

Annex B: ABOUT THE YOUNG ARTIST AWARD AND 2025 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 2025, 187 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 2025 Young Artist Award

Alvin Lee Chang Rong (Age: 34) – Filmmaker



Alvin Lee (b. 1991) is an award-winning writer-director who graduated from the prestigious Beijing Film Academy with a Bachelor's degree in Film Directing.

He was a recipient of the Infocomm Media Development Authority's Media Education Scholarship in Film. His short films were screened and had won awards at international film festivals including the Busan International Film Festival, Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, Hong Kong International Film Festival, Pingyao International Film Festival, and the China Golden Rooster & Hundred Flowers Film Festival.

Alvin's journey in film began with him acquiring a Diploma in Digital Media (now known as the Diploma in Media, Arts and Design) at Singapore Polytechnic, before pursuing directing at the Beijing Film Academy under the mentorship of China's acclaimed Fifth Generation filmmakers Xie Xiaojing and Xia Gang. Since returning to Singapore in 2018, he has collaborated with major organisations and government agencies including the Ministry of Digital Development and Information; Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth; and Beyond The Label Singapore.

He is also deeply committed to educating and mentoring aspiring filmmakers. Alvin serves as a Teaching Associate at the Singapore University of Social Sciences, where he bridges theory and practical experience to nurture students in the craft of filmmaking. Beyond his university role, he has led masterclasses and workshops at Singapore Polytechnic, LASALLE College of the Arts, and ITE College Central.

Alvin's latest short film, 'Smoke Gets in Your Eyes', premiered at the 27th Busan International Film Festival and went on to screen at over 55 major film festivals, winning the Jury Prize at the 47th Hong Kong International Film Festival and Best Singapore Short Film at the 33rd Singapore International Film Festival. In 2024, he was selected for the prestigious Talents Tokyo programme to develop his debut feature film.

Daryl Qilin Yam (Age: 34) – English Fiction Writer



Daryl Qilin Yam (b. 1991) is the author of four books of fiction, and an arts organiser, advocate and publisher in the literary arts.

Hallmarks of Daryl's stories include elements of ekphrasis and intertextuality; a realism with shades of the fantastic or the uncanny; wayward approaches to plot and story structure; and an unwavering commitment to portraying Singaporean lives. His debut novel, 'Kappa Quartet' (2016), described by 'Quarterly Literary Review Singapore' (QLRS) as "[breaking] new ground in Singaporean writing," was longlisted for the inaugural Epigram Books Fiction Prize. He has since published a second novel, 'Lovelier, Lonelier' (2021), nominated by the National Library Board for the 2023 International Dublin Literary Award; a novella, 'Shantih Shantih Shantih' (2021), shortlisted for the 2022 Singapore Literature Prize; and a short story collection, 'Be Your Own Bae' (2025), a Best Literary Work finalist at the 2025 Singapore Book Awards.

Daryl is also the co-founder of the literary charity Sing Lit Station, presently serving as the managing editor of its publishing arm Afterimage, following previous positions as the non-profit's first general manager (2016–2019) and the treasurer and executive committee member on its Board of Directors (2016–2023). The organisation, whose mission is to serve the local literary community, is an Institute of Public Character and NAC Major Company Funding Recipient. Through leadership roles at Sing Lit Station, he has developed programmes that provide professional and economic opportunities to writers while promoting Singaporean literature locally and internationally.

Daryl has a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Warwick (2012–2016), where he spent an intercalated year at the University of Tokyo's Abroad in Komaba programme (2014–2015). He also has a Master of Arts in English (Specialisation in Creative Writing) from Nanyang Technological University (2020–2022). In recognition of his activities and accomplishments in the literary arts, NTU bestowed upon him the School of Humanities (SoH) Patron of Heritage and the Arts Award in 2024, followed by the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2025.

Genevieve Peck Jing Yi (Age: 35) – Lighting Designer



Genevieve Peck (b. 1990) is a Singapore-based lighting and projection/video designer.

Her artistic pursuits began in secondary school at Nanyang Girls' High School (2003–2006), where her interest in theatre took root. She began freelancing in theatre in 2006 throughout junior college and honed her craft at The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama, London (2009–2012) where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Theatre Practice, specialising in Lighting and Projection/Video Design.

Genevieve's approach to design is marked by a keen sense of dramaturgy and a commitment to versatility. Whether illuminating the stage with subtle nuances or crafting elaborate projections on unconventional surfaces, she creates a cohesive visual language that enhances the overall theatrical experience. Her designs have been described as "clever," "ambitious," "sophisticated," and "intricate" by reviewers from 'The Straits Times', 'Bakchormeeboy', and 'Critics Circle Blog' reflecting her ability to weave light and projection into the fabric of storytelling. She has garnered multiple nominations for Best Lighting and Best Multimedia at the ST Life Theatre Awards (2017, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2024, 2025) and Bakchormeeboy Awards (2023, 2024).

She has worked with established companies including Pangdemonium ('People, Places and Things', 2023), The Theatre Practice ('Partial Eclipse of the Heart', 2025), Drama Box ('ubin', 2022), Nine Years Theatre ('Everything for You', 2024), The Finger Players ('My House is a Wild World', 2022), The Necessary Stage ('Three Years in the Life and Death of Land', 2023), and Singapore Repertory Theatre ('Grounded', 2024). Transcending theatrical formats, her work includes musicals, plays, participatory theatre, promenade theatre, expanded cinema, dance, music and live events.

Genevieve remains grounded in her belief that inspiration can be found in the simplest of moments. Whether drawing from nature or embracing the challenges of non-conventional spaces, she approaches each project with a spirit of curiosity and creativity, never shying away from experimentation as she continues to push the boundaries of lighting and projection design.

He Yingshu (Age: 35) – Chinese Writer



He Yingshu (b. 1990) (pen name: Sui Ting 随庭) is a writer, educator, and literary critic. She holds Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts in Chinese Studies from National University of Singapore.

Her creative work focuses on fiction, especially narratives that examine gender, class, migration, and environmental issues. Through a female lens, her stories explore the complexities of contemporary life and human existence, blending psychological depth with innovation in language and form. Her writing has developed into a distinctive voice, rooted in Singapore yet open to a broader trans-regional vision.

Her fiction has received multiple accolades, including the Golden Point Award, the Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literary Awards, and the Lianhe Zaobao Gold Award. Her debut short story collection 'Fish Birth' (2015) was shortlisted for the 2020 Singapore Literature Prize. Beyond fiction, she writes essays and criticism. Her essay, reflecting on her grandfather's death, received a Gold Award at the Singapore Youth Chinese Literature Award, and she contributes theatre reviews to 'Lianhe Zaobao' and The Re-Viewers, a collective founded by Chinese-language theatre practitioners. Her works have also shown their resonance across languages: 'Makeover Day', translated by Jazel Koh, won the Golden Point Award in Translation, and an English edition of 'Fish Birth', translated by Christina Ng, is in progress with support from the National Centre for Writing's Residency.

Sui Ting is equally committed to fostering literary talent. She teaches Chinese creative writing at the National University of Singapore and mentors young writers in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Singapore Book Council, and the Author-in-Residence scheme by the Committee to Promote Chinese Language Learning (CPCLL). She is also active in the Singapore Association of Writers, where she guides students, serves on judging panels, and conducts workshops in schools and literary festivals.

In 2022, she founded the Read Write Island Project, building a dynamic community of readers and writers across Singapore and the region through themed courses, public lectures, and literary talks. Many participants have since published works or

won literary awards, and Sui Ting continues to support their journeys through mentorship and feedback.

She is currently developing a Singapore-based novel on the climate crisis, supported by the National Arts Council's Creation Grant. She also continues to collaborate with local literary organisations to create new literary initiatives that promote local voices.

Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin (Age: 35) – Malay Traditional-Contemporary Composer and Musician



Syafiqah 'Adha Sallehin (b. 1990) is a composer, performer, arts educator, and traditional Malay music practitioner. She holds a Bachelor of Music (Hons) and a Master of Music in Composition from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music (YST), graduating in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

Syafiqah's compositions have been presented in Singapore and abroad. Her music reflects a distinctive voice shaped by a dual grounding in Western classical training and traditional Malay music practice. She explores diverse themes across varied mediums, using her compositions as a platform to encourage intra- and intercultural dialogue.

Her recent projects include 'Reminiscing Geylang Serai' (2024), a mixed-ethnic symphony in which she also performed on the Malayanised accordion with the Asian Cultural Symphony Orchestra. She has received multiple commissions from the Singapore Symphony Orchestra, notably for its National Day Concerts (2018, 2021) and another concert in 2023 conducted by Wong Kah Chun. She was also one of the contributing composers for the 'Southeast Asian Golden Age Symphony', premiered by the YST Orchestral Institute in 2023.

Beyond composition, Syafiqah is a passionate advocate for traditional Malay music and a self-taught Malayanised accordionist. Since 2009, she has led Gendang Akustika, a traditional-contemporary ensemble. Its landmark production, 'Dendang Warisan: Kota Singa' (Songs of Our Heritage: Lion City) (2023), showcased her original works themed around home and nation-building.

As an educator, she serves on the YST artist faculty, coordinating the World Music Ensemble and teaching kompang music. She also instructs the Malay Fusion Ensemble at School

of the Arts (SOTA) and conducts angklung music in schools, fostering appreciation for traditional arts among youth.

Syafiqah's contributions have been recognised with accolades including the Goh Chok Tong Youth Promise Award (Mendaki), Young Composers' Award (2nd Prize, 31st Asian Composers' League Festival), Young Inspiring Achiever Award (Berita Harian), and the Tunas Warisan Award (Malay Heritage Foundation).