

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DIPLOMACY THROUGH ART - CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN SINGAPORE AND CHINA

ARTX30 is a collaboration between artists, art collectors, cultural scholars and experts in Singapore and China to celebrate 30 years of friendship between the two countries.

With the support of the National Arts Council (NAC) in Singapore in collaboration with G20 Young Entrepreneurs 'Alliance China Council (G20 YEA) and U30s CHINA, ARTX30 promises to bridge mutual understanding and cultural communication through art appreciation. G20 YEA and U30s China are distinguished networks of influential entrepreneurs and young leaders.

ARTX30 is an initiative by M Media Ventures (Pte) Ltd, founded by Mr. Melvyn Goh, a Singaporean who had been based in Shanghai for the last 15 years. Goh says: "Singapore has long been China's largest trade investor and we enjoy a very warm and mutually respectful relationship, so it is indeed meaningful to mark 30 years of friendship with ARTX30 and how we envision the next 30 years through the theme "Friendship in 2050". ARTX30 is a platform that raises cultural awareness and heritage and strengthens intercultural relations between the youths from Singapore and China and demonstrates our resolve to be even stronger despite the pandemic. We are especially heartened to receive such strong support from the National Art Council of Singapore to make this first-ever art collaboration between Singapore and China a reality."

ARTX30 features three key components:

- **Co-creation of Artworks** where twelve young artists from the two countries were paired up to create works: Liu Jiayu, Li Mowen, Liu Yefu, Ma Lingli, Nhozagri and Ouyang Sulong from China; and Tan Zi Xi, Fazleen Karlan, Ang Xue Ning, Loi Cai Xiang, Jaxton Su and Ryan Benjamin Lee from Singapore. The artists, in pairs, worked to articulate the theme of friendship between China and Singapore. Curator Michael Lee from Singapore and co-founder Maggie Chen from China have been working with the artists to tell their story.

- **Mentorship Program** by outstanding individuals in the art community in China and Singapore. The observation and facilitation of these mentors and curators contributed to the creation of the next component of the program.

- **Documentary Film – theme - Friendship 2050** directed by renowned director Tan Siok Siok. A Singaporean who has lived in China for 10 years, she is best known for her work, Beijing: City in Time 《北京：城与年》. The ARTX30 documentary is the culmination of the various video stories that the artists had been sharing, capturing the artistic process of the artists, exemplifying how art intersects with society and culture in surprising ways and reflecting on the role of art in a tumultuous and rapidly changing world.

ARTX30 kicked off in April 2020 and will culminate on 11th June 2021 with an online screening of the documentary. The Co-organiser of ARTX30 is the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) of

Singapore. Its Vice President for Industry & Projects, Mr. Khor Kok Wah, has this to add: “NAFA is glad to play a role in bringing artists together from Singapore and China. The world is more "advanced" and interconnected than ever, yet often broken and divided despite facing common challenges on an unprecedented global scale. We hope that working together, our artists' imaginings, with the help of technology, can give us a precious glimpse into our world today and what we might do together to make it better.”

Michael Lee, Singapore based, ARTX30 curator entrusted with the responsibility of guiding the artists through the 30 days assignment for the artists, shares: “ARTX30 has indeed been an amazing journey of creativity and creation of creatively overcoming language, platform, cultural and technological challenges. Being entrusted with this privilege of capturing the stories, challenges and imaginations of the 12 artists; guiding them with the other mentors plus delivering their unique experiences to a larger audience online, has been a precious opportunity not just for the young artists but for me as their curator too.”

Full details of participation of artists, curators, mentors and collectors in China and Singapore may be found on [www. ARTX30.com](http://www.ARTX30.com) and the video can be accessed at <https://www.artx30.com/film-showcase/friendship-2050/>.

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Photos:

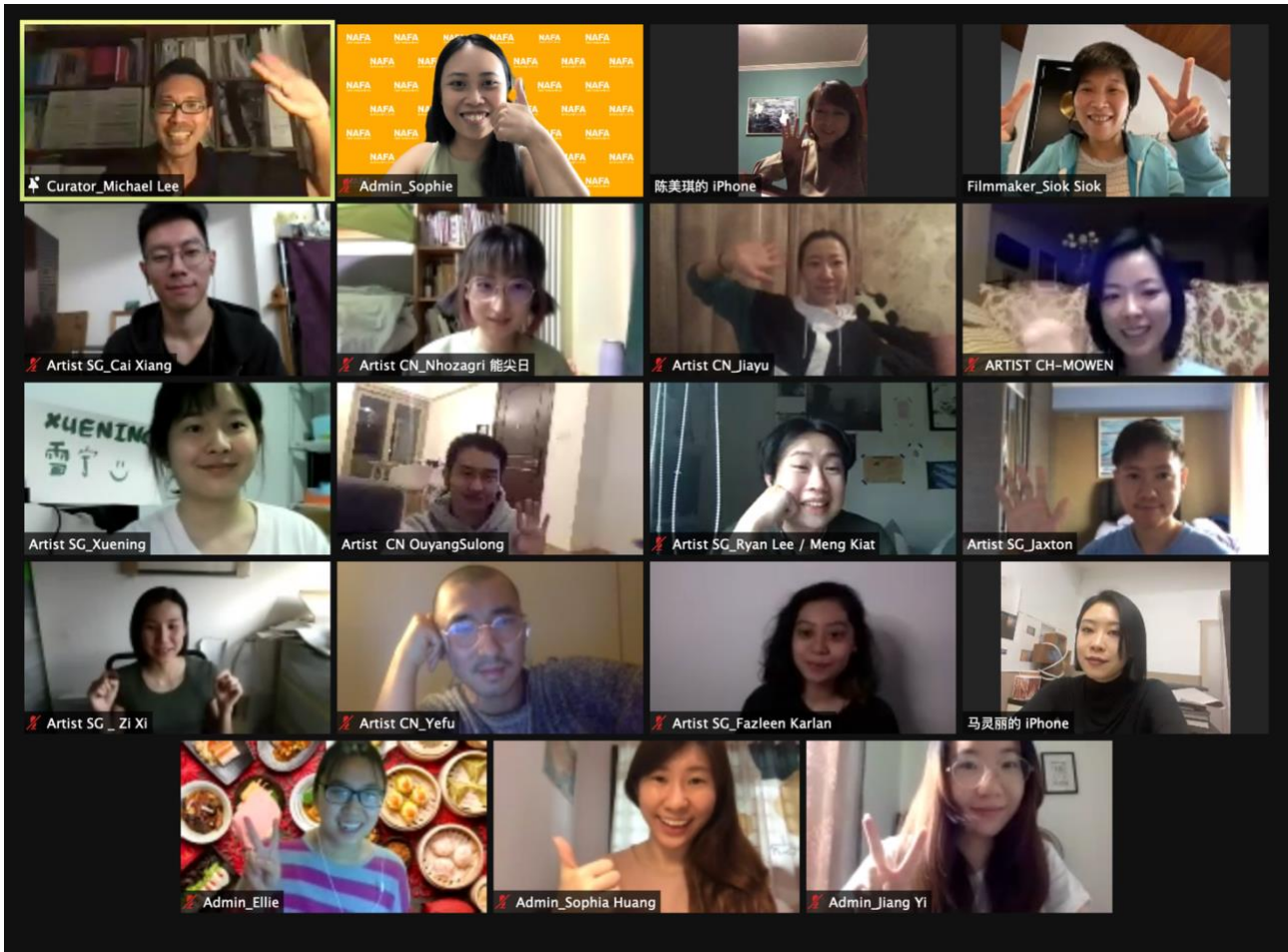


Figure 1. Artists from both countries met over Zoom on Jan 18, 2021 to 'speed-date' in order to select their ideal collaborative partner.



Figure 2. Video Still of Artist Ang Xue Ning & Liu Ye Fu's Being an Ending - 冷静，切磋，陪伴, 2021.

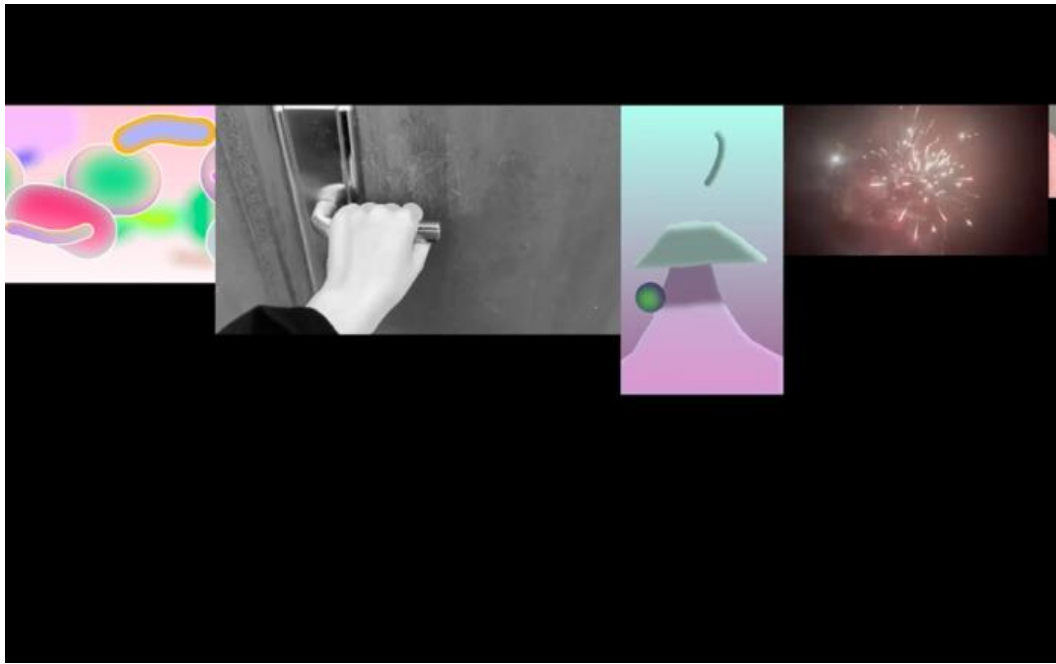


Figure 3. Video Still of Artist Ryan Benjamin Lee & Ma Lingli's Snake, 2021.

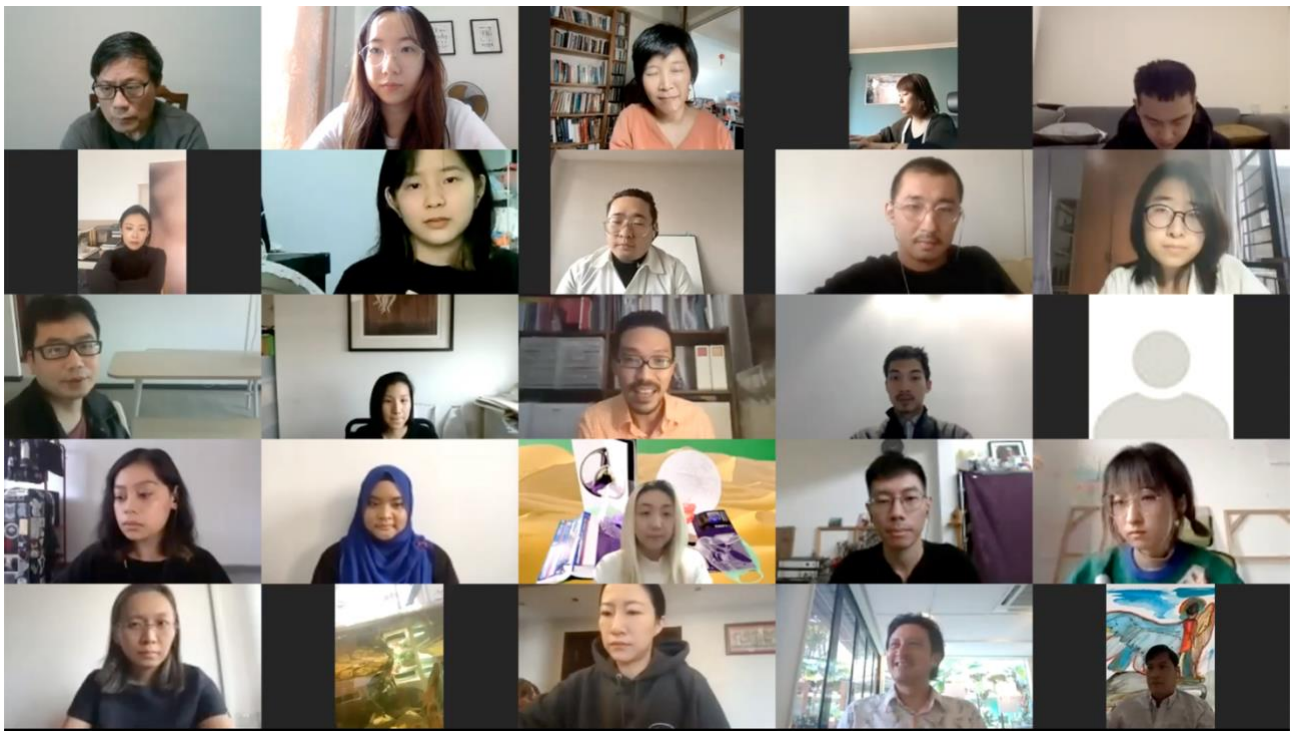


Figure 4. Each pair of artists shared their works-in-progress to a panel of 4 mentors on Feb 9, 2021, to receive valuable feedback for their final artwork presentation on Feb 26, 2021.



Figure 6. Artist Loi Caixiang in the process of being filmed by a professional crew in Singapore on his experience in the project.

Co-Organisers / 主办单位



G20 Young Entrepreneurs 'Alliance China Council / G20 青年企业家联盟中国理事会

G20 Young Entrepreneurs 'Alliance (G20YEA) is a global network of top young entrepreneurs and the organizations that support them. The alliance represents over 1 million young entrepreneurs, employing some 12 million people globally. Built upon a tradition of collaboration between the world's young entrepreneurs, the alliance deepens the shared understanding of the importance of entrepreneurship and presents ideas to advance it. The G20YEA China Council is founded by the China member of G20YEA and it is supported by the China Internet Information Center.



U30s China is a group of exceptionally talented individuals that are considered the most influential young leaders in China. Age between 20 to 40, they are the game changers, entrepreneurs, disruptors who have emerged on new communities, short videos, KOLs, e-commerce, biomedicine, computing and communications. Wielding wealth, power, influence and inspiration, they are trail blazers who shines in more ways than one. U30s China youth will prove that the future of China and the world will be profoundly different as they disrupt age-old industries through their immense talent, vision and passion. The members are by invitation only and are carefully screened and selected.

NAFA

NANYANG ACADEMY OF FINE ARTS

Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) (Singapore) / 新加坡南洋艺术学院

Established in 1938, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) 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 offers full-time diploma and degree programmes across three schools: the School of Art & Design (which offers studies in Fine Art, 3D Design, Design & Media and Fashion Studies), the School of Arts Management, Dance & Theatre and the School of Music.

To date, NAFA has nurtured 13 recipients of the Cultural Medallion. Another 14 alumni have been presented the Young Artist Award. Many of the academy's alumni have gone on to make their mark in the professional arts scene in Singapore and abroad.

Supporting Organisations / 支持机构



NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL
SINGAPORE

National Arts Council / 国家艺术理事会

The National Arts Council champions the arts in Singapore. By nurturing creative excellence and supporting broad audience engagement, our diverse and distinctive arts inspire our people, connect communities and profile Singapore internationally. We preserve our rich, cultural traditions as we cultivate accomplished artists and vibrant companies for the future. Our support for the arts is comprehensive – from grants and partnerships to industry facilitation and arts housing. The Council welcomes greater private and corporate giving to and through the arts so that together we can make the arts an integral part of everyone's lives.



中国绿化基金会
CHINA GREEN FOUNDATION

China Green Foundation (China) / 中国绿化基金会

China Green Foundation is an important organization for raising private green funds in China. In forestry development, it plays the role of the main channel to raise private green funds; it is also an important bridge in mobilizing the whole society to participate in forestry ecological construction and environmental protection; at the same time, it plays an active role in international private green

cooperation as a link to foreign friendly relations. In 2002, it was granted special consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council.