

CURRICULUM VITAE

TUNG ZHIWEN, JOHN

Independent Curator & Exhibition-Maker

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John Z. W. Tung is an independent curator, exhibition-maker and Director of his self-initiated curatorial atelier From the Woods LLP. In 2026, he established **A Forest** – a self-funded independent art space that supports artists and creative individuals with a space for creation, presentation, and programming. In his former position as an Assistant Curator at the Singapore Art Museum (2015 – 2020), he curated and co-curated 9 exhibitions, alongside serving as a co-curator for the **Singapore Biennale 2016, 'An Atlas of Mirrors'**, and the **Singapore Biennale 2019, 'Every Step in the Right Direction'**. Three of the artwork commissions he curated for the biennales were finalists for the Benesse Prize, with one work winning the prestigious award. He is also the editor of the Singapore Art Museum's first publication to chronicle its exhibition history, *Singapore Art Museum: An Index of Exhibitions (1994 – 2018)*. His recent appointments as an independent curator include Festival Curator for the **7th & 8th Singapore International Photography Festival (2020 & 2022)**, Associate Curator for the Open House programme, **For the House; Against the House (2021, 2022 & 2023)**, and the Curator of the first exhibition to examine the significance of the ground-breaking Singaporean artist initiative **5th Passage – 5th Passage: In Search of Lost Time**. Projects he has produced include **The Forest Institute (2022)**, a large-scale architectural art installation dedicated to secondary forest ecologies, and **The Gathering: 千岁宫 (2022)**, a pop-up Chinese garden-teahouse experience in Chinatown, Singapore. He was also curator of the 2024, 2025 and 2026 editions of the contemporary art platform **S.E.A. Focus**.

To date, his close work with artists has realised more than a hundred artwork commissions and site-specific adaptations across over 70 exhibitions. In 2023, he was the recipient of the inaugural Tan Boon Hui Curatorial Prize.

He holds a BA (Hons) in Arts Management awarded by Goldsmiths, University of London (at 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. He brings with him a decade of involvement across different fields in the arts, culture, and creative industry. Encompassing both creative and administrative roles, his experiences have spanned the curatorial, editorial, as well as pedagogical.

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

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

Professional Certifications:

1. WSQ Perform Work at Height (WAH)

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1. **Curatorial Advisor** to ART:DIS Singapore, March 2025 – December 2025.
2. **Juror** for the Art Outreach HEARTH Programme, March 2023 – Present
3. **Judge** for Plural x AGAS Singapore Gallery Month Art Writing Contest, August 2024
4. **Associate Curator** of OH! Open House, 2022 - Present
5. **Juror** for the 8th Singapore International Photography Festival Open Call, June – October 2022

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

From the Woods LLP (UEN: T13LL0793F), September 2020 – Present

Director/Owner

- Self-employed.
- Overseeing exhibition curatorial, production, project management, and consultancy services for a range of clients spanning governmental, commercial, non-profit, and private clients.
- Development and execution of self-initiated projects.
- Provision of arts education to secondary and tertiary institutions in Singapore.

National Heritage Board (Singapore), May 2025 – Present

Curator, National Collection Division

- Part-Time (contract) work.
- Overseeing the curation and project management of a heritage pop-up exhibition.

LASALLE College of the Arts, Aug – Nov 2022 & 23

Part-Time Lecturer (BA Fine Arts)

- Part-time (contract) work.
- Course Lecturer for "Artist as Curator" elective
- Overseeing and mentoring the curation of the *One Night Only* festival 2022 and 2023 edition.

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*.
- Secretariat, the Istana Collection Acquisition Committee
- 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

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- 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 2014 – Sep 2014

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 Singapore*.

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.

EXHIBITION HISTORY

1. **Feb '26** – *Homecoming 3: Coming Home* (Curator/Producer, From The Woods LLP)
2. **Jan '26** – *Kumari Nahappan: Roots & Routes* (Curator, Yang Gallery)
3. **Jan '26** – *Next Stop Together! 'Art in Transit'* (Curator, ART:DIS/SMRT/LTA/NAC)
4. **Jan '26** – *Next Stop Together! 'ARTBUS'* (Curator, ART:DIS/SMRT/LTA/NAC)
5. **Jan '26** – *Search and Discover: Works on Paper* (Curator/Producer, Project Art Hunter)
6. **Jan '26** – *S.E.A. Focus 2026: The Humane Agency* (Curator, ART SG)
7. **Jan '26** – *Turning Points 3* (Curator, ART:DIS)
8. **Jan '26** – *Everything Changes, Everything Stays the Same* (Curator, OH! Open House)
9. **Nov '25** – *Forms of Encounter* at Central Chidlom, Bangkok (Curator, STPI & Embassy of the Republic of Singapore, Bangkok)

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10. **Oct '25** – *Museum of U & Me* (Curator, National Heritage Board, Singapore)
11. **Oct '25** – *Towards Happiness, Prosperity, Progress – Reflections on the Singapore Spirit* (Curator, The Private Museum, Singapore)
12. **Sep '25** – *Chromatic Currents* (Curator, Pristine Contemporary, New Delhi)
13. **Aug '25** – *Heavy Lines, Light Touch* (Curator, ART:DIS, Singapore Tourism Board and Patina Hotel, Osaka)
14. **Jun '25** – *Happy Together – Visions of Gladness from Southeast Asia* (Curator, Whitestone Gallery, Singapore)
15. **Jun '25-ongoing** – *Heritage Activation Node @ Punggol* (Curator, National Heritage Board & OH! Open House)
16. **May '25** - *Tropic of Perception* (Curator, Ames-Yavuz Singapore)
17. **Jan '25** – *Kim Whye Kee – Homecoming 2: Days of Our Lives* (Curator)
18. **Jan '25** – *Turning Points 2* (Curator, ART:DIS)
19. **Jan '25** – *S.E.A. Focus 2025 – Disconnected Contemporaries* (Curator, STPI)
20. **Jan '25** – *Aik Beng Chia – SINGKARPOR REMIXED* (Curator, Art Outreach)
21. **Jan '25** – *Kumari Nahappan – Call of the Seasons* for Sanchaya Resort, Bintan (Curator)
22. **Nov '24** - *LASALLE 40th Anniversary Exhibition: Many Worlds At A Glance, Many Worlds All At Once* (Curator, LASALLE)
23. **Oct '24** – *FX Harsono – Keeping the Dream* (Curator, Singapore International Photography Festival)
24. **Sep '24** – *Natee Utarit – Déjà vu: Buddha is Hiding* (Curator, STPI)
25. **Sep '24** – *Fern Wong, Natural Geometry* (Curator, ART:DIS)
26. **Aug '24** – *Kaleidoscope ART:DIS Artist-in-Training Exhibition* (Curator, ART:DIS)
27. **Jul '24** – *Singapore Youth Festival 2024 Art Exhibition: Artist and Collaboration* (Curator, Ministry of Education, Singapore)
28. **Feb '24** – *浪子回头十年不晚 (The Vagrant's Return is Never Too Late): Kim Whye Kee Homecoming Solo Exhibition* (Curator)
29. **Feb '24** – *Tree Management Agency* (Curator, Warin Lab Contemporary, Bangkok, Thailand)
30. **Jan '24** – *UNDESCRIBED #9* (Mentor, DECK)
31. **Jan '24** – *Turning Points* (Curator, ART:DIS)
32. **Jan '24** – *S.E.A. Focus 2024 – Serial and Massively Parallel* (Curator, STPI)
33. **Nov '23** – *Which is Which?* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
34. **Oct' 23** – *This Moment Now is Past and Future All At Once* (Curator, ShanghART, Singapore)
35. **Sep '23** – *Re-Connect/Centre/Converge*, The Arts Festival (Festival Director, The Substation)
36. **Sep '23** – *Dancing with the Cosmos: 3 Decades of Work from Kumari Nahappan* (Curator, The Private Museum)
37. **Aug '23** – *SG Contemporary* (Curator, Gajah Gallery, Jakarta, Indonesia)
38. **Jun '23** – *A Piece of Home – ART:DIS Artist-in-Training Exhibition* (Curator, ART:DIS)
39. **Mar '23** – *UNDESCRIBED #8* (Mentor, DECK)
40. **Mar '23** – *New Futures* for the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs 66th Session in Vienna (Curator, Ministry of Home Affairs – Singapore Prison Service)
41. **Feb '23** – *IMPART Award Winners' Showcase: Personal Profiles* (Curator, Art Outreach)
42. **Jan '23** – *Jane Lee: Neti Neti* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)

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43. **Jan '23** – *For the House; Against the House – The Museum is Dead* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
44. **Nov '23** - *Yellow Ribbon Community Arts Festival 2022: Home is Where the HeART Is* (Exhibition Curator, Singapore Prison Service)
45. **Sep '22** - *Listen... Don't Ask What Bird is Singing* (Co-Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
46. **Sep '22** - *Placemaking at the Moment Between Times* (Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
47. **Sep '22** - *Worlds and Spacing*, by Maleonn (Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
48. **Sep '22** - *8th Singapore International Photography Festival: Future Known as Unpredicted* (Festival Curator, DECK)
49. **Sep '22** - *SeptFest, Uproot/Rootless: Across Narrow Waters* (Curator, Substation)
50. **Aug '22** - *The Commoner's House*, by Dusadee Huntrakul (Curator, Bangkok CityCity Gallery, Thailand)
51. **Jul '22** - *Thought Sample Return*, by Susie Lingham (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
52. **Jul '22** – *Teens & Kin* (Curator, MAELab/NUHS)
53. **May '22** – *Objects (II): Siew Keeliong* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
54. **Apr '22** – *Thasnai Sethaseree: The Four Elements* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
55. **Apr '22** - *A Matter of Scale and Perspective* (Curator, Art Galleries Association Singapore)
56. **Feb '22** – *The Gathering: 千岁宫* (Curator/Producer, From the Woods LLP)
57. **Jan '22** – *A World at Every Turn* (Guest Artistic Director, Art Galleries Association Singapore)
58. **Jan '22** – *The Forest Institute* (Co-Initiator/Curator/Producer, From the Woods LLP)
59. **Jan '22** – *For the House; Against the House – Life Imitates Art* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
60. **Nov '21** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art and Poetry Exhibition* (Curator, Singapore Prison Services)
61. **Oct '21** – *Tawatchai Puntusawasdi: Shifts in Perception* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
62. **Sep '21** – *5th Passage: In Search of Lost Time* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
63. **Jan '21** – *For the House; Against the House - Passion Made Impossible* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
64. **Nov '20** – *7th Singapore International Photography Festival: Departing and Arriving* (Festival Curator, DECK)
65. **Nov '19** – *6th Singapore Biennale: Every Step in the Right Direction* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)
66. **Jul '19** – *Hoarding Commissions: Walking in the City Series* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
67. **Sep '18** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: Transitions, Crossroads, and Choices* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
68. **Jun '18** – *Installation in Progress: Exhibition Making and the Singapore Art Museum* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
69. **Nov '17** – *Cinerama: Art and the Moving Image in Southeast Asia* (Lead Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
70. **Oct '17** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: For Better Endings and New Beginnings* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
71. **May '17** – *Imaginarium: To the Ends of the Earth* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
72. **Oct '16** – *5th Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)

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73. **Aug '16** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: From Night to Light* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
74. **Jun '16** – *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
75. **Mar '16** – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under The Sea* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
76. **Mar '11** – *i-AM Festival 2011: The Origin of the World* (Producer, 1973)

ASSOCIATED AWARDS & NOMINATIONS

1. IMPART Art Awards 2023, **Tan Boon Hui Curatorial Prize**, Winner.
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.
4. Pannapan Yodmanee, *Aftermath*, 2016. **11th Benesse Prize Winner**. Role: Commissioning, curator-in-charge.

SELECTED TALKS, LECTURES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1. **Jan '25** – *SEAspotlight Talks: Non-Linear Paths: The Shift between Modern and Contemporary* – STPI (Panelist)
2. **Jan '24** – *SEAspotlight Talks: Not Just a Show: Exhibition-Making in Southeast Asia* – STPI (Panelist)
3. **Nov '23** – *Between Space and Place* – DECK (Panelist)
4. **Jul '23** – *Level Up*, Professional Development Workshop – Art Outreach (Conductor)
5. **Mar '23** – *MA Cultural Management Alumni Symposium* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Panelist)
6. **Oct '22** – *Industry Experience Conference* (Dip. Arts Management) – Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Guest Speaker)
7. **Aug '22** – *Artist as Curator* (BA Fine Arts, Programme Elective) – LASALLE (Part-Time Lecturer)
8. **Jun '22** – *Exhibition-Making Workshop* (Singapore Management University, 8-lesson curriculum) – DECK (Lecturer)
9. **Jul '21** – *Exhibition-Making Workshop* (CHIJ Katong Convent, 7-lesson curriculum) – DECK (Lecturer)
10. **Jun '21** – *A Studio of One's Own* – DECK (Host)
11. **May '21** – *Are Art Museums Instruments of Hegemony?* – Inappropriate Book Club, Talk-Talk-Villion, Bangkok Biennial 2020 (Discussant)
12. **May '21** – *2nd Workshop on Cultural Mediation* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Respondent)
13. **Feb '21** – *Walking With Photographers Series* – DECK (Host)
14. **Dec '20** – *Artist Talks and In Conversation Series* – Singapore International Photography Festival (Facilitator and Moderator)
15. **Mar '20** – *Art at a Time of Pandemic* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Speaker)
16. **Oct '19** – *Artist Panel Discussion with Dennis Tan And Post Museum* – LASALLE, Baby Tropical Lab "Erase" (Panel Moderator)

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17. **Nov '18** – *Southeast Asia: Cultural Challenges and the Curatorial* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)
18. **Sep '18** – *Behind the Scenes with Artist Mentors* – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Panel Moderator)
19. **Aug '17** – *On Curating* – LASALLE, MA Art Histories Programme (Guest Lecture)
20. **Jun '17** – *Singapore Art Museum – Beyond a National Platform* – Chiang Mai Art Conversation (Guest Lecture)
21. **May '17** – *Art History* (a 5-part art history module in Singapore Changi Prison for inmate artists) – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Programme Lecturer)
22. **Nov '16** – *Curating Southeast Asia* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & WRITINGS

1. **Oct '24** – Author (Essay), *Issa in India* in *Déjà Vu: When the Sun Rises in the West* (Exhibition Catalogue). The Private Museum
2. **Aug '24** – Author (Essay), *The Lotus Unmired by the Mud*, in *Déjà Vu: Buddha is Hiding* (Exhibition Catalogue). STPI
3. **Nov '23** – Author (Essay), *The Physiology of Gesture* in *Rhythmic Resonance: A Collaboration Beyond Boundaries* By Andy Yang & Ian de Souza (Exhibition Catalogue). The Private Museum.
4. **Nov '23** – Author (Artist Conversation), *Cross-Continental Canvas: In Conversation with Andy Yang and Ian de Souza* in *Rhythmic Resonance: A Collaboration Beyond Boundaries* By Andy Yang & Ian de Souza (Exhibition Catalogue). The Private Museum.
5. **Sep '22** – Author (Artist Conversation), *Dusadee Huntrakul Doubles Down on Looking* in *Ocula Magazine* (Online Publication). Ocula.
6. **Jan '22** – Author (Essay), *DEVOTIONS DELIBERATIONS UPON EMERGENT OCCASIONS MMXXII* in *Islands Time Based Art Festival 2022* (Exhibition E-Catalogue). Islands Time Based Art Festival.
7. **Sep '21** – Editor/Author (Publication), *5th Passage: Time Regained*. (ISBN978-981-18-2595-8). Gajah Gallery.
8. **May '21** – Author (Essay), *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. Bangkok CityCity Gallery.
9. **Jan '21** – Author (Essay), *The Warden At The Gates / An Essay on the Margins* in *The Immortals Are Quite Busy These Days* (Exhibition Collateral). Bangkok CityCity Gallery.
10. **Nov '19** – Author (Essay), *Southeast Asia: The Geographic Question* in *Singapore Biennale 2019: Every Step In The Right Direction* (Exhibition Catalogue). (ISBN:978-981-14-3278-1) Singapore Art Museum.
11. **Mar '19** – Author (Essay), *Phantom on the Horizon* in *Once lost but now found* (Exhibition Catalogue). Oi! (Hong Kong).
12. **Aug '18** - Editor/Author (Publication), *Singapore Art Museum: An Index of Exhibitions (1994 – 2018)*. (ISBN: 978-981-11-8479-6/ISBN: 978-981-14-0736-9). Singapore Art Museum

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13. **May '18** – Author (Essay), *Nipin Oranniwesna, Memories of Progress in Singapore* in Cultural Connections, Volume 3. (ISSN:2424-9122). National Heritage Board.
14. **Oct '16** – Author (Essay), *Curatorial Introduction - An Everywhere of Mirrorings* in Singapore Biennale 2016: An Atlas of Mirrors (Exhibition Catalogue). (ISBN: 978-981-11-1164-8). Singapore Art Museum.
15. **Oct '15** – Author (Essay), *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)
16. **Jun '15** - Author (Essay), *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)
17. **Jun '11** – Author (under alias John Savage; Poetry), *A Sense of Weightlessness* in Ceriph, Issue no. 3. (ISBN: 978-981-08-7735-4). Math Paper Press.