

# MASTER OF ARTS FINE ARTS

**Duration:**

Full-Time — 1.5 Years (3 Semesters)

Part-Time — 3 Years (6 Semesters)

**Award:**

Master of Arts

Fine Arts

**Mode:**

Full-Time or Part-Time

Classes will be conducted  
mostly in the evenings

**Intake:**

January

**AT A GLANCE**

1. The programme focuses on developing the individual voice of the artist within a studio-based research practice environment.
2. The programme provides opportunities for you to contextualise your art practice within the context of exhibitions, group critiques and symposiums.
3. Based in Singapore, the programme gives you convenient access to museums, archives and cultural institutions around the region to do research.
4. The programme is taught in a practice-based institution which offers you opportunities to interact and collaborate with art practitioners from other disciplines.
5. The programme is taught by an established faculty that includes artists, curators and art historians as well as international visiting artists, art writers and curators from the art industries.

"I wanted to feel the pulse of Singapore's contemporary art scene. LASALLE MA Fine Arts Programme, which includes highly respected artists, such as Adeline Kueh, Ian Woo, Jeremy Sharma and Jason Wee, provides that platform for me to be up close to the 'source'. Textbook is dead, People are not."

*John Clang, Internationally-acclaimed artist; Designer of the Year (Photographer); President's Design Award Singapore 2010; Alumnus, MA Fine Arts (Class of 2015)*

As a fine artist, you are dedicated to advancing your art making and to developing a rigorous research and studio practice whereby you conceptualise, evaluate and analyse your process, pushing the boundaries in relation to your own social and cultural context, and the theoretical discourse around your practice. Whether focusing your research area within a certain mode of expression, or choosing to work via an interdisciplinary approach, the MA Fine Arts Programme enables you to cultivate your practice through a firm grounding in studio experimentation and innovation.

The programme has unrelentingly worked at preparing our graduates for a rapidly-evolving art landscape. Historically, Singapore's strategic position has enabled it to play a critical role in mediating the communication between Southeast Asia and the world. Concurrently, Singapore's committed investment in arts infrastructure has created a burgeoning arts industry that not only creates market opportunities for artists but also facilitates the art-related negotiations as a meeting ground for renowned artistic talent and discourse to cross-pollinate.

Central to the programme's philosophy is the role of the artist in your own artistic voice in a studio-based research practice environment. Believing that it is not enough to merely mirror global trends, the programme is the only practice-based programme in Singapore that prizes multidisciplinary while generating individual self-discipline, knowledge, and discoveries that enable the realisation of your artistic vocabulary. The programme also prides itself in working towards the sustainability of an artist.

The MA Fine Arts Programme is a programme where alongside rigorous studio-based training, you will acquire critical, theoretical, and historical discourses that inform your contemporary artistic practice. At LASALLE, you will receive quality education that integrates research and practice. You will develop your abilities to conceptualise creatively, reflect upon your practice, and grow your individual and collaborative skills. The programme's stellar, dedicated faculty spans a wide range of academic and artistic backgrounds as well as geographies. Accomplished academics and artists in their own right, they provide you with individualised attention and support alongside a distinguished roster of guest lecturers, international artists, curators and critics amidst the vibrant ecosystem of fellow candidates.

The programme is committed to providing a conducive learning environment not just as a result of Singapore's strategic geographic and culturally-connected position in Southeast Asia, but also leveraging the LASALLE integrated arts campus context. Through such a rich context and diverse international exposure, candidates have ample opportunities to further contemporary art discourses through their own research and practice, and graduate with global appeal.

The programme will equip you with the appropriate expertise and academic rigour to undertake a higher level of independent research work such as a PhD. Awards and financial support includes The Winston Oh Travel Award, research and study grants as well as the Chan Davies Art Prize.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This full-time programme spans three consecutive semesters within a 1.5-year duration. Semesters 1 and 2 each have two 30-credit modules. In Semester 2, a 30-credit elective module option is made available to you with a choice to take the module offered by your respective programme or, in consultation with your Programme Leader, select a module offered by another MA programme. The 60-credit module in the final (3rd) semester will support you to develop a thesis or a practice-based project/exhibition based on your research interests.

### FULL-TIME

SEMESTER 1	CREDIT POINTS
Research Methods in Creative Arts	30
Studio Practice	30
SEMESTER 2	CREDIT POINTS
Studio Practice 2	30
Issues in Practice and Research in Fine Arts	30
SEMESTER 3	CREDIT POINTS
Final Research	60

In the part-time mode, the programme spans six consecutive semesters within a 3-year duration. You are required to complete one 30-credit module each in Semesters 1 to 4. The Final Research 60-credit module will span the last 2 semesters in the final year. Part-time students will begin with the Research Methods in Creative Arts module as this establishes core principles and skills necessary across all MA programmes, while also introducing techniques of research, and enables you to present and write analytically and critically across relevant issues in your field of study. You will undergo academic guidance from your Programme Leader to organise your course of study.

#### Studio Practice

The module emphasizes the training and education of the artist dealing with Fine Art practice or new media technologies and is based on independent study and research. Your learning experience is embodied in the development of a strong methodology in studio practice within the context of contemporary art and new media. This is facilitated through workshops that address issues and skills relevant to your proposed research areas (e.g. cultural politics, popular culture, theories of aesthetics, new media theories, networks, programming, immersive environment, sensors, etc.).

#### Research Methods in Creative Arts

This module introduces you to arts research through a thorough study of research methods and analytical techniques informing artistic and critical practices at the MA level. Research operates within a critical context and this module aims to prepare you to confidently articulate your practice, formulate your own critical arguments, and formulate methods to investigate and probe issues.

#### Studio Practice 2

The module further consolidates the training and education of the artist based on independent study and research. Through the development of a range of analytical, reflective, technological and communicative skills, you are able to better articulate your individual vision and agenda in your research and practice.



2 Anne Mølleskov, *MacRitchie Me, Turning to Be Wilder(ed)*, 2017



3 LASALLE-RMIT Postgraduate Symposium, 2015

#### Issues in Practice and Research in Fine Arts

The training and education of the artist is further developed through a series of seminars, workshops and lectures. Equipped with a strong research methodology, you will elaborate on its relevance to your research area. You will consider the theoretical and methodological issues that arise in the relationship between practice and research and how these pertain to your own individual studio-based practice and/or scholarly research. In preparation for your oral presentation, you should demonstrate an ability to critically analyse and articulate your concepts and practice.

#### Final Research

This final module requires you to contextualise and present a resolved body of works in the form of an exhibition. Your work should be informed by the critical and conceptual thinking developed over the previous two semesters, and supported by a well-informed, research-led, critical discourse. In parallel to your final exhibited work, you will also need to document your working methodology and demonstrate the reflexive thinking of how theory and art practice are related. This will be presented in the form of a 5,000-word exegesis that supports your studio practice.

You will work independently or collaboratively towards the submission of the final exhibition and will be supervised and mentored by your appointed research supervisor.



4 Programme Leader Dr Ian Woo sharing his work at LASALLE-RMIT Postgraduate Symposium, 2014

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

LASALLE has a long tradition of practice-led research in art and design. The College aims to assume a significant role in Singapore for practice-led research in visual, performing and literary arts, and aspires to add the distinctive viewpoint of Singapore to research into artistic practice in the 21st century.

The Research Methods in Creative Arts module is a common module which all students are required to undertake. You will have the opportunity to interact with one another in the first term (7 weeks), to network with peers in other MA programmes and foster a stronger community of research practice that enhances your respective discipline of study as well as within the College.

You will be introduced to relevant professional methods of research and creation which may include profiles of and/or dialogue with creative professionals, critical/theoretical discourse, action research, visual object analysis, textual analysis, case studies, historical and ethnographic research, interviews, life-stories/ autobiographies, etc. You will also be introduced to research practices such as literature reviews, process-based discovery, bibliographical searches, quantitative & qualitative methods, citations and the construction of research questions

Postgraduate students are constantly exposed to first-hand experience in current practices of research and creation, leading to the acquiring of powerful knowledge and a wide set of skills by the time you graduate. You will have opportunities to develop expertise in accordance with your research interests.

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### TEACHING METHODS & ASSESSMENT

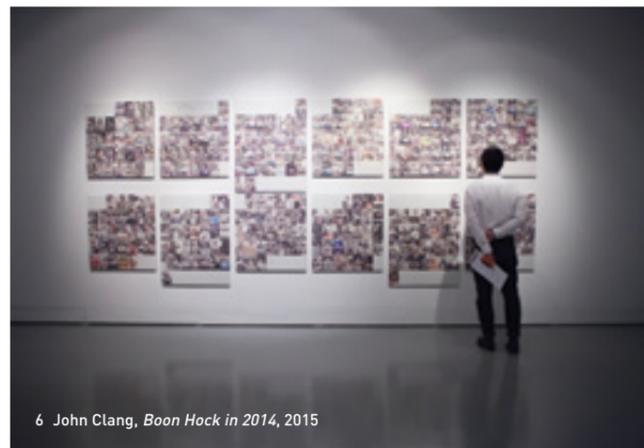
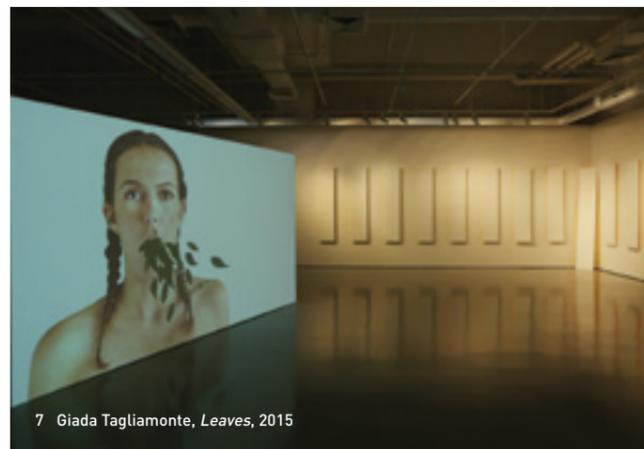
The programme is delivered through a range of learning approaches that include lectures, workshops, seminars, group discussions and critiques, candidate presentations, and individual tutorials. These approaches support you as you work towards a Final Research project comprising of an exhibition of artworks and a supporting document in the form of an exegesis. You are expected to be self-motivated, to engage in independent visual and theoretical research, as well as to develop the ability to evaluate your own work and to expand your awareness of the critical developments in contemporary art. Exposure to good practices in terms of professional practice also facilitates feasibility of being an artist.

### STUDY TRIPS

A study trip will be organised to enable you to learn how artists and art communities respond to differing social and cultural contexts in the production of art. Harnessing the benefits of experiential learning, this study trip will include visits to artists' studios, galleries, biennales and art spaces. At the same time, it offers invaluable research opportunities through networking with local art communities.



5 Group critique with MA Fine Arts candidates, 2017

6 John Clang, *Boon Hock in 2014, 2015*7 Giada Tagliamonte, *Leaves, 2015*8 Jackson Tan, *Here, 2015*9 Cheryl Chiu, *Microverse VII, 2017*

## THE FACULTY



**Dr Ian Woo**  
Programme Leader, Senior Lecturer

- Doctor Fine Arts, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
- MA European Fine Art, Winchester School of Art, University of Southampton, UK
- BA(Hons) Fine Art, University of Kent, UK

Born in Singapore in 1967, Ian Woo is an artist and musician influenced by forms of modernism, perceptual abstraction and the sound structures of music improvisation. His paintings and drawings are characterised by a sense of gravitational and representational change. Woo's work is in the collections of major institutions such as ABN AMRO, Singapore Art Museum, The Istana Singapore, National Gallery Singapore, UBS, and the Mint Museum of Craft & Design, USA. His paintings are featured in the publication *Art of the New Cities: 21st Century Avant-Gardes* (Phaidon, 2013). As a musician, Woo has composed and played free improvisation music on the bass guitar with Stigmata, Path Integral, ID, Cuba and Angie Seah's A Thousand Horses. He has performed at Singapore's C.H.O.P.P.A Experimental Music Festival between 2008 to 2017.



**Adeline Kueh**  
Senior Lecturer

- MA Literature & Communications, Murdoch University, Australia
- BA Critical Studies in Fine & Performing Arts, Simon Fraser University, Canada

Adeline Kueh makes installations, photography and sound works that reconsider the relationship we have with things and rituals around us. Her works are imbued with a sense of desire and longing, and act as modern-day totems that explore personal histories and overlooked moments. Adeline has produced installations and interventionist projects within the collaborative MatriXial Technologies (with Faith Wilding & subRosas) in old boys network 01(Hamburg, 2001), *Next 5 Minutes 4: International Festival of Tactical Media* (Amsterdam, 2003), and *Version >03 Digital Art Convergence* (Chicago, 2003). She has also exhibited in the UK, USA, The Netherlands, Turkey and Australia. Rooted in critical studies, her research interests include notions of monstrosity within Southeast Asian contexts, architecture, fashion and the future of cinema. Adeline has chaired and presented at a number of cultural studies conferences in UK, Australia, Finland, Hungary, Singapore and Malaysia. Currently a Senior Lecturer with the MA Fine Arts programme at LASALLE, she is also a consultant for a number of research, lifestyle, film, art and design projects including Hermes Singapore in 2016.



**Dr Wang Ruobing**  
Lecturer

- Doctor of Philosophy in Fine Art, Oxford University, UK
- Master of Arts, School of Oriental and African Studies and King's College London, University of London, UK
- Bachelor of Arts, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
- Diploma of Arts, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore

Ruobing has worked as a curator at the National Gallery Singapore prior to LASALLE. Her research concentrates on the identity, hybridity, and transcultural discourses with a special focus on the contemporary art in China and Southeast Asia. Her writings have appeared in publications such as *Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art* (JCCA), *Yishu: Journal of Contemporary Chinese Art*, *Nanyang Art*, and a range of exhibition catalogues. Ruobing often uses everyday objects in her art practices to challenge ways of seeing and comment on the process of knowledge acquisition. She has exhibited widely, including solo shows *Over the Horizon*, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore (2016), *The Earthly World*, The Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford (2010); *Eat Me*, The Dolphin Gallery, Oxford (2009); *Seeded I*, The Substation Gallery, Singapore (1999), and international group shows *17th International Festival of Contemporary Art Practices*, Gallery of Nova Gorica, Slovenia (2016); *#TransActing: A Market of Values*, Chelsea College of Arts, London (2015), EVA International, Limerick, Ireland (2010); *Green for Something*, Mora Gallery, Bucharest, Romania (2010); *Singapore Art Exhibition*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore (2009); *Box Ladder*, Modern Art Oxford, United Kingdom (2008) and *Left Right*, The Art Museum of Sichuan University, Chengdu, China (2007) etc.

## TEACHING STAFF

The programme is supported by local and international lecturers and artists, including Milenko Prvacki, Tan Guo-Liang, Shubigi Rao, Jason Wee, Ho Rui An, Jeremy Sharma, Tony Godfrey and Amanda Heng to name a few. A board of established professors, academics, and researchers from relevant institutions are invited on a regular basis to provide advice and consultancy to the faculty staff, and to provide guest tutorials and supervision for all candidates.

"This MA Fine Arts Programme has surpassed all my expectations. Through this experience I have gained an inclusive view of art in personal, global, and historical contexts. It is a joy and privilege for me to make art and be part of the creative and inspiring community at LASALLE, Singapore and beyond."

*Homa Shojaie, Artist, Architect, Educator;  
Alumna, MA Fine Arts (Class of 2015)*

## GRADUATE CAREER PATHS

Fine Artist

Candidates usually wish to embark on but are not limited to a career as Fine Artists, in academic institutions, museums, or art galleries. In addition, successful graduates will also be able to find employment as Art Critics And Writers.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The programme will be of particular relevance to those who wish to embark on careers as fine artists, in academic institutions, museums and galleries. In addition, successful graduates will also be able to find employment as art critics and writers. The programme also aims, through its commitment to excellence, to further the discourses surrounding the contemporary art and art historical contexts through research and practice conducted by candidates in the programme.

- Bachelor's degree and demonstrable ability to pursue discourse and research in contemporary issues in fine arts.
- A minimum of IELTS 7.0 or TOEFL iBT 100 for applicants from countries where English is not the first language or whose qualifications are obtained from institutions where English is not the medium of instruction.
- Portfolio: A body of art works documented in digital format. Drawings, installations, paintings and sculptures should be in high resolution for close up viewing. Interdisciplinary time-based works or performance and awareness e-based works should be presented in video or digital format. It will be useful for the documentation to include works seen within an exhibition format or public / private context.
- All interviews will include discussions on the potential candidate's knowledge of visual art theories in relation to their art practice.
- Research Proposal: Two-page research proposal indicating your research aims and objectives, proposed outcomes, and brief details of research methods and materials you wish to use.
- Statement of Purpose: 500-word statement of your reasons for pursuing Master's studies, your suitability and expected benefits from the programme.

## PHOTOS

### page 2:

1. © Courtesy Wong Jing Wei

### page 4:

2. © Courtesy Wong Jing Wei

3. © Courtesy MA Fine Arts

### page 5:

4 & 5. © Courtesy Adeline Kueh

### page 6:

6, 7 & 8. © Courtesy Olivia Kwok

9. © Courtesy Wong Jing Wei

10. © Courtesy Kenji Takahashi

11. © Courtesy Hong Huazheng

## ABOUT LASALLE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

LASALLE College of the Arts in Singapore is a leading tertiary institution in cutting edge contemporary arts and design education and practice. The college offers more than 30 diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in fine arts, design communication, interior design, product design, film, animation, fashion, dance, music, theatre, arts management, arts pedagogy and practice, art therapy, Asian art histories, and creative writing.

Its faculty is led by a community of award-winning artists, designers, educators and researchers, and their practice-led research sets LASALLE apart as an international centre of excellence. Critically acclaimed alumni form the core of the cultural and creative sectors in Singapore and increasingly, internationally.

Founded in 1984 by De La Salle Brother Joseph McNally – a visionary artist and educator – LASALLE is a not-for-profit, private educational institution. LASALLE receives tuition grant support from the Singapore Ministry of Education. Its degree programmes are validated by Goldsmiths, University of London.

## CONTACT US

For Programme consultation or to schedule a guided campus tour, contact our Admissions Office.

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## CONNECT WITH US

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