

南洋藝術學院

六十周年紀念



60th Anniversary



南洋藝術學院
NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS
Established Since 1938



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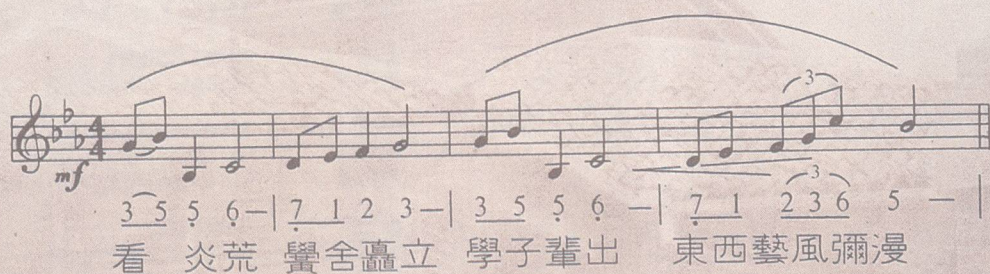
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校歌

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林學大詞
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任务

发展南洋艺术学院，使之成为世界级的优秀艺术学府。

宗旨：

- 一． 提供专业性训练，培养我们富有天资与潜能的新一代，使之在美术，音乐，舞蹈与戏剧方面，有卓越的表现。
- 二． 沟通东西方的艺术，并强调促进东方文化。
- 三． 综合不同种族社群文化，使之揉合成为新加坡文化。
- 四． 促成南洋风格的艺术形式，使之反映本区域的艺术特色。
- 五． 促进艺术家们的科学精神与社会意识。

MISSION STATEMENT

To develop NAFA into a world class full-fledged art institution.

Objectives:

1. To provide professional training to our talented youth in order to develop their artistic and creative potential to the fullest so as to achieve excellence in the field of art, music, dance and drama
2. To bridge the arts of the East and the West, with emphasis on the promotion of oriental culture
3. To integrate the cultural differences of each of the ethnic groups to form the basis of Singapore culture
4. To promote the Nanyang style of artistic presentation in order to reflect the tropical nature of our region
5. To promote scientific spirit and social conscience among the artists

献词

MESSAGES

HE Ong Teng Cheong

President, Republic of Singapore

BG George Yong-Boon Yeo

Minister for Information & the Arts and
2nd Minister for Trade & Industry

Mr Peter Chen Min Liang

Senior Minister of State
Ministry of Education

Prof. Tommy Koh

Ambassador-At-Large
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Dr Tan Chin Nam

PS Ministry of Manpower
Chairman, Committee for Upgrading of
LaSalle & NAFA

Mr Liu Thai Ker

Chairman
National Arts Council

Mr Chng Heng Tiu

Chairman
Board of Directors NAFA

Mr Ho Kah Leong

Principal
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Mr Song Chwee Him

Adviser
NAFA Alumni Association



王鼎昌总统

HE Ong Teng Cheong

President

Republic of Singapore

The 60th Anniversary of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) is a cause for celebration.

NAFA has been a driving force in the development of the visual arts scene in Singapore. Its solid foundation for art training was built and strengthened between the 1930s to the 1950s by pioneer artists and teachers such as Cheong Soo Pieng, Chen Jen Hao, Huang Pao Fang, See Hiang To, Georgette Chen, and Chen Wen Hsi. They were key players in creating the unique 'Nanyang' style of painting in the region. Since then, NAFA has nurtured three generations of artists who are among the finest in Singapore and the region. These include senior artists like Thomas Yeo and Ng Eng Teng and younger ones like Goh Ee Choo and Chandrasekaran.

It is NAFA's indomitable spirit of perseverance, self-reliance and dedication, and its total commitment to the arts cause that have distinguished NAFA as a leading arts institution in Singapore today. These qualities have enabled NAFA to weather difficult times in its history, and to continually keep pace with changing needs and

trends. Today, NAFA stands not only as an excellent training institution for the visual arts, but also for the performing arts.

The achievements of NAFA have not gone unnoticed by the Government. Over the last decade, government assistance in the form of financial and housing support has helped accommodate and accelerate NAFA's growth. The Government's decision in 1997 to raise the status of NAFA will have profound implications for the development of NAFA well into the next millennium.

It is an exciting time ahead for NAFA. I wish to congratulate NAFA for its outstanding achievements in the nurturing of artists in Singapore. I also extend my warmest wishes to NAFA in its quest to become a beacon of the arts in this region.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of fluid, connected loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ong Teng Cheong

President

Republic of Singapore



杨荣文准将
新闻与艺术部长

BG George Yeo

Minister for Information and the Arts

My heartiest congratulations to the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) on its 60th Anniversary.

For many years, NAFA was the only arts training institution in Singapore. It grew as an independent organisation supported by the local community without funding by the old colonial government. NAFA has played a critical role in nurturing three generations of artists in Singapore. NAFA graduates now contribute actively to the artistic life of Singapore, many in full-time creative professions.

We need the arts to help Singapore in its next lap of development. The arts strengthen our society and sharpen our competitive edge. In recognition of this, the Government will provide stronger support to NAFA and help develop it into a full-fledged tertiary institution in the 21st century.

However, it is also vital for NAFA to preserve and deepen its tradition of self-reliance and community support. Government support should strengthen the creative independence of NAFA, not weaken it.

I wish NAFA every success in all its endeavours.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Yeo'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

George Yeo

Minister for Information and the Arts



陈敏良先生

教育部高级政务部长

南洋艺术学院赞助人

Mr Peter Chen

Senior Minister of State for Education

Patron of NAFA

I would like to congratulate the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) on its 60th anniversary celebrations. When its founder Principal, the late Mr. Lim Hak Tai, led a team of artists and educationists to form NAFA in 1938, it had an enrolment of only 14 students. Today, its full-time and part-time enrolment stand at more than 1,200 and 1,600 students respectively.

NAFA has played a key role in producing and developing artists for Singapore. Its unique ability to integrate the arts of the East and West has given it a mark of distinction. NAFA's importance as an arts institution will grow even more in the years ahead.

As Singapore strives to be a creative and dynamic nation, the need and opportunity for arts development will increase. As a renaissance city of economic and cultural vibrancy, Singapore will look to its artistic talents to build a creative business industry and thriving global city of the arts.

It is with this objective in mind that the Government has set up a committee to upgrade both NAFA and also the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts. The two institutions will

be upgraded into internationally renowned centres of artistic excellence which can contribute to the development of the arts in Singapore, enhance the competitiveness of our economy and extend the range of career options available to Singaporeans.

Therefore, even as NAFA looks back at its own achievements of the last 6 decades, it can look forward optimistically to the exciting challenges that await it. NAFA will no doubt build upon its strengths, especially in the visual arts, to remain in the forefront of the development of the arts in Singapore.

I wish NAFA every success in its future endeavor.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Chen', followed by a long horizontal line.

Peter Chen

Senior Minister of State for Education

Patron of NAFA



许通美教授
外交部巡回大使
亚欧基金执行董事
Prof. Tommy Koh
Ambassador-At-Large,
Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation

I wish to thank my good friend, Mr Ho Kah Leong, the Principal of NAFA, for inviting me to contribute a message to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Academy.

I have known NAFA since my student days. My family's home was not far from NAFA's campus at St. Thomas Walk. On several occasions, I had walked to visit the Academy, to look at the studios and to watch the students doing their work. I had always been interested in art but did not think I had any artistic talent. I wish I had plucked up the courage to take some classes at NAFA in my youth!

NAFA has every reason to be proud of its history. It began 60 years ago, in a shop house in Geylang, with only 14 students. Until recently, it received no support from the State. On the contrary, it struggled for survival in an environment which did not appreciate art and had little respect for artists. It is not an exaggeration to say that there would be no Singapore art today if there had been no NAFA.

Over the last 60 years, NAFA has expanded in size, in the range of its courses and the diversity of its student body. Although strongly anchored

in Chinese culture, the Academy has, in recent years, become increasingly cosmopolitan. For example, its student body includes Malays, Indians and Caucasians.

What are the future challenges of NAFA?

First, it is to raise the quality of its faculty and student body. Second, it is to strengthen its financial foundation. Third, it is to find and build a new and modern campus.

I believe that NAFA has a bright future. I believe that NAFA will rise to its challenges. I believe that NAFA will continue to contribute to the cultural development of Singapore and to the cultural renaissance of East Asia.

Happy Birthday!

Prof. Tommy Koh
Ambassador-At-Large,
Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation



陈振南博士
人力部常任秘书
提升拉萨尔南艺委员会主席
Dr Tan Chin Nam
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower
Chairman, Committee to Upgrade LaSalle and NAFA

Singapore has achieved much in its three decades of independence. It has become a dynamic and prosperous nation, rested on strong economic fundamentals and the collective efforts of its people.

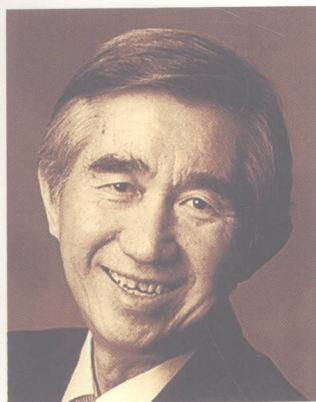
Today, even more exciting challenges await us. As Singapore progresses to its next phase of development, we are entering an era which calls for a whole new perspective on the way we function and interact with one another. In the knowledge age of the future, our success will depend on how much 'intellectual capital' we have - our capacity to absorb, synthesise and apply ideas through innovation. It is this strong base of intellectual and creative capabilities, in all aspects of society, which will fuel our growth and contribute to Singapore's long-term global competitiveness.

Singapore is already preparing to embrace this future, through a total systems approach to developing our nation's intellectual capital. In particular, we are rethinking our education system, to produce flexible and responsive individuals with strong intellectual and social purpose, and we have also recently established the Ministry of Manpower, to harness the talent which resides at every level of our workforce. All these initiatives, including the commissioning of the Committee to Upgrade LaSalle and NAFA, are part of a national response to prepare Singapore for the challenges of the future.

NAFA has a rich history and a fine heritage in the visual arts. During its 60 years of illustrious contribution, it has supported the steady growth of the arts in Singapore and the region, and its alumni continue to make their mark in the artistic world. In addition, its active community work continues to enrich the lives of Singaporeans, and has contributed significantly to cultivating a deeper appreciation of the arts in Singapore.

As we evolve a new shared vision for Singapore, we should take time to reflect on our progress on all fronts - economic, intellectual and social, so as to set new goals which will focus our efforts on bringing about a richer economic and civil society, and a better tomorrow for all. As Goethe said: 'Treat a man as he is and he will remain as he is; treat a man as he can and should be, and he will become as he can and should be.' I congratulate NAFA on its 60th anniversary and I thank you for providing Singapore with the room to grow into what it can and should be as a nation of distinction in the 21st century.

Dr Tan Chin Nam
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Manpower
Chairman, Committee to Upgrade LaSalle and NAFA



刘太格先生
国家艺术理事会主席
Mr Liu Thai Ker
Chairman
National Arts Council

In a young country like Singapore there are few institutions that have a history of over half a century. This is especially true in arts and cultural circles. And yet there is a yearning for history, continuity and institutional memory.

Thus the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, affectionately known as NAFA, holds a special place in the development of the arts, especially since it is widely regarded as the cradle of the so-called Nanyang School of Visual Arts.

History cannot be manufactured or bought, but must be nurtured and inherited. We are proud of the longevity of NAFA. The occasion of its 60th anniversary is an auspicious time to reflect on its contribution and how it can be enhanced for future generations.

Happily, concurrent with the celebration of this auspicious event, the Singapore government is deliberating on developing

NAFA and other arts institutions into world class arts schools. The success of such a vision, ultimately, still depends on the strength that grows from within these institutions.

My congratulations to NAFA. May it grow from strength to strength.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Liu Thai Ker'.

Liu Thai Ker
Chairman
National Arts Council



庄升俦先生
南洋艺术学院董事主席
Mr Chng Heng Tiu
Chairman
Board of Directors, NAFA

南洋艺术学院，自战前1938年创办迄今。已经整整60年。

我们的先辈们，南洋美专创办人林文庆博士、周莲生先生、陈厥祥先生以及第一任校长林学大先生，他们本着发扬文化艺术的精神与历史使命，排除万难历尽了艰辛坎坷的年代与路程，建立了这所孕育艺术英才的堡垒—南洋美术专科学校。

林学大校长于1963年逝世后，由林友权先生续任校长，其后在吴从干先生、魏维贤博士以及苏启祯博士等的领导与改革下，从一所纯美术教育的专科学校、发展到今天之多元文化的南洋艺术学院。它不仅包括了视觉艺术的纯美术、美术设计、室内设计、服装设计以及儿童美术等学系，也包括了表演艺术的音乐、舞蹈、儿童钢琴与儿童广播演艺等学系。

去年，我国副总理陈庆炎博士访问我院，表示政府准备协助南洋艺术学院及拉萨尔—新航艺术学院重新定位，作为培育艺术人才的高等艺术学府。同时，我们亦聘请到前环境发展部高级政务次长何家良先生，出任本学院院长。

何家良院长本身是一位画家，向来对艺术的推动工作，不遗余力。自上任以来，便积

The Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts is 60 years old.

Armed with a sense of historical mission and a vision to propagate art, our forefathers and founders of the academy - Dr Lim Boon Keng, Mr Chew Lian Seng, Mr Tan See Siang and the first principal Mr Lim Hak Tai - had gone through thick and thin and overcome countless obstacles to set up NAFA - the bastion of art and cradle of artistic talent.

After the death of Mr Lim Hak Tai in 1963, his son Mr Lim Yew Kuan succeeded him as principal. Later, the following principals Mr Wu Tsung Kan, Dr Gwee Yee Hean, and Dr Soh Kay Cheng guided and reformed NAFA and it grew from a fine art institute to a multi-culture art academy offering not only courses in fine art, graphic design, interior design, fashion design and children's art from the visual arts section but also those in music, dance, piano and broadcasting for children from the performing arts section.

In 1997 Dr Tony Tan, deputy prime minister, visited NAFA and indicated the government's interest in helping to reaffirm the

极推广院务；增设了多媒体设计与戏剧学系，加强与外国艺术学府的联系；与澳洲柯庭大学、西悉尼大学联合开办学位课程。并列出国学院今后的任务、办学宗旨以及一系列的发展计划。

从南洋美专到南洋艺术学院，60 年的风风雨雨，造就了无数的艺术人才，包括了本区的艺术精英。可是，我们并不因此而满足于现状，我们必须继承先辈们不屈不挠的精神，努力提升自己，进一步使学院成为世界级的艺术学府，为我国培养顶尖的艺术人才。



庄升俦

南洋艺术学院董事主席

status of NAFA and the LaSalle-SIA College of the Arts in order to develop both academies into higher art institutes. At the same time, we were honoured with the appointment of Mr Ho Kah Leong, former Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of the Environment, as principal.

Mr Ho, who is an artist himself, has never ceased to do his bit to promote art. Since he became Principal, he has been hard at work planning programmes for NAFA, which includes the addition of courses in multimedia, design and drama, the fostering of closer links with foreign art institutes, and joint degree programmes with Curtin University and Western Sydney University. He has also laid down the duties and objectives of the academy and the developmental plans for it.

Countless artistic talents have been groomed in the 60 years of NAFA, including remarkable art experts in this region. Yet we shall never be complacent with what we have achieved. We must carry on the indomitable spirit of our pioneers and strive to raise our standards to elevate NAFA to the status of a world-class art institute, with which to groom top-notch artistic talents of our country.



何家良先生
南洋艺术学院院长
Mr Ho Kah Leong
Principal
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

南洋艺术学院的前身南洋美术专科学校是在60年前新加坡还是一片文化沙漠时创立的。来自中国的一群艺术家以及热心教育的人士，鉴于艺术陶冶性情的重要，经数年时间的筹备，终于在1938年成立了新加坡有史以来第一所美术学校，当时的学生仅有14名。经过了60年的努力，“美专”已发展成为一所具有3千名学生的颇具规模的艺术学院，应该简称为“南艺”了。

在过去60年来，“南艺”为新加坡以及邻近国家培养了不少杰出的艺术人才。特别是在我国，知名的画家和设计家，几乎都出自“南艺”的门下。

自然，时代在进步，国家在进步，“南艺”总不能满足于目前的成就，相反地，它应该顺应时代和国家的需求，继续向前迈进。

为此，“南艺”已大胆地为自己定下奋斗的目标，那就是把自己的任务定于发展“南艺”成为世界级的完整艺术学府。与此同时，政府也宣布提升“南艺”和另一间艺术学院达致大专水平。这无疑给全院师生打了一支强心剂。“南艺”的董教学都誓为建立一所大专水平和达到世界级的艺术学院而努力。

When Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) was founded 60 years ago, Singapore was no more than a cultural desert. It was the effort of a few enthusiastic artists and art educationists from China, recognising the importance of art to man and society, established the very first art school in the colony. After years of preparation, the school opened its door in 1938 to receive the first batch of students - altogether 14 of them. After 60 years of consistent efforts, NAFA stands in Singapore as a full-fledged art institution with more than 3,000 students.

In the past 60 years, NAFA has nurtured many artists for Singapore and the region. Particularly in Singapore, almost all the well-known artists and designers are alumni of NAFA.

Understandably, when the times are changing and our country is progressing, NAFA cannot afford to rest on its laurels. Conversely, it has to adapt itself to cope with the needs of the country and the society.

In this respect, NAFA has boldly set its mission to become a world class full-fledged art institution. Meanwhile, the government has also announced to upgrade NAFA and another art school into tertiary institutions. This piece of good news has boosted the morale of the staff as well as the students. The whole Academy including the Board of Directors, staff and students pledged themselves to work hard towards establishing a world class tertiary art institution in Singapore.

The foremost important task to ensure NAFA's continued success is to have a 'home' of its own. This is, of course, by no means a mean project. It is a mammoth project that can only be accomplished with government's financial backing. We are grateful that the government has shown a very positive attitude

“南艺”要向前发展，首先要有一间属于自己的“家”的学院大楼。这当然是一项庞大的工程，没有政府的资助，民间根本无法完成的。我们很高兴，政府在这方面态度非常积极。新的“南艺”院舍，指日可望矗立在狮城。

在内部方面，“南艺”也有必要在各方面加强，才能迎接必然到来的挑战。董事部有必要加强，教职员阵容也有必要加强，学生的素质也有必要提高。院方将会在最近的将来，进行必要的重组。

在自己有资格颁发学位之前，“南艺”会积极与世界著名大学建立合作伙伴关系，以便让我院的毕业生，有机会多修一年便能获得学士学位。修读学士学位的课程，也将会在今年7月开始上课。

除了政府资助外，“南艺”也需要社会热心人士、艺术社群、校友等继续的支持。“南艺”毕竟是属于整个社群的，大家都有义务看着它的成长。

这本特刊除了刊载“南艺”过去的一段光荣历史外，也包含了许多精辟的艺术论文，多少反映我国当前的艺术风貌。

60年的光阴，标志“南艺”一段历史的结束，在即将来临的第21世纪之前，“南艺”将脱胎换骨，进入另一新的里程碑，并昂首阔步，充满信心和希望，迈进新的纪元。



何家良

南洋艺术学院院长

towards this end and we can expect a brand new magnificent building to be our permanent home in the near future.

To be commensurate with these potential changes and to face the new challenges, NAFA has to gear up in every aspect. Not only the Board of Directors has to be beefed up, the quality of the staff has to be strengthened and the quality of the students has to be raised too. It is envisaged that the organisation of NAFA will have to be revamped in the near future.

Pending the eventual awarding of our own degree, NAFA will make every effort to solicit reputable international partners for the purposes of awarding degree to our graduants who undergo a one year course in such universities. The first undergraduate course will commence this July.

Apart from government's subsidy, NAFA still needs the support of well-wishers, alumni and the whole art community as after all NAFA belongs to the whole community.

This magazine documents the important historical events in the development of NAFA. It also contains articles written by learned scholars, which will more or less reflect the state of affairs in the present art scene in Singapore.

60 years mark the end of a gracious history of NAFA. When we are at the turn of the century, NAFA will enter a new chapter in its history. NAFA will march proudly into the next millennium with full confidence and commitments.



宋子谦先生
南洋美专校友会顾问
Mr Song Chwee Him
Adviser
NAFA Alumni Association

南洋美专由已故校长林学大创办, 几经艰辛, 至今已有六十年了。在这期间, 美专由美术专科学校, 演变为多样化的艺术学院。

有两件事值得记住的是: 第一, 已故张荔英老师曾说, 美专不能办儿童班以赚取入息, 美专必须维持其专科学校的地位, 又说, 不愿吃苦的人, 不要到美专来。第二, 先驱画家刘抗先生曾恳切寄望美专校友, 成为我国美术接班人。

美专本是美术专科学校, 培养美术人才, 由于有美专的存在, 目前我国有许多美术人才, 这是值得庆幸的, 我们应该确保我国将来也有许多美术人才。

NAFA was founded by the late principal Lim Hak Tai. After sixty years of hardship and struggle, NAFA had developed from a pure art school into a full-fledged art academy.

There are two things we need to bear in mind. A lecturer, the late Georgette Chen, once said that NAFA will not run children's art class for the sake of income. NAFA must maintain her status of being a pure fine art school. She also said that only those who can undergo trials and difficulties should enter its gates. Our pioneer artist, Mr Liu Kang, sincerely hopes that NAFA graduates can be trend setters of tomorrow in the Singapore art scene.

The main aim of NAFA is to nurture artists, and ensure our country a sufficient pool of expertise in art. We can say that we are lucky to have fulfilled our objectives in the past sixty years and hope to maintain this momentum.