

Annex B: *He Xiangning: Ink and Intent* Curatorial Programmes

Exhibition Programmes	
Activities	
Learning Station	
Date & Time:	1 April 2026 to 23 August 2026 10am – 7pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery
Admission Details:	A General Admission ticket is required for this programme
Description:	Discover the artistic world of He Xiangning at our interactive learning station. Select a poetry card featuring her verses, personalise it with stamps inspired by her signature motifs, and add your own reflections through writing or drawing. You are invited to take your creation home as a keepsake or display it on our community wall to contribute to a shared gallery of creative expression.
Slow Art with Friends (Self-Guided)	
Date & Time:	1 April 2026 to 23 August 2026 10am – 7pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery
Admission Details:	A General Admission ticket is required for this programme
Description:	Inspired by He Xiangning's art and life, <i>Slow Art with Friends</i> offers three engaging activities designed to make your museum visit fun and enjoyable. Each activity contains exercises in slow looking, a practice that encourages you to look a little longer at art. Pick up the booklet and a pencil at various visitor info counters or reach out to our friendly Front-of-House staff for assistance. Booklets are available in English and Mandarin.
Slow Art with Friends (Guided)	
Date & Time:	Saturday, 30 May 2026 English: 1pm – 2pm Mandarin: 3pm – 4pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery
Admission Details:	\$8 per pax, a General Admission ticket is required for this programme

<p>Description:</p>	<p>Slow Art with Friends offers a refreshing take on your regular guided museum experience. In this group experience, facilitators will guide you through activities inspired by He Xiangning’s art and life. Each activity contains an exercise in “slow looking”, a practice that encourages you to look a little longer at art.</p> <p>Come alone or bring your friends and family to join in the activities and make new friends. For a richer, more immersive experience, we encourage you to actively listen, share and embrace new perspectives.</p> <p>This is an interactive programme for anyone interested in exploring a different type of art engagement. No prior knowledge of art is required. Suitable for ages 13 and above.</p>
<p>Tours and Opening Lecture</p>	
<p>Curator Tour</p>	
<p>Date & Time:</p>	<p>Friday, 15 May 2026 7.30pm</p>
<p>Venue:</p>	<p>City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery</p>
<p>Admission Details:</p>	<p>Standard: \$45 Concession: \$40</p>
<p>Description:</p>	<p>Led by Curator Lim Shujuan, this special evening tour will offer an in-depth exploration of the artistic and ideological world of He Xiangning. A pioneering woman artist, she was also a social activist who used artistic expression to convey ideas of resilience, solidarity and women’s agency.</p> <p>Moving through the exhibition, we will consider how her recurring motifs, plum blossoms, lions and tigers, speak both to personal fortitude and to a nation in transformation. Situating her works within the political upheavals of modern China, this tour invites you to reflect on the entanglement of art and social ideas. Through close reading of her paintings, poems, calligraphies and archival materials, we will trace how ink morphs into intent — and how art becomes testimony to a turbulent age.</p> <p>*Please note that this curator tour will be delivered in English and take place after exhibition opening hours.</p>

	<p>**In addition to the tour, you will also receive two all-access passes valid for 3 months (worth \$30 for Singaporeans/PRs, \$60 for Other Nationalities)</p> <p>About the Curator: Lim Shujuan is Curator at National Gallery Singapore. Her research interests include early 20th century visual culture and art. Exhibitions that she has (co)curated included Tchang Ju Chi: Tireless Camel; Georgette Chen: At Home in the World (2020; 2025) and Chua Mia Tee: Directing the Real.</p>
Opening Lecture	
Date & Time:	Saturday, 11 July 2026 2pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level B1, The Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium
Admission Details:	Free Admission
Description:	<p>He Xiangning was a leading figure in modern China, recognised as a social activist and artist. A member of the <i>Tongmenghui</i>, she was also among the earliest Chinese women artists to study overseas. Through sustained practice, she developed a distinctive painting style. Beyond personal enjoyment, she spent her life actively engaging in social and political causes through art, advocating for women’s rights.</p> <p>Her paintings primarily feature subjects such as plum blossoms, lions and landscapes. In her time, motifs such as lions and tigers were widely used by male artists, including Gao Jianfu, Chen Shuren and Xu Beihong, for their symbolic and allegorical meanings. Among women painters, He Xiangning is a notable exception in exploring these subjects. Why did she gravitate toward such subjects? What do these imageries reflect the historical context and spirit of her era? Held in conjunction with the exhibition <i>He Xiangning: Ink & Intent</i>, this opening lecture by scholar Hua Tianxue will trace He Xiangning’s artistic career, analyse the symbolic significance of her major works and situate her contributions within the broader cultural landscape of her time.</p> <p>About the Speaker:</p>

	<p>Hua Tianxue is Director of the Theory Research Office at the Institute of Fine Arts Research at Chinese National Academy of Arts as well as Research Fellow and MA/PhD supervisor at the Graduate School of the Chinese National Academy of Arts. She is specialised in modern and contemporary Chinese art history and has curated related scholarly exhibitions. Her major publications include Zhou Sicong, Xu Beihong's Reform of Chinese Painting, Collected Essays on Xu Beihong and The Writings and Paintings of Xu Beihong.</p>
Performances and Workshops	
Drawn To Strings: Music Performance	
Date & Time:	Thursday, 30 May 2026 2.30pm and 4pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery and City Hall Foyer
Admission Details:	For more details, please visit https://www.nationalgallery.sg/sg/en/exhibitions/He-Xiangning-Ink-Intent.html
Description:	<p>Drawing upon shared Southeast Asian histories through the artist's life and artistic experiences, this music performance reimagines the journey and thriving artistic scenes in the region during the artist's travel to Singapore, Penang and the Philippines.</p> <p>With a special focus on the section, "The Friends of Winter by the shores of White Horse Lake", this performance will bring together traditional and contemporary sounds, reflecting artist He Xiangning's practice of traditional forms in new ways, and highlighting how artistic practices can evolve through exchange and reinterpretation, akin to the Ling Nan School Art movement.</p>
Drawn To Strings: Music Soundscape	
Date & Time:	Saturday, 27 June 2026 Saturday, 18 July 2026 2pm – 4pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 4, Wu Guanzhong Gallery
Admission Details:	A General Admission ticket is required for this programme

Description:	Recordings from the Drawn To Strings: Music Performance will be looped it in the space.
Ink and Intention: Chinese Ink Workshop	
Date & Time:	Saturday, 18 July 2026 10am – 1pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 5, Rooftop Studios
Admission Details:	For more details, please visit https://www.nationalgallery.sg/sg/en/exhibitions/He-Xiangning-Ink-Intent.html
Description:	This workshop introduces participants to Chinese ink painting through the motifs central to He Xiangning's work: flowers, animals, and landscapes. Participants practice basic brush techniques and create their own compositions, engaging with the symbolic meaning and expressive spirit behind her art.
Seal the Moment: Seal Engravement Workshop	
Date & Time:	Saturday, 15 August 2026 3pm – 6pm
Venue:	City Hall Wing, Level 5, Rooftop Studios
Admission Details:	For more details, please visit https://www.nationalgallery.sg/sg/en/exhibitions/He-Xiangning-Ink-Intent.html
Description:	Seals are a fundamental element of Chinese painting, marking the artist's presence and completing each work with a signature of identity. Similarly, most of He Xiangning's work has Chinese seals on them – establishing her identity, authority and as an artist. In this hands-on workshop, participants explore this tradition by creating their own personal seal with their own name, or even inspired by flowers, animals, and landscapes, motifs frequently found in He Xiangning's Chinese ink painting.