



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **NUS and National Gallery Singapore collaborate in new Minor in Art History to groom young arts professionals**

#### ***Lessons to be co-taught by practising curators; Internship opportunities with art galleries and museums***

*Singapore, 8 April 2017* – Students at the National University of Singapore (NUS) will now have the opportunity to discover what goes into the making of a national gallery, attend classes within museum galleries, and also go behind the scenes of curating an art exhibition. These activities will form part of the curriculum of a new Minor in Art History programme that is jointly offered by the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and National Gallery Singapore, in which students could gain an in-depth knowledge in Art History. This programme, which is offered by the NUS Department of History and supported by NUS Museum, will be taught by NUS faculty and practising curators. The Minor is open to all NUS students.

Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, launched the new programme today at National Gallery Singapore, together with Professor Robbie Goh, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and Dr Eugene Tan, Director, National Gallery Singapore.

Prof Robbie Goh, Dean of the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, said, "Singapore's arts and culture sector continues to grow as more people show greater appreciation for the arts. Our new Minor in Art History contributes towards Singapore's plan to transform the nation into a distinctive global city for the arts, by grooming young arts scholars, professionals, audiences and custodians of world heritage. We are delighted to partner National Gallery Singapore, which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia, in offering this unique programme. NUS students will benefit greatly by picking up industry knowledge and skills from professional curators from the Gallery. In addition, students could also choose to do internships at the Gallery and other state-of-the-art museums in Singapore to gain practical work experience."

"The Gallery is focused on furthering the understanding of Singapore and Southeast Asian art histories through education, scholarship and research. We were pleased that NUS shares our dedication in promoting art history as a field of study and research when we first proposed this idea to them. In addition to having NUS modules related to art and visual culture recognised as part of this programme, our curators have also been working closely with NUS to develop new electives related to their expertise in Southeast Asian art history, as well as modern and contemporary art. We look forward to cultivate the next generation of art historians, trained in

the region and committed to furthering the understanding of our art,” said Dr Eugene Tan, Director, National Gallery Singapore.

### **Art history: Interpreting arts and heritage**

Introduced in January this year, the new Minor in Art History programme is designed to help students cultivate the analytical skills to interpret a wide range of arts and heritage: from painting, sculpture and architecture to contemporary installation art. The programme aims to prepare students for a specialist or managerial career in universities, museums, heritage spaces, statutory boards which engage with arts and culture, art galleries, and auction houses.

Students who declare Art History as a Minor will have to read a minimum of six modules. These students could choose to read interesting modules such as “Collecting Art in Europe and Asia”, “Empire and Art in India, Singapore and Malaya” and “Time Traveller: The Curatorial in SEA”. Students will also be exposed to many different types of Art spanning across different cultures and eras, such as Japanese woodblock prints, visual arts of China, poetry, painting and photography, as well as the more modern digital culture and art.

*More information on the Minor in Art History can be found at [http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/oop/ah/ah\\_index.htm](http://www.fas.nus.edu.sg/oop/ah/ah_index.htm).*

### **Experts discuss pitfalls and potentialities of Art History in Asia**

In conjunction with the launch of the new programme, NUS and National Gallery Singapore organised a panel discussion titled “Does Art History Matter?”. Distinguished speakers with rich experience in art practice, art history and curatorship – namely Ms Aimee Lin, Art critic, Co-founder and Editor, ArtReview Asia; Ms Mami Kataoka, Chief Curator, Mori Art Museum; Mr Tan Guo-Liang, Artist; – shared insights on the application and teaching of art history, and its pitfalls and potentialities in Asia. The discussion was moderated by Dr Eugene Tan.

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### **About National University of Singapore (NUS)**

A leading global university centred in Asia, the National University of Singapore (NUS) is Singapore’s flagship university, which offers a global approach to education and research, with a focus on Asian perspectives and expertise.

NUS has 17 faculties and schools across three campuses. Its transformative education includes a broad-based curriculum underscored by multi-disciplinary courses and cross-

faculty enrichment. Over 38,000 students from 100 countries enrich the community with their diverse social and cultural perspectives.

NUS has three Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) and 30 university-level research institutes and centres. It is also a partner in Singapore's fifth RCE. The University has established many research partnerships and joint laboratories with academic institutions, industry leaders and government agencies. Research activities are strategic and robust, and NUS is well-known for its research strengths in engineering, life sciences and biomedicine, social sciences and natural sciences. The University also strives to create a supportive and innovative environment to promote creative enterprise within its community.

For more information on NUS, please visit [www.nus.edu.sg](http://www.nus.edu.sg).

## **About National Gallery Singapore**

### Unveiling Modern Singapore and Southeast Asian Art

National Gallery Singapore is a visual arts institution which oversees the largest public collection of modern art in Singapore and Southeast Asia. Situated in the heart of the Civic District, the Gallery is housed in two national monuments—City Hall and former Supreme Court—that have been beautifully restored and transformed into this exciting venue.

Reflecting Singapore's unique heritage and geographical location, the Gallery features Singapore and Southeast Asian art from Singapore's National Collection in its long-term and special exhibitions. The Gallery also works with international museums to jointly present Southeast Asian art in the global context, positioning Singapore as a regional and international hub for the visual arts.

In 2016, the Gallery won the awards for "Best Attraction Experience", "Breakthrough Contribution to Tourism" and "Best Customer Service (Attractions)" at the prestigious Singapore Tourism Awards for its role in adding to the vibrancy of Singapore's tourism landscape.

For more information on the Gallery, please visit [www.nationalgallery.sg](http://www.nationalgallery.sg).