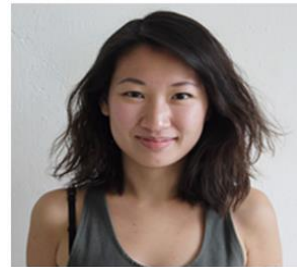


ANNEX B

PROFILES OF THE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD 2016 RECIPIENTS

Ms Alecia Neo (Age, 30) – Photography/ Installation Artist

Alecia works primarily with photography and installations to explore issues on memories, identities and peripheral communities. She has been commissioned for major platforms like M1 Fringe Fest (*Unseen* in 2014 and *Goddess of Mercy* in 2012) and Singapore International Photography Festival and also commissioned by major institutions like SAM (*Sensorium 360* in 2014) and NLB. Alecia was a winner at the Affordable Art Fair's Young Talent Programme in 2012. She also won the Gold Award at the 2008 Crowbar Awards (Singapore).



Upcoming Activities

Alecia is a resident at The Substation for a 2-month residency programme. In September, she presented at Post-Museum, *Survey: Space, Sharing, Haunting* where she reflects on the state of the arts and culture in Singapore. Alecia had also participated in a Community Cultural Development Symposium on Anti-Exclusion, discussing issues of access, ethics and aesthetics when working with marginalized communities. She will be embarking on a study trip to Minneapolis organised by a collective of creative producers, Artswok, to investigate collective practices and creative placemaking in the United States.

Mr Ezzam Rahman (Age, 35) – Installation/ Performance Artist

Ezzam is a multi-disciplinary installation and performance artist. He was involved in The Artists Village, being the Vice President and President in various years. Ezzam was awarded the SAM President's Young Talent award in 2015 and also won the People's Choice Award. Ezzam is also a dedicated mentor and educator. Besides teaching at NAFA and LASALLE, he also facilitates community engagement projects. Ezzam has exhibited and curated numerous exhibitions in Singapore and overseas. He has also been commissioned by major institutions. For example, SAM commissioned him to create the work "*Ouch!*", which was a series of miniature sculptures made out of dead skin from his feet.



Upcoming Activities

Ezzam will be presenting a two-day durational interactive performance at *Art For Grabs* in Johor Bahru, Malaysia in September. Currently pursuing an MA (Fine Arts) at LASALLE, Ezzam will be mounting a (group) exhibition titled *Freshly Squeezed* as part of the programme. At the end of this year, Ezzam will be travelling to Bangkok and Shanghai as part of his research process.

Mr Liu Xiaoyi (Age, 34) – Actor/ Director/ Playwright

Xiaoyi is an actor, playwright, director and educator. He became a Resident Artist at The Theatre Practice (TTP) in 2004. He has also helmed TTP's "The Practice Lab" since 2013. Xiaoyi is known in the scene for his experimental works. His self-directed play, "*Fluid*" (2014) won Best Script at the 2014 Life! Theatre Awards. He was also nominated for Best Director for the same play. Additionally, his other play "*Citizen Pig*" (TFP) was nominated for Best Original Script and Best Director in 2014. Xiaoyi set up Singapore's first Chinese reviewers group, 众观 Re-Viewers, and serves as editor.



Upcoming Activities

Xiaoyi will be presenting The Practice Lab's first production in October entitled *Uproot*. *Uproot* is a result of a year-long process-driven training led by Xiaoyi. Xiaoyi will be travelling to Tokyo, Japan at the end of the year to participate in the *Toki Experimental Project - Preservation and Development of the Traditional Performing Arts*, which includes ongoing academic research projects.

Mr Marc Nair (Age, 35) – Poet/ Spoken Word Performer

Marc is a writer, poet and spoken word performer. He has produced six full length poetry publications, the most recent being "*The Poet of Unlove*" (2015), and "*Animal City*" (2014). Marc has also performed at major events such as the Singapore Poetry Slam, the Singapore Writers Festival, and Singapore Inside Out. On the international front, Marc has also performed at the 2015 LitProm Festival (Frankfurt, Germany), 2014 Queensland Poetry Competition, and the Makassar International Writers Festival. Marc was previously the Artistic Director for *Word Forward* and *Musicity* by The Creative Voice. He also conducts spoken word and podcasting workshops for secondary school and junior college students on an ongoing basis. Marc was also a speaker at



TedxSingapore in November 2015. He also won the First Prize at the 2015 *Text in the City* Competition organised by The Arts House.

Marc is currently the Co-Founder, Principal Writer and Photographer at Mackerel, a culture magazine and teaches Intro to Creative Writing at Nanyang Technological University.

Upcoming Activities

Marc is a co-editor of an anthology of poetry and photography titled *This is Not a Safety Barrier* which will be launched mid-September 2016. He is also an invited judge at the Singapore Monologue Slam Finals (September 2016). A Writer-in-Residence at NTU, Marc will be travelling to Hong Kong as part of his research project for FieldNotes which is a collection of travel poems. Marc has also been invited as a featured panellist for several sessions at the 2016 edition of Singapore Writers' Festival in November.

Ms Pooja Nansi (Age, 35) – Poet/ Spoken Word Performer

Pooja is a writer, poet and spoken word performer. She is the author of two collections of poetry - "*Love is an Empty Barstool*" (Math Paper Press, 2013), and "*Stiletto Scars*" (Red Wheelbarrow Books, 2007). She is also the co-author of "*Local Anaesthetic: A Painless Approach to Singaporean Poetry*" (Ethos Books, 2014), which is a guidebook for teachers teaching local poetry in schools. Pooja has contributed to anthologies including "*A Luxury We Cannot Afford*" (Math Paper Press, 2014), and has also contributed poetry and essays to online publications. Pooja has also performed at the 2012, 2013, and 2014 Singapore Writers Festival, Singapore Literature Festival in New York (2014), the Ubud Writers and Readers Festival (2015), the Goa Literary and Arts Festival (2015), and the Kuala Lumpur Literary Festival (2007).



Pooja currently teaches Intro to Creative Writing at Nanyang Technological University.

Upcoming Activities

Pooja was recently featured at Queensland Poetry Festival in August, performing two poetry features sets and a one-woman-show *You are Here*, which she will also perform in November for Esplanade's Kalaa Utsavam Festival. She is an invited speaker for two panels at Canberra University's Poetry on the Move Festival in September, speaking about Singapore's literary scene and multi-disciplinary approaches to writing.