

MEDIA RELEASE

**Six Singapore Artists Receive Highest Honours at the
Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Awards 2017**

*Cultural Medallion conferred on a highly celebrated author and playwright,
and an internationally renowned composer*

*Young Artist Award recipients include a poet and writer, a conductor and composer,
a multi-disciplinary artist, and a dancer-choreographer*



Front row (L-R): **Mrs Rosa Daniel**, Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council; **Ms Yeoh Chee Yan**, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth; **Ms Grace Fu**, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth; **Mr Djamal Tukimin**; **President Halimah Yacob**; **Mr Law Wai Lun**; **Mr Baey Yam Keng**, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth; **Professor Chan Heng Chee**, Chairman, National Arts Council.

Back row (L-R): **Mr Joshua Ip**, **Ms Yarra Iletto**, **Mr Kahchun Wong**, **Mr Kray Chen**.

Singapore, 24 October 2017 – Six artists from various artistic disciplines have been conferred the **Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award** today. Administered by the National Arts Council (NAC), the awards recognise the recipients' extraordinary contributions towards shaping a distinct, vibrant arts scene in Singapore, advancing their fields of arts practice and for bringing Singaporeans from different communities together through the arts. Each artist has also demonstrated a commitment towards educating, mentoring and inspiring the next

generation of art makers; making a lasting impact through the numerous educational and community development efforts they actively promote and participate in.

2 Two distinguished veteran artists, who have demonstrated artistic excellence and professional maturity through an outstanding body of work, were conferred the Cultural Medallion. The Young Artist Award was also accorded to four artists aged 35 years and below, identified as having the potential to play a greater leadership role in Singapore's artistic development.

3 Says Mrs Rosa Daniel, Chief Executive Officer, National Arts Council, "The Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award recipients represent the pinnacle of Singapore's artistic excellence and cultural creativity. As leaders in their fields who have contributed significantly to the rich tapestry of Singapore's arts landscape, they inspire budding artists and Singapore audiences alike. We are proud to celebrate their achievements which will go a long way in profiling Singapore on the global arts stage."

4 In recognition of the recipients' artistic achievements and aspirations, all recipients will receive support for their future artistic pursuits and development, as they continue their efforts to advance Singapore's arts and cultural landscape, as well as engage the wider community through their future projects. The Cultural Medallion Fund allows each respective recipient to access an amount of up to \$80,000, in support of a single project or multiple projects over the recipient's lifetime that meet the Fund's objectives. The Young Artist Award Grant provides an amount of up to \$20,000 to support each recipient of the Award in continuing their artistic pursuits and development – for example, through arts projects or studies that have a positive impact on the recipient's artistic growth, or on Singapore's arts scene.

Cultural Medallion (CM)

5 The Guest-of-Honour, President Halimah Yacob, presented the Cultural Medallion to two artists. They are:

a. **Djamal Tukimin (b.1946)**

Djamal Tukimin is an author, critic, playwright and researcher, with a career spanning 50 years. He is best known for his poetry in the Malay literary arts scene in Singapore and the wider Malay Archipelago. Active in promoting poetry and literature to the public, he has won awards for his contribution to the arts over the years, and was recently conferred the Archipelago Poet Award by the Prince of Songkhla University (Thailand) in 2015.

b. Law Wai Lun (b.1944)

Law Wai Lun is a composer, educator and mentor, well-known for his versatility in his compositions and music arrangements which reflect artistry, thought and imagination. He is widely recognised for his contribution to the development of the 'Nanyang Style' in Chinese orchestral music. In addition to his extensive work with the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), he has also been commissioned to compose epic works presented at the Singapore Arts Festival, Huayi Festival and the National Day Parade. He has also won numerous awards, with the most recent being the Artistic Excellence Award 2017 by the Composers and Authors Society of Singapore (COMPASS).

Young Artist Award (YAA)

6 Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Ms Grace Fu presented the Young Artist Award to four recipients. They are:

a. Joshua Ip (b.1982)

Joshua is an award-winning poet, editor and literary organiser. He has published four collections of poetry with Math Paper Press, most recently, *footnotes on falling* (2017); as well as co-edited seven anthologies, among them the 'SingPoWriMo' series (2014-2016). He co-founded the Singapore Poetry Writing Month in 2014, and founded Sing Lit Station in 2016, a literary non-profit organisation that seeks to develop Singapore's writing scene. He has been featured at numerous home-grown and international literary festivals, and has organised workshop programmes for young poets.

b. Kahchun Wong (b.1986)

Kahchun is an orchestral conductor and composer. He has been featured multiple times by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO), where he was Conducting Assistant from 2011 to 2012. He is also the Founder and Artistic Director of Asian Contemporary Ensemble. Beyond Singapore, Kahchun has been a guest conductor of many internationally renowned orchestras across Asia and Europe. As a strong advocate of music education, Kahchun is the co-founder of Project Infinitude, a grassroots initiative committed to guiding and encouraging children from diverse backgrounds in their first musical steps. Kahchun was the winner of the 5th Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition held in 2016, and has recently been appointed as Chief Conductor of the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra beginning from the 2018/2019 season.

c. Kray Chen (b.1987)

Kray is a multidisciplinary artist whose works are based on three main themes – Memory, Body and Inertia. Kray's works are largely inspired by everyday life in Singapore, and are presented through video, film and interactive installations. His works have been exhibited at various platforms including Art Stage Singapore, Singapore International Film Festival and FRAC Des Pays De La Loire, France. A lecturer at LASALLE College of the Arts since 2013, Kray has also been involved in curatorial work. Kray was the Prudential Singapore Young Artist Finalist in 2014.

d. Yarra Ileteo (b.1982)

Yarra is a dancer and choreographer trained in modern dance and classical ballet. Through her past work with major dance companies in Singapore, including T.H.E Dance Company and The Arts Fission Company, Yarra has performed, led classes, created new works and facilitated outreach programmes for the elderly. Yarra is currently teaching at LASALLE and NUS Dance Synergy. As an independent artist, Yarra has choreographed works that have been showcased at different festivals and platforms.

Plans for Grant Utilisation

7 Sharing his plans on how he may be utilising the Cultural Medallion Fund, Mr Djamal Tukimin said, “I am looking at organising a literary gathering with my fellow counterparts for the exchange of ideas and to discuss my past works. I am also planning to publish more novels, poetry and compilation works in the future.”

8 YAA 2017 recipient Mr Kray Chen said, “I am exploring using the YAA grant to cover the production costs for an upcoming film which I am currently working on.”

Past Award Recipients’ Contributions to the Arts Scene

9 Over the last few years, past Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award recipients have utilised their awards funding to inspire audiences in Singapore through varied arts experiences. For example, musician Chua Yew Kok, who received the Young Artist Award in 2013, presented a two-day pipa recital in May 2016 at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts Lee Foundation Theatre. Poet Lee Tzu Pheng, Cultural Medallion recipient in 1985, used the funding support to publish three collections of poetry and prose in 2012 – *Sing a Song of Mankind*, *Catching Connections* and *Short Circuits*.

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Please refer to the following annexes for more information:

Annex A – Profiles of the Cultural Medallion 2017 recipients

Annex B – Profiles of the Young Artist Award 2017 recipients

Annex C – List of Specialist Assessment Panel Members

Annex D – A Look at 38 Years of the Cultural Medallion

About National Arts Council

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, we want to develop Singapore as a distinctive global city where the arts inspire our people and connect our communities. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions while we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to

and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives. For more information on the Council's mission and plans, visit www.nac.gov.sg.

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ANNEX A

PROFILES OF THE CULTURAL MEDALLION 2017 RECIPIENTS

Mr Djamal Tukimin (71) – Author/ Playwright

Jamal Bin Tukimin (b. 1946), commonly known as Djamal Tukimin, is a prolific figure in the Malay literary scene in Singapore and the wider Malay archipelago. Since 1963, Djamal has been active as a writer, critic and researcher. He has authored a wide range of literary works, including novels, poetry, plays and critical essays published by notable publishers in the region. Djamal has been published in many anthologies including 'Dari Jendela' (2009), a collection of poems from Singapore and Malaysia. Since 1975, four of his theatre plays have also been staged.



In the 1970s, Djamal was one of the founders of Grup Gelorasa, a group of poets who injected new energy to the development of contemporary Malay literature. As an advocate of creative writing in Malay, Djamal believes that appreciation of Malay literature can be deepened through the performing arts. In 2009, Djamal performed an hour-long solo poetry recital at the Esplanade Recital Studio. Djamal has also been involved in organising and conducting literary workshops and seminars in Singapore and overseas.

As a critic and researcher, Djamal has written about Malay theatre since the 1970s. His published works include research on the development of Malay theatre in Singapore and a study of the polemic of Malay literature. Djamal continues to work on multiple research papers which are still works-in-progress. Djamal owns a collection of over 15,000 books, which includes resource materials of historic value and interest such as magazines and documents printed in Singapore during the pre-war period. As a way of giving back to the community, he allows his archive to be accessed by postgraduates and researchers.

Djamal is a recipient of the Anugerah Tun Seri Lanang (2007), the highest literary award for Malay literature in Singapore by the Malay Language Council, Singapore. Locally and regionally, Djamal is a highly sought-after speaker for seminars and conferences on Malay literature and theatre. In 2009, he was also

a visiting fellow at the Institute of The Malay World and Civilisation (ATMA) in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (National University of Malaysia).

Upcoming Activities

To celebrate his 55th year of practice in 2018, Djamal plans to organise a gathering with fellow practitioners and those who made an impact in his artistic journey. He would like to invite his counterparts including writers, poets, critics and educators from Singapore and the region to gather and speak about his works.

He is currently working on 7-8 books ranging from novels, short stories, poetry and playwright, with plans to publish them. An example of an ongoing work is a compilation of prominent Malay figures in the arts from around the world.

Mr Law Wai Lun (73) – Composer

Law Wai Lun (b. 1944) is a composer who is widely recognised for his contribution to the development of the ‘Nanyang Style’ in Chinese orchestral music. Born in Shanghai, Law migrated to Hong Kong in 1980 before relocating to Singapore in 1995, where he is now based.

Law draws inspiration from Singapore’s multicultural landscape, which has allowed him to create more diverse and exciting compositions in a variety of styles ranging from symphonic to pop and jazz, from the traditional to the contemporary.

As the Singapore Chinese Orchestra’s (SCO) Composer-in-Residence from 2012 to 2014, Law played a significant role in creating an important canon of works representative of Singapore’s unique identity. Many of his works premiered at established festivals and prestigious platforms such as the Singapore Arts Festival, Huayi Festival and the National Day Parade. Law’s notable works include ‘Zheng He: Admiral of the Seven Seas’ (2005), ‘The Celestial Web’ (2003), ‘Elegance of Nanyin’ (2011) and ‘The Goddess’ (2014).

Law has received numerous accolades in Singapore and abroad. He was awarded the Honorary Prize at the inaugural Singapore International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition held by the SCO in 2006. He received the Golden Sail Award from The Composers and Authors Society of Hong Kong (CASH) for being the composer with the most widely performed works in 2007 and the prize for Best Composition in 2016. This year, he was honoured with the Artistic Excellence Award 2017 by the Composers and Authors Society Of Singapore (COMPASS).

In recognition of his expertise in music composition, Law has been invited to speak at platforms such as the SCO Composers’ Workshop, the Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra’s Composers’ Summit and the Taipei Chinese Orchestra’s 10th Chinese Music Composition Symposium. He has also served as adjudicator for music competitions in Singapore, Hong Kong and Taiwan.



Upcoming Activities

Mr Law has been engaged to compose for upcoming events including the SCO's fundraising concert and the 2018 Huayi Festival. He will also be composing for the 2018 Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation - Chinese Orchestra (Primary School).

ANNEX B

PROFILES OF THE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD 2017 RECIPIENTS

Mr Joshua Ip (35) – Poet / Writer

Joshua Ip (b. 1982) is a poet, editor, and literary organiser. He has published four poetry collections with Math Paper Press, most recently 'footnotes on falling' (2017). He has won accolades across multiple genres. His debut poetry collection, 'sonnets from the singlish' (2012) was the joint recipient of the Singapore Literature Prize (2014). He also won the Golden Point Award for English Prose (2013), was placed 2nd for English Poetry (2011), and was awarded an Honorable Mention for Chinese Poetry (2015). He was selected by Griffith Review as one of Asia's '20 New Voices under 40' for a multi-city tour of Australian festivals. He has performed his work at international literary festivals in London, New York, Guangzhou and Goa.



Joshua is an active editor and anthologist, committed to developing new voices in our literary scene. He has co-edited seven anthologies including the 'SingPoWriMo' series (2014-2016), 'A Luxury We Cannot Afford' series (2014) as well as 'Unfree Verse' (2017), the first historical anthology examining 80 years of Singaporean formal poetry, and 'Twin Cities: An Anthology of Twin Cinema Poetry from Singapore and Hong Kong' (2017). He edits the 'Ten Year Series' imprint, providing a platform for writers who have gone through the first Manuscript Bootcamp in Southeast Asia.

He co-founded Singapore Poetry Writing Month in 2014, challenging poets to write a poem daily for 30 days online. The latest edition in April 2017 gathered more than 4,000 writers. He helps to run 'poetry.sg', a digital archive of Singapore poets with critical introductions, videos, selected works and bibliographies. He facilitates emerging writers in writing workshops and, in 2016, brought these programmes together under Sing Lit Station, a literary non-profit organisation that seeks to develop the Singapore writing scene. In its first year, it has generated numerous outreach programmes pop-up readings in MRTs and buses, invisible poems on sidewalks that appear in the rain and poetry workshops for the migrant worker community.

Recent Activities

Sing Lit Station presented *Sing Lit Body Slam* on 6 – 7 October 2017, an experimental showcase that integrates spoken word poetry and wrestling,

Most recently, Joshua also participated in two festivals as a featured writer: Asia Pacific Writers and Translators Festival (22 – 24 October) in Bali and A-Festival (11 – 15 October) organised by AJAR Press and Vagabond Press in Hanoi/Ho Chi Minh City.

Mr Kahchun Wong (31) – Conductor / Composer

Kahchun Wong (b. 1986) is an orchestral conductor and composer. Kahchun obtained his Masters of Music in Conducting from Hans-Eisler Musikhochschule, Germany, and his Bachelor of Music (Composition) from Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Kahchun has been featured multiple times by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (SSO) and the Singapore Chinese Orchestra (SCO). He was also Conducting Assistant of the SCO from 2011 to 2012. As the Founder and Artistic Director of the Asian Contemporary Ensemble, Kahchun has led his group in performing the works of Singaporean composers such as Phoon Yew Tien, Bernard Tan, John Sharpley and Diana Soh.



Beyond Singapore, Kahchun has been a guest conductor of many internationally renowned orchestras, including the Aarhus Symphony Orchestra, Bamberg Symphony, Czech Philharmonic, German National Opera, China Philharmonic Orchestra, Shanghai Symphony Orchestra, Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra, Konzerthausorchester Berlin, St. Petersburg Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, and Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra. Kahchun's compositions were published by Tierolff Muziekcentrale (the Netherlands) between 2006 to 2012, and performed worldwide by various groups. He was recently commissioned by the Ministry of Education to compose a set piece for the 2017 Singapore Youth Festival (Secondary School Category).

A strong advocate of music education, Kahchun is the co-founder of Project Infinitude, a grassroots initiative that is committed to guiding and encouraging children from diverse backgrounds in their first musical steps. As he feels strongly about giving back to the community, in gratitude for what he himself had received when he was a budding musician, the pilot programme took place in Singapore at the Enabling Village with the support of the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music and Superhero Me. He and his co-founder Marina Mahler (granddaughter of the composer Gustav Mahler) look to expand the project in a sustainable and thoughtful way to global communities in the future. Kahchun attained international recognition through his outstanding achievements at the 5th Gustav Mahler Conducting Competition (Winner) in 2016, the 4th International Jeunesses Musicales Bucharest Conducting Competition (Winner) in 2013, International

Lovro von Maticac Conducting Competition (2nd Prize) in 2011, and the 3rd Singapore International Competition for Chinese Orchestral Composition (Winner, Singaporean Composer Award) in 2015.

Kahchun was appointed as a Dudamel Conducting Fellow at the Los Angeles Philharmonic for the 2016/2017 season. Most recently, he was elected as Chief Conductor of the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra beginning from the 2018/2019 season.

Upcoming Activities

Kah Chun has been appointed as Chief Conductor of the Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra beginning from the 2018/2019 season. His recent and upcoming guest conducting engagements include invitations from internationally renowned orchestras in Berlin, Prague, Luxembourg, Toulouse, Trieste, Bucharest, Heidelberg, Weimar, Tokyo, Osaka, Hiroshima, Kyushu, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Taipei. As a composer, he was most recently commissioned by the Ministry of Education to compose a set piece for the 2017 Singapore Youth Festival (Secondary School Category).

Mr Kray Chen (30) – Multi-disciplinary artist

Kray Chen (b. 1987) is a multi-disciplinary artist, who graduated with a Master of Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the Arts.

Through performance, video, film and interactive installations, Kray's works attempt to anatomise the concept of 'human resource', based on three broad themes of memory, the body and inertia. He is interested in muscle memory and how coordination, remembrance and synchronicity of motions collectively differentiate actions from demonstrations. In 'Exercise Now and Fit a Standard Size Coffin' (2013 - present), a series of video performances, Kray uses the rhythm of workouts to draw out the banality and existential undertones of a society's fascination with performance and efficiency. The series has been exhibited at the Chi-Wen Gallery (Taiwan), the Substation (Singapore), Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore, and The Lab @ NTU-CCA (Singapore). Another notable work, 'I'm a Steamroller Baby' (2017), is a video installation commissioned for the Esplanade Tunnel. It explores obese bodies in Singapore's National Service, and the ways they are defined, regimented and sculpted through running, numbers and singing. Kray's short film, 'Durian-Picking' (2016), was featured at the Singapore International Film Festival in 2016. It tells the tale of his father's peculiar hobby of looking for wild durians in Singapore.



Kray has been a lecturer at LASALLE since 2013. He has also been involved in curatorial work such as 'Wayang Malam', 'One Night Only', 'Noting Nothing', 'Background Playground', 'Something Rather Decorative' and 'Finding Humour'. In collaboration with Swell Studios in 2016, he published an art book 'And It's Getting More And More Absurd?' for his solo exhibition, 'It's A Set Situation' at Grey Projects, Singapore.

Kray has participated in the NTU-CCA residency (2016) in Singapore, the FRAC Des Pays De La Loire residency in Nantes, France (2015) and the Hangar residency in Barcelona, Spain (2014). He was also the Prudential Singapore Young Artist Finalist in 2014.

Upcoming Activities

Kray's works will be featured as part of Singapore Art Week 2018. He will also be having an online show under the program "PLAY", curated by Ian Woo, with Blindside Gallery in Melbourne – where he will be showing a single channel version of *I'm a Steamroller Baby*.

In the later part of 2018, Kray may be involved in a collaborative film project with Lien Foundation to develop works based on caregiving.

Ms Yarra Ileto (35) – Dancer

Yarra Ileto (b. 1982) is a dancer and choreographer. Born in Australia, she trained in ballet and modern dance, and was a pioneer member of Quantum Leap Youth Dance Ensemble in Canberra.

In the early 2000s, Yarra joined her father, Professor Rey Ileto, in Singapore where he encouraged her to further her dance studies at LASALLE College of the Arts. In 2008, she graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Performing Arts (Dance).

Upon graduation, Yarra joined T.H.E Dance Company as one of the full-time members, where she trained daily, led company classes and created works. She has performed in all the company's works from 2008 to January 2015, touring extensively on international platforms in Asia and Europe and has worked with notable choreographers. She has also choreographed works for T.H.E Main Company and its youth wing T.H.E Second Company with well-received works showcased at M1 CONTACT Contemporary Dance Festival.

After seven years with T.H.E as pioneer Dance Artist, Yarra joined The Arts Fission Company in 2015 as Senior Artist. At Arts Fission she facilitated several community outreach programmes.

Throughout the years, Yarra has guest choreographed for universities in Singapore, namely Nanyang Technical University, Singapore University of Social Sciences, Singapore Management University and the National University of Singapore. She has also presented works for LASALLE's graduation show.

Since April 2016, Yarra has been an independent professional dance artist. Most recently, she choreographed and performed in a well-received independent work-in-progress entitled '28.6.15', where she explores the universal theme of commitment and responsibility. It is a project that she will continue to develop in the future.

Yarra is also currently the Technique Tutor for NUS Dance Synergy and Dance Lecturer at LASALLE.



Upcoming Activities

Yarra was recently involved in HATCH, a choreographic platform by Dance Nucleus. In January 2018, Yarra will be showing *The Immortal Sole* at M1 Fringe Festival. Yarra has expressed keen interest in intergenerational works and would like to work more with the elderly community.

ANNEX C

LIST OF SPECIALIST ASSESSMENT PANEL MEMBERS

Award	Name
Dance (CM & YAA)	Angela Liong (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Jobina Tan Melissa Quek Santha Bhaskar Sharon Cheah Ui-Hoon Stephanie Burridge Uma Rajan
Film (CM & YAA)	Eric Khoo (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Anita Kuan Boo Junfeng Joachim Ng K Rajagopal Royston Tan Wahyuni A. Hadi
Literary Arts (CM & YAA)	Chua Chee Lay (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Chitra Sankaran Denon Lim KTM Iqbal Raman Daud Rajeev S Patke Sa'eda Buang Teoh Hee La

<p>Music (CM)</p>	<p>Dick Lee (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Eric James Watson Jeremy Monteiro Uma Rajan Woo Mun Ngan Yeo Siew Wee Zechariah Goh</p>
<p>Music (YAA)</p>	<p>Jennifer Tham (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Benjamin Loh Eric James Watson Kevin Mathews Lan Shui Thomas Manhart Toh Ban Sheng Tony Makarome Vanessa Fernandez Woo Mun Ngan Yeo Siew Wee</p>
<p>Theatre (CM)</p>	<p>JP Nathan (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Atin Amat Cai Bi Xia Christopher Choo Jimmy Ye Lee Chee Keng Mayo Martin R Chandran Raman Daud S Varathan</p>
<p>Theatre (YAA)</p>	<p>Chong Tze Chien (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Clarissa Oon Helmi Yusof Huzir Sulaiman James Tan Janice Koh Noor Effendy Ibrahim Tay Tong</p>

Visual Arts (CM)	Eugene Tan (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Bridget Tracy Tan Koh Mun Hong Kwok Kian Chow Lee Hock Moh Milenko Prvacki Ong Kim Seng Tan Siah Kwee Tay Bak Chiang
Visual Arts (YAA)	Venka Purushothaman (Chairperson) Paul Tan (Co-Chairperson) Bridget Tracy Tan Chua Chye Teck Jason Lim Joyce Toh Seng Yu Jin

ANNEX D

A LOOK AT 38 YEARS OF THE CULTURAL MEDALLION

Year	Milestone
1979	The Cultural Medallion was instituted as an initiative of the late President of Singapore, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, who was then Minister of Culture, to recognise individuals whose artistic excellence in the fields of dance, music, theatre, literature, fine art and photography, as well as contribution and commitment to the arts have enriched and helped shape Singapore's cultural landscape.
1992	The Young Artist Award was introduced by the National Arts Council to encourage young artists, 35 years old and below, who are at a crucial stage of development. Recipient of the award will have access to a grant of \$10,000 which supports their artistic pursuits and development.
1997	Scope of the Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award is extended to Film.
2001	The Cultural Medallion (CM) Fund of \$50,000 was introduced to support CM recipients in their continuous artistic pursuit in making a positive impact on Singapore's arts and cultural development and engaging the wider community through their future projects.
2002	<i>Narrative: Notes On A Cultural Journey</i> was published to record and introduce the various artists who have been awarded the highest arts award in Singapore from 1979 to 2001.
2005	Photography is re-defined under the visual arts category. The scope of the Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award is extended to technical theatre.
2006	The Cultural Medallion was henceforth presented by the President of Singapore.
2007	The Cultural Medallion Fund was increased from \$50,000 to \$80,000.
2011	Young Artist Award grant was increased from \$10,000 to \$20,000. The Cultural Medallion Speaker Series was introduced to allow Cultural Medallion recipients to engage with the wider public, through sharing about their artistic philosophies and journeys.
2013	Recipients are no longer categorised by art forms with increasingly multi-disciplinary art practices.