PAINTING THE FUTURE

The National Art Gallery, Singapore Annual Report FY2010

Contents

| Chairman's Message | 3 |
|---|----|
| About the National Art Gallery, Singapore | 5 |
| Board Members | 6 |
| Senior Management | 7 |
| Construction Milestones | 8 |
| Exhibitions and Programmes | 9 |
| Key Acquisitions | 12 |
| Key Donations | 14 |
| Local and International Collaborations | 16 |
| Publications | 17 |
| Acknowledgements | 19 |
| | |

Financial Statements

Chairman's Message

The past year has been an important one for the National Art Gallery, Singapore. In January 2011, we embarked on the construction of the Gallery, converting two well-loved national monuments, City Hall and the former Supreme Court, to Singapore's largest visual arts museum. After months of thorough consultations and discussions with our panel of experts, we appointed Takenaka – Singapore Piling Joint Venture as our project partner, working with Studio Milou and CPG Singapore.

Before we closed the buildings doors for construction, we wanted to give visitors the opportunity to experience the buildings before they began their transformation into the new Gallery. Over two weekends in October 2010, our Open House event attracted almost 40,000 visitors. Singaporeans and visitors of all ages came to take a final look at our buildings and participated in various events held to celebrate our future.

In the past year, the Gallery also organised several research exhibitions to experiment with new exhibition practices, layouts and programmes. These were aligned to our curatorial directions while evaluating the specific needs of our audiences. Exhibitions such as *Realism in Asian Art, The Story of Yeh Chi Wei* and *Cheong Soo Pieng: Bridging Worlds* helped us understand our visitors' desires in a way that enables the Gallery to enhance and develop better programmes for the future. This will continue in July 2011 with *Liu Kang: A Centennial Celebration,* an exhibition specially held to mark the centennial year of birth of the influential artist Liu Kang.

The Gallery continued to strengthen ties with established institutions and partners around the world. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with Fukuoka Art Museum in December 2010, facilitating the exchange of knowledge and museum collections. In the same thrust, the Gallery travelled 76 works by master Chinese painter Wu Guanzhong to the Zhejiang Art Museum in Hangzhou in November 2010 for a major retrospective of the late artist. We are honoured to have participated with eight other reputable art institutions in this milestone exhibition.

Ongoing efforts to strengthen the National Collection by acquiring key Southeast Asian artworks were also done. These important works help to augment current gaps in our collection, deepen our scholarship, and strengthen the storylines for our various galleries. They include Raden Saleh's *Wounded Lion*, Troung Be's *Rhythm of Secret-String* and FX Harsono's *Paling Top*.

To extend public interest in Singapore art, the Gallery has developed a range of publications catering to readers of all ages. Titles released in the past year include *Dreaming Art Series – Salted Fish, Cheong Soo Pieng Colouring Book, Realism in Asia: Volume One, The Story of Yeh Chi Wei* (two volumes), *Asian Artist Series – Cheong Soo Pieng: Visions of Southeast Asia,* and *Liu Kang: Essays on Art and Culture.*

We are encouraged by the generous support of our donors, sponsors and volunteers and we want to express our sincerest gratitude for their contributions. Without their support, many of our activities would not have been possible. In the past year, we have received donations of artworks and collections by significant local artists such as Cheong Soo Pieng, Chua Ek Kay and

Tan Oe Pang. These invaluable pieces add much value to our collection. Let me also express my sincere thanks to the 200 volunteers who gave their time for our Open House event.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the Gallery's progress and growth. Our focus now is to ensure that the content for our galleries are well developed and the building progress proceeds smoothly. We will also continue to collect and analyse public feedback through surveys and focus group discussions so that we can better cater to the needs of our audiences. Later this year, we will embark on a naming exercise to encourage the public to play a part in giving us a name that will be befitting of the Gallery.

There is a lot more to be done in anticipation of our opening in 2015, and we look forward to building a civic destination where people from all walks of life can enjoy, explore and engage with art.

Mr Koh Seow Chuan

Chairman

The National Art Gallery, Singapore

Corporate Profile



Artist's impression of the future National Art Gallery, Singapore.

The National Art Gallery, Singapore (working title) is a new visual arts institution which will contribute towards positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for visual arts. Managing the world's largest public collection of modern Southeast Asian and Singapore art, the Gallery focuses on displaying, promoting and researching these artworks, relating them to the wider Asian and international contexts, and hosting international art exhibitions.

Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the City Hall and adjacent former Supreme Court building - two important heritage buildings symbolic of Singapore's nationhood - will be converted to house this exciting new visual arts venue. Slated to officially open in 2015, the Gallery will be a leading civic and cultural destination established for the enrichment, enjoyment and engagement of Singapore residents and visitors from all over the world.

Occupying a total floor space of 60,000 square metres, the Gallery will house permanent and temporary galleries showcasing local, regional and international works of art, alongside specially-designed interactive and programming spaces. It will also feature an open rooftop plaza and garden offering spectacular views of the city, creative art installations, areas for mass appeal public programmes as well as restaurants and specialty retail shops to cater to visitors from all walks of life.

Board Members

In the past year, our Board Members played instrumental roles in steering the overall development and progress of the Gallery. Their contributions have made significant impact on the Gallery's work in various strategic and governance areas.



Mr Koh Seow Chuan Chairman Senior Consultant, DP Architects



Mr Michael Koh Member CEO, National Heritage Board and the National Art Gallery, Singapore



Mr Hsieh Fu Hua Member President & Executive Director, Temasek Holdings



Ms Jane Ittogi Member Partner, Shook Lin & Bok LLP



Mr Sim Gim Guan Member Deputy Secretary (Info & Corp Mgmt), Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts



Mr Ong Yew Huat Member Executive Chairman, Ernst &Young LLP



Mr Benson Puah Member CEO, National Arts Council

Senior Management



Mr Michael Koh Chief Executive Officer



Mr Chng Ho Kiat Chief Operating Officer



Mr Kwok Kian Chow Director



Ms Penny Chan Director Corporate Services



Ms Sushma Goh Director Projects, Exhibition Management & Operations



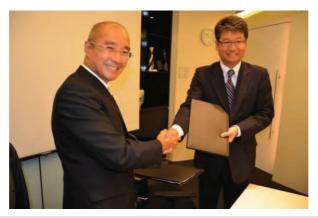
Mr Walter Lim Director Strategic Planning, Policy & Marketing



Ms Suenne Megan Tan Director Education, Programmes & Development

Our Construction Milestones

Appointment of Takenaka - Singapore Piling Joint Venture as Main Contractor



Mr Michael Koh (left), CEO of National Heritage Board and the National Art Gallery, Singapore and **Mr Masaru Chayama**, General Manager of Takenaka Corporation, representing the Takenaka – Singapore Piling Joint Venture at the tender signing ceremony. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

On 21 December 2010, the Gallery announced the appointment of Takenaka – Singapore Piling Joint Venture as the main construction contractor. The total development costs are estimated to be about \$\$530 million, and construction works on the building commenced in January 2011. With a predicted construction timeframe of about 44 months, the Gallery is slated to open officially in 2015.

Groundbreaking Ceremony



From left: **Mr Jean Francois**, Principal Architect, Studio Milou Architects; **Mr Michael Koh**, CEO of National Heritage Board and the National Art Gallery, Singapore; **Professor Tommy Koh**, Chairman, National Heritage Board; **Mr Lui Tuck Yew**, then Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts; **Mr Koh Seow Chuan**, Chairman of the National Art Gallery, Singapore; **Mr Toichi Takenaka**, President & CEO of Takenaka Corporation and **Mr Lee Soo Khoong**, Senior Vice President of CPG Consultants Pte Ltd. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

The National Art Gallery, Singapore officially broke ground at the former Supreme Court and City Hall buildings on 27 January 2011. This joyous occasion was witnessed by more than 200 guests, including members from the local art community, partners, the media and supporters.

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Lui Tuck Yew, then Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, led the symbolic sand shovelling ceremony. He was accompanied by key office bearers from the National Heritage Board, the National Art Gallery, Singapore, Takenaka-Singapore Piling Joint Venture, Studio Milou Architects, and CPG Consultants.

Our Exhibitions and Programmes

The National Art Gallery Open House



Celebrating the dawn of a new era – **Mr Lui Tuck Yew,** then Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, representatives of the Gallery, partners and artists posing at the City Hall steps. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

The public was given a rare chance to experience the grand City Hall and former Supreme Court buildings at a specially-organised Open House before their transformation into the new Gallery. Held over two weekends in October 2010, the event attracted close to 40,000 visitors. Over 160 guided tours, conducted in English, Mandarin, Japanese and Malay, were organised. Participants were offered a rare and exclusive glimpse into the buildings' unparalleled history and distinctive architecture as well as a sneak peek into the future Gallery spaces through a video flythrough and exhibition. To add to the festive air, a food bazaar, flea market, children interactive corner, and specially guided tours were conducted.

Realism in Asian Art 9 Apr to 4 Jul 2010



Guest-of-Honour, **Mr Lui Tuck Yew** (center), then Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts on a guided tour of the exhibition led by Senior Curator, Joyce Fan. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

Held in collaboration with the National Museum of Contemporary Art, Korea, this exhibition

explored the regional impact of Realism in the development of 20th century Asian art. Through the display of selected paintings from 10 Asian countries, *Realism in Asian Art* examined how this important art movement touched Asia, and wove together a fascinating tale of heroism, valour and hope. The exhibition was held in both Singapore and Korea, and helped the institution to extend its cultural footprint beyond our shores.

The Story of Yeh Chi Wei 28 May to 12 Sep 2010



Guest-of-Honour, **Mr Sam Tan**, then Parlimentary Secretary for Information, Communications and the Arts, at the exhibition opening ceremony. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

The *Story of Yeh Chi Wei* showcased and celebrated the life and works of Yeh Chi Wei - an important but relatively low-key Singapore artist. Considered an innovator who fused elements from both East and West, Yeh's works drew inspiration from a wide range of cultural sources, such as ancient Chinese rubbings, carvings and Javanese batik.

Cheong Soo Pieng: Bridging Worlds 16 Sep to 26 Dec 2010



A student art ambassador explaining an artwork to **Mr Lui Tuck Yew** (center), then Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

One of the most experimental and influential Southeast Asian artists of his generation, Cheong Soo Pieng produced works that pushed the boundaries of art-making throughout his lifetime. The exhibition featured an extensive display of more than 300 of his drawings, sketches

and artworks - many shown publicly for the first time. A specially constructed children's artist studio allowed both the young and the young at heart to learn more about art in a fun, hands-on manner.

Notable Acquisitions Exhibition 7 Dec 2010 to 27 Mar 2011



Notable Acquisitions Exhibition Series showcased works donated by generous individuals and organisations. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

Featuring an ongoing display of works from the museum's donation collection, this exhibition showcased works by Arthur Yap, Tay Chee Toh and Chia Wai Hon. These new works were added to the Gallery's permanent collection through the generous donations of individuals and corporations. Their generosity enabled the Gallery to broaden the scope of its collection and add to our mission of presenting the history of Singapore and Southeast Asian art.

Seeing the Kites Again 14 Dec 2009 to 2 May 2011



One of the many artworks on display – Wu Guanzhong, A Former Homestead 故宅, 1997, oil on canvas, 60 x 100 cm, collection of National Heritage Board. © The National Art Gallery, Singapore

Showcasing selected paintings from the Wu Guanzhong donation – the largest gift of artworks in the history of Singapore - *Seeing the Kites Again* is an exhibition inspired by Wu's metaphor of

the kite. Since the 1960s, Wu Guanzhong has produced a great number of works, based on his personal recollections. These works are centred on his home in the South of China, his childhood, as well as the villages and towns he has been to.

Key Acquisitions

Through our comprehensive collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian art from the 19th century to the present, the Gallery will present the development of Singaporean and regional cultures. These works tell the stories of our region's social, economic and political histories while strengthening the breadth and depth of our art historical narratives and practices. Highlighted below are selected artworks acquired in FY 2010.

Brother Joseph McNally - Untitled





Brother Joseph McNally (1923 – 2002, Ireland), Untitled, c. 1990s, cast bronze with blue patina, 68 x 18 X 18 cm, collection of National Heritage Board

Brother Joseph McNally (1923 – 2002, Ireland), Untitled, c. 1990s, wood and resin glass, 68 x 18 x 18 cm, collection of National Heritage Board

Brother Joseph McNally was one of Singapore's most versatile sculptor and an important art educator. As an artist, McNally tapped into various sources of mythology, religion and cultural practices taken from both his native country Ireland and his adopted country Singapore to forge a unique creative style. His practice spanned different media from wood, bronze, glass to ceramics. The National Art Gallery, Singapore acquired a group of 15 significant sculptures from the estate of the artist. This collection will form an important showcase of the best in the field of sculpture in Singapore.

FX Harsono – Paling Top



FX Harsono (b 1949, Indonesia, *Paling Top*, 1975 (re-created 2006), mixed media (gun, crate, paint), variable dimension, collection of National Heritage Board

FX Harsono is an Indonesian artist of Chinese descent. He studied at the Jakarta Institute of the Arts and has a body of works dealing with social problems. Harsono addressed what he saw as the urban and environmental issues important in Indonesia today, with expressions ranging from painting to performance art. *Paling Top* is an ambiguous yet clever play of materials and text. It suggests the military's continuing dominance and influence in Indonesian politics during the period.

Panya Vijinthanasarn – Dimension of Life



Panya Vijinthanasarn (b 1956, Thailand), *Dimension of Life*, 2008, acrylic on canvas, 200 x 1800 cm (12 panels), collection of National Heritage Board

Dimension of Life is a colossal 12-panel painting of Thai artist, Panya Vijinthanasarn, working with a team of 10 artisans. The largest painting of the artist to date, it can be displayed both vertically and horizontally. This visually spectacular "tour de force" painting was accomplished with a team of 10 artisans under the supervision of the acclaimed artist.

Key Donations

Donations enable the Gallery to broaden its holdings on each artist while strengthening future research into the development of the different art forms and practices in Singapore.

The Gallery would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals and organisations who have contributed to our cause. Selected donations are highlighted in the section below.

Family of Chua Ek Kay



Chua Ek Kay, Supreme Court, c. 1980s, ink and colour on rice paper, 99 x 92 cm, collection of National Heritage Board

In 2010, the family of the late Chua Ek Kay donated a group of 13 artworks by the artist to the Gallery in accordance with the artist's wishes. Chua Ek Kay is one of Singapore's foremost contemporary Chinese ink painters and recipient of the 1999 Cultural Medallion Award. He is recognised by many for his distinctive, expressive and abstract works in Chinese ink painting. This group of works spanned the artist's stylistic repertoire, and consisted of both the artist's signature pieces and early period works.

Mr Chan Kok Hua

Mr Chan Kok Hua is a major local collector specialising in modern and contemporary ink painting and calligraphy. In 2010, Mr Chan donated a total of 10 artworks to the National Art Gallery, Singapore. His generous donation consisted of ink paintings by significant Singapore artists Chen Wen Hsi, Chen Chong Swee, Fan Chang Tien, Huang Pao Fang and David Kwo. The donation also included calligraphy works by Pan Shou, Venerable Song Nian and Tan Swie Hian.

Dr George Quek



Tan Oe Pang, Pond of Fishes, 2000, ink and colour on rice paper, 52 x 233 cm, collection of National Heritage Board

A long time supporter of the arts, Dr George Quek's donation to the National Art Gallery, Singapore in 2010 consisted of 20 works by established Singapore ink artist, Tan Oe Pang. Tan is a celebrated ink painter in Singapore and is recognised for his creative fusion of the traditional ink medium and brushwork with boldness of contemporary expression.

Anonymous donations



Cheong Soo Pieng, Untitled (Puppet Show), undated, pen on paper, collection of National Heritage Board

A donation was received from four anonymous donors comprising 1,280 paper works by established early Singapore artist, Cheong Soo Pieng. Works from this donation, completed between 1940s – 70s, are important documentations of the developments of our society. These sketches allowed further research into the development of the artist and provided an insight into his thought processes through the preparatory sketches that recorded the changing landscape of Southeast Asia.

Local and International Collaborations

Singapore Youth Festival, Art and Crafts Exhibition 2010



Guest-of-Honour **Mr Masagos Zulkifli** (center), then Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Education and Home Affairs, at the galleries in Singapore Art Museum. *Photograph by courtesy of Ministry of Education.*

The National Art Gallery, Singapore, together with the Ministry of Education, organised the *Singapore Youth Festival, Art and Crafts Exhibition 2010*. With the theme of 'Torch of Friendship', 52 selected works by secondary and junior college students in varied art media such as paintings, ceramics, photography and animation were displayed in the Singapore Art Museum.



East Meets West: Wu Guanzhong at Zhejiang Art Museum

Son of Mr Wu Guanzhong, **Mr Wu Ke Yu** at the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

In a show of solidarity with the regional community of Asian Art museums, the National Art Gallery, Singapore loaned 76 specially selected works by the late master Chinese painter Wu Guanzhong to the Zhejiang Art Museum in Hangzhou. China. Titled *East Meets West – The Exhibition of Wu Guangzhong's Paintings*, it added to the total of 307 artworks by Wu that were showcased. Singapore's contribution of works was the second largest amongst the other eight regional participating art institutions.

Publications

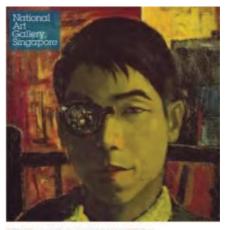
LIU KANG ENAME OF ANY & DULESEE

Liu Kang: Essays on Art and Culture

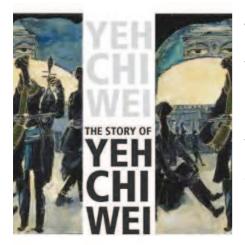
Liu Kang: Essays on Art and Culture is a collection of essays, which Liu Kang wrote over 44 years. The essays offer an insight into the artist's myriad interests: interior design, music, literature, dance, photography, medical science, and the visual arts.

Realism in Asia: Volume One

The six essays in this volume explore the manifestations of realism in Asian art, relating this art of description to issues of colonialism, world and civil wars, nation building, religion and contemporary culture in Asia.



REALISM IN ASIAN ART



The Story of Yeh Chi Wei (2 Volumes)

The essays in both volumes provide insights on Yeh Chi Wei's artistic practice, the influence of diverse cultural and historical resources in his paintings, and his legacy.

They include newly-commissioned essays as well as reproduced historical publications, including eight essays by Yeh Chi Wei himself (written and published between 1960 and 1972) and all past Ten Men catalogues.

Asian Artist Series – Cheong Soo Pieng: Visions of Southeast Asia

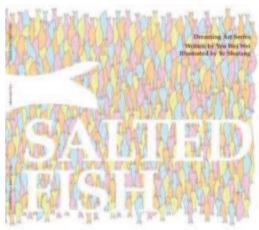
This book is the first of its kind on Cheong Soo Pieng. The chapters include a wealth of personal photographs as well as the latest research on the artist. Its pictures of recently unearthed drawings, sketches, watercolours and woodcut prints shed further light on Soo Pieng's personal philosophy and artistic ambitions.

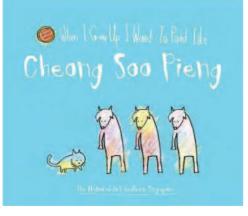


Dreaming Art Series – Salted Fish

Salted Fish is the first title in the Dreaming Art Series where iconic works by Singaporean artists are featured in original stories with accompanying illustrations.

In this title, Lynn visits the National Art Gallery for the first time with her favourite toy Cotton Bunny. They embarked on a journey that they will never forget; a journey where art, memory, and the present meet.





Cheong Soo Pieng Colouring Book

The first title in the series, this colouring and activity book for children aged 4 and above allows children to create new works of art as they learn about one of Singapore's pioneer artists, Cheong Soo Pieng.

Acknowledgements

The National Art Gallery, Singapore would like to thank the following sponsors and artefact donors for their warm generosity and kind support to the Gallery.

Cash Donors (S\$10,000 and above)

BSI Bank Limited Lee Foundation Lee Kim Tah Holdings Limited National Heritage Board MCC

Artwork/Artefact Donors (S\$10,000 and above)

Anonymous Mr Chan Kok Hua Ms Cheong Leng Guat Mr Chia Wai Hon Mr Francis Loo Dr George Quek Meng Tong Ms Jenny Yap, Ms Alice Yap and Ms Fanny Yap Mr Koh Seow Chuan Ministry of Information, Communication and the Arts Mdm Nancy Wong Mr Tan Oe Pang Mr Tan Oe Pang Mr Tay Chee Toh United World College Southeast Asia Mr William Hsiong Mdm Yeo Yang Kwee

In-Kind Donors (S\$10,000 and above)

Nanyang Polytechnic Rhema Events and Arts Services Studio Milou The Press Room