

NAFA Symposium 2008 – Biodata of All Participating Speakers

(Names in alphabetical order)

Ms Sarena ABDULLAH

Sarena Abdullah currently resides in Sydney and is working on her PhD thesis entitled “Postmodernism in Malaysian Arts” with the Department of Art History and Film Studies at the University of Sydney, Australia. She obtained her Diploma in Interior Design from Mara University of Technology (UiTM), Malaysia, and BSc in Interior Design from Science University of Malaysia (USM), majoring in gallery and museum design. She obtained her MA in Art History from SUNY Buffalo, NY in 2005.

Dr Caren CARINO

Caren Carino graduated from high school at the age of 16, and attended the University of Hawaii where she completed a BEd (Dance) and an MFA (Theatre and Dance).

Her professional career includes dancing with the Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company (USA) and heading the Dance Department at LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts (Singapore). She has published papers, articles and reviews with World Dance Alliance and The Arts Magazine.

Carino is presently Head of Dance at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, President of World Dance Alliance (Singapore) and dance adviser to the Singapore government arts agencies. Her PhD with the Department of South East Asian Studies, National University of Singapore, was conferred in April 2008.

Dr CHEN Ming-Hui

Chen Ming-Hui received her PhD in Art History and Theory at Loughborough University in Britain in 2008. Her doctoral project (funded by an ORS Award from the British Government) investigates contemporary Taiwanese women’s art with specific focuses on postcolonial and feminist theories.

In 2005, Chen co-edited an art historians’ careers guide published by the Association of Art Historians (AAH) in London. Her research has been published internationally, in the newsletter of The International Institute for Asian Studies

(2006), and *Inferno: Art History* (2007) published by the University of St Andrews, among others. She has delivered several research papers to international conferences regarding her research, and she was a session convenor at the AAH Annual Conference in Belfast in April 2007. She is currently a Research Assistant at Loughborough University.

Mr CHOO Thiam Siew

Choo Thiam Siew is the President of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), a leading arts institution established in 1938. NAFA has expanded in the region and now plays an important role in the development of the Singapore arts scene. It aims to be a “World-Class Institution” and is committed to providing excellent arts education and training for the region’s budding artists.

Prior to this, Mr Choo was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Arts Council, Singapore from 1997 to 2003. The Council is responsible for furthering Singapore’s goal as a global city of the arts. It does this by concentrating on the development of artists, audience, arts programmes, as well as the design and the creative industries. His leadership resulted in a much higher profile for the Council.

He first entered public service with the then Parks & Recreation Department in 1976, and was the Deputy Commissioner till 1995, and later the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board. He played a pivotal role in shaping Singapore into a garden city.

Some of his other appointments include Director of the Singapore Symphonia Company Limited, Director of the Singapore Chinese Orchestra Company Limited, Director of the Singapore Arts School Limited, Independent Director of the Composers And Authors Society of Singapore Limited (COMPASS), and Vice Chairman of the MICA Broadcast/Publication/Arts Appeal Committee.

He is a keen enthusiast of Eastern and Western classical music, paintings, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese classical poetry and antiques.

Dr CHUA Soo Pong

Chua Soo Pong is the Founding Director of the Chinese Opera Institute and Artistic Director of the Singapore Chinese Opera Performing Ensemble. He was the President of World Dance Alliance (Singapore) from 2005-2007 and taught at Nanyang Technological University between 2002 and 2006. Chua is the Founding Director of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Performing Arts (1999-2000) and the first Senior Specialist (Performing Arts) at SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SPAFA) (1989-1995). He obtained his PhD from Queen's University in Belfast, UK in 1979.

Chua is an anthropologist and ethnomusicologist by training. He taught at the National University of Singapore from 1980 to 1988. He was the editor of *Performing Arts*, the first journal on the arts in Singapore, published by the National Theatre Trust, from 1983 to 1989.

Dr CHUNG Yi

Chung Yi is the Director of the Research Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Cultures, Yunnan University of Finance and Economics. She is a research scholar at the School of Philosophy and the School of Arts at Peking University. She lectures, researches, writes and edits on Southeast Asian arts and culture, with several books and over 20 theses published. *The Art Development of Malaysian Chinese from 1900-1965*, in particular, is widely agreed to be a milestone achievement. The main scope of her research is the development of Chinese ink painting in Southeast Asia. She established the Ink Painting grading system for the Unified Examination in 1990; the system has since been adopted in Malaysia, the UK, Holland, Australia and New Zealand.

Dr Eugene DAIRIANATHAN

Eugene Dairianathan's research interests are rooted in interdisciplinary perspectives of Music. In 2002, he was a co-recipient of a National Arts Council Research Grant for *A Narrative History of Music in Singapore; 1819 to the present*. Since then, he has been active in promoting this research data through local and international publications and conference presentations, writing, giving pre-concert talks, and giving interviews on Western art music, xinyao and hip-hop for local radio and broadcast media. Dairianathan is Associate Professor and Music Coordinator in the Visual and Performing Arts Academic Group at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Dr Oradol KAEWPRASERT

Oradol Kaewprasert has just been awarded her Doctorate Degree from the Department of Literature, Film and Theatre Studies, University of Essex, UK. Her thesis topic is Gender Representations in Thai Queer Cinema. She was funded by the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, where she had taught for 7 years before she went to the UK, and now teaches at the Department of Broadcasting.

She has presented papers on film studies in Singapore, Northern America and the UK. Before that she worked in the television industry and in non-government organisations. Her MA is from Griffith University, Australia and her BA is from Kasetsart University Bangkok.

Ms Kay KOK Chung Oi

Kay Kok Chung Oi is an art educator and a visual artist in Singapore. She is a full-time lecturer in the Department of Arts Management and Education at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Currently a doctoral candidate at Durham University, UK, her research interest centres on the influence of socio-politics in Singapore art education.

Recently, she was awarded the first prize and appointed as the representative artist for her winning entry at Tai Seng Station in the Phase 1 Singapore Land Transport Authority Art Competition. Her artworks on the history of Singapore rickshaw coolies were mentioned by Professor James Francis Warren in his keynote speech at National Museum of Singapore in 2007.

Mr KWOK Kian Chow

Kwok Kian Chow is Director of the Singapore Art Museum. His publications include *Channels and Confluences: A History of Singapore Art* (1996) and *Dongnanya xiandai meishu* (Modern Art in Southeast Asia, 2006, co-authored with Chow Yian Ping). He was responsible for Singapore's first participation in international biennales, including Johannesburg, Sao Paulo and Venice. A board member of ICOM, International Committee of Modern Art Museums and Collections, Kwok is active in international art museum circles as a contributor to art conferences, exhibition projects and museum partnerships.

Dr LEE Tong Soon

Lee Tong Soon is an Associate Professor, and the Director of undergraduate research and world music performance in the Music Department at Emory University, USA. He received his PhD in Musicology (1998), Advanced Certificate in Asian Studies (1998) and MA in Musicology (1995) from the University of Pittsburgh, and his MBA (2002) and BA (Hons) in Music (1993) from the University of Durham, England, where he served as Lecturer in Music (1998-2001). He also holds the Licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music (1993) and Licentiate of the Trinity College of Music, London (1990) in piano performance, having studied with Rena Phua in Singapore and Graeme Humphrey in London. Lee is a member of the Board of Directors for the Society for Ethnomusicology and is currently the President of the Society for Asian Music. Since 1995, he has conducted field research with the Muslim, Chinese and Peranakan communities in Singapore, and in 2006, he received a research grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange for his current project on Chinese music and migrants in Great Britain. His book, *Chinese Street Opera in Singapore*, is published by the University of Illinois Press (2008).

Mr Arun MAHIZHMAN

Arun Mahizhnan is the Deputy Director of the Institute of Policy Studies. He is also an Adjunct Professor at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information, Nanyang Technological University. Mahizhnan's research interests include policy issues relating to ICTs and mass media, the development of Singapore as an Information Society, and arts and cultural developments in Singapore. He has been a member of the boards of several arts organisations and served in many government committees on culture, arts and broadcasting. Prior to joining IPS, Mahizhnan had spent 20 years in senior positions in broadcasting and public communication fields.

Dr Carol MARTIN

Carol Martin is Associate Professor of Drama at Tisch School of the Arts, New York University. Martin's guest edited issue of TDR on documentary theatre in the US, the UK, Israel, Lebanon and Germany was published in August 2006. Her essays and interviews have appeared in anthologies, academic journals in the United States and abroad and the New York Times, and have been translated into French, Polish, Chinese and Japanese.

Her achievements include: Visiting Professor Fellowship at Tokyo University; Best Issue of the Year by Professional/Scholarly Publishing Division of the Association of American Publishers for a special issue of TDR on Japanese Performance; and the De La Torre Bueno for her book, *Dance Marathons*. She has received grants from Fulbright, National Endowment for the Humanities, Mellon, and Tisch Senior Faculty Development grants.

Books she has written include *Documentary Theatre on the World Stage* (forthcoming Palgrave, 2009), *Global Foreigners* (2006), *Brecht Sourcebook* (co-edited with Henry Bial), *A Sourcebook of Feminist Theatre: On and Beyond the Stage*, and *Dance Marathons: Performing American Culture of the 1920s and 1930s*.

Dr Pradosh Kumar MISHRA

Pradosh Kumar Mishra received his education in Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Varanasi. He completed his Doctoral research on *Emerging Trends in Contemporary Indian Painting, a Study in the Perspective of Globalisation and National Identity* from 1990 to 2004.

He has produced an audio-visual documentary on *Two Contemporary Painters of Orissa* for National Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi in 1993, and has extensively documented various living Master Artists, their behaviour and attachment to the traditional stone carving workshops in Lalitagiri, Bhubaneswar, Puri and Mathura in Orissa (India) under the project *Workshop Tradition of Orissan Sculpture* from 1994 to 2000.

Mishra also co-authored a monograph entitled *Chandrasekhar Rao: Life and Work*, published articles on Contemporary Art in publications entitled *Bronze* (2006), *Let a Thousand Flowers Bloom* (2001), *Oddiyani* (1997), *Beyond the Shores* (1995), and *Tribal Art: Primitivism and Modern Relevance* (1990).

He has presented papers at several national seminars on art historical studies and participated in an international symposium on sculpture and dance, organised by Ram Chhatpar Shilp Nyas (1999), and Art Interaction, organised by Indo-German Art Forum (2003) at Varanasi.

Mr Kenneth SEAH Sen Kiat

Kenneth Seah Sen Kiat is a full-time lecturer with the Department of Arts Management and Education at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. He has been working as an academic for the past 8 years. Specialising in digital media, he was responsible for the design and development of curriculum and syllabi related to the various subject areas of digital video and imaging production.

His research interests centres on the convergences of society and technology and its impact on contemporary society. He holds a Master of Arts degree in Research from the Queensland University of Technology, Australia, with a Bachelor of Arts (Communications Design) degree from the same university. Prior to that, he was a graduate of the Department of Film, Sound and Video at the Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Singapore.

Mr Andrew SELBY

Andrew Selby is an award-winning illustrator whose work has appeared in national newspapers, on billboards and on the covers of major corporate reports for household names around the world. His recent exhibitions and publications include 3x3: The Journal of Contemporary Illustration (USA) and Society of Illustrators of New York Illustrators 48 (USA), and the Association of Illustrators' Images 30 (UK) juried exhibition will be touring Europe later this year.

Selby's primary research activity centres on the investigation of the importance, relevance and influence of wit and humour in visual communications. His first book, Animation in Process, is due to be published by Laurence King in 2009. He is also a co-editor of TRACEY, the online journal of contemporary drawing research. TRACEY completed the book Drawing Now: Between the Lines of Contemporary Art for publishers I B Tauris.

Selby is currently teaching the undergraduate and postgraduate Visual Communication programmes in LUSAD. In addition, he works as part of the team

responsible for programme delivery of Graphic Communication to students at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in Singapore.

Prof Michael SULLIVAN

Michael Sullivan is Professor Emeritus at Stanford University and Fellow Emeritus at St. Catherine's College, Oxford University. The world authority on 20th century Chinese painting and recognised throughout the world as a leading scholar of Chinese Art, his many books include *Modern Chinese Artists: A Biographical Dictionary* (First edition 2006), *The Arts of China* (Fourth edition, expanded and revised, 2000), *The Meeting of Eastern and Western Art* (Revised and expanded edition, 1997), and *Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China* (1996).

Prof William SUN Huizhu

William Sun is a noted playwright and published performance studies scholar. He holds an MA in Literature from Shanghai Theatre Academy (1981), an MA in Humanities from State University of New York, Buffalo, USA (1985) and a PhD in Performance Studies from New York University (1990).

He has taught at Tufts University, California State University, Northridge and York University, and is a contributing editor to NYU's *The Drama Review*. His major research interests include social performance studies, intercultural theatre and theatre narratology.

His publications include *The Fourth Wall: Theatre in Construction and Whose Madam Butterfly? Conflicts on Stage and Clash of Civilizations*, and works like *The Old B Hanging on the Wall*, *China Dream*, *Gods and the Good Woman*, and Yue opera *Hedda Gabler*. The last two have been staged in China, USA, Japan, Singapore and Norway.

Dr Eugene TAN

Eugene Tan is the Programme Director for Contemporary Art at Sotheby's Institute of Art ñ Singapore. An art historian, critic and curator, he holds a PhD in Art History from the University of Manchester. He was previously Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, LASALLE College of the Arts. He was also curator for the Singapore Pavilion at the 2005 Venice Biennale and co-curator of the inaugural Singapore Biennale in 2006. He is co-author of the publication Contemporary Art in Singapore and has written for many exhibition catalogues and publications, including art magazines such as Art Asia Pacific, Art Review, C-Arts, Contemporary, Contemporary Visual Arts, Flash Art, Metropolis M and Modern Painters.

Mr TAN Tarn How

Tan Tarn How is a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies. His research areas are in arts and cultural policy, and media and Internet policy. He has written on the development of the arts in Singapore, in particular on fostering partnerships between the people, private and public sectors. He has also written a comparative study of the creative industry policies in China, Korea and Singapore. He has written on the management of the media industry in Singapore, and the impact of the Internet and new technology on society, including the regulation of political expression and speech on race and religion.

Mr TAN Kay Ngee

Tan Kay Ngee is founder and principal architect of Kay Ngee Tan Architects (KNTA) London (founded 1990) and KNTA Singapore (founded 1993). In 2004, KNTA was selected as one of the representatives to showcase their work in the Singapore Pavilion at the Venice Biennale. Prize winner of the 1985 Royal Institute of British Architects International Competition and the 1987 AJ/Bovis Awards, Tan writes a regular column for Singapore's Lianhe Zaobao and Malaysia's China Press. While the primary scope of his practice is architectural, he has also actively participated in other fields such as theatre set design, literature and craftwork.

Prof WANG Gungwu

Wang Gungwu was formerly the Director of the East Asian Institute, National University Singapore, and is now its Chairman. He is also a Professor at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of Singapore; and Emeritus Professor at Australian National University, Canberra. He holds many other appointments and awards, among which include Chairman of Governing Board, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy; Fellow of Australian Academy of the Humanities; Foreign Honorary Member of American Academy of Arts and Science; Member of Academia Sinica, Taipei; and Honorary Research Fellow of Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing.

His many books include *Divided China: Preparing for Reunification, 883-947* (2007); *Anglo-Chinese Encounters since 1800* (2003); *Don't Leave Home: Migration and the Chinese* (2001); *The Chinese Overseas: From Earthbound China to the Quest for Autonomy* (2000); *Joining the Modern World: Inside and Outside China* (2000); *China and Southeast Asia: Myths, Threats and Culture* (1999); *Nanhai Trade: The Early History of Chinese Trade in the South China Sea* (New edition, 1998); *Community and Nation: China, Southeast Asia and Australia* (1992); *The Chineseness of China* (1991); and *China and the Chinese Overseas* (1991).

Mr Eric WATSON

Born in the UK, Eric Watson received musical training at Trinity College of Music in London, his principal studies being piano, violin, composition and conducting, for which he was awarded the Ricordi prize. After graduating, he established a career as a composer and musical director.

Now domiciled in Singapore he has twice been the composer for the Singapore National Day Parade. He is also active as a conductor and a lecturer.

In 2006 he won the first prize at the Singapore Chinese Orchestra First International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition. This has led to more collaboration with the Orchestra: 'Dialogue for Tabla and Orchestra', a Jazz Overture and a Concerto Grosso, 'Songs of the North'.

Maestro Tsung YEH

Tsung Yeh is currently the Music Director of both the Southbend Symphony Orchestra in the USA and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra. Yeh entered the conducting profession in 1984 as the Exxon/Arts Endowment Conductor of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra. He has worked under the mentorship of Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Slatkin and Max Rudolph.

As an orchestra builder, Yeh has gained a reputation from his accomplishments in artistic growth and innovative programming. As a visionary he has demonstrated an outstanding ability to cross boundaries between East and West to produce critically acclaimed works on both sides of the Pacific.

Mr Danny YUNG

Danny Yung founded Zuni Icosahedron, an experimental art collective in Hong Kong, and has been its Artistic Director since 1985. He is also a cartoonist, video artist and theatre director. He has produced and directed more than 150 stage productions. He has written and lectured extensively on arts, culture and the media.

Yung is Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Institute of Contemporary Culture. He is also Vice Chairman of the World Cultural Forum Alliance, Founding Chair of the Asia Arts Net, Vice President of the Asia Pacific Performing Arts Network, Co-Chairman of the International Network for Cultural Diversity, Founding Member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council, and Appointed Member of the Consultative Committee on the Core Arts and Cultural Facilities of the West Kowloon Cultural District of HKSAR Government.