

**Spotlight on Cultural Policy Series Eleven:
Roundtable on
*Art in the Time of Pandemic II:
Keeping the Arts Afloat***

Wednesday, 8 July 2020
Online via Zoom

PROGRAMME

9.30 am – 9.40 am

Opening Remarks

Mr Tan Tarn How
Adjunct Senior Research Fellow
Institute of Policy Studies

Dr Eugene Tan
Director
National Gallery Singapore and
Singapore Art Museum

9.40 am – 10.55 am

Art in the Time of Pandemic II: Keeping the Arts Afloat

Moderator

Mr Kok Heng Leun
Artistic Director
Drama Box Ltd

Speakers

Mrs Rosa Daniel
Deputy Secretary (Culture)
Ministry of Culture, Community & Youth
and
Chief Executive Officer
National Arts Council

Mr Nicholas Chee
Founder and Managing Director
Sinema Media Pte Ltd

Mr Terence Tan
Founding Director
Artsolute

Dr Noorlinah Mohamed
Artistic Director
Not Ordinary Work (N.O.W.)

Mr Ng Joon Kiat
Visual Artist

and

Mr Billy Soh
Multidisciplinary Artist

Ms Angela Liong
Artistic Director
The Arts Fission Company Ltd

10.55 am – 11.05 am

Break

11.05 am – 11.55 am

Discussion

11.55 am – 12 noon

Closing Remarks

Mr Tan Tarn How

12 noon

End

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

CHEE, Nicholas is an award-winning film producer and photographer, as well as a consultant for film and media projects. In 2007, he co-founded Singapore's first independent community theatre Sinema Old School.

Mr Chee was an honouree in the prestigious Spirit of Enterprise Awards in 2009. In 2011, he started The Flying Kick Asia, an original and branded content production company with offices in Singapore, Kaohsiung, and Seoul.

In 2015, Mr Chee created *SCAPE's National Youth Film Awards and served as its Awards Director until 2018. He is currently the Festival Co-Director of the SeaShorts Film Festival.

DANIEL, Rosa is the Deputy Secretary (Culture) in the Singapore Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth and the Chief Executive Officer of the National Arts Council. She was Chief Executive of the National Heritage Board from February 2013 to May 2017. Prior to joining the culture sector, Mrs Daniel held other senior appointments in the economic and social sectors.

KOK Heng Leun is a prominent figure in the Singapore arts scene, having built his artistic career as a theatre director, playwright, dramaturg and educator. He is known for engaging the community on various issues through the arts, championing civic discourse across different segments of society.

Having begun his work in the theatre almost 30 years ago, some notable directorial works include *Drift*, *Trick or Threat*, *Manifesto*, and *Underclass*. His explorations with multi-disciplinary engaged arts has produced works like *Project Mending Sky* (2008, 2009 and 2012), a series on environmental issues; *Both Sides, Now* (2013, 2014 and 2017–2019), a project that seeks to normalise end-of-life conversations; and *It Won't Be Too Long*, which touched on the dynamics of space in Singapore. His most recent work *Tanah•Air水•土: A Play In Two Parts* was about the dispossession of the indigenous Malays and Orang Seletar of Singapore.

His contributions to the arts have landed him awards from the Singapore National Arts Council — the Young Artist Award in 2000 and Cultural Fellowship in 2014. He also served as a Nominated Member of Parliament from 2016 to 2018, representing the arts sector.

LIONG, Angela is a prolific dance-maker with a large body of work that has shaped the distinctive dance profile of ARTS FISSION since the company's inception in 1994. She often draws inspiration from literary classics and cultural sources for her dance works. She borrows form and methodology from other disciplines to create choreographic structures that engage with human expressions.

Referred by the *Arts Magazine* as “Singapore’s shaman of dance” (Mar–Apr 1999 issue), Ms Liong has created many performances for unconventional public spaces in order to solicit place memory from the urban public through dance experience. Her dance works for ARTS FISSION have been presented regionally and internationally since the mid-2000s. The 1998 Southeast Asia haze crisis piqued Ms Liong’s interest on the topical research of environmental changes that affect humanity from the perspective of arts and culture. She initiated in 2006 Project LOCUST WRATH — a climate change inspired performance series where together with her dancers, she embarks on annual cultural expedition to regional climate hot spots like Central Java. She had attended arts, science and climate change conference all the way to Oslo, Norway and in 2008 was invited by Asia-Europe Foundation as advisor and facilitator in organising an exclusive workshop that involved a group of established artists and scientists from Europe and Asia. Ms Liong is the recipient of the 2009 Cultural Medallion and continues to create dance works with ARTS FISSION on diverse issues that affect life in Asia.

NG Joon Kiat started his art practice in the late 1990s and received a government scholarship to study in the United Kingdom. He taught art in tertiary institutions for about 10 years before becoming a full-time artist in 2012. He has had solo exhibitions in Singapore and Hong Kong. These included exhibitions at the National Museum of Singapore in 2007 and at the National Technology University’s School of Art Design and Media Gallery in 2019.

He was one of 25 Asian artists selected to exhibit with Britain's Royal Academicians at Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore. His works have been featured at international biennales and major art fairs. He has been collected by the Aspen-re collection, the Magma collection, the Singapore Embassy in Berlin and the National Gallery of Singapore. His work has been curated by Charles Merewether and Feng Boji and written on by T K Sabapathy.

He has helped the National Arts Council (NAC) with bursary and scholarship interviews. He believes in the professionalisation of mid-career visual artists and developing a sustainable industry that does not rely on NAC grants.

NOORLINAH Mohamed is an award-winning actress of stage, television, and film. As an actress, she has worked in Singapore as well as Asia, Europe and the United States. She is also a teaching artist, and a consultant in arts pedagogy.

She is Artistic Director of Not Ordinary Work (N.O.W.) from 2019 to 2021 presented by T:>Works. N.O.W. is an interdisciplinary festival focusing on women creators, thinkers and change-makers, and the "not ordinary" work they do.

She was the Director of The O.P.E.N., the pre-festival of ideas and public engagement initiative of the Singapore International Festival of Arts (2014–2017). Dr Noorlinah is a recipient of the JCCI Cultural Award (2008) and the *Women's Weekly* Women of our Time Award (2005) for her contributions to the arts. She has a PhD in Arts Education from the University of Warwick and is a graduate of Tisch School of the Arts, New York University (Performance Studies) and National University of Singapore (Political Science and Sociology).

SOH, Billy is a multi-disciplinary artist with many different areas of practices that range from photography to paper-making, sound and installation art. Clicking away behind the camera since the tender age of 14, he has always held that the camera could capture more than what the eyes could see, and that the mind could conjure up more than what the camera could capture, and thus has been extensively experimenting with darkroom based camera-less imaging. Mr Soh currently chairs the Singapore Contemporary Young Artists, and is also a co-founder of the *playitforwardsg* initiative that place-makes public spaces for music-making through public piano installations.

TAN, Eugene is Director of the National Gallery Singapore and Singapore Art Museum. His previous appointments include Programme Director at the Economic Development Board, where he oversaw the development of Gillman Barracks, and Director of the Institute of Contemporary Arts Singapore. He received his PhD in Art History from the University of Manchester. He is a member of the Bizot Group and also serves on the Boards of International Committee for Museums and Collections of Modern Art (CIMAM), the Museum of Contemporary Art in Antwerp and the International Advisory Committee of the Mori Art Museum.

TAN Tarn How is Adjunct Senior Research Fellow in the Institute of Policy Studies. He researches arts and cultural policy.

TAN, Terence is an advocate for the arts in and for Singapore. He has produced a few Singapore comedy shows, several puppet theatre exchanges, an ASEAN puppet festival, and is a budding painter. Mr Tan also established the non-profit agency Artsolute to promote the arts for social development, and has used arts for relief and therapeutic work in Singapore and the Southeast Asian region. He now spends time on Pulau Ubin, learning to paint whilst advocating for the villages' sustainability. He is also a member of the international puppetry association, UNIMA, that helps develop relief programmes for communities and artists needing aid.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic, he started gathering the views and challenges of artists and other members of the creative industries, and is presently sharing his findings to our new candidates via SupportMADEinSG and the Stronger for All civil society collective.

Last modified on 2 July 2020

