

BACKGROUND INFORMATION**About Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA)**

Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), founding member of the University of the Arts Singapore, is Singapore's pioneer arts institution. The academy is known for its rigorous and high-quality curriculum, innovative and practitioners-led teaching approach, diverse artistic creations and community outreach.

NAFA has nurtured 13 recipients of the Cultural Medallion — Singapore's highest accolade bestowed on art practitioners who have significantly impacted arts and culture. Another 15 alumni have been presented the Young Artist Award. NAFA graduates are creative changemakers, highly skilled, and well-rounded in interdisciplinary approaches. Many of the academy's alumni have gone on to make their mark in the professional arts scene, clinching awards at prestigious international competitions such as Cannes Lions, Prix de la Photographie, Paris, Red Dot Design Awards, and Venice Biennale.

The academy offers full-time diploma, bachelor's and master's degree programmes across three faculties: Faculty of Art & Design comprising the School of Fine Art, School of 3D Design, School of Design & Media, as well as the School of Fashion Studies; Faculty of Performing Arts comprising School of Dance, School of Music, and School of Theatre; Faculty of Interdisciplinary Practices comprising School of Arts Management and School of Interdisciplinary Arts. Diploma programmes are aligned with the degree programmes offered in partnership with top universities in the world, namely University of the Arts London (ranked 2nd globally for Art and Design since 2019), Royal College of Music, London (ranked first globally for Performing Arts in 2022), Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing, and under the umbrella of University of the Arts Singapore.

About Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA)

Established in April 2010, the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts (ISEAA) aims to develop the capabilities of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in a niche area of global art being practiced in the region. This endeavour is of benefit to the multidisciplinary nature of NAFA's contemporary arts training, which includes 3D Design, Design & Media, Fine Art, Arts Management, Fashion, Theatre, Dance, and Music.

As a research and resource development agency within NAFA, ISEAA leverages the library's holdings as well as the academy's art collection and archives to develop Southeast Asian study resources and contextualise practice-based and practice-led learning for NAFA's students and faculty. The manifestations of the programming are critically integrated into the curriculum and course modules to expand the academic investigations of conventional disciplines into the realm of Southeast Asian art.

ISEAA also builds a network of external partners to represent the spectrum of visual and performing arts in Singapore and the region. Activities include artist talks, masterclasses, workshops, artist-in-residence and interdisciplinary projects of participatory nature, which harness heritage and contemporary arts, leading to collaborative outcomes such as exhibitions, performances and publications.

About SEArch

NAFA has formed [*Southeast Asian Arts Alliance – Respond, Collaborate, Harmonise \(SEArch\)*](#), an alliance to promote research and programmes that intensify the response of our Southeast Asian (SEA) context and articulate the unique arts and cultural resources of our region.

SEArch is an expansive alliance consisting of educational institutions with its focus, (respond), (collaborate), and (harmonise) in region of Southeast Asia. Engaging in topics and issues within the changing landscape of contemporary Southeast Asia, the alliance discusses its impacts on contemporary art practices and arts education. Through institutional and cultural group collaborations, this association serves as a platform to articulate strategic institutional programming and research engagement pertaining to Southeast Asia to navigate the sphere of artistic development and cultural embodiments in the region.

SEArch is dedicated to the advancement of arts education and contemporary art practices in the region of Southeast Asia, this alliance seeks to acknowledge, embrace, and initiate discourses surrounding contemporary and postmodern issues within the Arts ecosystem in the region and how it is impacted by fluxes in the world. To distil and prioritise areas for further inquiry and investigation, to develop and integrate new insights into research, practice, and pedagogy.

SEArch institutions include:

- Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore, Singapore
- Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia (ITB)
- King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi, Thailand (KMUTT)
- Silpakorn University, Thailand
- Taylor's College, Taylor's University
- Vietnam University of Fine Arts, Vietnam (VNUFA)