

Young Artist Award 2013 Recipients**1. Bani Haykal (Age, 28)**

Bani Haykal is a prolific multidisciplinary artist whose work spans the fields of performance, the visual and the literary, using music and sound as its primary medium. Prominent in the local sound art, independent music and spoken word scene, Bani also works extensively as a composer of music accompanying productions by major Singaporean theatre and dance companies. Bani is a strong advocate of the evolution of home-grown music. His creative and technical expertise is underpinned with strong artistic direction and musicality, even as he challenges the local music vocabulary.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- A founding member of b-quartet (since 1999), and a member of The Observatory (since 2012)
- Notable collaborations with local Theatre and Dance companies for live stage include *Crossings* (The Necessary Stage, 2012), *Bleeding Grace* (Teater Ekamatra, 2012) and *Tahan* (Teater Ekamatra, 2013) in collaboration with Teater Ekamatra, *8 Women* (Sing'theatre, 2013), and *Silences We Are Familiar With* (T.H.E. Dance Company, 2012).
- Notable literary works include spoken word studies *Ergophobia* (2011) *how I got lost and died trying* (2011), and poetry anthology, *Sit Quietly In The Flood* (2007)
- Exhibitions include *Dormant Music* (2013) presented at Platform 3 in Bandung, Indonesia and the Institute of Contemporary Art Singapore at LASALLE (ICAS), and *inside the subject* (ICAS, 2013).
- Artist-in-Residence at The Art Incubator, Singapore (2012) and Platform3 in Bandung (2012), and Associate Artist of The Substation in the Substation Associate Artist Research Programme (2009-2013), during which he developed *Rethinking Music* and *Collapse* (2011 - 2013).

2. Chua Yew Kok (Age, 35)

Chua Yew Kok (蔡友国) is a founding member of the Ding Yi Music Company and an outstanding Pipa soloist who performs in concerts with various ensembles and orchestras in Singapore. He has received local and international awards for his performing excellence and is highly sought after locally as a music performer and mentor. Yew Kok is also an adept educator and currently instructs Pipa students at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts School of Young Talents, as well as six youth orchestras ranging from primary schools to tertiary institutions.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Winner of the following Pipa Competitions:
 - Pipa Open Category (1st Prize) at National Chinese Music Competition (1998)
 - Outstanding Performance Award at First Youth Artistry Chinese Traditional Music Instrumental Solo Competition, Beijing (2002)
 - Dun Huang (Yun) Cup Pipa Competition (2nd Prize) in Hong Kong (2005)
- Founding member and Pipa soloist of Ding Yi Music Company (2007), which has won:
 - Ensemble Open Category (1st Prize) at the National Chinese Music Competition (2008)
 - Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod (1st Prize) in Wales, UK (2009)
 - Silver Award at the 28th Shanghai Spring International Music Festival (2012)
- Recipient of NAC Arts Scholarship (Postgraduate) (2013)

3. Grace Tan (Age, 34)

Grace Tan (陈斯恩) is a multidisciplinary visual artist whose work spans art, architecture and design. Testament to her achievements in these multiple facets, she has received several national honours for her creative practice in art and design. Grace has been featured in local and overseas platforms, travelling to Venice, Japan, Australia and London. She maintains a good balance between her art practice and her role as a teacher and mentor to aspiring artists. She is currently an educator at the School of the Arts Singapore.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Founder of the interdisciplinary practice Kwodrent, Singapore (2003 to present)
- Recipient of the President's Design Award, Design of the Year for *Building as a Body* (2011)
- Recipient of the President's Young Talents Award for which she developed and presented *Refuge* (SAM, 2013).
- Associate Artist of The Substation in the Substation Associate Artist Research Programme, where she developed *MM* (2011-2013)
- Notable exhibitions include *In the Stillness* (Setouchi Triennale, 2013) and *8Q-Rate: School* (SAM 8Q, 2008). Commissioned works include *Building as a Body* (2011) by Singapore Art Museum, *Udara Yang Bergerak* (2012) by Esplanade and *Woven Field* (2012) by LTA for Downtown Line, Art in Transit Programme.

4. Koh Hui Ling (Age, 34)

Koh Hui Ling (许慧玲) is a well-known figure in the field of applied theatre in Singapore, and the Associate Artist Director of Dramabox. Hui Ling's work highlights social issues such as problem gambling and family violence, empowering communities and engendering positive change through the art of theatre. At DramaBox, she oversees the company's programmes for youth, education and community-related work. Her expertise is sought after, and she has spoken at international conferences and workshops in countries such as Singapore, Greece, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Associate Artistic Director of DramaBox (since 2012) and Associate Artistic Director of NeNeMas (since 2004)
- Recipient of the Singapore Youth Award Recipient (2013)
- Notable applied drama and forum theatre productions addressing social issues include *A.I.D.S* (2005), *Problem Gambling* (2006), *What Matters?* (2008) and *How Much? Phases 1 and 2* (2011)
- Represented the Asian region for Special Interest Group (Drama/Theatre/Arts Education in Community development and transformation) at the 7th World Congress of the International Drama/Theatre and Education Association in Brazil (2010)

5. M. Zaki Razak (Age, 34)

M. Zaki Razak is a contemporary artist who adopts a participatory approach to his art and weaves humour into the process to engage art audiences. His work spans diverse genres including street art, graphic design and performance art. Through his artistic and curatorial practice, he engages and challenges assumptions about social language and rituals by exploring new ways of art making and expanding the vision of what can be art. He has exhibited locally as well as overseas including Australia, Hong Kong and Thailand.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Recipient of President's Young Talents Award (2013)
- Associate Artist of The Substation in the Substation Associate Artist Research Programme, where he developed **Bl nd: The Darkness of Being and the Age of Darkness** (2012 - 2014)
- Notable works include *Eat Your Pun Tarts* (2007) exhibit at The Substation Gallery, *seVen: A Wedding Exhibition* (2011) and *Revising Art: The Ten Year Series* (SAM, 2013)
- Has been featured round the world including Australia, Spain, Thailand and Hong Kong.

6. Ruth Ling (Age, 33)

Ruth Ling (林雅慧) is a music producer, composer and an avid performer. She is known as a versatile, dynamic and innovative arranger, with the ability to create works in a diversity of musical styles and genres. Her keen sensibilities and ability to create moods through music arrangements has sparked off collaborations with award-winning composers for musical theatre such as George Stiles and Anthony Drewe. She has also performed with top international pop music acts including mandarin artists A-Mei and Stefanie Sun.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Wrote and orchestrated musicals including Singapore Repertory Theatre's *Jack and the Beanstalk* (2011), *Three Little Pigs* (2012) and *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* (2013), and Dick Lee's *Fried Rice Paradise: The Musical* (2010)
- 1st keyboardist at Stefanie Sun World Tour (2006) and A-Mei World Tour (2012-2013), Arranger of five A-Mei's songs for *Amit First World Tour* (2010)
- *To date, has released five albums, the most recent being Christmas Never Ends* (2011).
- Composer/Arranger/Producer of *We're on our Way* – Youth Olympic Games Singapore Closing Ceremony Theme Song (2010) and theatre soundtracks including Singapore Repertory Theatre's *Twelfth Night* (2012)

7. **Zul Othman (ZERO) (Age, 34)**

Zul Othman is a renowned urban artist and founder of urban art collective, RSCLS, who works under the pseudonym ZERO. His works constantly engages the community through elements of pop culture and current affairs. ZERO is also recognised as a visionary in his field through his passionate advocacy for the research, documentation and archival of urban art. Beyond his arts practice, ZERO is actively involved in talks, workshops and mentorship programmes, promoting the urban arts form. He has exhibited locally as well as internationally in countries such as Shanghai and Myanmar. His works are strong, distinctive, sophisticated and demonstrate keen critical awareness.

Selected Awards and Achievements

- Founder and key member of urban art collectives RSCLS (since 2004) and ARTVSTS (2003)
- Nominee for President's Young Talents (2005), under which he presented *ZERO/KILAS* (SAM 8Q, 2009)
- Associate Artist of The Substation in the Substation Associate Artist Research Programme, culminating in an exhibition *The Spectacular Spectacular* (2010), where selected works were acquired by the Singapore Art Museum
- Has been featured in Museum of Contemporary Art, Shanghai (2006), Istanbul Biennale, Turkey (2007), South East Asian Urban Art Event in Myanmar (2013)
- Notable exhibitions include *Is This Home Truly?* (Artspace@HELUTRANS, 2010), *DystoUTOPIA* (SAM, 2011) and *The Odd Bedfellows* (Chan Hampe Galleries, 2013)