

## **ANNEX B**

### **ABOUT THE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD (YAA)**

The Young Artist Award was introduced in 1992 to encourage the development of artistic talent in Singapore. The Award is accorded to artists, aged 35 years and below, who have shown promise of artistic excellence and leadership in the fields of literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and film. It is conferred by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and administered by the National Arts Council. As of 2019, 160 artists would have been conferred the Young Artist Award.

Young Artist Award nominees are assessed upon the extent to which they have achieved or demonstrated all of the following:

- A strong body of work that gives evidence of a clear artistic vision and the potential for continued excellence
- Significant contribution and positive impact in shaping his/her field of practice and Singapore's artistic development, with potential to play a greater leadership role
- Ability to be an inspiration and role model to other artists in Singapore and overseas

Recipients of the Award will be eligible for a grant of \$20,000, which supports their artistic development and pursuits within a two-year period after they receive the Young Artist Award.

## RECIPIENTS OF YOUNG ARTIST AWARD 2019

### Emily Koh (Age, 33) – Composer

Emily Koh (b. 1986) is a composer of contemporary classical music. Her music is characterised by inventive explorations of the smallest details of sound. She received a Ph.D. in Music Composition and Theory from Brandeis University, Waltham in Massachusetts, USA (2017).

She has received multiple awards, including the Asian Composers League Yoshiro Irino Memorial Prize (Hong Kong, 2013). She has also been commissioned by the Singapore Symphony Orchestra (2015) and the Barlow Endowment General Commission (USA, 2012); and received the Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence (2012).

Today, Emily is Assistant Professor of Composition at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens in Georgia, USA, and performs as a double bassist in the Atlanta contemporary music scene. Although she is based in Atlanta in Georgia, USA, she gives workshops at various schools every time she is back in Singapore.



### **Gabriel Chan (Age, 35) – Lighting Designer**

Gabriel Chan (b.1984) is a lighting designer well versed in lighting for the theatre, dance, music concerts and live events. A recipient of the National Arts Council Overseas Bursary (2008), Gabriel graduated from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts (HKAPA) with First Class Honours in Lighting Design (2010). Gabriel was also awarded Best Lighting Design under HKAPA's Technical & Entertainment Award (2010) for his design thesis project. A Strand Lighting Scholarship awardee, he also completed training at the Metropolitan Opera (New York, USA, Winter Season 2009).



Since 2012, Gabriel has been lighting Frontier Danceland's main seasons, which feature an array of international choreographers. In the music scene, he has worked extensively with Siong Leng Musical Association for more than a decade.

To date, he has garnered three Best Lighting Design nominations for the Life! Theatre Awards for his work on 'Julius Caesar' (2018), 'The LKY Musical' (2016) and 'The Jade Bangle' (2012). In 2017 and 2018, Gabriel was also lighting designer for Singapore's National Day Parade.

### He Shuming (Age, 34) – Film Director

He Shuming (b.1985) is a screenwriter and director. He graduated from LASALLE College of The Arts, Singapore (2010), and completed his Master in Fine Arts in Directing (2015) at the American Film Institute Conservatory in Los Angeles.

Shuming directed a documentary commissioned by the National Heritage Board about the residents of Pulau Ubin, titled 'Homecoming' (2016). His next film, 'Letter from the Motherland' (2017), a part of the omnibus, '667', sees Shuming travelling to his ancestral hometown in Hainan, China, and learning more about his roots through an intimate collaboration with his father. He has also completed two shorts, namely 'Boon Lay Place' (2017), and 'Rehearsal' (2018), which was a collaboration with the Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore. His upcoming debut feature film, 'Ajoomma' won Most Promising Project at the 25th Singapore International Film Festival's Film Lab in 2015.

Shuming is an adjunct lecturer at LASALLE College of The Arts. He has also mentored young students at his alma mater Maris Stella High School.



### **Tan Wei Keong (Age, 35) – Animation Artist**

Tan Wei Keong (b. 1984) is an animation filmmaker. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) (2009).

Wei Keong is the first director from Singapore to be selected in competition at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival (for 'The Great Escape' in 2015) and at Animafest Zagreb (for 'Pifuskin' in 2014).

His latest film, 'Kingdom' (2018), has been selected to compete at the Berlin International Film Festival and was the opening short film at the Singapore International Film Festival (SGIFF) last year. His films have achieved recognition on numerous occasions at SGIFF, including the Best Singapore Short Film Award for 'Between Us Two' (2017), Special Mention for 'Hush Baby' (2009) and the Special Achievement Award for 'White' (2007).



**Weixin Quek Chong (Age, 31) – Visual Artist/  
Printmaker**

Weixin Quek Chong (b. 1988) is a visual artist. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Fine Arts (Printmaking) at LASALLE College of the Arts (2011), and a Master of Arts in Fine Arts, Printmaking, from the Royal College of Art in London. She received the National Arts Council (NAC) Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate) in 2012.



Since completing her postgraduate studies, Weixin has been an artist-in-residence at institutions like Komplot (Brussels, Belgium) (2019); the Museo de Arte Contemporaneo (Santiago, Chile) (2017); and at the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore (NTU CCA) (Singapore) (2015). She has also shown her work in Brussels, Istanbul, London, Seoul, Taipei, Vienna and Yogyakarta. Among her projects of recent years is the installation of 'sft crsh ctrl' at the Singapore Art Museum, which received the 2018 President's Young Talents Grand Prize.

In Singapore, Weixin has been an art educator at institutions such as LASALLE College of the Arts and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, where she works with and mentors young artists as well as other art educators. Weixin is also a co-founder of soft/WALL/studs, an artist-run space which has showcased local and international creatives and events since 2016.