



IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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Singapore

## **International arts academics, practitioners and professionals gather in Singapore to discuss the arts in Southeast Asia**

2<sup>nd</sup> NAFA Symposium: New Asian Imaginations: (Re)Searching the Arts in Southeast Asia  
19 – 21 September 2011 at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts  
<http://newasianimagination.nafa.edu.sg/>

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) will be hosting the second NAFA Symposium from 19 to 21 September 2011. Titled, 'New Asian Imaginations: (Re)Searching the Arts in Southeast Asia', this symposium seeks to highlight new insights emerging between research and artistic practices. From visual arts to performing arts, from design to filmmaking, from theory to practice, from history to contemporary culture, international arts academics, practitioners and professionals will gather in Singapore for discussions on the arts in Southeast Asia. The first symposium was held in 2008 in conjunction with the academy's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Through keynote speeches, paper presentations and workshops, the symposium will give fresh meaning to cross-disciplinary art-forms and their relationships, expanding practice-led research to build on the construction and representation of culture through the arts in Southeast Asia.

The guest of honour, **Professor Kishore Mahbubani** will set the tone for the symposium with an opening speech at the Opening Night Performance. An eminent public speaker, Prof. Mahbubani is currently the Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSPP) at the National University of Singapore. Before this, he served in the Singapore Foreign Ministry from 1971 to 2004, where he was Permanent Secretary from 1993 to 1998. He also served twice as Singapore's Ambassador to the UN. He has received many accolades, and most recently, Prof Mahbubani was named by *Foreign Policy* magazine in November 2010 as one of the top 100 Global Thinkers. His articles have appeared in a wide range of journals and newspapers, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*.

**Professor Nikos Papastergiadis** (Professor, Cultural Studies and Media & Communications, The University of Melbourne, Australia) will be giving a keynote

speech on 'Aesthetic Cosmopolitanism'. The keynote address will relate the concept of aesthetic cosmopolitanism to five tendencies that are increasingly shaping the trajectories of contemporary art – denationalization, reflexive hospitality, cultural translation, discursivity, and the global public sphere. Besides Prof. Nikos, the panel of invited speakers includes **Ark Fongsmut** (Curator, Bangkok University Gallery, Consultant Lecturer, Mahidol University, Silpakorn University, Thammasat University, Thailand), **Professor Marsha Meskimmon** (Professor, University of Loughborough, United Kingdom), **Tan Pin Pin**, (Award-winning Filmmaker, Singapore) and **Professor Zhou Long** (Visiting Professor of Composition, University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music, USA).

To date, 24 paper abstracts have been accepted for the symposium. Participants can expect engaging dialogues with a diverse group of paper presenters coming from around the world such as Brunei, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, UK and USA. In addition to topics on the visual and performing arts, the role of art patronage, education and the establishment of arts resource centres are among the other subjects that will be presented.

Chairperson of the 2<sup>nd</sup> NAFA Symposium, Dr Caren Carino (Head of Department of Dance, NAFA) said, "Southeast Asian arts is more prominent on the global stage today than in the last decade. This is evident by the number of Southeast Asian artists who are selling and performing in the established western markets, and the number of international art events held in this part of the world in recent years. It is thus important that regular discourse is generated between the practitioners, professionals and artists and the NAFA symposium aims to fill that niche. We have received very high quality paper submissions that cover a broad range of topics, participants can expect a dynamic symposium filled with lively discussions concerning the arts in Southeast Asia today."

To commemorate the event, a team of NAFA students are putting together a special multi-disciplinary performance, '*Borobudur Revisited*' that will be performed on Opening Night. This work is an experiment in a cross-art form by 15 students from the departments of music, dance, design & media and fine art. The students work independently and collaboratively from conceptualization through to the production and execution, with only supervision from the artistic director, lecturers and department advisors. A dance piece that sets up a creative dialogue between music and dance centered on the idea of "touch", '*Tocatta*' will also be staged on the Opening Night of the symposium.

The symposium will be hosted at the NAFA campus in Singapore from 19 to 21 September. Full symposium access, including opening performances, lunches and coffee breaks, is at S\$350. Early registrants pay S\$180 (valid till 31 May 2011). For more information and registration, go to <http://newasianimagination.nafa.edu.sg/>.

Appendix 1 – Programme draft  
Appendix 2 – Profiles of invited speakers

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**Contact:**

Hazel Chan  
Manager, Media Relations  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts  
DID: 6512 4017 / Mobile: 9144 0841  
Email: [hschan@nafa.edu.sg](mailto:hschan@nafa.edu.sg)

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**Appendix 1 – Programme draft**

**Monday, 19 September**

19.00h : Opening Night Performance

**Tuesday, 20 September**

09:30 – 11:00: General Assembly  
11:30 – 13:30: Plenary 1  
14:40 – 16:30: Paper Session(s)  
16:30 – 17:00: Exhibition/ Workshop Presentations

**Wednesday, 21 September**

09:30 – 11:00: Plenary 2  
11:30 – 13:30: Paper Session(s)  
14:40 – 16:30: Paper Session(s)  
16:30 – 17:00: Exhibition/ Workshop Presentations  
19:00 : Closing Night Cocktail Reception

## Appendix 2 – Profiles of guest speakers

### Prof. Kishore Mahbubani

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Dean

Professor

*Practice of Public Policy*

*Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy*

*National University of Singapore*

Singapore

Prof. Kishore Mahbubani is currently the Dean and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY SPP) at the National University of Singapore. Before this, he served in the Singapore Foreign Ministry from 1971 to 2004, where he was Permanent Secretary from 1993 to 1998. He also served twice as Singapore's Ambassador to the UN.

Prof Mahbubani has published and spoken in all corners of the globe and is the author of *"Can Asians Think?"*, *"Beyond the Age of Innocence: Rebuilding Trust between America and the World"*, and *"The New Asian Hemisphere: the Irresistible Shift of Global power to the East"*. He graduated in philosophy from Singapore and Canada and served as a Fellow of the Center for International Affairs in Harvard University from 1991 to 1992.

The Foreign Policy Association Medal was awarded to him in New York in June 2004 with the following opening words in the citation: "A gifted diplomat, a student of history and philosophy, a provocative writer and an intuitive thinker". He was listed as one of the top 100 public intellectuals in the world by *Foreign Policy* and *Prospect* magazines in September 2005 and was also included in the March 2009 Financial Times list of Top 50 individuals (including Obama, Wen Jiabao and Sarkozy) who would shape the debate on the future of capitalism. Most recently, Prof Mahbubani was named by Foreign Policy in November 2010 as one of the top 100 Global Thinkers. His articles have appeared in a wide range of journals and newspapers, including *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *Time*, *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*.

### Prof. Nikos Papastergiadis

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Professor

*Cultural Studies and Media & Communications*

*The University of Melbourne*

Australia

Prof. Nikos Papastergiadis holds a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from the University of Melbourne and a Doctor of Philosophy from University of Cambridge. Prior to joining the School of Culture and Communication he was Deputy Director of the Australia Centre at the University of Melbourne; Head of the Centre for Ideas at the Victorian

College of Arts; lecturer in Sociology and recipient of the Simon Fellowship at the University of Manchester.

### **Ark Fongsmut**

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Curator

*Bangkok University Gallery*

Consultant Lecturer

*Visual Art Administration,*

*Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University,*

*Silpakorn University, Thammasat University*

Thailand

Ark Fongsmut received his MA in Fine Art Administration and Curatorship from Goldsmiths College, London, and his MA and BA in Political Science from Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

He is a curator at Bangkok University Gallery since 2000 and has produced many important exhibitions and initiations, including the annual Brand New Project and Artist Residency Programme. He was also appointed chief curator of the 2004 and 2006 Month of Photography – Bangkok and co-curator of the International Singapore Photography Festival 2008 and 2010.

Ark has published in many exhibition catalogues and books, including *'Art Now'*, his latest collections of art writings. He has also contributed to many publications, namely, *Esquire* (Thai Edition), *MARS*, and *East Bridge*, an online Korean art magazine.

He was a recipient of BIZ Art Residency (Shanghai); Association Française d'Action Artistique Fellowship (Paris); The Alliance Française Residency (Bangkok); and The Japan Foundation Fellowship (Bangkok and Tokyo).

### **Prof. Marsha Meskimmon**

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Professor

*Modern and Contemporary Art History and Theory*

*University of Loughborough,*

United Kingdom

Marsha Meskimmon is Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art History and Theory and Director of the School of Arts at Loughborough University.

Her research focuses on contemporary practice and feminist theory – her books include: *'The Art of Reflection: Women Artists' Self-Portraiture in the Twentieth Century'* (1996), *'We Weren't Modern Enough: Women Artists and the Limits of German Modernism'* (1999) and *'Women Making Art: History, Subjectivity, Aesthetics'* (2003).

Her latest monograph is entitled '*Contemporary Art and the Cosmopolitan Imagination*' (2009) and she is presently completing an anthology, co-edited with Dot Rowe, called '*Diasporic Futures: Women, the Arts and Globalisation*' (with MUP). With Amelia Jones, she edits the series '*Rethinking Art's Histories*', published by Manchester University Press.

### **Tan Pin Pin**

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Award-Winning Filmmaker  
Singapore

Tan Pin Pin is a Singapore director. Her films, explorations of Singapore, her histories and contexts, have screened at Berlin, Pusan, Oberhausen and Rotterdam. She has won more than 20 awards, most recently for '*Invisible City*'. The citation from Cinema du Reel describes it as "A witty, intellectually challenging essay on history and memory as tools of civil resistance". '*Singapore GaGa*', voted the Best Film, 2006, Straits Times, is described as "A subtly subversive yet thoroughly celebratory film ... One of the best films about Singapore. Pin Pin won an S. Rajaratnam scholarship to study for a film MFA at Northwestern University, USA. *Moving House*, her thesis film won the Student Academy Award for Best Documentary. [www.tanpinpin.com](http://www.tanpinpin.com)

### **Dr. Zhou Long**

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Visiting Professor of Composition  
*University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music*  
USA

Dr. Zhou Long is internationally recognized for creating a unique body of music that brings together the aesthetic concepts and musical elements of East and West.

He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from Columbia University where his mentors included Chou Wen-chung, Mario Davidovsky, and George Edwards.

His academic teaching has brought him to many institutions in the U.S such as Duke University, Cornell University, Columbia University, Indiana University at Bloomington, UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, San Francisco State University, the San Francisco Conservatory, the Manhattan School of Music, the Peabody Conservatory and the Curtis Institute of Music.

The prolific artist has received numerous awards, grants and fellowships from various institutions around the world, one of which is a lifetime achievement award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters at the 2003 Academy Award in Music. As music director of Music from China in New York City, he also received ASCAP's prestigious Adventurous Programming Award in 1999.