

HO TZU NYEN, 32 VISUAL ARTS

Born in Singapore in 1976, Tzu Nyen is a multi-disciplinary artist who works with paintings, drawings, photography, installations, and multimedia. He had the ability to traverse different disciplinary fields with great success, as shown by the international acclaim he received for his theatre projects, and the selection of his first feature film for the prestigious Cannes International Film Festival.

Tzu Nyen holds a Bachelor of Creative Arts from the University of Melbourne (1998-2001) and a Master of Art in the National University of Singapore's Southeast Asian Studies Programme (2003-2007).

Since he unveiled his first solo project, *Utama – Every Name in History is I* (2003), he has proven himself to be one of Singapore's important contemporary visual artists of his generation. The installation of film and paintings about the forgotten pre-colonial founder of Singapore was produced for The Substation and subsequently exhibited at the 26th Sao Paulo Biennale (2004) and the 3rd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennale (2005). It has also been transformed into a theatrical lecture presented in London's Institute of Contemporary Arts (2005) and Brussels' KunstenFestivaldesArts (2006), among other occasions.

His second major project, *4 x 4 – Episodes of Singapore Art* (2005), included four short films that resurrected four significant moments in Singapore's art history. After they were broadcasted on MediaCorp's Arts Central channel, *4 x 4* was also shown at art exhibitions and film festivals in Jakarta, Seoul, Shanghai, Tokyo and Berlin.

Tzu Nyen was next commissioned by the inaugural Singapore Biennale (2006) to produce *The Bohemian Rhapsody Project*, a film featuring dialogue made up of lyrics from rock band Queen's 1975 hit, *Bohemian Rhapsody*. The prize-winning film has been shown in more than 30 film festivals and exhibitions.

His other projects include *Sejarah Singapura* (2007), a panoramic film re-enacting key moments from Singapore's pre-colonial history, commissioned by the National Museum of Singapore, which was awarded the Silver Medal for multimedia museum display at New York's MUSE Awards. *The King Lear Project* (2008), a theatre piece that he conceived, wrote and co-directed, was presented at KunstenFestivaldesArts (2008) and Singapore Arts Festival (2008).

His first feature film, *HERE* (2009), was selected for the Directors' Fortnight at the Cannes Film Festival and subsequently presented at film festivals such as the Karlovy Vary, Pusan, Warsaw and Bangkok. His new medium-length film, *EARTH* (2009), premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

Other awards that he has won include first prize in the Abstract Category of the 20th UOB Painting of the Year competition (2001), the JCCI Singapore Foundation Arts Award (2008) and the Singapore Youth Awards for Arts and Culture (2009).