). Shifting lights through the interstices: Extending notions of what it means to learn in higher music education. *Research Studies in Music Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1321103X211028008>

Lim, E. H. C., Yu, G., & Martin, R. (2022). Exploring musician-educators' reflections on a collaborative cross-cultural music making encounter in Singapore. *International Journal of Music Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02557614211072169>

Research on Inclusivity presented at IAFOR International Conference on Arts & Humanities in Hawaii (IICAH 2022)

Principal Investigators: Dr Rebecca Kan and Jonathan Chng (NAFA)

Local Research Collaborator: Tan Yeok Nguan, Arthur Chiang and Linda Prebhash (Rainbow Centre, Singapore)

A joint study with Rainbow Centre on faculty perceptions towards an inclusive educational community was accepted at IICAH 2022, an international conference on arts and humanities organised by The International Academic Forum in January 2022. Presented by Dr Rebecca Kan (Vice Dean, Pedagogy and Research, NAFA) and Tan Yeok Nguan (Head, Inclusive Design, Rainbow Centre),

the virtual presentation offered an opportunity to think deeply and creatively about what it means to envision inclusive practices in higher education of the arts, and to explore alternative models of evaluating professional development to bring about resilience, collaboration, empathy and the ethics of care.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

reTHiNGing Materiality – Contemporary Sculpture 2021

Sculpture Society (Singapore) (SSS) is the first society in Singapore dedicated to nurturing a public appreciation of sculpture as an art form. The society counts many outstanding NAFA alumni among its members and academy graduates of recent years continue to join the society's ranks; bringing new perspectives in the realm of sculpture.

To cultivate the spirit of inquiry in young practitioners of three-dimensional art, a year-long mentorship was run by distinguished sculptor Yeo Chee Kiong and academic Tan Yen Peng through this platform. Both esteemed artist-educators are NAFA alumni and key members of the SSS. Over 12 months, six young artists were encouraged to develop critical perspectives in visual art

practice, with an emphasis on sculpture and three-dimensional art within the context of local and Southeast Asian art scenes. This process expanded the young artists' understanding of theory and practice.

The mentorship continued through the pandemic and young artists based overseas continued to keep in touch with their mentors online. The sustained interactions the six mentees had with Yeo and Tan culminated in works produced and presented at *reTHiNGing Materiality – Contemporary Sculpture 2021*. More than 30 artworks by NAFA alumni and SSS members of figurative and abstract sculptures, ceramics, installations and new media art were exhibited.



Envisioning A Post-Pandemic Future

How can an educational institution help our young graduates navigate the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic? What can help young graduates recalibrate their compass to find opportunities that have arisen from this crisis?

Envisioning a Post-Pandemic Future is a 10-week research project that involved three mentors and seven students from different disciplines. The project’s aim was to equip our students with the knowledge to make better decisions as they set sail in the untested waters of a post-pandemic future. Carried out during a period when there were restrictions on in-person gatherings and strict safe distancing guidelines, this undertaking was also a model on exploiting opportunities in crisis.

The research dived deep into five emerging trends—The Museum Experience, The Theatre Experience, New Hospitality Experiences, New Retail Experiences and Sustainability in Food Delivery Systems—to reveal opportunity areas for designers and the skills students can master to remain relevant.

In 2021, in collaboration with CapitaLand malls, the research reached other communities when it was presented in a roving exhibition between five major shopping malls downtown and in the heartlands.



Design credits: Kitty Jeun (illustration on the left) and Leila Lee (illustration on the right)



NAFA x White Jacket

The theme of community and ‘lepak’ (Singlish for relaxing and doing nothing) served as inspiration for selected NAFA students and alumni who were tasked with painting 10 unique stools designed by NAFA alumna Chen Jiawen. The theme of the project was a reminder to take a break from the busyness of life, and to unwind and reconnect with loved ones. In this inaugural partnership with interior design studio White Jacket, the stools were available for purchase through a silent auction. Proceeds go towards the NAFA Education Fund and International Fund for Animal Welfare.



NAFA x National Museum of Singapore

This cross-institution collaboration initiated by the National Museum of Singapore (NMS) brought together six students from NAFA and the National University of Singapore’s Division of Industrial Design. Students from both institutions had to design an installation based on stories about the Bras Basah Bugis precinct and NMS, which was to be displayed at the Singapore Night Festival (SNF). Although SNF was cancelled in 2021 due to prevailing pandemic restrictions, the installation was available for viewing at the Gallery Theatre of NMS at SNF 2022.

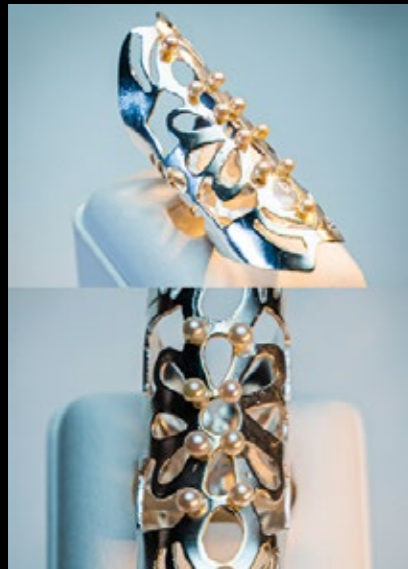
Two mentors—award-winning designer Wendy Chua and established theatre practitioner Koh

Hui Ling—led the students through a series of workshops and fieldwork. Chua’s and Koh’s different creative backgrounds gave all participants an opportunity to learn techniques outside of their discipline. Participants were also introduced to a series of design phases, namely site-sensing, ideation, sound and experience design, participatory theatre methods, and design for implementation.

The resulting showcase interweaves open design with theatre dramaturgy.



AWARDS AND SPOTLIGHTS



Bullet by Kamath Dhriti Girish
Photo credit: Pearl FALCO



Rainbow After Rain by Raina Hanna Widjaya
Photo credit: Pearl FALCO

4th Annual Grand Prix Akoya Pearl Jewellery Ise Shima 2021 Competition

Students from the Diploma in Design (Object and Jewellery) and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice courses excelled in this competition which saw a total of 92 pearl jewellery design submissions from 10 countries. Raina Hanna Widjaya won first place with her work *Rainbow After Rain*. Kamath Dhriti Girish came in second with *Bullet* and Lee Jar Wen's *Eternity* placed ninth.



Nippon Paint Asia Young Designer Awards 2021/2022

Nippon Paint Asia Young Designer Awards is one of Asia's leading design competitions. Diploma in Design (Interior and Exhibition) graduate, Vanessa Maera Wijaya, took home the Gold Award in the Interior Design category for her work *Seni Pavilion*.

Veronica Yew (Programme Leader, Interior and Exhibition and Lecturer, 3D Design), was awarded the Best Mentor (Interior Design) award. NAFA also won Best Institution in this competition.

The Crowbar Awards 2021 & The Crowbar Challenge

Design and Media Students were recognised across six categories—Communication, Branding, Design, Digital & Innovation, Health & Wellness and Good at the 2021 Crowbar Awards. This prestigious competition sets the benchmark for creative excellence and is open to all full-time students in Singapore and overseas. Our NAFA talents won three Gold, seven Silver and 13 Bronze awards; 17 works were named Finalist.

Diploma in Graphic Communication students also took part in the Crowbar Challenge, an inter-school competition for students to submit an advertising pitch in 48 hours upon receipt of the client's brief. Team Panca comprising Year 3 students, Tasha Audrey, Cynthia Caroline Hidajat, Josephine Valencia Wibowo, Luwina Febriani and Raisya Shabira Asraf, emerged as the runner-up in this exciting challenge.



Kyara Avrillie Yanto
Diploma in Graphic Communication
Whopper Chopper
2021
The Crowbar Awards 2021, Silver/Bronze Winner & Finalist of several categories



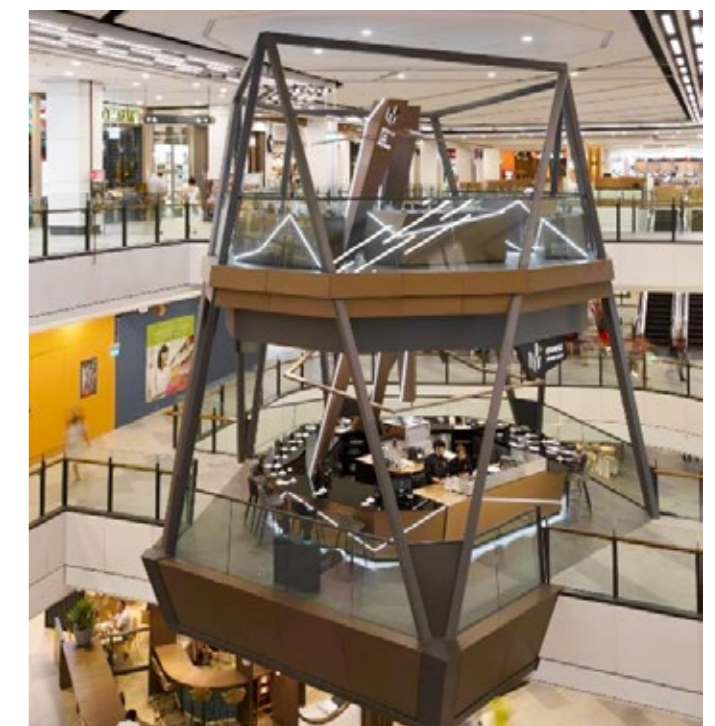
Yoo Serin
Diploma in Graphic Communication
Who Are You?
2021
The Crowbar Awards 2021, Illustration, Gold Winner

Tung Ching Yew

Adjunct Lecturer, 3D Design

At BLT Built Design Awards 2021, multidisciplinary designer Tung Ching Yew from award-winning spatial design consultancy firm SODA received an Honourable Mention for his spatial design for House On The Moon. With its diverse angular tilts and faceted forms, the unique work explored design narratives relating to anti-gravity and imbalance in the cosmic world.

The BLT Built Design Awards recognises the expertise of professionals worldwide who are involved in the realisation of outstanding projects—from architecture firms and interior design experts to construction products and project management.



Winnie Chongdiono
Year 2, Diploma in Fashion Design

Diploma in Fashion Design student, Winnie Chongdiono, won the product packaging design competition organised by local brand ESTA. Chongdiono's concept—Circle of Unity and Hope—was the winning response to the competition's theme of green sustainability. The design was printed on a portable hand sanitiser which was sold online and hit stores during the holiday season in 2021.



Photo credit: ESTA

Korean Ambassador Design Award 2021



1st Prize winning work by Tan Megan



2nd Prize winning work by Stuti Deorah



3rd Prize winning work by Chong Wei Teng

In an effort to expand cultural exchanges in the design field and draw attention to efforts to combat climate change, NAFA and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea co-hosted the 1st Korean Ambassador Design Award with the theme of 'Our Actions to Climate Change'. The competition was an open call for NAFA Year 1 Fundamental Studies students to conceptualise and design artwork(s) for Korean-manufactured eco bags and pouch bags.

Besides promoting the efforts of Korea and Singapore in tackling global climate change

problems, the competition was also created to celebrate the friendship between the two Asian countries.

On 10 December 2021, an award ceremony was held at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea, where winners were presented their award certificate and prize. The winning designs would be printed on gifts for valued partners of the Embassy.

Sabrina Koh
Vice Dean, Fine Art

[dblspce](#) is an integrated space and incubator dedicated to artistic practice established in 2021 by educators and creative practitioners, Sabrina Koh and Kimberly Shen. Over a year, the residency programme hosted 11 artists and creatives, whose diverse practices span the fields of theatre, visual arts, architecture, literary arts, culture, and art therapy.



As part of Singapore Art Week (SAW) 2022, [dblspce](#) presented [dblspce 1.0](#), a collective articulation by artists and creatives from the inaugural cycle of residents. [dblspce 1.0](#) features fragments, relics and contemplation of ideas that were a product of each resident responding and engaging with [dblspce](#)'s environment and its vicinity.

Kimberly Shen
Programme Leader and Senior Lecturer, Fine Art

Curated by Kimberly Shen, *While She Quivers* bridged the converging practices of visual artists Kanchana Gupta and Yanyun Chen. The exhibition interrogated socially and culturally defined frameworks of femininity in a quiet provocation of desire, power, intimacy, and personal agency through the artists' long-term explorations—Gupta's *Production of Desire* and Chen's *Stories of a woman and her dowry*. Both works navigate the precarities of the cultural tropes and expectations of Asian women, in a palpable reclamation of tenderness and strength embedded in the feminine narrative and identity. The Objectifs Chapel Gallery was transformed by the incisive installations into

Yeo Chee Kiong
Adjunct Lecturer, Fine Art

Yeo Chee Kiong is the only artist representing Singapore in one of the world's biggest annual sculpture exhibitions, Sculpture by the Sea. *Monumental #01 – Triumph* imitates classical monuments found at plazas in cities around the world with a contemporary twist. Through the use of modern forms, materials, and state-of-the-art technologies, the commemorative piece erected at the Cottesloe Beach is a reflection of the artist's thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic. The work is designed such that the sunlight of the summer in the day will glorify the Horse Sculpture and its kaleidoscope-like mirror finished surface, while at night, the projected light on the surrounding ground will turn the sculpture into a beacon of hope.



a space that was visceral and contemplative as symbolic gestures, rituals and objects were employed in ways that were equally autonarrative and somatic—unpacking the underlying performativity of being a woman.

Shen is also a co-founder of the integrated space and incubator [dblspce](#). Together with Sabrina Koh, Shen designed a programme featuring [dblspce](#)'s 11 residents in [dblspce 1.0](#). This was presented as part of Singapore Art Week 2022.



Celest Thoi

Diploma in Graphic Design, 1997

In 2021, fashion alumna and bridal gown designer Celest Thoi was invited to be one of eight leading Malaysian fashion designers to join in Disney's global Ultimate Princess Celebration. Thoi designed two Disney Princess-inspired couture

pieces that were auctioned to benefit Make-A-Wish Malaysia. In the same year, she was [listed](#) in Tatler Asia's Most Influential list under the Fashion & Beauty category.



Photo credit: New Straits Times (Malaysia)

Max Tan

Diploma in Fashion Design, 2006
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Fashion, 2020

At The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards 2022, Fashion Studies alumnus Max Tan received the Best Costume award for the theatre production *Oiwa – The Ghost Of Yotsuya* by The Finger Players.



Photo credit: Arts House Limited

Supatchai Lappakornkul

Diploma in Dance, 2017

The Esplanade invited NAFA to present a digital work at its da:ns festival's Next Generation platform in October 2021. As dance on screen came into focus with the rise of technology and the circumstances of the pandemic, the new creations in this edition reflected on and incorporated this development.



Photo credit: Merv Kwok

With his Thai heritage and Western performing arts training, distinguished choreographer Supatchai Lappakornkul straddles Asian and Western cultures.

The live performance film, *Nātaya*, by Lappakornkul was a refreshing take in the world of digital experimentation. The work presented the choreographer's heritage from a contemporary perspective. Thai dance movement and children's games were married with ballet and contemporary dance. A Thai folk song was transformed by an oboe, clarinet, flute, horn, bassoon quintet and piano. New technologies were embraced to further, not replace, the physical celebration and expression of our human experience and imagination.

Kirill Chastukhin

Year 3, Diploma in Dance

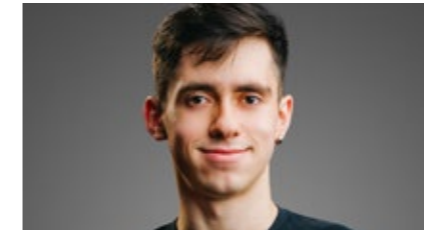


Photo credit: Memphis West Pictures/Wesley Loh

Kirill Chastukhin clinched a Silver for his choreography *On the distance* at the 8th Asia Arts Festival. Since 2013, the festival has provided a notable platform for musicians and dancers from across the world and all genres to showcase their talents and skills before an illustrious panel of adjudicators. Chastukhin's winning work was performed by NAFA's Year 1 and 2 Dance students Amadea Chiara Jusman, Lee Yuan Ching, Jaime, Sunti Wong Anyamon and Oh Ci En Kelly in the Contemporary Dance – Quartet category.

Kong Ling Jing

Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama), 2015

Kong Ling Jing played the female lead in the new film *When the Wind Blows* 【有风吹过】, directed by award-winning filmmaker Liu Jun Feng. Since her professional debut, Kong has appeared in many television series, web series, stage plays, movies and commercials.



Belle Chua

Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama), 2016
Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Theatre Arts, 2019

Belle Chua appeared in the Jack Neo film *Ah Girls Go Army* which was released islandwide on 1 February 2022. This box office hit focused on the first batch of female recruits undergoing National Service in a fictional future of Singapore.



Photo credit: Antonius Cong

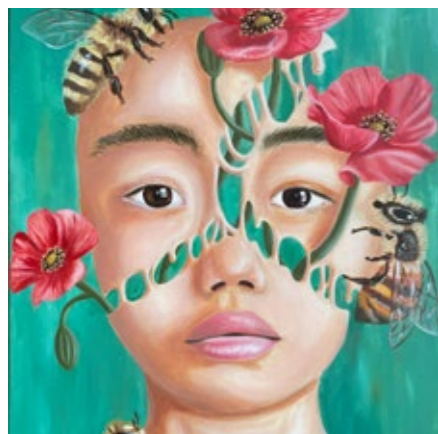
SCHOOL OF YOUNG TALENTS

13-19 Art Prize

Launched in 2021, the 13-19 Art Prize is a nationwide art competition which recognises and celebrates young art talents aged 13 to 19 years old. It aims to promote a diversity of artistic expressions and inspire the next generation of artists to take their creative potential to new heights.

NAFA's Junior Art student Pan Jiayao clinched the Gold Award in the Canvas Artwork Category, with her work *Regrown*. Chng Ya Xuan Renee's *Hidden Away* and Hrishit Shaw's *Explosive Flare* bagged the Bronze Award in the same category.

Funds raised from auctioning the winning works will go towards The Business Times Budding Artists Fund which supports children and youths from financially disadvantaged backgrounds to pursue their dreams and fulfil their potential in the arts.



Regrown by Pan Jiayao

Youth Arts Festival 2021

Hosted by the Singapore Dance Alliance, the Youth Arts Festival (YAF) is open to dancers of all nationalities aged five years and above. A total of 73 students from Junior Dance, who worked very hard to perfect their skills and performance under the guidance of the teachers, participated in the 2021 competition. Numerous awards were won by the talented young dancers:

- Three Gold in the Ballet (Solo) category
- Two Gold in the Ballet (Group) category
- Two Gold in the Any Genre (Group) category
- One Grand Award in the Ensemble/Group category
- One Silver in the Ballet (Solo) category
- Three Bronze in the Ballet (Solo) category

In addition, Zou Yi (Acting Head, Junior Dance) earned the Outstanding Choreography Award. The Outstanding Teacher Award was given to Liu Xiaomi.



Get the Beat 2021

30 Junior Dance students took part in the Asia Finals of Get the Beat dance competition.

The students' hard work and dedication paid off as we bagged the following awards:

- First prize in the GROUP (8&U CLASSICAL) category
- First prize in the GROUP (10&U CLASSICAL) category
- First prize in the SOLO (15-19YRS BALLETT) category
- Third prize in the SOLO (10&U BALLETT) category



3rd Nanyang International Music Competition 2021

Organised by the NAFA School of Music, the Nanyang International Music Competition provides a platform for young musicians to showcase their craft, challenge themselves and reach higher standards of performance. Participants hail from different countries including Canada, China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. In 2021, the Junior Music students swept a total of 33 awards in the Western Music and Chinese Music Divisions.

14 awards were won in the solo (live) categories of Piano, Violin and Cello:

- Three 1st Prize
- Five 2nd Prize
- Four 3rd Prize
- Best Set Piece Award
- Paul SJ Goh Bow Prize

Another 18 awards were won in the solo (virtual) Dizi, Erhu, Guzheng, Pipa and Yangqin categories:

- Five Gold
- Four Silver
- Nine Bronze

Additionally, the Cloud9 Dizi Ensemble formed by two Junior Music students won the Silver award in the Ensemble category.

National Piano and Violin Competition 2021

At this prestigious biennial competition, our Junior Music students took home two 1st Prize, three 2nd Prize, four 3rd Prize and one Honourable Mention.

Of note is the 1st Prize won in the Violin Senior category by Javan See Kaiyi and Violin Artist category by Dai Ailin.



2. Dai Ailin
Violin Artist Category | 1st Prize Winner

Chloe Chua Junior Music

Since her win at the 2018 Menuhin Competition, Chloe Chua has continuously received invitations to perform with reputable orchestras at prestigious local and international events, as well as record repertoire.

In early 2022, the gifted musician was involved in the [video](#) recording for Singapore Tourism Board's SingapoReimagine campaign to promote tourism as the nation reopens. Chua was also involved in the Chingay Parade which was aired live on television.





GIVING **BACK**

GIVE FUTURE CREATIVE TALENT THE COURAGE TO CREATE

When you donate to NAFA, your donation will be used to support our scholarly initiatives and build the academy's capabilities. More importantly, your donation is a message of encouragement for the creative pursuits of our students and faculty, and the staff who support them. It is a statement that you believe in nurturing artistic growth.

One in every four students is in need of financial support and can benefit tremendously from your donation, no matter the amount.

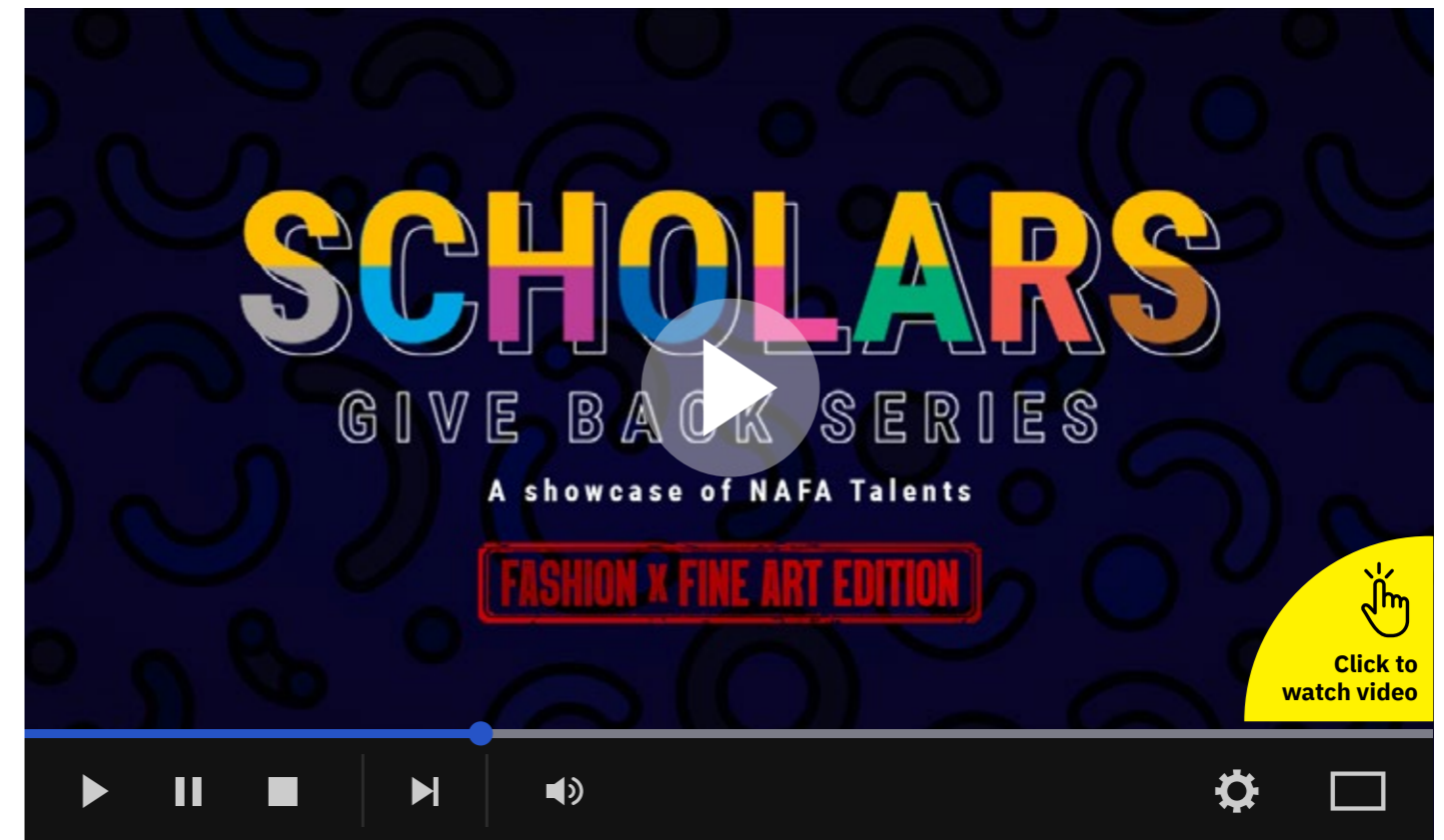
You can make that difference.

GIVING BACK

Donation of S\$230,000

Following Mr and Mrs Christopher Ho's generous donations in 2019 of S\$100,000 to organise the NAFA School of Young Talents—Christopher and Rosy Ho Music Competition, and S\$150,000 in 2020 for the purchase of a Steinway grand piano, the Junior Music Department received another donation of S\$230,000 in December 2021.

Part of 2021's contribution has gone towards the purchase of another Steinway piano, and a part has been set aside for full scholarships to be awarded to outstanding Junior Music students from 2022 to 2024. In appreciation of the donation, another studio accommodating the second Steinway piano has been named the Rose Recording Studio.



Scholars Give Back Series – Fashion x Fine Art Edition

After its resounding success in 2020, the Scholars Give Back Series returned for the second time in 2021. In the Fashion x Fine Art edition, the NAFA Fashion Studies alumni scholars were provided with an opportunity to pay it forward by using their talent to produce items inspired by the works of distinguished fine artists, with their creations sold to raise funds for the NAFA Education Fund.

Three NAFA alumni who had benefited from the Fund mentored the current scholars in this meaningful project. The mentors are award-winning fashion designers Max Tan, Jeremy Jiang Yong Joon and Xie Qianqian. Funds were raised through giving.sg and donors received the works of these teams as tokens of appreciation.



Xie Qianqian with artist Tay Bak Chiang and her end product—modular bag inspired by Tay's *Stone Series*



Jeremy Jiang with his unboxing guest, Carmen Ang, and his end products—tote bag and mask inspired by Anthony Poon's abstract paintings



Max Tan with his student mentees, Singh Vartika and Winnie Chongdiono, and his end product—jigsaw puzzle artwork inspired by Lim Tze Peng's calligraphy 聚

GIVE TO NAFA

Each of us can make a difference.
Together we create change.

For more than 80 years, NAFA has nurtured individual creative expression and inspired those who dare to dream. Our mission is to support talented individuals who lack the financial means but possess passion, ambition and the drive to excel. Every donation to NAFA makes a difference. Regardless of the amount, every contribution is an investment in Singapore's future creative talent so that:



Students can concentrate fully on their studies, without having to work part-time



Deserving students can receive an education despite financial limitations



NAFA can support more talented students

GIVING PROGRAMMES



Scholarships and Financial Awards to recognise students' achievements and help them cope with the cost of an arts education



Student Relief Fund to help full-time NAFA students whose families face sudden financial difficulties



NAFA Talent Development Programme to identify and groom talented students in their related fields of study



NAFA Development Fund to improve campus facilities for teaching and learning

BENEFITS OF GIVING



Tax deductible at 2.5 times your gift value



Opportunities for naming rights



Acknowledgment and recognition on NAFA's communication platforms



Eligible for government matching grants

MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Simply scan and donate. Key in **givetonafa** in the reference field. Should you require a tax deduction (for donations > S\$10), please provide your mobile number for us to get in touch with you.

Alternatively, let us help you to maximise the impact of your gift to NAFA! Have a chat with us at givetonafa@nafa.edu.sg or **6512 4016**. Together, we can nurture and inspire the next generation of creative talents and help deserving students realise their dreams.

OUR BENEFACTORS

DONOR APPRECIATION WORKSHOP (JAPANESE PASTEL NAGOMI ART)

NAFA is extremely grateful to our donors for their continued support and generous donations over the years. They have helped our young artistic talents to realise their dreams and make a positive impact on society.

To express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation, and to deepen the relationship between our donors and students, NAFA organised a Japanese Pastel Nagomi Art Workshop which was held on 3 December 2021. The donors who attended were each joined by one of their scholarship recipients.

Seated in a classroom, our donors reminisced about their times as students as they tried their hand at this art form involving techniques such as blending and reduction. It was heartwarming to see the students chatting away and interacting with their benefactors over a shared interest in the arts. Both the donors and our students thoroughly enjoyed the session and looked forward to more arts-related workshops.



Mr Tan Dib Jin from Tan Chay Bing Education Fund was having fun working on the artwork with scholar, Yap Fang Yi.



The participants listened attentively to the trainer, Ms Dawn Ng, as she explained the fundamentals of Nagomi Art.



From left: Mdm Pang Kok Lian, Ms Carol Tan, Mr Tan Dib Jin, Mr Daryl Tan and Ms Jessica Ong

Quotes from donors



“We enjoyed attending the Nagomi Art Workshop, where we experienced the innocent nature of meditative creation through paint and imagination. It reminded us of why we love and support the arts.”

Mr Tan Keng Leck, Vice Chairman of Tan Ean Kiam Foundation

“My wife, Tanya and I were thrilled to be able to support NAFA this year. It’s been clear to us that COVID-19 has had a strong adverse impact on the performing arts. It is imperative—now more than ever—that young talents in the performing arts feel supported, encouraged and empowered to pursue education and careers in these fields. We look forward to many years of scholarship recipients at NAFA refining their skills to become world-class performers.”

Mr Sriram Vaidhyanthan



“Giving to the needy has been my ethos from young. When I became a Christian, the teaching to help those in need was also clear. I believe that we are blessed to be a blessing. When my friend Carol Tan who works in NAFA shared with me the plight of some of the needy NAFA students, I was moved to help. I hope that the bursaries will go in some small way to ease the students’ burdens and they can concentrate on their studies without having to work part-time. It is my hope that they will pay it forward.”

Mdm Pang Kok Lian

Funds raised from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022

\$S\$1 million and above

The Ngee Ann Kongsi

\$S\$50,000 to \$S\$299,999

Ho Christopher Wing On
Singapore Totalisator Board
Tan Chay Bing Education Fund
Tan Chin Tuan Foundation
Tan Ean Kiam Foundation
TF IPC Limited

\$S\$10,000 to \$S\$49,999

Anonymous
D.S. Lee Foundation
Eric Tan
Gog Soon Joo
Hong Leong Foundation
Loh Jian Hao
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation Limited
Riverhub Pte Ltd
Sriram Vaidhyanthan
Tan Kwang Hwee
The Masonic Charitable Fund
United Overseas Bank Limited
Woon Brothers Foundation Pte Ltd

\$S\$1,000 to \$S\$9,999

Abitex Designs (S) Pte Ltd
Air Liquide Singapore Pte Ltd
Andras Kristof
Annabel Joanne Isaac
Anonymous
Aureus Group Pte Ltd
Ben Foods (S) Pte Ltd
Chay Yiowmin
Chen Hsing An Jessica
Chia Wei Khuan
Ching Kah Pick Lena
Choo Chiau Beng
Chua Chuan Leong Contractors Pte Ltd
Chua Yang
Co Susan Y
Desmond Poh Qi Pin
Essentially Strings
Firefly Pan-Asia Trading Pte Ltd
Forum of Fine Arts
Goh Toh Chai
Hoong Bee Lok
James Alexander Jen Tung Liu
James Koh Jyh Gang
Kan Shook Wah
Kenneth Eng Chwee Hock
Kevin Koh Rongsheng
Lee Tuck Wah, Philip
Lim Hung Choong Ernest
Lim Tee Heong
Logistics Construction Pte Ltd
Loh Ban Chye
Low Sin Leng
Mencast Holdings Ltd
Mitsubishi Electric Asia Pte Ltd

National Parks Board
Ng Hwee Leng Oscar
Ngee Cheng Electric Company Pte Ltd
Obgyn Consultants Pte Ltd
Ooi Choon Jin
Patricia Suor
Rigel Technology (S) Pte Ltd
Rohit Sobti
Ronald Choong
Samwoh Corporation Pte Ltd
Sato Kogyo (S) Pte Ltd
Seamaritime Agency Pte Ltd
Sembcorp Development Ltd
Sembcorp Specialised Construction Pte Ltd
Seow Hwai Khee
Shaojun Violin Shop
Simon Ong Chin Sim
Singapore Power Limited
Soh Wai Lan
Synwin Music Pte Ltd
Tan Ai Ling Eleanor
Tan Kay Seng Tommy
Tang Sheung Ching David
Teoh Leong Kay
Tiki International Enterprises Pte Ltd
Toh Hoon Meng Bernard
Tong Ming Xi Pte Ltd
Trivec Singapore Pte Ltd
World's Talents Pte Ltd
Yeo Soon Keong
Yong Kon Yoon
Zhao Feng

OUR SCHOLARS

As a result of generous gifts from our donors, more than S\$990,000 was given out in the form of scholarships, merit awards and bursaries to 195 worthy students in the Academic Year 2021/2022.

The following students received scholarships for their excellent academic performance.

Dare to Dream Scholarship (Diploma)

Ahbirami Shalini D/O Ramesh
Diploma in Graphic Communication

Choong Yan Yu Alicia
Diploma in Design (Interior and Exhibition)

Koh Rui Ling Christine
Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)

Leong Yoon Pin Scholarship (Degree)

Ho Sze En, Grace
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Yeo Zhe Qi
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Loh Jian Hao Scholarship (Degree)

Elston Tan Rui Xiang
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Loh Jian Hao Scholarship (Diploma)

Ang Zhi Yan
Diploma in Fine Art

Lucien Wang Scholarship (Degree)

Chew Kai Xin
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Jesselyne Onggie
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Lakanasirorat Thantakorn
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Yap Qin
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

NAFA Entry Scholarship (Degree)

Lauryn Beth Fernandez
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Lee Wen Xiang
Bachelor of Education (Honours) in Instrumental & Vocal Teaching

Lei Zheng
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Manmohan Agastya
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Nicole Theodora Prasetia
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Palaruan Jyanne Von Jagow Lagumen
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making

Shyamsundar Adithya
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Wee Yun Lin, Tricia
Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Arts Management

NAFA Music Scholarship (Degree)

Clarissa Amanda
Bachelor of Music (Honours)

NAFA Scholarship (Diploma)

Erlyn Alexander
Diploma in Music

Kamilia Azzara
Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture)

Kenzenza Michiko Hasan
Diploma in Fine Art

Li Sixian
Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama)

Livia Fin
Diploma in Illustration Design with Animation

Nur Amirah Binte Rohaizad
Diploma in Arts Management

Velda Emmeline Wijaya
Diploma in Graphic Communication

NAFA Scholarship for SOTA Students (Diploma)

Sophie Lim Yann Yu
Diploma in Dance

Tan Yu Xuan Valerie
Diploma in Dance

Cherie Genevieve Wong Qing Qing
Diploma in Dance

Neo Rui Zhi
Diploma in Music

NAFA Talent Scholarship (Diploma)

Liu Xiaomiao
Diploma in Music

Michelle Lim Qian Yee
Diploma in Music

Pratummes Naphaswan
Diploma in Dance

Custodio Pia Angela Paz
Diploma in Dance

OUR SCHOLARS

OCBC Local Undergraduate Scholarship

Koh En Kai, Johann

Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Tan Ting Yan, Rebecca

Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Tan Yun Qu

Bachelor of Music (Honours)

RCM Musical Excellence Award

Danielle Ong Min Lee

Bachelor of Music (Honours)

Tan Chay Bing Entry Scholarship (Diploma)

Catryn Anjanette

Diploma in Fashion Design

Desiree Chan

Diploma in Illustration Design with Animation

Nurul Huda Binte Hilmie

Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)

Wilson Timotius

Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)

Yap Fang Yi

Diploma in Music

Tan Chay Bing Scholarship (Diploma)

Arista Theodora Victoria

Suiwito

Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture)

Chen Chi

Diploma in Dance

Fong Zi Ying

Diploma in Music

Jason Rafael Archieta

Diploma in Design (Interior and Exhibition)

Jazzica Coco Lee Lin Zhuang

Diploma in Music

Koh Yu Jie

Diploma in Music

Vallenthalia Zefania Gracelly

Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture)

Tan Chin Tuan Scholarship for Creative Education (Degree)

Charlyn Chye Jing Yi

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Natalie Linn Titus

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making

Tan Chin Tuan Scholarship for Creative Education (Diploma)

Koh Yi Ling, Tizane

Diploma in Music

Nur Hidayah Binte Ruzman

Diploma in Advertising

Tan Ean Kiam Arts Scholarship (Diploma)

Loh Hui Xuan Nilia

Diploma in Graphic Communication

Nur Hasya Binte Norazip

Diploma in Design (Landscape and Architecture)

Shannen Sutanto

Diploma in Graphic Communication

Tan Ean Kiam Entry Arts Scholarship (Diploma)

Lin Huiyi Rachel

Diploma in Arts Management

Tey Yu Xi

Diploma in Graphic Communication

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship (Degree)

Beh Cui Shan Serene

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Indra Faridzuan Bin Runzi

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Kysha Ashreen Amir Singh

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Lim Wei Yin, Courtney Mae

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making

Muhammad Irfan Bin Zakariah

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

Nathasia Chin Shi Min

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making

Sarah Kwek Jing-Wen

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Siti Nur Syahadah Binte Ali

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Performance Making

Tammylyn Tuang Miao Xian

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Fine Art

Tan Meng Kai, Royson

Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Design Practice

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Scholarship (Diploma)

Anastasha Binte Muhammad

Irhan Perry Abdullah

Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)

Muhammad Amirul Mukminin

Bin Abdullah

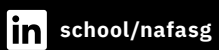
Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)

Nur Afiqah Binte Ahmad

Diploma in Arts Management

Sharifah Fatimah Aljunied

Diploma in Theatre (English Drama)



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