

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## TUNG ZHIWEN, JOHN

Independent Curator and Exhibition Maker

**Email:** johnsavage.fromthewoods@gmail.com **Phone:** +65 9672 1456

**John Tung** is an independent curator and exhibition-maker. A former Assistant Curator at the Singapore Art Museum, he curated and co-curated 9 exhibitions, alongside serving as a co-curator for the **Singapore Biennale 2016** and **Singapore Biennale 2019**. Following his departure from the institution, he was appointed as one of the Festival Curators of the **Singapore International Photography Festival 2020**. He continues to work on numerous independent projects and publications. He holds a BA (Hons) in Arts Management awarded by Goldsmiths, University of London (LASALLE College of the Arts) and an MA in Cultural Management from the Chinese University of Hong Kong where he graduated on the Dean's List.

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### EDUCATION

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#### **The Chinese University of Hong Kong (2015)**

MA Cultural Management | Dean's List | GPA: 3.788 Thesis: *Assessing the Effectiveness of Arts-Led Cultural Development in Singapore*

#### **LASALLE College of the Arts (2014)**

BA (Hons) Arts Management | Second (Upper) Honours

- Conferred by Goldsmiths, University of London

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### CAREER HISTORY

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#### **Independent Practice (Self-Employed), September 2020 – Present**

**DECK**, Jun 2021 – Ongoing

Programme Presenter | *A Studio of One's Own*

**Singapore Prison Services**, May 2021 – Ongoing

Curator | Yellow Ribbon Community Art and Poetry Exhibition 2021 (Nov 2021)

**OH! Open House**, Apr 2021 – Ongoing

Associate Curator | *For the House; Against the House* (Jan 2022)

**Gajah Gallery**, Jan 2021 – Ongoing

Independent Curator | *5<sup>th</sup> Passage: In Search of Lost Time* (Sep 2021)

Independent Curator | *Tawatchai Puntusawasdi: Shifts in Perception* (Oct 2021)

**OH! Open House**, Oct 2020 – Jan 2021

Associate Curator | *For the House; Against the House – Passion Made Impossible*

**DECK**, Sep 2020 – Jan 2021

Curator | *7<sup>th</sup> Singapore International Photography Festival – Departing and Arriving*

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## **Singapore Art Museum, Sep 2015 - Aug 2020**

### Assistant Curator

- Full-time (permanent) work.
- Curator/Co-Curator of 9 exhibitions. Co-Curator of 2 editions of the Singapore Biennale: *An Atlas of Mirrors & Every Step In the Right Direction*.
- 3 associated Benesse Prize nominations and award(s).
- Editor of Singapore Art Museum – *An Index of Exhibitions (1994 – 2018)*, the first publication to catalogue the museum's exhibition history.

## **The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Jun 2015**

### Assistant to the Festival Coordinator | The Umbrella Festival

- Part-time (contract) work.
- Assisting the Festival Coordinator of the Umbrella Festival 2015.
- Stage Manager for *A Shaggy Dog Story* performed by comedian Chan Ka Ming.

## **SUPER STUDIOS, Aug 2015 – Sep 2015**

### Production Assistant

- Full-time (contract) work.
- Provision of logistical and technical support. Highlights include working on the Singapore Sports Council advertising campaign featuring Joseph Schooling, and the Tampines East MRT station artwork commission *Welcome to Jingsapore*.

## **i-AM Festival, Sep 2010 – Mar 2011**

### Producer | **1937**

- Diploma Project
- In charge of securing exhibition location and sponsors for the exhibition *The Origin of the World*.
- Coordinating team operations, developing marketing strategies as well as development of curatorial concepts and sourcing of artists.
- Exhibition was opened by 2010 Cultural Medallion Winner Amanda Heng and the official launch of the i-AM Festival 2011.

## **Geeleinan Art Gallery, Mar 2010 – Dec 2010**

### Gallery Administrator

- Part-time (contract) work.
- In charge of marketing gallery and services to corporate clients such as DAMCO Logistics and Freedom To Create.
- Assisting in corporate team bonding events, administrative work, writing, and preparation and execution of exhibition plans – including, design-outsource and sending out of Electronic Direct Mailers, exhibition set-ups and tear-downs, logistics requirements.
- Secured exhibition with the American Club which took place in October/November 2011.

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## EXHIBITION HISTORY

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- Jan 2022** – *For the House; Against the House* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
- Nov 2021** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art and Poetry Exhibition* (Independent Curator, Singapore Prison Services)
- Oct 2021** – *Tawatchai Puntusawasdi: Shifts in Perception* (Independent Curator, Gajah Gallery)
- Sep 2021** – *5<sup>th</sup> Passage: In Search of Lost Time* (Independent Curator, Gajah Gallery)
- Jan 2021** – *For the House; Against the House - Passion Made Impossible* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
- Nov 2020** – *7th Singapore International Photography Festival: Departing and Arriving* (Festival Curator, DECK)
- Nov 2019** – *6th Singapore Biennale: Every Step in the Right Direction* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)
- Jul 2019** – *Hoarding Commissions: Walking in the City Series* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Sep 2018** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: Transitions, Crossroads, and Choices* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Jun 2018** – *Installation in Progress: Exhibition Making and the Singapore Art Museum* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Nov 2017** – *Cinerama: Art and the Moving Image in Southeast Asia* (Lead Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Oct 2017** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: For Better Endings and New Beginnings* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- May 2017** – *Imaginarium: To the Ends of the Earth* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Oct 2016** – *5th Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)
- Aug 2016** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: From Night to Light* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Jun 2016** – *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Mar 2016** – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under The Sea* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
- Mar 2011** – *i-AM Festival 2011: The Origin of the World* (Producer, 1973)

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## COMMISSIONS & SITE-SPECIFIC ADAPTATIONS CURATED

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1. Dr Felicia Low, *Visioning the Arts (The Vision and Dilemmas of the 21st Century)*, 2021, OH! Open House
2. Wong Lip Chin, *大工街 (Da Gong Jie)*, 2021, OH! Open House
3. Nino Sarabutra, *Your Singapore*, 2021, OH! Open House
4. Seba Kurtis, *Drowned & Talcum*, 2015, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
5. Bob Lee, *Memory Blocks*, 2009-Ongoing, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
6. Kevin WY Lee, *Hundred Daughters Hundred Patience Hundred Meals*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
7. Hou I Ting, *String Theory – Sewing Space*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival

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8. Lilia Luganskaia, *Investigation of Love*, 2015-2018, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
9. George Wong Yung Choon, *SG Scenery 2020*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
10. Li Lin, *孤島 (Gu Dao: Lonely Island)*, 2007-2018, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
11. Miyuki Okuyama, *Dear Japanese, 2012-2018*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
12. Heman Chong, *Writing While Walking And Other Stories*, 2020, Singapore Art Museum
13. Zakaria Omar, *Fossils of Shame (The Pillars)*, 2010, 2019, Singapore Biennale
14. Ruangsak Anuwatwimon, *Reincarnations (Hopea Sangal & Sindora Wallichii)*, 2019
15. Korakrit Arunanondchai, *Together with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3-5*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
16. Chang En-Man, *Snail Paradise*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
17. CAMSTL, *Birth (of a Nation)*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
18. Dennis Tan, *Many Waters to Cross*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
19. Robert Zhao, *Queen's Own Hill and its Environs*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
20. Dusadee Huntrakul, *The Map for the Soul to Return to the Body*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
21. Vertical Submarine, *Flowery Language*, 2019; *Tua Kang (Hyperbole)*, 2019, Singapore Art Museum
22. Michael Lee, *Museum on Air*, 2018, Singapore Art Museum
23. Korakrit Arunanondchai & Alex Gvojcic, *There's a word I'm trying to remember, for a feeling I'm about to have (a distracted path towards extinction)*, 2016, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
24. Hiromi Tango, *Lizard Tail*, 2016, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
25. Nandita Mukand, *The Origin*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
26. Nipan Oranniwesna, *Another Island*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
27. Unchalee Anantawat, *Floating Mountain*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
28. Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, *Jaonua: The Nothingness*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
29. MAP Office, *Desert Islands*, 2009, 2016, Singapore Biennale
30. Kentaro Hiroki, *Rubbish*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
31. Fyerool Darma, *The Most Mild Mannered Men*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
32. Pannaphan Yodmanee, *Aftermath*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
33. Sakarin Krue-On, *A Tiger Hunt*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
34. Choe U-Ram, *Una Lumino Callidus Spiritus*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
35. Yuree Kensaku, *Apex Predator*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
36. Krit Ngamsom, *Surrealism Spiced (After Salvador Dali)*, 2016; *Bryde's Fountain (After Marcel Duchamp)*, 2016; *Damien I'm Famished (After Damien Hirst)*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
37. Karina Smigla-Bobinski, *ADA 2.0*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum

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## ASSOCIATED AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

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1. Pannapan Yodmanee, *Aftermath*, 2016. **11th Benesse Prize winner**. Role: Commissioning, curator-in-charge.
2. Dusadee Huntrakul, *The Map for the Soul to Return to the Body*, 2019. **12th Benesse Prize finalist**. Role: Commissioning, curator-in-charge.
3. Robert Zhao Renhui, *Queen's Own Hill and its Environs*, 2019. **12th Benesse Prize finalist**. Role: Commissioning, curator-in-charge.

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## TALKS, LECTURES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

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**Jun 2021** – *A Studio of One's Own* – DECK (Host)

**May 2021** – *Are Art Museums Instruments of Hegemony?* – Inappropriate Book Club, Talk-Talk-Villion, Bangkok Biennial 2020 (Discussant)

**May 2021** – *2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Cultural Mediation* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Respondent)

**Feb 2021** – *Walking With Photographers Series* – DECK (Host)

**Dec 2020** – Artist Talks and *In Conversation Series* – Singapore International Photography Festival (Facilitator and Moderator)

**Mar 2020** – *Art at a Time of Pandemic* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Speaker)

**Oct 2019** – *Artist Panel Discussion with Dennis Tan And Post Museum* – LASALLE, Baby Tropical Lab "Erase" (Panel Moderator)

**Nov 2018** – *Southeast Asia: Cultural Challenges and the Curatorial* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)

**Sep 2018** – *Behind the Scenes with Artist Mentors* – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Panel Moderator)

**Aug 2017** – *On Curating* – LASALLE, MA Art Histories Programme (Guest Lecture)

**Jun 2017** – *Singapore Art Museum – Beyond a National Platform* – Chiang Mai Art Conversation (Guest Lecture)

**May 2017** – *Art History* (a 5-part art history module in Singapore Changi Prison for inmate artists) – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Programme Lecturer)

**Nov 2016** – *Curating Southeast Asia* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)

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## PUBLICATIONS & WRITINGS

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May 2021 – Author

*The Heart of the City* in **Room no. 2 and Sunset on Unnamed Lanes** (Exhibition Collateral). Bangkok CityCity Gallery/ Discoveries Section, Art Basel Hong Kong.

Jan 2021 – Author

*The Warden At The Gates / An Essay on the Margins* in **The Immortals Are Quite Busy These Days** (Exhibition Collateral). Bangkok CityCity Gallery.

Nov 2019 - Author

*Southeast Asia: The Geographic Question* in **Singapore Biennale 2019: Every Step In The Right Direction** (Exhibition Catalogue). (ISBN:978-981-14-3278-1)

Mar 2019 - Author

*Phantom on the Horizon* in **Once lost but now found** (Exhibition Catalogue). Oi! (Hong Kong).

Aug 2018 - Editor/Author

*Singapore Art Museum: An Index of Exhibitions (1994 – 2018)*. (ISBN: 978-981-11-8479-6/ISBN: 978-981-14-0736-9)

May 2018 - Author

*Nipan Oranniwesna, Memories of Progress in Singapore* in **Cultural Connections, Volume 3**. (ISSN:2424-9122)

Oct 2016 - Author

*Curatorial Introduction - An Everywhere of Mirrorings* in **Singapore Biennale 2016: An Atlas of Mirrors** (Exhibition Catalogue). (ISBN: 978-981-11-1164-8)

Oct 2015 - Author

*Die Wunderkammer der schmutzigen Geheimnisse, or A Museum History of Omitted Facts* in the **Journal of Theatrex Asia**, Volume 2. Peer-reviewed. (ISSN: 2345-7678)

Jun 2015 - Author

*Precursors to Audience Development in the Management of Performing Arts Organisations: An Evaluation of the Singapore Symphony Orchestra* in the **Graduate Journal of Cultural and Creative Industries (GJCCI)**, Issue no. 1. Peer-reviewed. (ISSN: 2424-7928)

Jun 2011 – Author (under alias John Savage)

*A Sense of Weightlessness* in **Ceriph**, Issue no. 3. Math Paper Press. (ISBN: 978-981-08-7735-4)