



NATIONAL GALLERY SINGAPORE



「DALAM COLLECTION」

6 JUN -
16 NOV 2025

Where Ink Tides Meet



THE NGEE ANN KONGSI CONCOURSE GALLERY

nationalgallery.sg/WhereInkTidesMeet

LET Art SURPRISE YOU

DALAM COLLECTION

Dalam Collection is National Gallery Singapore's new exhibition series spotlighting the research, acquisitions, and curatorial decisions that define the Gallery's collection.

Staged whenever a fresh facet of the collection emerges, each instalment offers an intimate, occasionally playful look at the unfolding narratives behind the works, and invites visitors to reconsider how collections are formed, interpreted, and experienced.

This exhibition is in English, with room sheets in 中文, Bahasa Melayu, and தமிழ்.

ON COVER

Chen Jen Hao. Detail of *Who Wakes Up First from the Dream*. 1943. Ink and colour on paper, 28.5 × 53 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.



Where Ink Tides Meet showcases over 50 recent acquisitions and other ink works from Singapore and Southeast Asia, exploring the transformation of ink as a medium across generations and borders. Building on the Gallery's ongoing research into ink, the exhibition examines how artists continue to reinterpret ink through new forms and cultural contexts.

Divided into three sections, the exhibition begins with Revival, where artists reconnect with past traditions. Encounter considers the intersections of diverse ink traditions, highlighting Singapore's role as a meeting point for artistic and cultural exchange, while Nexus draws these threads together, showing ink as a medium of connection—between histories, styles, and ideas.

Far from static, ink emerges here as fluid and evolving, its meanings expanded through dialogue and experimentation. *Where Ink Tides Meet* invites visitors to reflect on ink's enduring relevance and its capacity to bridge the past, present, and future.

nationalgallery.sg/WhereInkTidesMeet



Latiff Mohidin. *Guilin (11)*. 1990.
Ink and watercolour on paper,
23.5 × 34.5 cm. Gift of the YLY Collection.
Collection of Singapore Art Museum.



Revival

Examines how artists in Singapore reconnected with their cultural roots through ink painting—preserving tradition while reinterpreting it for new contexts. Featuring overlooked figures from the 19th century onwards, this section sheds light on the diverse ways artists have used ink as a medium of expression, cultural identity, and artistic renewal.

Chen Jen Hao. *Who Wakes Up First from the Dream*. 1943. Ink and colour on paper, 28.5 × 53 cm. Collection of National Gallery Singapore.



Hong Zhu An. *Idle Thoughts*. 2022.
Ink and colour on rice paper,
144 × 145.5 cm. Gift of the artist.
Collection of National Gallery Singapore.

3. Nexus

Nexus

Explores how ink art connects cultures, histories, and ideas across time. In Southeast Asia, artists exposed to diverse strands of modernism—and with varied entry points into ink—have expanded the breadth of new visual languages. Their works reveal ink as a living, evolving practice shaped by exchange, hybridity, and reinvention.

1. Revival

2. Encounter

Encounter

Highlights how artistic exchanges in and beyond Singapore shaped the development of modern ink art. Through exhibitions, networks, and the generosity of collectors, works by 20th-century Chinese ink modernists found new resonance in Southeast Asia. These cross-cultural encounters reveal how ink art evolves—where boundaries blur, traditions are reinterpreted, and new meanings take shape.



Guan Shanyue.
[Not titled] (*An Indian Lady and Tropical Trees*). 1947.
Ink and colour on paper,
140 × 35 cm. Collection of
National Gallery Singapore.

E-PUBLICATION

This booklet accompanies *Where Ink Tides Meet*, the inaugural exhibition in National Gallery Singapore's Dalam Collection series. Alongside a selection of plates, it includes a curatorial essay that traces how artists—through cross-cultural exchange, material experimentation, and personal expression—have forged new visual languages that expand the possibilities of ink beyond convention.



SCAN TO ACCESS
FREE E-PUBLICATION

PROGRAMMES

In conjunction with the exhibition, we are bringing together a variety of discussions, tours, and artist talks for you to unpack and connect with its key ideas, artworks, and artists. For more information about the programmes, please visit nationalgallery.sg/WhereInkTidesMeet

TOURS

Register for free at our Tours & Programmes Counter,
City Hall Wing, Level 1

English | Sat–Sun | 11.30am

Mandarin | Sat–Sun | 3pm

Curator Tour | Sun 22 Jun | 3pm

JOIN US

Unlock the world of art with National Gallery Singapore membership. When you become an Insider, you can enjoy benefits such as free exhibition access, complimentary two-hour daily parking, dining and shopping discounts, and more! Join a vibrant community of art enthusiasts and elevate your art experience.



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MORE INFO

SUPPORT US

As a registered Charity and an Institute of Public Character, National Gallery Singapore relies on your support to build collections, engage in research, develop programmes, and bring art to everyone.



SCAN TO
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AN ACCESSIBLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL

The Gallery is committed to creating an inclusive experience that can be enjoyed by visitors with access needs.



SCAN FOR
ACCESS GUIDE

OPENING HOURS

Daily 10am–7pm

General ticket sales end
30 minutes before closing time.

ENQUIRIES

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nationalgallery.sg



NationalGallerySingapore



NatGallerySG



新加坡国家美术馆

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