

# Transforming Arts Education

## Our Collective Mission

10 May 2023  
9am–4.30pm

The Singapore Airlines Theatre  
LASALLE College of the Arts

Guest-of-Honour:  
Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education

## Symposium Programme

Our Colleges:



University  
of the Arts  
Singapore

# Symposium Programme

08:15	REGISTRATION AND SEATING
09:05	ARRIVAL OF GUEST-OF-HONOUR Mr Chan Chun Sing Minister for Education
09:10	IN APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION OF OUR ARTS EDUCATORS
09:20	ADDRESS BY GUEST-OF-HONOUR
09:35	LAUNCH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE ARTS SINGAPORE'S LOGO And Collaborative Performance by LASALLE & NAFA Students
10:00	KEYNOTE: THINKING THROUGH ARTS EDUCATION IN OUR TIME Professor Kwok Kian Woon Vice-Chancellor, University of the Arts Singapore
10:45	<i>Break</i>
11:15	PANEL DISCUSSION 1 Core Priorities in Arts Education Today
12:30	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:45	COLLABORATIVE PERFORMANCE BY NAFA FACULTY, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS
14:00	PANEL DISCUSSION 2 Practice, Pedagogy, and Research — Evolving a New Agenda
15:45	CLOSING REFLECTIONS
16:15	PERFORMANCE BY LASALLE STUDENTS
16:30	END

# Symposium Speakers

Keynote:

## Thinking Through Arts Education in Our Time

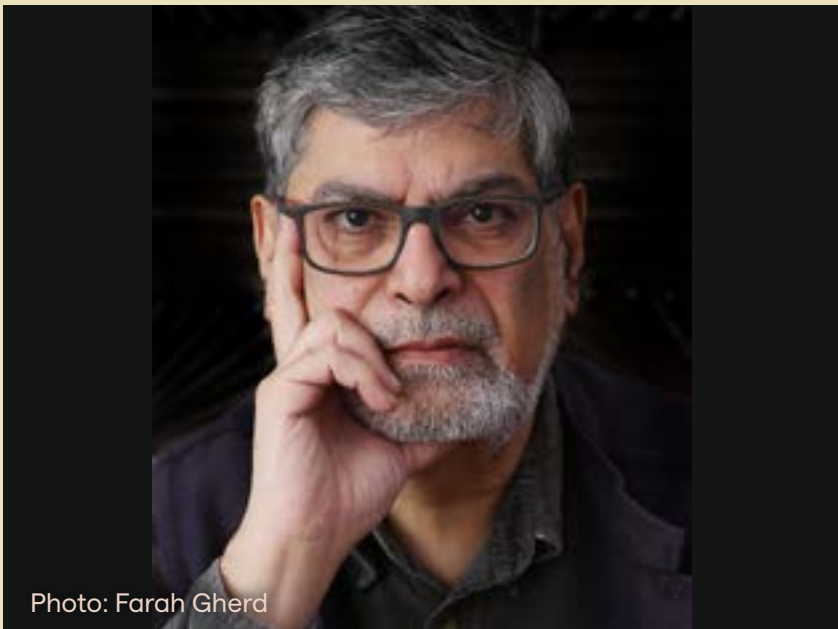


## Kwok Kian Woon

Professor Kwok Kian Woon is Vice-Chancellor of the University of the Arts Singapore. He is also Emeritus Professor at the Nanyang Technological University, where he served as Professor of Sociology and in several pioneering roles over two decades. He was a founding member of the former School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the first Head of Sociology, Senate Chair, Associate Provost of Student Life, and Associate Vice-President (Well-being). His teaching and research areas include social theory, social memory, mental health, culture, and the arts. In addition to his writings, he has had a sustained record of intellectual engagement in civil society and public life, especially in the cultural sphere.

Panel 1:

# Core Priorities in Arts Education Today



## Rustom Bharucha

Rustom Bharucha is a writer, cultural critic and dramaturg based in Kolkata, India. He taught Theatre and Performance Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University from 2012 to 2018 and has recently been appointed as a Corresponding Fellow of the British Academy. He obtained his doctorate from Yale University in Dramatic Criticism in 1981 and has published several books including *Theatre and the World* (1993) and *Terror and Performance* (2014). He researched the latter publication while at the International Research Center in Berlin from 2010 to 2012. He has also recently published *Performing the Ramayana Tradition: Enactments, Interpretations, and Arguments* (2021) and *The Second Wave: Reflections on the Pandemic through Photography, Performance and Public Culture* (2022).

## Steve Dixon

Professor Steve Dixon is President of LASALLE College of the Arts (since 2012), and a director and performer working in theatre, film, VR and telematics. His previous academic work at Salford and Brunel Universities (UK) included devising innovative programmes, and leadership roles developing institutional strategic plans and industry research partnerships. His research focuses on new technologies in theatre and dance, and he is co-founder and Advisory Editor of *International Journal of Performance Arts and Digital Media* (Routledge). Steve is author of an 800-page history of *Digital Performance* (2007, MIT Press) and his latest book *Cybernetic-Existentialism: Freedom, Systems and Being-for-others in Contemporary Arts and Performance* (2020, Routledge) fuses ideas from philosophy and system sciences to critique 50 contemporary artists.



## Mary Seah

Mary Seah has been at the helm of School of the Arts (SOTA) since 2019. Prior to joining SOTA, Mary has served in Tanjong Katong Girls' School, Raffles Junior College, Millennia Institute as well as the Academy of Singapore Teachers. With her experience as a music educator and school leader, Mary has shared extensively at educational platforms, and initiated a number of creative projects and networks focused on school and curriculum leadership. Since joining SOTA, Mary has led her teachers to inquire into and deepen their pedagogical and artistic practice. Her professional interests include interdisciplinary learning, cultural leadership and organisational psychology. She is a passionate advocate for the arts, particularly in how it holds much potential for negotiating complexity and uplifting humanity.



## Tan-Soh Wai Lan

Mrs Tan-Soh Wai Lan was appointed President of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in January 2021 and has since been leading the efforts to establish the academy as a founding member of the University of the Arts Singapore. Since her appointment, NAFA also saw a successful rejuvenation of its brand in 2022, achieved top 200 rankings for four consecutive years in *The Straits Times* Singapore's Best Employers list, and being ranked #37 in 2023. Mrs Tan joined NAFA from her appointment as Coordinating Divisional Director, Communications and Engagement Group (CEG) at the Ministry of Education (MOE). In her four years in MOE, she led and transformed the CEG to an effective and forward-thinking outfit within the Ministry known for its innovative practices, robust systems and effective strategies. Prior to that, she was Principal of CHIJ St Nicholas Girls' School (2012–2016). She had served in various roles in the education sector and received the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2015 for her dedication and contribution.



# Peter Tornquist

Composer Peter Tornquist grew up in Sweden, Switzerland, and Brazil, settling in Norway for studies with Lasse Thoresen and concluding his education at the Royal College of Music in London with George Benjamin. He is currently the Dean of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore. His work has been performed by major orchestras around the world and focuses on the interaction between composers and performers through live electronics and improvisation. He has also contributed extensively to the development of phenomenological approaches to music analysis. In recognition of his services to music, he has been awarded Honorary Fellowships by the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and the Royal Northern College of Music.

Panel 2:

# Practice, Pedagogy, and Research — Evolving a New Agenda

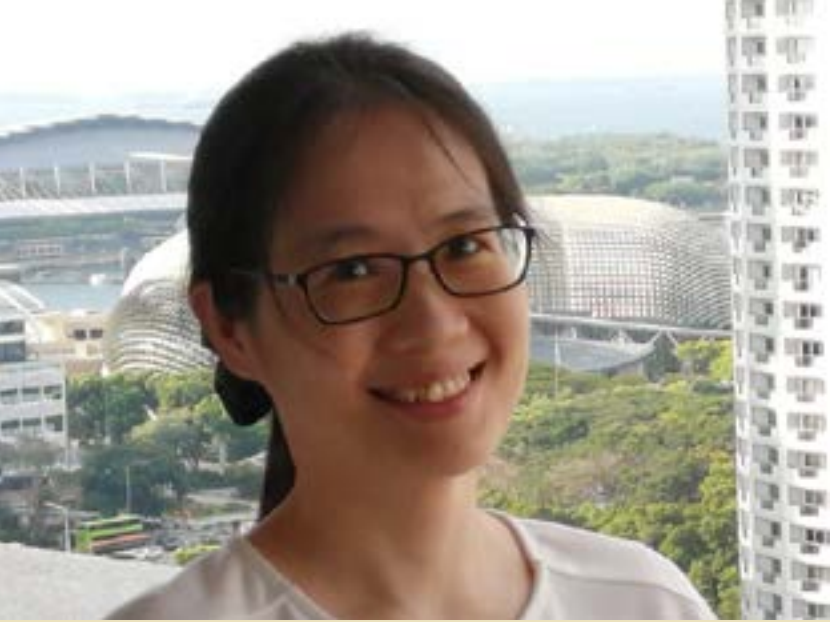


## Patrick Flores

Dr Patrick Flores is Professor of Art Studies at the Department of Art Studies at the University of the Philippines and concurrently Deputy Director at National Gallery Singapore. He is the Director of the Philippine Contemporary Art Network. He was a Visiting Fellow at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. in 1999. Among his publications are *Painting History: Revisions in Philippine Colonial Art* (1999); *Past Peripheral: Curation in Southeast Asia* (2008); *Art After War: 1948-1969* (2015); and *Raymundo Albano: Texts* (2017). He was a Guest Scholar of the Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles in 2014. He was the Artistic Director of Singapore Biennale 2019 and Curator of the Taiwan Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2022.

## Cissie Fu

Dr Cissie Fu is the current Head of McNally School of Fine Arts at LASALLE College of the Arts. As a political theorist, Cissie is also the co-founder of the Political Arts Initiative which is interested in the ways in which people interact and compose political ideas and actions through technology and the arts. Born in Hong Kong, Cissie studied, taught, curated and performed across cultural and educational institutions in Asia, Europe, the UK, and the Americas and most recently as Dean of the Faculty of Culture and Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Canada. Cissie's practice-led research interests in relational aesthetics and decolonial action, combined with her experiments in experiential and transformative organisational design, inform her approach to institution-building as a creative, critical and communal cultural practice.



# Rebecca Kan

Rebecca Kan (PhD, EdD) is an Associate Dean at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. She is presently holding two appointments at the Teaching & Learning Centre and Faculty of Performing Arts. Her work in academic development straddles across the visual and performing arts, involving curriculum planning to develop people and processes in higher arts education. She has spearheaded research projects, international collaborative partnerships, and pedagogical practices in the arts. Rebecca is passionate about fostering creative spaces in education through the arts, and her current research areas are in professional education, signature pedagogies, and everything in between.



# Paul Lincoln

Art maker, educator and Georgette Chen scholarship recipient, Paul Lincoln received a MFA (Painting) from Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in 1999 and is currently a Senior Lecturer and Head of the Visual and Performing Arts academic group, National Institute of Education and Director, NTU Art and Heritage Museum. With interest spanning Art practice and technology, mixed reality technologies and human-computer interaction to its impact on learning and education. Paul has participated in notable New Media Art exhibitions such as *Festival Ars Electronica*, *MAAP*, *Nokia Singapore Arts* and was the key driver in the development of learning tools such as the Iskandar Jalil virtual exhibit at NIE and 'Teachers Pet' chatbot teaching assistant.



Panel 2:

# Practice, Pedagogy, and Research — Evolving a New Agenda



## Low Cheaw Hwei

Low Cheaw Hwei is the Global Practice Lead for Product & Spatial Design and Head of Philips Experience Design and Government & Public Affairs for ASEAN Pacific. He oversees the integration of product and spatial design, driving the transformation of product and spatial experience in the digital environment. Cheaw Hwei is also an industry thought leader and frequently contributes and presents at various design and innovation forums. He is currently chairperson of the Design Education Advisory Committee (DEAC) a national-level initiative set up to push the agenda of design into the industry and education sector.

## T. Sasitharan

T. Sasitharan is the current Director of the Intercultural Theatre Institute (ITI), an independent actor-training school that he co-founded with late theatre doyen Kuo Pao Kun in 2000. Before ITI, Sasitharan served as the Artistic Director of The Substation (1996–2000) and as the Theatre and Visual Arts critic of *The Straits Times* (1988–1996). He also taught Philosophy at the National University of Singapore from 1983 to 1989. In recognition of his contributions to the arts and culture in Singapore, Sasitharan was awarded the Cultural Medallion, Singapore's highest honour for artists, in 2012 by the President. In 2022, he received the third HCS Fellow Award from the Harvard Club of Singapore.



# Roger Nelson (Moderator)

Roger Nelson is an art historian and curator, and Assistant Professor of Art History in the School of Humanities at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. He researches modern and contemporary art in Southeast Asia, with a recurrent concern on questions of historiography and method, including how they relate to gender, translation, trans-media intersections, and under-studied artists. He was previously a curator at National Gallery Singapore while teaching Art History at NUS. He was the 2022 recipient of the A.L. Becker Southeast Asian Literature in Translation Prize, awarded by the Association for Asian Studies. He is co-founder and co-editor of *Southeast of Now: Directions in Contemporary and Modern Art in Asia*, a peer-reviewed scholarly journal published by NUS Press.

In Appreciation and Recognition of Our

# Arts Educators

As the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) begins a new chapter in arts education, it is important for us to take a moment to appreciate our arts educators.

At this Inaugural UAS Arts Symposium, we recognise the practitioner-teachers, who across a diversity of art forms and traditions, have enriched the lives and practices of successive generations of students.

Through sustained mentorship, these educators have imparted invaluable lessons in technique, discipline, care, and critical judgement. Their students have flourished as persons and come into their own as artists, practitioners, and researchers.

We celebrate the unique ways that they have modelled courage, resourcefulness, imagination, and mastery of their craft, their art. These individuals continue to make significant contributions to arts education, community engagement, scholarship, public discourse, and the wider cultural life of Singapore, the region and beyond.

As we thank this group of arts educators, we are reminded of many dedicated colleagues, across disciplines and institutions who inspire and challenge their students to new creative and intellectual heights. We are grateful for their contributions and look forward to sharing their accomplishments in the years ahead.

**Venka Purushothaman**, Deputy President and Provost,  
LASALLE College of the Arts

**Jerry Soo**, Vice President (Academic) and Provost,  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

**Co-Chairs of UAS Symposium Steering Committee**

[More info on the Arts Educators](#)



# Opening Performance

The opening collaborative performance features visuals created by LASALLE's School of Design Communication accompanied by music from NAFA's gamelan ensemble.

The first song *Ladrang Wilujeng* is a traditional Javanese gamelan piece, translated to mean well wishes and safety. Often performed as a greeting, this performance conveys the intent of well wishes and blessing to all present.

The second song *Ladrang Semula* is a contemporary piece structured

in three parts, beginning with a gentle introduction that builds into a traditional ladrang structure to symbolise how a new journey can start on a note of uncertainty, but with time and space, develop to embody a unique identity. The energetic middle section portrays the youthful energy and vigour generated by progress, culminating in a reprise of the traditional form as a tribute to our roots and heritage.

## Students from NAFA Faculty of Performing Arts

### Gamelan Ensemble

Ang Jia Yi, Cheong Ying Ning, Hilman Hadi Bin Wahiduzzaman, Kim Jeannie, Lee Zi Yi Jocelyn, Lim Sze Jing, Marion Lee Si Hui, Muhammad Aisamuddin Bin Norazmi, Tai Bing An, Tan Jing Long Darryl, Zhang Yuchao  
(Diploma in Music Teaching School of Music)

### Flautist

Lee Wen Xiang (BEd (Hons)  
Instrumental and Vocal Teaching)

### Programme Leader-in-charge

Alicia de Silva  
(Programme Leader, Office of Academic Affairs)

## Students from LASALLE Faculty of Design

Dion Chai, Siti Juwairiyah, Valencia Barbie Huisaini, Alisa Temereva (Diploma in Design Communication and Experiences)

### Programme Leader-in-charge

Jaygo Bloom  
(Programme Leader, Diploma in Design for Communication & Experiences)

# Guo Fan Ge

《过番歌》

*(Songs of Overseas Migration)*

A collaborative performance featuring faculty, students and alumni from the School of Music and School of Dance. Composed by Dr Goh Toh Chai (Head, Composition Studies) in 2018, the musical quintet is based on a collection of songs collated by Chinese migrant workers at the turn of the twentieth century in Singapore and Southeast Asia. The Singapore premiere will be sung in Chinese dialect, with movements choreographed by NAFA students from the School of Dance, mentored by dance artist-educator Goh Shou Yi.

## Performers from Faculty of Performing Arts

### Faculty from School of Music

Dr Jessica Chen (Soprano)  
Sunny Wong Sun Tat (Erhu)  
Dr Nellie Seng (Piano)  
Lin Juan (Cello)  
Alumna: Wang Si Yuan (Pipa)

### Students from School of Dance

Desamero Andrea Bernice Quilapio  
Karunnaraporn Paopa-Nga  
Ko Fan Xuan  
Suntiwong Anyamon  
Varoonchotikul Thanaporn  
Yang Tsai-Ni

### Artistic Director

Goh Shouyi

### Lighting Designer

Iskander Abori

### Lecturer-in-charge

Susan Yeung

# Closing Performance

## *This is the Moment*

from the musical *Jekyll & Hyde*  
Song written by Frank Wildhorn and Leslie Bricusse

## Opening Sequence: *The New World*

from *Songs for a New World*,  
a musical by Jason Robert Brown

### Pianist

Valerie Tjota  
(LASALLE Alumni, BA Hons Music,  
graduating year 2018. Currently a core  
Musical Theatre Staff/Musical Director)

### Singers

Eugenia Lee Wan Lin  
(LASALLE Graduating Student 2023)

Marissa D/O Mohammad Reza Vojodi  
(LASALLE Graduating Student 2023)

Cheong Jia Wei, Marcus  
(LASALLE Graduating Student 2023)

Eric Renzo Larrea Guija  
(LASALLE Graduating Student 2023)

### Musical Theatre Team

Dayal Gian Singh  
(LASALLE Alumni, BA Hons Musical  
Theatre, Graduating year 2008.  
Current Programme Leader for BA  
Hons Musical Theatre)

Aloyisus Foong  
(LASALLE Alumni, BA Hons Music,  
Graduating year 2010.  
McNally Award Recipient.  
Current Lecturer for BA Hons Musical  
Theatre/Musical Director)

Akiko Otao  
(Professional Performer, Singing  
Teacher and Vocal Coach)

# Symposium Steering Committee

## CO-CHAIRS

### **Venka Purushothaman**

Deputy President and Provost, LASALLE

### **Jerry Soo**

Vice President (Academic) and Provost, NAFA

## MEMBERS

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Dean, Faculty of Design, LASALLE

### **Rebecca Kan**

Associate Dean, Curriculum and Pedagogy, NAFA

### **Kwok Kian Woon**

Vice-Chancellor, UAS

### **Jeffrey Say**

Programme Leader, MA Asian Art Histories, LASALLE

### **Xin Xiaochang**

Head, Special Projects Unit, NAFA

### **Ye Shufang**

Senior Lecturer, School of Fine Art, NAFA

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### **Chionh Weiyi**

Project Manager, Special Projects, UAS

### **Edmund Chow**

Assistant Director, Academic Governance, UAS

### **Jonathan Chng**

Assistant Manager, Pedagogy and Research Unit, NAFA

# About the

# University of the Arts Singapore

The University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) is Singapore's first arts university nurturing a new generation of forward-looking artists, designers, educators, researchers, arts leaders and changemakers.

UAS is founded on an alliance of Singapore's pioneering and leading arts institutions, LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE) and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA).

Located in the heart of the arts and civic district, LASALLE and NAFA are distinguished by unique heritages, strong artistic traditions, and innovative teaching approaches. Our trailblazing faculty and alumni have earned national recognition, including Cultural Medallions and Young Artist Awards, championing Singaporean creativity on the global stage.

UAS will generate new artistic thinking and discourse by creatively combining teaching, practice, and research.

Collaborating with arts communities and industry partners locally and internationally, our graduates will energise the cultural landscape and the creative economy. We will strengthen Singapore as a creative hub in Asia.

Welcoming our first intake in 2024, LASALLE and NAFA will offer undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, with degrees awarded by UAS.

[uas.edu.sg](https://uas.edu.sg)

