

Annex B: ABOUT THE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD AND 2024 RECIPIENTS

About the Young Artist Award

The Young Artist Award was introduced in 1992 to encourage the development of artistic talent in Singapore. It is conferred by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and administered by the National Arts Council. The Award is accorded to artists aged 35 years and below at the point of nomination who have shown promise of artistic excellence and leadership in the fields of literary arts, performing arts, visual arts and film. As of 2024, 182 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 their field of practice and Singapore's artistic development, with the 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 two years after they receive the Young Artist Award.

Recipients of 2024 Young Artist Award

Alan Choo Su Ho (Age, 34) – Violinist



Violinist Alan Choo (b. 1990), whose performances have been described by ‘The Straits Times’ as “an intoxicating brew of poetry and dare-devilry,” performs on the global stage as a soloist, chamber musician, and baroque specialist.

As founder and artistic director of Red Dot Baroque (RDB), Singapore’s first professional baroque ensemble and ensemble-in-residence at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, Alan believes that baroque music can unlock new possibilities in expression and collaboration while having the power to bring new audiences into the world of art.

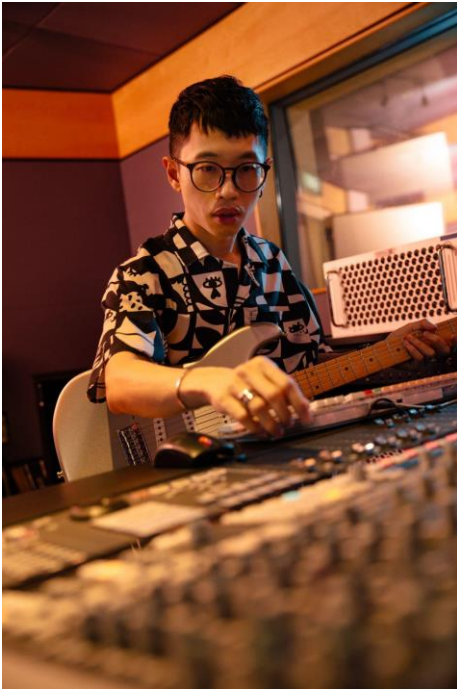
The concertmaster and assistant artistic director of the Grammy-winning Apollo’s Fire (USA) released a solo recording debut with Apollo’s Fire and Jeannette Sorrell called ‘Biber: Mystery Sonatas’ on the AVIE Records label in March 2024. The album topped at No. 2 on Billboard’s Traditional Classical Albums chart and earned rave reviews from ‘BBC Music Magazine,’ ‘The Strad’ and ‘Classica Magazine.’

As a soloist, Alan has appeared with Apollo’s Fire at Carnegie Hall (United States), Tanglewood Music Festival (US), Ravinia Festival (US), and St Martin-in-the-Fields (United Kingdom). Other credentials include performing concertos with the FVG Orchestra (Italy), St Petersburg Symphony Orchestra (Russia), Tafelmusik Winter Institute Orchestra (Canada), and back home with the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, Singapore Chinese Orchestra, Orchestra of the Music Makers, and more.

Passionate about inspiring future generations through outreach and education, the arts advocate conceived and co-wrote the script for ‘Red Dot’s Rovin’ Ride Through the Four Seasons’ (2024) – a children’s theatre show based on Vivaldi’s Four Seasons, in collaboration with Taugeh Productions. Alan also designed ‘The Circle of Life’ (2023), a collaboration between RDB and the Open Score Project celebrating the crossroads between Western Baroque and Asian folk music; and in the realm of contemporary music, co-founded ‘SG Inspirations’ (2015) with pianist Lin Hengyue, commissioning, performing and recording new works by Singaporean composers.

Alan's awards include the Peabody Conservatory's Early Music Award (2016); the NUS Centre of the Arts' Paul Abisheganaden Grant for Artistic Excellence (2015), the Goh Soon Tio Centenary Award (2014); Peabody's Grace Clagett Ranney Prize in Chamber Music (2014); and the first prize in the Singapore National Piano and Violin Competition (2011), Artist Category.

Evan Low Jun Feng (Age, 35) – Music Director, Producer and Composer



Evan Low (b. 1989) is a highly accomplished music producer and music director, renowned for an innovative sound and a visionary approach that have significantly impacted the music industry.

With a deep passion for creating compelling musical experiences, the virtuoso has collaborated with a diverse range of artists, including Benjamin Kheng, iNCH, The Sam Willows, and esteemed music directors like Sydney Tan and Martin Tang. Blessed with creative talent and a keen ear for detail and ideas, Evan is a sought-after collaborator for artists looking to elevate their sound.

This versatility shines across various roles, from engineering for industry legends such as David Foster and Nathan East to composing for major brands like OkCupid and eBay. Recent notable projects include co-writing and co-producing Singapore's 59th National Day theme song, 'Not Alone,' and the widely loved 2021 theme song, 'The Road Ahead,' with Linying.

Currently, Evan is on tour as the programmer and arranger contributor for legendary artist A-mei on the ASMeiR Max world tour, helping to bring A-mei's iconic sound to life on stage.

As a music director, Evan has led numerous high-profile projects, including ChildAid 2022, and has worked closely with Singaporean music heavyweights such as Benjamin Kheng, The Sam Willows, and iNCH. The sound designer has earned recognition at The Straits Times Life Theatre Awards, as part of the team awarded Best Sound for work done on 'Til the End of the World, We'll Meet in No Man's Land' (2020).

The passion for interdisciplinary collaboration is evident in Evan's work with visual artist Sam Lo (SKL0) and the urban dance crew O School, blending music with visual and performance arts. Beyond production achievements, the

musician is dedicated to nurturing the next generation through mentorship programmes like Noise Singapore, SHINE, and Majulah Festival. With a commitment to pushing creative boundaries, Evan continues to shape the future of music, both in Singapore and globally.

Tan Si En (Age, 31) – Film Producer



Tan Si En (b. 1993) is a notable figure in the film community, having graduated at the top of the class from Ngee Ann Polytechnic's School of Film and Media Studies and winning the Golden Village Prize and Shaw Foundation Gold Medal. Si En earned a Bachelor of Arts with Merit in Philosophy from the National University of Singapore.

The creative producer, filmmaker, and artist delves into human relationships and issues affecting the underrepresented. Si En's producing approach is like conducting music: shaping the intangible, uniting a team in a shared artistic vision, and motivating them towards a common goal. The aim is to foster a supportive environment for collaborators to take risks and tell significant stories. Si En founded Momo Film Co., which collaborates with filmmakers and moving image artists.

An alumnus of Berlinale Talents and Rotterdam Lab, Si En has produced significant films from Singapore and Southeast Asia, most notably 'Dreaming & Dying' by Nelson Yeo, which won the Pardo d'Oro for Best Feature Film and the Swatch First Feature Award in 2023, 'Don't Cry, Butterfly' by Duong Dieu Linh, premiered at the Venice International Critics' Week 2024, and 'Wet Season' by Anthony Chen, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2019. Latest co-productions include 'Andragogy' by Wregas Bhutenaja, premiered in Toronto in 2023, and 'The Year of the Everlasting Storm,' premiered at Cannes in 2021.

Si En actively contributes to the film community by teaching, speaking, and mentoring at institutions like Nanyang Technological University, LASALLE, and Objectifs, as well as internationally at Purin Pictures' Short Film Camp (Thailand), Full Circle Lab (Philippines), and Rotterdam Lab (Netherlands). The film aficionado also leads initiatives such as the Objectifs Short Film Incubator and Momo Distribution Grant.

Named one of The Straits Times 30 under 30 – The Arts in 2020, Si En received the Youth Inspiration Award in 2021 from the National Youth Council and *SCAPE and was shortlisted for the

Women of the Future Awards – Southeast Asia, Arts & Culture in 2022.

Zhang Fuming (Age, 35) – Printmaker



Zhang Fuming (b. 1989) is a Singapore-based artist whose practice revolves around printmaking, with an emphasis on traditional black-and-white woodblock prints. Deeply invested in the hands-on, physical process of relief wood-carving, the work uses the medium's immediacy and precision to craft striking social commentaries through a realist lens.

Fuming's dedication to woodblock prints transcends the conventional use of paper as a support. Embracing the medium's inherent materiality, the artist leverages the textures and contours of wood to amplify the gestures and moods embedded within the carvings. The commitment to this technique is unwavering, reflecting its unique depth and impact, consistently making the art resonate on a deeper level.

The working titles of Fuming's exhibitions weave a non-linear narrative, capturing the diverse influences that shape the artist's evolving practice. These titles reflect a layered, multifaceted approach which defines the themes of the oeuvre, inviting audiences to explore the various dimensions of the creative journey.

The recipient of the AAF Young Talent Programme 2014/2015 presented a debut solo exhibition, 'The Quest; The Exquisite Rice Bowl,' at Ion Arts Gallery in 2015. Subsequent solo exhibitions include 'Poised for Success' (AC43 Gallery, 2016), 'v. atas' (Telok Ayer Arts Club, 2019), and 'Props and Poses' (AC43 Gallery, 2022). Group exhibitions include 'Spatial Narratives' (Art Porters, Singapore, 2023), 'Bon á Tirer' (AC43, 2018), and 'The 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Art Week' (Xiamen, 2016).

Fuming is a passionate advocate for printmaking. The active practitioner organises print exchanges, exhibitions, and workshops while collaborating with institutions on events and outreach programmes, often providing technical support and mentoring young practitioners.

Fuming is also the owner of Drawing Etc. Art Supplies & Creative Space, an artist-run supply store and events space established in 2022. Beyond providing goods and services, the venue is a hub for creative expression and collaboration. The



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arts organiser has also hosted exhibitions, masterclasses, and outreach programmes, remaining deeply committed to advancing printmaking and promoting creative expression in Singapore.