


ANNEX B: NAC-UAS ARTS SCHOLARSHIP AND 2024 RECIPIENTS

The NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship is a joint scholarship established between the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) and the National Arts Council (NAC) to nurture outstanding students enrolled in UAS undergraduate and postgraduate programmes, to develop the next generation of arts leaders in Singapore.

S/N	Recipients & Quotes	Background
Undergraduate		
1	<p style="text-align: center;">Zhuang Chuhang</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Contemporary Chinese Theatres, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore</i></p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Image courtesy of Crispian Chan</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>“I aim to advocate for a more comprehensive and in-depth integration of educational drama and theatre education into the school education system. I view this scholarship as an opportunity to develop my skills to become a proficient actor and educator.”</i></p>	<p>Zhuang Chuhang’s passion for theatre ignited during his high school years through co-curricular activities. This initial spark led him to complete a Diploma in Theatre (Mandarin Drama) at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, from which he recently graduated. Chuhang, 27, will now embark on a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Contemporary Chinese Theatres at NAFA, University of the Arts Singapore, to deepen his studies and further refine his skills.</p> <p>His key roles include Tan Kah Kee in <i>Tan Kah Kee</i>, Principal Wang in <i>Catastrophe</i>, Willy Loman in <i>Death of a Salesman</i>, Torvald Helmer & Nils Krogstad in <i>A Doll’s House</i>, Macbeth in <i>Macbeth</i>, Shui Ta in <i>The Good Person of Szechwan</i>, Virus Leader in <i>Virus?Human</i>, Monkey King in <i>Borrowing the Plantain Fan</i>, Jack in <i>Lord of the Flies</i>, Ensemble in <i>The Visit</i> and many others.</p> <p>Chuhang’s firm belief in the educational power of theatre and drama drove his aspiration to advocate for the integration of educational drama and theatre education into the school education system, enriching classroom teaching with comprehensive arts education. He aims to provide students with enhanced learning experiences, broader artistic perspectives, and more opportunities for personal growth. By doing so, he hopes to contribute to a more vibrant arts and cultural scene in Singapore, fostering greater recognition and appreciation of the arts among the younger generation.</p> <p>Through the NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship, Chuhang aims to develop, expand, and refine his skills in theatre and drama, enriching his academic knowledge to excel as both a trained actor and an educator.</p>

Postgraduate

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David Gan Chong Jin

*Master of Arts in Art Therapy,
LASALLE College of the Arts,
University of the Arts Singapore*



*Image courtesy of Hong Ray
Photography*

“In my art therapy practice, I aspire to foster healing and growth by helping clients connect deeply with themselves and others, guided by E.M. Forster’s wisdom to ‘only connect’.”

David Gan Chong Jin, 44, will pursue a Master of Arts in Art Therapy at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore. David has been an educator for nearly twenty years, accruing extensive experience teaching a wide range of students across different ages and levels of achievement.

His most memorable experience was at the School of the Arts Singapore (SOTA). In 2014, David helped design and implement the Career-Related Studies curriculum for the inaugural cohort of the International Baccalaureate Career-Related Programme (IBCP). Over the next three years, he further developed this curriculum by introducing workshops and masterclasses with artists, while mentoring the students in their studio practice. In 2017, he facilitated a collaboration between the IBCP students and a group of elderly residents of Whampoa, which culminated in the exhibition, ‘In An Echo We Remember’, showcasing artworks inspired by the objects and stories shared by the residents.

Moving forward, David intends to continue fostering opportunities for intergenerational collaborations, leveraging his skills as both an art educator and an art therapist. His goal is to create inclusive, sustainable projects that engage diverse segments of the community. By bringing together varied perspectives and encouraging reciprocal learning, he believes these initiatives can bridge generational divides and empower voices.

Furthermore, David also hopes to develop programmes within schools, museums, and community spaces that will utilise art as a tool to cultivate resilience and enhance the mental and emotional well-being of children and youths.

Through the NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship, David will focus his research on the benefits of art therapy interventions within the context of Singapore’s healthcare, social service, and education sectors. Because of his own experience with bipolar disorder, he is particularly interested in the role that art therapy can play in the treatment of various mental health disorders, and in particular, in trauma recovery.

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Muhammad Nhawfal Bin Juma'at

Master of Fine Arts Fine Art, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore



Image courtesy of Nur Fatin

"I believe that the core of our cultural history and identity is embedded in the arts. I aim to preserve this tradition through education, nurturing the minds of future practitioners to carry it forward."

Muhammad Nhawfal Bin Juma'at, 33, will be pursuing a Master of Fine Arts Fine Art at NAFA, University of the Arts Singapore. He graduated from Loughborough University in 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Fine Art and from NAFA in 2012 with a Diploma in Fine Art (Distinction). As a visual artist, his practice is rooted in the philosophy of bricolage. Currently, he works as an adjunct lecturer, teaching studio-based modules and has been actively exhibiting in the local art scene since 2010.

Muhammad Nhawfal's works have been featured in several exhibitions, including "Paper Trails Between Lion and Swan" at the Old Customs House in Fremantle, Western Australia (2024), "Children of the Star" at AC43 Gallery in Singapore (2023), "NOCTURNE: Conversations with Waterloo" in conjunction with the Singapore Nights Festival (2022), and "Intersections" at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay in Singapore (2020).

He believes that creating a positive impact through the arts goes beyond cultivating artistic excellence; it requires a commitment to social responsibility and community engagement. Muhammad Nhawfal has also contributed to the social service sector, working as an art instructor at a mental wellness centre for seven years and has been a member of Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya (APAD) since 2010.

Muhammad Nhawfal aims to enhance Singapore's art scene through education and visual artistry. His vision includes fostering a vibrant, inclusive, and innovative arts community. Driven by passion for the arts' transformative power, he seeks to lead strategically, ensuring the arts become integral in establishing a sense of collective individualism.

With the NAC-UAS Arts Scholarship, Muhammad Nhawfal will stay motivated in pursuing his studies, further develop his creative skillsets to new grounds and broaden the possibilities of an exciting future.

Tristan Lim You Jie

*Master of Arts in Fine Arts,
LASALLE College of the Arts,
University of the Arts Singapore*



Image courtesy of Tristan Lim

"I hope my practice can lead to a deeper appreciation for innovative approaches and concepts within the arts scene, passing this perspective on to a new generation of artists pushing conceptual boundaries, further expanding the scope of what artmaking can entail."

Tristan Lim, 31, is pursuing a Master of Arts in Fine Arts at LASALLE College of the Arts, University of the Arts Singapore. He currently works as an adjunct lecturer and freelancer, alongside his fine art practice.

His work has been featured in group exhibitions at Ota Fine Arts, The Arts House, SAM at 8Q and The Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Singapore. He has also participated in the Meta Artist-in-Residence (AIR) programme, and presented work at the Singapore Night Festival, Singapore Light to Night Festival, ART SG, and overseas in Spain, Vietnam and Taiwan.

He was a co-founder of ToNewEntities (TNE), a creative collective that works primarily with new media technologies to foster arts and cultural experiences. The collective has organised festivals, workshops and participated in fairs in Dubai and Milan, Italy.

Tristan's work is deeply rooted in observations of visual culture, exploring our relationships to reality in contemporary life. He creates open-ended narratives expressed through new media, procedural digital works, drawings, and physical installations.

He hopes his practice can lead to a deeper appreciation for innovative approaches and alternative ideas in the arts scene and pass this perspective on to a new generation of artists pushing conceptual boundaries, and further expanding the scope of what artmaking can be.

Through the scholarship, Tristan hopes that it will enable him to continue exploring various conceptual tangents and embrace creative detours, furthering his knowledge as both an artist and a lecturer.