

CURRICULUM VITAE

TUNG ZHIWEN, JOHN

Independent Curator & Exhibition Maker

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John Z. W. Tung is an independent curator and exhibition-maker. 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.

To date, his close work with artists has realised more than 50 artwork commissions and site-specific adaptations ranging from the minute to monumental. 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 close to 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

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

CAREER 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, public, and private clients.
- Development and execution of self-initiated projects.

CURRICULUM VITAE

- Provision of arts education to secondary and tertiary institutions in Singapore.

LASALLE College of the Arts, Aug 2022 – Nov 2022

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 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*.
- 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 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 JIngapore*.

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

CURRICULUM VITAE

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 '23** – *IMPART Award Winners' Showcase: Personal Profiles* (Curator, Art Outreach)
2. **Jan '23** – *Jane Lee: Neti Neti* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
3. **Jan '23** – *For the House; Against the House – The Museum is Dead* (Associate Curator OH! Open House)
4. **Nov '23** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Arts Festival 2022: Home is Where the HeART Is* (Exhibition Curator, Singapore Prison Services)
5. **Sep '22** – *Listen... Don't Ask What Bird is Singing* (Co-Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
6. **Sep '22** – *Placemaking at the Moment Between Times* (Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
7. **Sep '22** – *Worlds and Spacing*, by Maleonn (Curator, DECK, for SIPP)
8. **Sep '22** – *8th Singapore International Photography Festival: Future Known as Unpredicted* (Festival Curator, DECK)
9. **Sep '22** – *SeptFest, Uproot/Rootless: Across Narrow Waters* (Curator, Substation)
10. **Aug '22** – *The Commoner's House*, by Dusadee Huntrakul (Curator, Bangkok CityCity Gallery, Thailand)
11. **Jul '22** – *Thought Sample Return*, by Susie Lingham (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
12. **Jul '22** – *Teens & Kin* (Curator, MAELab/NUHS)
13. **May '22** – *Objects (II): Siew Keeliong* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
14. **Apr '22** – *Thasnai Sethaseree: The Four Elements* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
15. **Apr '22** – *A Matter of Scale and Perspective* (Curator, Art Galleries Association Singapore)
16. **Feb '22** – *The Gathering: 千岁宫* (Curator/Producer, From the Woods LLP)
17. **Jan '22** – *A World at Every Turn* (Guest Artistic Director, Art Galleries Association Singapore)
18. **Jan '22** – *The Forest Institute* (Co-Initiator/Curator/Producer, From the Woods LLP)
19. **Jan '22** – *For the House; Against the House – Life Imitates Art* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
20. **Nov '21** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art and Poetry Exhibition* (Curator, Singapore Prison Services)
21. **Oct '21** – *Tawatchai Puntusawasdi: Shifts in Perception* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
22. **Sep '21** – *5th Passage: In Search of Lost Time* (Curator, Gajah Gallery)
23. **Jan '21** – *For the House; Against the House - Passion Made Impossible* (Associate Curator, OH! Open House)
24. **Nov '20** – *7th Singapore International Photography Festival: Departing and Arriving* (Festival Curator, DECK)
25. **Nov '19** – *6th Singapore Biennale: Every Step in the Right Direction* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)
26. **Jul '19** – *Hoarding Commissions: Walking in the City Series* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
27. **Sep '18** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: Transitions, Crossroads, and Choices* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)

CURRICULUM VITAE

28. **Jun '18** – *Installation in Progress: Exhibition Making and the Singapore Art Museum* (Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
29. **Nov '17** – *Cinerama: Art and the Moving Image in Southeast Asia* (Lead Curator, Singapore Art Museum)
30. **Oct '17** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: For Better Endings and New Beginnings* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
31. **May '17** – *Imaginarium: To the Ends of the Earth* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
32. **Oct '16** – *5th Singapore Biennale: An Atlas of Mirrors* (Co-curator, Singapore Biennale)
33. **Aug '16** – *Yellow Ribbon Community Art Exhibition: From Night to Light* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
34. **Jun '16** – *Odyssey: Navigating Nameless Seas* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
35. **Mar '16** – *Imaginarium: Over the Ocean, Under The Sea* (Co-curator, Singapore Art Museum)
36. **Mar '11** – *i-AM Festival 2011: The Origin of the World* (Producer, 1973)

COMMISSIONS & SITE-SPECIFIC ADAPTATIONS CURATED

1. Mit Jai Inn, *Marking Matters?*, 2023, OH! Open House
2. Thitibodee Rungteerawattananon, *Ghost*, 2023, OH! Open House
3. Wantanee Siripattananuntakul, *Racharudee (Zhu Clan)*, 2023, OH! Open House
4. Michael Lee, *Money Tees Series*, 2023, OH! Open House
5. Joanne Lim, *The Definition of Value*, 2023, OH! Open House
6. Miguel Aquilizan, *Zones of Magic*, 2023, OH! Open House
7. Kumari Nahappan, *Auld Lang Syne*, 2023, The Private Museum
8. Geraldine Kang, Cynthia Delaney Suwito & Woong Soak Teng, *Peace Agency*, 2022, Singapore International Photography Festival
9. Shyue Woon, *Dark Cities*, 2022, Singapore International Photography Festival
10. Aik Beng Chia, *Hawaii Nights*, 2022, Singapore International Photography Festival
11. Susie Lingham, *Thought Sample Return Series*, 2022, Gajah Gallery
12. Mary Bernadette Lee, *Extensions of Another*, 2022, MAELab/NUHS
13. Siew Keeliong, *Objects (II) series*, 2022, Gajah Gallery
14. Thasnai Sethaseree, *The Four Elements series*, 2022, Gajah Gallery
15. Wong Lip Chin, *The Gathering: 千岁宫*, 2022, From the Woods LLP
16. Robert Zhao Renhui & Randy Chan, *The Forest Institute*, 2022, From the Woods LLP
17. Dusadee Huntrakul, *To Years of Coevolution*, 2022, OH! Open House
18. Nila Choo, *Nothing Is Forever/Vernonia Elliptica*, 2022, OH! Open House
19. Kentaro Hiroki, *National Anthem (Zubir Said Drive)*, 2022, OH! Open House
20. Dennis Tan, *The Contract*, 2022, OH! Open House
21. Jimmy Ong, *BARONG Singa Laut 700 and BARONG Singa Laut 200*, 2021, OH! Open House
22. Agan Harahap, *Vakantie in Indonesië (Holiday in Indonesia)*, 2016-2021, OH! Open House

CURRICULUM VITAE

23. Fyerool Darma, *022022.img (Screenshots of 'Tic Toc Club Report of the Department of Broadcasting for the year of 1953, 10, Malaya'; '1958 Foreign Exchange' and 'some STB image')*, 2022, OH! Open House
24. Anthony Chin, *The Incomplete Momotaro: Sacred Sailors (II)*, 2022, OH! Open House
25. Dr Felicia Low, *Visioning the Arts (The Vision and Dilemmas of the 21st Century)*, 2021, OH! Open House
26. Wong Lip Chin, *大工街 (Da Gong Jie)*, 2021, OH! Open House
27. Nino Sarabutra, *Your Singapore*, 2021, OH! Open House
28. Seba Kurtis, *Drowned & Talcum*, 2015, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
29. Bob Lee, *Memory Blocks*, 2009-Ongoing, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
30. Kevin WY Lee, *Hundred Daughters Hundred Patience Hundred Meals*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
31. Hou I Ting, *String Theory – Sewing Space*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
32. Lilia Luganskaia, *Investigation of Love*, 2015-2018, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
33. George Wong Yung Choon, *SG Scenery 2020*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
34. Li Lin, *孤島 (Gu Dao: Lonely Island)*, 2007-2018, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
35. Miyuki Okuyama, *Dear Japanese, 2012-2018*, 2020, Singapore International Photography Festival
36. Heman Chong, *Writing While Walking And Other Stories*, 2020, Singapore Art Museum
37. Zakaria Omar, *Fossils of Shame (The Pillars)*, 2010, 2019, Singapore Biennale
38. Ruangsak Anuwatwimon, *Reincarnations (Hopea Sangal & Sindora Wallichii)*, 2019
39. Korakrit Arunanondchai, *Together with history in a room filled with people with funny names 3-5*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
40. Chang En-Man, *Snail Paradise*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
41. CAMSTL, *Birth (of a Nation)*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
42. Dennis Tan, *Many Waters to Cross*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
43. Robert Zhao, *Queen's Own Hill and its Environs*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
44. Dusadee Huntrakul, *The Map for the Soul to Return to the Body*, 2019, Singapore Biennale
45. Vertical Submarine, *Flowery Language*, 2019; *Tua Kang (Hyperbole)*, 2019, Singapore Art Museum
46. Michael Lee, *Museum on Air*, 2018, Singapore Art Museum
47. 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
48. Hiromi Tango, *Lizard Tail*, 2016, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
49. Nandita Mukand, *The Origin*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
50. Nipan Oranniwesna, *Another Island*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum

CURRICULUM VITAE

51. Unchalee Anantawat, *Floating Mountain*, 2017, Singapore Art Museum
52. Araya Rasdjarmrearnsook, *Jaonua: The Nothingness*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
53. MAP Office, *Desert Islands*, 2009, 2016, Singapore Biennale
54. Kentaro Hiroki, *Rubbish*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
55. Fyerool Darma, *The Most Mild Mannered Men*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
56. Pannaphan Yodmanee, *Aftermath*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
57. Sakarin Krue-On, *A Tiger Hunt*, 2016, Singapore Biennale
58. Choe U-Ram, *Una Lumino Callidus Spiritus*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
59. Yuree Kensaku, *Apex Predator*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
60. Krit Ngamsom, *Surrealism Spiced (After Salvador Dali)*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
61. Krit Ngamsom, *Bryde's Fountain (After Marcel Duchamp)*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
62. Krit Ngamsom, *Damien I'm Famished (After Damien Hirst)*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum
63. Karina Smigla-Bobinski, *ADA 2.0*, 2016, Singapore Art Museum

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.

EDUCATION, TALKS, LECTURES & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

1. **Oct '22** – *Industry Experience Conference* (Dip. Arts Management) – Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (Guest Speaker)
2. **Aug '22** – *Artist as Curator* (BA Fine Arts, Programme Elective) – LASALLE (Part-Time Lecturer)
3. **Jun '22** – *Exhibition-Making Workshop* (Singapore Management University, 8-lesson curriculum) – DECK (Lecturer)
4. **Jul '21** – *Exhibition-Making Workshop* (CHIJ Katong Convent, 7-lesson curriculum) – DECK (Lecturer)
5. **Jun '21** – *A Studio of One's Own* – DECK (Host)
6. **May '21** – *Are Art Museums Instruments of Hegemony?* – Inappropriate Book Club, Talk-Talk-Villion, Bangkok Biennial 2020 (Discussant)
7. **May '21** – *2nd Workshop on Cultural Mediation* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Respondent)
8. **Feb '21** – *Walking With Photographers Series* – DECK (Host)
9. **Dec '20** – *Artist Talks and In Conversation Series* – Singapore International Photographic Festival (Facilitator and Moderator)

CURRICULUM VITAE

10. **Mar '20** – *Art at a Time of Pandemic* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Speaker)
11. **Oct '19** – *Artist Panel Discussion with Dennis Tan And Post Museum* – LASALLE, Baby Tropical Lab "Erase" (Panel Moderator)
12. **Nov '18** – *Southeast Asia: Cultural Challenges and the Curatorial* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)
13. **Sep '18** – *Behind the Scenes with Artist Mentors* – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Panel Moderator)
14. **Aug '17** – *On Curating* – LASALLE, MA Art Histories Programme (Guest Lecture)
15. **Jun '17** – *Singapore Art Museum – Beyond a National Platform* – Chiang Mai Art Conversation (Guest Lecture)
16. **May '17** – *Art History* (a 5-part art history module in Singapore Changi Prison for inmate artists) – Yellow Ribbon Singapore (Programme Lecturer)
17. **Nov '16** – *Curating Southeast Asia* – The Chinese University of Hong Kong, MA in Cultural Management Programme (Guest Lecture)

PUBLICATIONS & WRITINGS

1. **Sep '22** – Author (Artist Conversation), *Dusadee Huntrakul Doubles Down on Looking* in **Ocula Magazine** (Online Publication). Ocula.
2. **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.
3. **Sep '21** – Editor/Author (Publication), *5th Passage: Time Regained*. (ISBN978-981-18-2595-8). Gajah Gallery.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **Mar '19** – Author (Essay), *Phantom on the Horizon* in *Once lost but now found* (Exhibition Catalogue). Oi! (Hong Kong).
8. **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
9. **May '18** – Author (Essay), *Nipani Oranniwesna, Memories of Progress in Singapore* in *Cultural Connections*, Volume 3. (ISSN:2424-9122). National Heritage Board.
10. **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.

CURRICULUM VITAE

11. **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)
12. **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)
13. **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.