



Annual Report



Academic Year
2023/2024

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About the artworks on cover



*Kamcheng with light blue ground that may
be seen as a representation of the sky*
23 x 23 x 20 cm
Ceramic
Donated by Alice and Peter Tan

The Alice & Peter Tan Collection, donated in 2023, features 577 pieces of polychromatic export wares. It includes dining vessels, ceremonial items, and Western-style tableware, commonly associated to the Peranakan community, and gives us insight into their conceptions of identity, their cultural affiliations and their place in the world.



Sroyon Mukherjee
Pinhole Camera
2022 - 2023
Recycled packaging and cardboard
Dimensions variable

Sroyon Mukherjee, a Research Fellow at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law (APCEL), NUS, showcased his pinhole camera series made from recycled materials at the *Photography Journal Open Call* exhibition (2023 - 2024). His work explores the intersection of photography and environmental impact.

01 Introduction



Positioned as a University resource, one of the Museum's important missions is to provide access to its permanent collections and museum professional expertise. The Annual Report for Academic Year 23/24 underlines this commitment. The newly reorganised units, Faculty Engagement and Community Engagement, respectively plan and develop initiatives to facilitate object-based learning, collaborating with courses across the faculties; and to provide research and internship opportunities for students to work alongside Museum staff. Highlights from this Report include 83 course related collaborations, and 43 internship positions offered. The Baba House and the University's Public Art collection form part of the Museum's purview, and these programmes are enhanced accordingly over the previous years. For the first time, the Student Research Fellowships were introduced, and a Museum Lab was organised, to provide specific opportunities in collections-based investigations, and an in-depth immersion into the field of art and heritage in Singapore. Adding to the curated exhibition programmes, special exhibitions organised had also been significant for the involvement of staff and students as participants, focussed in connecting academic knowledges with their creative potentials.

This Annual Report focuses on the work undertaken by the Engagement units. Collections development and curatorial activities have also been crucial. To enhance its resources, the Museum and the Baba House continue to develop their collections. We received important donations of polychromatic export wares from Alice and Peter Tan, and ink and contemporary works from Mok Wei Wei, both being significant supporters to the University. The Museum also received textiles from Professor Lim Tow Keang of Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. As we work with the NUS Library to offer our collections through digital access, these donations add to the University's collective resource on Southeast Asia. Approaching 2025, with the 120th anniversary of the University and 70th anniversary of the Museum, we can look forward to these formal announcements and other major developments. This includes the establishment of the Collections Study Gallery, which will provide a distinctive space for object studies and access to the Museum archive, and classrooms and displays to facilitate specific course-based activities, including the newly approved Visual Cultures Minor.

Executive Summary

Over the course of AY 23/24, the Museum had maintained sustained efforts in faculty partnerships, student development and opportunities through course visits, internship opportunities, access to research and collections, and programmes.

In AY 23/24, the Museum launched 2 new exhibitions, saw the preparation and print of 2 publications, launch of 3 *prep-room* projects - which saw various course visits and programmes as modes of engagement, alongside the 3 permanent exhibitions at the Museum and displays at the Baba House.

Each unique student that visited on average spent, 3.3 hours at the Museum and/or the Baba House as part of their course visit.

The report also highlights work done with faculty, students and alumni. **Wong Zi Hao (Department of Architecture, CDE)**, who worked on a *prep-room* project in 2022 titled *Intimate Landscapes*, while he was a PhD candidate at the NUS Department of Architecture, is now an NUS faculty and close collaborator of the Museum.

A/P Hamzah Muzaini (Department of Southeast Asian Studies, FASS), has worked with the Museum and Baba House and brings students from his courses on visits and lectures. Besides working on such experiential learning partnerships, Hamzah is also a collaborator for programmes such as *currents*, further detailed in this report.

Partnerships between the Museum with the Baba House, the Library, and faculty collaborators has continued and deepened. Beyond engagements with exhibitions spaces within the Museum and Baba House, efforts with regards to collections development, collections as a resource for greater access, interdisciplinary modes of learning were also undertaken.

In line with holistic learning, Wednesdays @ NUS Museum had begun in Semester 2, and is set to continue in the coming Academic Year with more student-led initiatives and collaborations with the various collections in the purview of the Museum.

The numbers, while highlighting the quantitative aspect, are also supported by information on the qualitative aspects such as the outputs coming from such partnerships in the following sections.



83

Total number of course engagements across NUS Museum and Baba House



43

Internship and student work opportunities offered

across curatorial, outreach, young museum professional programme, collections, public art

02

Faculty Partnerships

Course Engagements have been a core medium of partnership between the NUS community and the Museum and Baba House this Academic Year. In AY 23/24, the Museum and Baba House engaged a total of 83 courses across NUS and other Institutes of Higher Learning. Of the courses we partnered with, many involved in-depth, multi-visit engagements and creative practices, including **AR5951D Houses are People: Architecture and Disappearance in the Hot War** and **NAFA DDN2013 Industry Project**.

Unique curatorial and programming projects stemming from such collaborations include a *prep-room*, a dance recital, and music programme proposals. Collections access was also a notable mode of facilitating access with the Museum staff working with faculty to bring out works that are not on display for teaching. These numbers were achieved with minimal soliciting of new course partnerships by Museum staff. This affirms the Museum's growing presence amongst University faculty, and the sustained quality of the Museum's exhibitions and collections as a resource for teaching and learning.

Student development and opportunities numbers at a glance



2199 **83**

Unique number of students as part of Course Engagements at the NUS Museum and Baba House

Total number of course engagements across NUS Museum and Baba House



NUS Baba House and Faculty Partnership

Department of Industrial Design and Design Incubation Centre

In March 2024, the Department of Industrial Design and Design Incubation hosted a 2-day design incubation workshop with 12 students at the NUS Baba House. The aim of the course was to ideate and prototype the design for the *Travelling Straits Saloon*: a mobile exhibition and programmatic space that will see first use for housing Baba House's Travelling Collection at institutions participating in the Student Ambassador Programme.

Following the workshop, the Baba House team selected one major design element from each of the 5 student groups' prototypes to be included into the final space. The team is currently in discussion with DID/DIC on finalising the space.

Faculty Partnerships Creative Practices

Types of Faculty Partnerships



Creative Practices



Interdisciplinary Engagements



Incorporating Exhibitions into Teaching

NAFA DDN2013 Industry Project (Yarra Iletto, Senior Lecturer, NAFA School of Dance):

This partnership involved a group of dance students over the course of the semester, with four classes held directly at the Museum. Museum staff co-taught students how to interpret and work with visual art, culminating in a movement and dance response to the artworks within *Radio Malaya: Abridged Conversations About Art* and *1+1=1: Ng Eng Teng*. This collaboration was followed up by a dance performance jointly presented by NAFA School of Dance and NUS Museum for **Singapore Art Week (SAW) 2024**.

YST MUA2188 Music Initiatives and Projects 3 (Dr Frances Lee, Rachel Ho, Miao Kaiwen, and Benedict Ng, Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music):

A long-term collaboration with a team of instructors from Yong Siew Toh's Music & Society / Music, Collaboration & Production (MSMCP) programme, this AY's iteration was a cross-museum collaborative project with the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum (LKCNHM) within a joint curriculum for the overall Academic Year.

In Semester 1 of AY 23/24, students learned to read the visual components of Nanyang artworks in *Radio Malaya: Abridged Conversations About Art* to derive musical inspiration and develop participatory auditory experiences and concert programmes. In Semester 2 of AY 23/24, students encountered themes and concepts explored in *prep-room: the hull and the rig* to further enhance their design of participatory auditory experiences.

AR5951D Houses are People: Architecture and Disappearance in the Hot War (Dr Will Davis, Department of Architecture, CDE and Siddharta Perez, Museum Curatorial Lead, NUS Museum):

Co-led by Museum staff, this course partnership facilitated student involvement with the Dorothy Pelzer archives within ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute. As part of their visit, students wrote exhibition reviews responding to one of the permanent exhibitions, *Radio Malaya: Abridged Conversations about Art*. Students learned about curatorial approaches and exhibition development over multiple visits to the Museum, concluding the course by creating their own *prep-room* exhibition with an official opening and presentation to invited guests.



Faculty Partnerships Interdisciplinary Engagements



Art, Archaeology and Material Science

Materiality: Investigative Approach on Experimental Technology, Ceramic Making and Artistic Practice is an ongoing exhibition at the Museum. As part of the **NUS Public Art Initiative**, artists and NUS community had undertaken collaborations in an interdisciplinary manner. *Materiality* presents the collaborations between artist **Delia Prvački** and Nobel prize winning physicist **Professor Kostya Novoselov**, **A/P Daria Andreeva-Baeumler** and graduate student **Wu Jiqiang (Materials Science and Engineering, CDE)**. The works coming out of this partnership are presented alongside sherds from archaeological excavations spanning across different periods, cultures, and geographies in the *Archaeology Library* of the Museum.

Prvački, a longtime collaborator with NUS Museum, will also have an exhibition showcasing her artistic practice accompanied by a publication at the NUS Museum in the upcoming Academic Year.

YID2214 Plants and People (Dr Linda Puth, Yale-NUS): Students drew upon their knowledge in plants and plant biology to examine depictions and representations of plants in artworks from across the Museum's collections from three perspectives – a) plants as inspiration; b) natural landscapes, colonialism and identity; and c) real and imagined landscapes.

“These visits have always been very positive learning experiences for my students. Courses are structured so the museum visit is an experiential part of the course curriculum...Most of my students have never been to the NUS Museum before, and most report it was one of the course highlights. The staff is always very supportive and collaborative in creating a positively impactful learning experience for our students.”

- A/P Greg Petersen, YST Conservatory



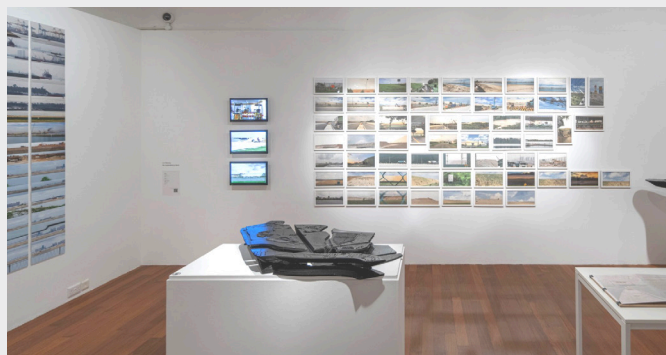
HS2912 Polymaths: Innovating between Art and Science (Dr Chng Hui Ting, Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, FOS, and A/P Maiya Murphy, Department of English, Linguistics & Theatre Studies, FASS):

This interdisciplinary course saw students from the College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) visit the Museum's *1+1=1: Ng Eng Teng* exhibition. Guided by a worksheet, students discussed and explored the exhibition in groups before a short debrief by Museum staff covering who Ng Eng Teng was, how his works relate to the idea of 'polymaths', and how his exhibition and artworks may have incorporated scientific and mathematical concepts.

RE2707 Asset and Property Management (Dr Grace Wong, Real Estate, Business School): Museum staff led Business and Real Estate students through a tour of the NUS Baba House focusing on conservation and refurbishment. The students learned about unique architectural features of town houses, practical challenges of and opportunities in maintaining a heritage house.

Faculty Partnerships Incorporating Exhibitions into Teaching

HY5406 Archives and Knowledge of the Past (Dr Donna Brunero, Department of History, FASS): This course partnership had Rachel Lim, Curatorial Assistant for *Paper Trails: Navigating the T.K. Sabapathy Archives*, to introduce to students the exhibition as well as the concept of archives as terrains behind the exhibition. After a tour of the exhibition and a look at archived materials in the Resource Library, students discussed in a seminar-setting how the exhibition prompts us to make sense of archives, as well as whether thinking of archives as 'terrains' open up possibilities for archivists, curators and researchers.



Intimate Landscapes, a prep-room guided by **A/P Lilian Chee (Department of Architecture, CDE)**, who acts as faculty mentor to the ongoing work of the Museum, and NUS Museum's Museum Curatorial Lead Siddharta Perez saw the research of three NUS Master of Architecture graduates and **Wong Zi Hao**, a then PhD student, manifest in the form of an exhibition. For the course **AR5955A: Drawing as Research**, Wong, featured in the exhibition, and now an NUS Faculty, had a lecturer-led visit of the exhibition for his course.

NHT2208 The Power of Storytelling through Photography (Bernice Wong, Adjunct Lecturer, NUS College) saw students visiting the *Photography Journal Open Call (PJOC)* exhibition. Following a tour by Wardah Mohamad, curator of the exhibition, the students sat in the exhibition space and developed creative responses to the works they had seen with materials like paper, colour pencils etc.



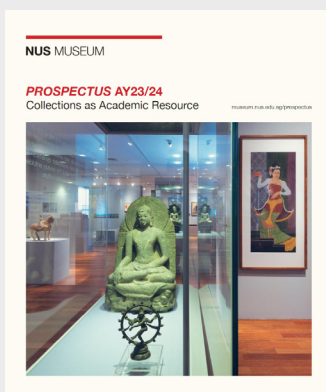
Collections as Academic Resource

Semester 1 of AY 23/24 saw the launch of the Prospectus initiative, which highlights categories of the Museum's collections by presenting them in ways beyond the 4 major collections and how they can be utilised as academic and research resources as the Museum continues its collections development and digitalisation efforts. The Prospectus was also given to the Student Research Fellows as a resource pack to help them craft and develop their research proposals. Furthermore, the Prospectus was sent digitally and given out to the Museum's and faculty partners. As part of the Prospectus initiative, an **upcoming display at the NUS Libraries** will also be presented in August 2024, highlighting the Museum's continued partnership and collaboration while affirming its status as a University resource. The Prospectus initiative will take on continued forms and analyse varied categories of collections across the Museum in the coming Academic Year as well and contribute to the development of the upcoming **Collections Study Gallery** by investigating ways in which collections can be categorised and re-presented for research and academic access. The Prospectus and the Collections Study Gallery would also help the Museum's preparation as a partner for the upcoming **Visual Cultures Minor** with the **Department of Communications and New Media**.



Recent donations

The Museum continues to be a recipient of major donations as it affirms its role as an academic resource. In AY 23/24, the Museum acquired ink and contemporary works from **Mok Wei Wei (Class of 1982, Department of Architecture, CDE)**, a significant collector and donor. **Professor Lim Tow Keang, from Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine**, donated a collection of everyday textiles primarily from Sunda and Flores in the Indonesian Archipelago can be an extension to the Museum's legacy collections from the first two curators of the Museum, Michael Sullivan and William Willets. The Museum also received its largest-ever donation of polychromatic export wares to date from **Alice and Peter Tan**, consisting of 577 items. Such collections form parts of the larger, existing collections of the Museum and would be integrated into ongoing academic collaborations, hopefully enriching students' learning experience as well as research through the Museum.



Student Development and Opportunities

Programmes have been a key form of engagement and partnership between the NUS community, the Museum, and Baba House this Academic Year. In AY 23/24, the Museum and Baba House organised a total of 22 programmes with 30 collaborators, including students, staff, alumni, and local artists. Notable collaborators include **Jenny Dorsey**, professional chef and **Fulbright Scholar at the Department of Communications and New Media, FASS**, as well as **Rachel Lim**, a **NUS Art History Alumni** and current freelance writer and arts worker. Partnering with the **National Heritage Board's (NHB) Singapore HeritageFest**, saw participants take part in neighbourhood walks organised by the Baba House.

In this Academic Year, collaborations for programmes have extended beyond the Museum's grounds and university communities, engaging more external stakeholders like the **Central Library, NHB and other secondary institutions**. Cross-programming between the NUS Museum and Baba House has increased, resulting in opportunities for new programme formats that attracted different audiences to both the Museum and Baba House. Such endeavours were especially visible in Semester 2 with the activation of **Wednesday @ NUS Museum**, a weekly series of programmes that saw 8 sessions having participants encounter NUS Museum and Baba House in varied manners. Semester 2 also saw the launch of the **Museum Lab and Baba House Student Ambassador Programme**, funded by the **National Arts Council's (NAC) Cultural Matching Fund (CMF)**, which aimed to introduce museum practice and critical modes of engagement to participants ranging from Secondary School to recent university graduates. Attendance across programmes has been consistent with high ratings from participants.

Student development and opportunities numbers at a glance



22

Programmes organised by NUS Museum and Baba House



30

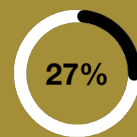
Collaborators for NUS Museum and Baba House programmes

This includes NUS students, staff, artists and Baba House docents



740

Attendees for NUS Museum and Baba House programmes



NUS Staff



NUS Students



NUS Alumni



Public*

*The NUS Baba House programmes typically have a higher percentage of participants from the public.



43

Internship and student work opportunities offered

across curatorial, outreach, young museum professional programme, collections, public art

30%

Increase in total number of work opportunities offered

Programme Highlights Wednesdays @ NUS Museum

Wednesdays @ NUS Museum is a weekly series of programmes that invite participants to encounter the NUS Museum and Baba House's exhibitions and collections in different ways. On Wednesday afternoons during Semester 2 of AY 23/24, the NUS Museum and Baba House organised different programmes in conjunction with its ongoing exhibitions and curatorial focus.



Brown Bag: The Making of Paper Trails - with Rachel Lim (Class of 2022, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)

In the second Brown Bag Talk of the semester, Rachel Lim shared her meaningful journey as a young Curatorial Assistant in the making of *Paper Trails*. She delved into the layers of metaphor woven into the exhibition, how they came about, and her personal insights in navigating the T.K. Sabapathy archives.

“Actually, the exhibition was not set up with any metaphors in mind. The concept of terrains and geographical metaphors just arose organically. For instance, the archives were comparable to sediments and the whole ‘Paper Trails’ is complex, just like how terrains are.”



Exploring Food, Movement and Identity Making Through Nasi Ulam

The programme kicked off with a talk and discussion by Food Academic Jenny Dorsey, exploring the origins of *nasi ulam* and its role in revealing the historical migration and trade networks of food and people. Jenny led a discussion on the role of food in identity-making, examining how labels like “authentic” reflect specific ideals in response to cultural anxieties and nostalgia.

Following the talk, participants enjoyed a live demonstration of *nasi ulam* by Baba House docent Audrey Koh. Audrey showcased the preparation of this labour-intensive dish, sharing her personal experiences growing up with it. Attendees had the chance to engage in preparing ingredients, mixing the rice, and savoring their own portion of the dish.

Programme Highlights Programme Collaborations

In collaboration with



NUS
Libraries



In AY 23/24, collaborations to build upon research and presentation methods were explored. This saw *PJOC Presentations* at NUS Baba House and NUS Libraries. The culmination of this collaborative process is presented as extended iterations through programming, creating avenues for interaction and interpretation. Furthermore, besides Wednesday programmes at the Museum itself, one session was a response to *prep-room: the hull and the rig* hosted at the NUS Library through the form of a film screening, highlighting the move to deepened collaborations across curatorial and programmatic lines.

Pinhole Workshop with Sroyon Mukherjee @ NUS Baba House (January 2024)

The project stems from **Sroyon Mukherjee's (Asia-Pacific Centre for Environmental Law, NUS)** ongoing pinhole camera-making initiative. His works were shortlisted for the *PJOC* exhibition alongside artists who employ photography through various methods and disciplines. Collaborative processes, such as hands-on sessions with Museum staff to develop this workshop, aim to explore how his research and interest in sustainability in photography can be meaningfully communicated to our audience. During the workshop held in January 2024, Sroyon addressed the ecological impact of standard photographic practices by using discarded materials such as cardboard boxes to create functional pinhole cameras.



Series C 360 IMX ,@ NUS Central Library (February - April 2024)

Building upon the initial presentation at the NUS Museum's *PJOC* exhibition, the second iteration of 'Series C' by **Ethan ZhangCheng (Year 2, NUS College)** takes viewers on a visual journey through diverse landscapes. The presentation in the Central Library's 360imx offers a curious and immersive experience akin to stepping into a movie theatre. This presentation was made possible through collaboration with our NUS Libraries partners, where we explored the possibilities of presenting art installations outside of the Museum space and experimented with different display mediums.

Film Club: stories from the hull and the rig 360 IMX ,@ NUS Central Library

As part of Wednesdays @ NUS, *stories from the hull and the rig* draw tangents from *prep-room: the hull and the rig* currently on display at the NUS Museum – bringing to the surface the entangled maritime legacies of diverse communities in Singapore. Screened in the 360imx at the Central Library, this Film Club features contemporary voices through which embodied histories of migration and identity-making take shape and how complex relationships to the sea depart from state-driven ideas of Singapore's maritime history through the works of local filmmakers.

Programme Highlights Traineeship and Student-led Opportunities



As part of the Cultural Matching Fund, **Samantha Rin (Class of 2022, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)** joined the Outreach Team as a Young Museum Professional Trainee in February 2023 till February 2024. During her time with the team at the Museum, she had developed content and scripts for faculty partnerships and course visits at the Museum and the Baba House. Among the various programmes she had been involved in, she had also worked on the Open-Form Craft Market in August 2023 - which saw 12 crafters gain inspiration from the Museum's collection and integrate it into their works. The crafters, from the NUS community across 9 departments, sold their works in the area outside the Museum, and this programme saw over 270 visitors.

Supported by

CULTURAL
MATCHING
FUND



Phan Nguyen Phuc An (Year 3, Faculty of Science), a Marketing and Social Media Intern at the NUS Museum, has developed an innovative online game designed to familiarise students with the Museum's collection. This game is crafted to showcase selected artefacts that convey positive and inspiring messages relevant to student life, aiming to enhance both engagement and learning. By presenting the Museum's collection in an interactive and entertaining format, the game seeks to make the Museum's resources more accessible and enjoyable for students. The launch of this game is anticipated for AY 24/25.

04 Fellowships

Fellowships with the NUS Museum and Baba House open new avenues for in-depth study, research, and dissemination of knowledge on our collections, expanding into new forms of research and creative engagements. In AY 23/24, the Museum and Baba House welcomed one Creative Fellow and confirmed three Student Research Fellows under our various fellowships. As our Creative Fellow, Charles Lim co-organised a masterclass series together with the Museum. The NUS Museum and Alice & Agnes Tan Student Research Fellowships confirmed three Student Fellows for AY 24/25, each with unique topic of research with findings expected to be presented at the end of the Academic Year.



Student Research Fellowship

3 Confirmed **Charles Dyce collection,**
6 Applications ***prep-room: the hull and the rig,***
 Straits Chinese Ceramics
 (NUS Baba House)

In AY 23/24, Student Research Fellowship models were developed and a call for applicants were rolled out. We received 6 number of applicants. Three student fellows were confirmed under the **NUS Museum and Alice & Agnes Tan Student Research Fellowships**. Under the fellowships, set to be launched in AY 24/25, the student fellows will embark on a year-long research project with guidance and advice from Museum staff partnering as Museum Advisors to the students for their individual projects.



Photograph of *currents* participants at Pulau Hantu
Image courtesy of A/P Hamzah Muzaini

Creative Fellowship Programmes

currents	3 Weeks
a masterclass series	5 Sessions
	10 Participants with Emerging Art Practices

As part of the NUS Museum's Creative Fellowship with inaugural **Creative Fellow Charles Lim**, a masterclass series was held over two weeks in July. Participants explored connections to seas and islands through recent expressions of art, heritage, and the environment. They engaged in four masterclasses led by **A/P Hamzah Muzaini**, faculty and artist **Wong Zi Hao** along with artists **ila**, and **Marvin Tang**. Participants developed works - such as images, videos, objects, sounds, or text-based installations aligned with their interests and academic backgrounds, and presented their progress in a *prep-room* display at the NUS Museum. Their work intersected with the masterclass themes of the sea as governance infrastructure, seascape representations, and island cultures.

05 Exhibition Highlights



Exhibitions informed and allowed for various faculty and community engagements in AY 23/24. The past Academic Year saw exhibitions of varying areas of focus, collections and collaborative avenues being launched. *PJOC: Photography Journal Open Call* for instance was not only a curatorial undertaking but a community engagement effort from the wider NUS community. *Gifts: a prospectus* highlights recent donations from 2015 to 2022, reflecting unique collecting methods of a university museum. Besides from larger scale exhibitions, *prep-room* projects were also activated with *the hull and the rig* displaying boat models, connecting to maritime culture and contemporary issues. Besides from newer acquisitions and artefacts being highlighted, documents and artworks donated by **T.K. Sabapathy, Adjunct Associate Professor at Department of Architecture** and the Museum's Distinguished Fellow, were presented through *Paper Trails: Navigating the T.K. Sabapathy Archives*.



Following the opening of *Gifts: a prospectus*, the Museum saw programmes as well as courses engaging with the exhibition.

Patronage and donor relationships were also themes explored during course partnerships in both semesters at the Museum in this Academic Year, namely through the courses **GEC1035/GET1019 Patrons of the Arts (A/P Greg Petersen)** and **ACE5406 Arts Business (Park Sun-Min, Department of Communications & New Media, FASS)**. In these courses, students learned more about areas such as financial aspects and stakeholder relationships through the Museum. In Semester 1, a group of students in the **ACE5406 Arts Business** course had conducted a survey to understand the Museum's visibility and visitorship amongst the NUS community. These are recurring courses that we continue to have deepened engagements with.

Exhibition Highlights



The *prep-room* is a dedicated site for the exploration of curatorial methods, and iterative approaches to collaborations between curators, researchers, artists and students.

***prep-room:* the hull and the rig**

the hull and the rig is a *prep-room* display of boat models incepted in the 1970s that have travelled through different cultural institutions. The artefactual presence of these boats recalls the contingency of their typology, and embodied maritime and riverine experiences as they encounter aspects of Charles Lim's contemporary project that capture the motions of governance and capital maintaining the integrity of the state. The *prep-room* investigates these object biographies, and intimate stories around maritime cultures, island heritage and the macro and individual relationships to the seas.

Programmes

- [Grounded Conversations] crossing the seas - with Fajrina Razak, a visual artist, cultural worker, curator and educator.
- [Film Club] stories from the hull and the rig
- Museum Lab - Session 3: Expanding - Jong Boat Workshop



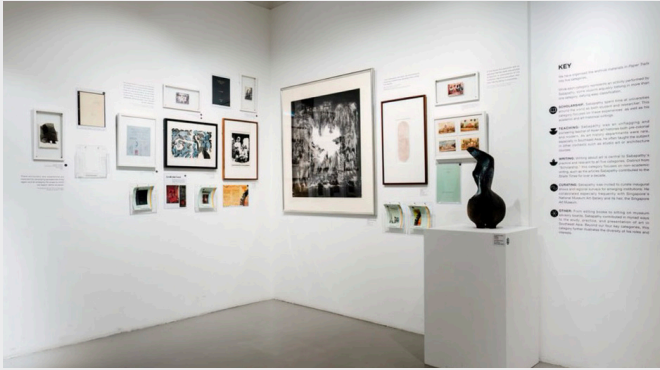
Curatorial Interns Highlight

The image above shows **Linus Tan (Class of 2023, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)**, a former intern who had worked on *prep-room: the hull and the rig* giving a tour to then- fellow interns to acquaint them with the exhibition. More recently, **Abdul Latiff Bin Hamzah (Class of 2024, Department of Architecture, CDE)** has been working with Museum Curatorial Lead Siddharta Perez on the *prep-room* and has participated in the Museum Lab as well as *currents*.

“Working under Sidd [Siddharta] for the hull and the rig prep-room was a fantastic experience that honed my literary investigative skills and my understanding of curatorial cues and response within an academic exhibition space.”

*- Abdul Latiff Bin Hamzah
(Class of 2024, College of Design and Engineering)*

Exhibition Highlights



prep-room:

Paper Trails:

Navigating the T.K. Sabapathy Archives

Paper Trails: Navigating the T.K. Sabapathy Archives showcases original documents, photographs, books, and artworks donated by the art historian, educator, writer and curator T.K. Sabapathy, as well as textual interventions by practitioners and students who have worked with these materials. Grounded in ideas from archival theory and practice, the display samples NUS Museum's archival holdings, acting as an interstitial way of presenting these records to the public while the Museum continues its archiving processes. Rachel Lim (Class of 2022, NUS Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences) curates this display to distil the invisible and ongoing processes of archiving the holdings.

Programmes

- [Brown Bag] The Making of Paper Trails - with Rachel Lim

Alumni Highlight

A graduate of the NUS Art History Minor, Rachel Lim currently writes about art and exhibitions for the public as the Managing Editor of *Plural Art Magazine*, while continuing her partnership with the Museum through archival work, course engagements, and public programmes.

The NUS Museum supports the Art History Minor through course engagements research, and collections access.

"I hope to present 'Paper Trails' in different avenues and also expand the exhibition to make it accessible for people outside of the Museum as well."

*- Rachel Lim
(Class of 2022, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences)*

Exhibition Highlights



PJOC Photography Journal Open Call

PJOC is a photography journal exhibition that presents the works of nine participants from the NUS community. This open exhibition brings together individuals who use photography as a means of visual research that complements their respective disciplines, as well as those who employ it as a form of artistic research. It encompasses a diverse range of approaches and intentions, spanning categories such as archival, documentative, journalistic, and artistic supported by a sustained line of inquiry or research.

Selected from an open call period between July and October 2022, the projects were chosen through a jury panel session held in December 2022. A total of 27 submissions were received, including submissions from 16 students, 4 staff members, and 7 alumni representing over 13 departments across NUS.

Programmes, featuring PJOC artists:

- [WORKSHOP] Pinhole Camera Making + Exploration - with Sroyon Mukherjee
- PJOC Presentation - Series 'C' - with Ethan ZhangCheng

Exhibition Interns Highlight

For the *PJOC* exhibition, we brought on two interns: **Vince Toh (Year 4, Department of Architecture, CDE)** and **Mamfizam Ismail (Year 4, College of Humanities and Sciences)**. Vince contributed in the curatorial development, applying his design expertise to the organisation and presentation of the exhibits. Meanwhile, Mamfizam was involved in the documentation, archiving and marketing aspect of the exhibition through producing artist interviews.

"... at NUS Museum as a video production intern has been extremely enriching. Not only did it provide me the opportunity to expand my creative energy into something new, but it also allowed me to grow as a creative by incorporating new ideas and constantly workshopping them."

*- Mamfizam Ismail
(Year 4, College of Humanities and Sciences)*

Exhibition Highlights & Publications



Art writer Teo Han Wue (left) and Professor Kwok Kian Woon, Vice-Chancellor, University of the Arts Singapore (right) photographed in the Gifts exhibition space

Gifts: a prospectus

University Museums and their Continuing Legacies

Gifts: a prospectus brings together recent works donated to the NUS Museum and Baba House. The exhibition explores the development of the Museum's collections from its origins in the University of Malaya and Nanyang University's collections, and how the gifts received throughout its institutional history have contributed to the cultural and academic life at the University.

More than a recollection of past donations, *Gifts* tracks the decisions behind the Museum's acquisitions and how they reflect historical and current cultural undercurrents, from Singapore's movement into independence and the search for its identity, to the developments in national arts and educational policies. *Gifts* highlights the way its collections have responded to these contexts through teaching, research and exhibitions, and prospects into areas which can be developed further.

Programmes:

- [BROWN BAG] The Making of Gifts: a prospectus with Chang Yueh Siang



Publication Launch: The Dato' N. Parameswaran Collection of Wartime Art from Vietnam (1954 - 1975)

This publication is a compendium of the research and exhibitions that have been made possible through the long-term loan of a collection of Vietnamese Wartime Art from the late Dato' N Parameswaran (1948-2022). The collection comprises 1230 works of art and the publication features essays and engagements from the previous exhibitions of this collection undertaken by the NUS Museum.

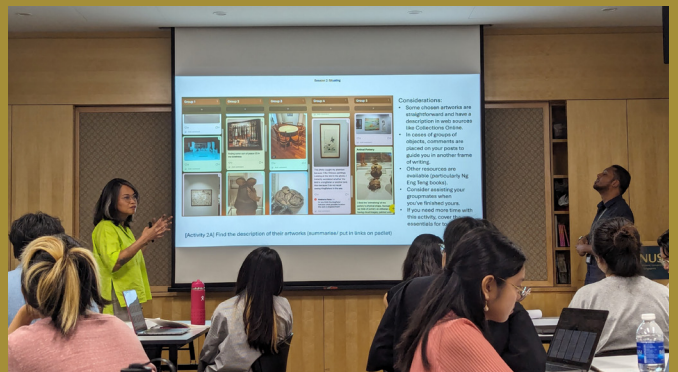
Publication Launch: Transcultural Imaginations

Following the Museum's third Anniversary Lecture in 2021 presented by **Senior Lecturer, NUS History, and Programme Convenor for Art History Priya Maholay-Jaradi**, the publication focusing on the 1959 Government of India donation was readied and printed in AY 23/24.

Cultural Matching Fund Highlights

CULTURAL MATCHING FUND

NUS Museum and Baba House became a recipient of the National Arts Council's Cultural Matching Fund (CMF) in 2022 and sought to expand on existing outreach efforts. For the Baba House, the CMF project aimed to reach out beyond tertiary institutions, to secondary schools through the Student Ambassador Programme. The programme sought to introduce Peranakan culture and heritage through a more critical lens and taught students skills in critical thinking and public speaking. For NUS Museum, a highlight of programme was the Museum Lab, an accessible extension of the Curating Lab and aimed to broaden outreach efforts to Junior Colleges and Polytechnics. The programme introduced visual cultures and museology to students from various disciplinary backgrounds, expanding the conversation on critical museum practice and ways of seeing. The CMF project supports the NUS Museum and Baba House's longstanding internship programme, giving students work experience in the arts and heritage industry.



Cultural Matching Fund Highlights



Museum Lab: curatorial gestures from the periphery

4 Weeks, 7 Sessions, 25 Participants
Junior College Students, Polytechnic Students,
Undergraduate, Graduate, Alumni

Museum Lab is a four-week vacation programme designed to equip participants with the foundational knowledge and skills necessary to engage critically in modes of seeing, situating, and relaying art and visual cultures. Featuring a curriculum of guest lectures, workshops, and discussion groups, participants explore art and museology through the lens of multidisciplinary approaches.

Throughout the Museum Lab, participants engaged in a series of lectures and workshops with the mentorship of NUS Museum's curatorial and academic staff, Museum Curatorial Lead Siddharta Perez and **Academic Director A/P Lilian Chee**. Additionally, participants were exposed to the work of practitioners in craft grounded in heritage and vernacular knowledge with the guidance of **Fawzi Nasir**, an advocate for cultural conservation, who took participants through a workshop on St John's Island. To ground the participants' learning, weekly discussions with the Museum's staff complemented the lectures and workshops, providing a platform for open and critical engagement.



Baba House Student Ambassador Programme

The Student Ambassador Programme is a 4-session workshop intended to introduce Peranakan culture and museum skills to secondary and pre-university students, culminating into student-led public and community engagements.

Currently, the Baba House has engaged with 3 secondary schools over the course of the school holiday period in AY 23/24, with 44 students across **Catholic High School, Zhonghua Secondary and Raffles Institution (Secondary)**. After the sessions, students engaged their new knowledge through public engagements such as conducting house tours during the Build Your Own Baba House programme and object sharing sessions using the travelling museum box for their school peers.

Reception from stakeholders and students has been positive, with both teachers and students noting the highly engaging and useful nature of the skills and content taught. The Baba House will seek to continue engaging with more secondary and pre-university institutions in December 2024 and the school holiday periods for 2025.

Cultural Matching Fund Highlights



Museum Lab: Student-Led Tours

As part of the NUS Museum Internship Programme (May-August 2024), a group of five interns worked on a series of tours that connected the Museum's artworks across various exhibitions. The tours ranged from retellings of Singapore's history of development to depictions of the human body in sculptures to stories of how kinship looks like to different communities. These tours will be led by the interns in the coming semester as part of Wednesdays @ NUS Museum.

Interspace - A modular and mobile presentation project

'Interspace' is a mobile presentation project conceptualised by the Community Engagement unit to explore alternative methods of communicating and presenting creative proposals outside traditional museum spaces, specifically within the campus environment. The project was initiated during the Museum's 2024 vacation internship program, involving students from the College of Design and Engineering, Department of Communications and New Media and LASALLE College of the Arts. They contributed to design, marketing, and curatorial strategies, emphasising student and campus engagement. 'Interspace' is scheduled to launch in January 2025, featuring a collaboration with NUS alumni and artist Ong Chan Hao.

Editorial

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Annual Report
Academic Year 2023/2024



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OPENING HOURS:
Monday: By appointment (for schools/faculties)
Tuesday to Saturday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm
Sunday and Public Holidays: Closed