

ZAI KUNING

CV

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ZAI KUNING

- 1964 Born in Singapore
- 1989 Completed a diploma in ceramic sculpture at LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
Mentored in literature and rituals by Sultan Alisjahbana, Bali, Indonesia
Joined The Artist Village (TAV), Singapore as its first president
- 1996 Completed a B.A. in Fine Art under LASALLE Scholarship Fund at LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts –
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Singapore
- 1996 Completed residency at the Substation, Singapore
- 1996 Formed Metabolic Theatre Laboratory (MTL), Singapore
- 2001 Completed TLAB:01 residency at TheatreWorks, Singapore
- 2003 Formed Onistudio, Singapore
- Lives and works in Singapore

Solo exhibitions

- 2024 “Zai Kuning: I Died A Hundred Times”, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo
- 2021 “SeptFest 2021: Projek Orang Asli”, The Substation, Singapore
- 2018 “Zai Kuning”, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
“Dapunta Hyang: Transmission of Knowledge”, 72-13, Singapore
- 2017 “Autopsy”, Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
Singapore Pavilion at 57th Venice Biennale 2017, Italy
- 2016 “Ombak Hitam”, Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2015 “Dapunta Hyang: Transmission of Knowledge” Esplanade Concourse,
Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- 2014 “We are home and everywhere” Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
“Zai Kuning: The Fleeting World of Dapunta Hyang”, LASALLE College of the Arts, Earl Lu Gallery,
Basement Mezzanine, Singapore
- 2012 “From Lorong Gambas to Ninmanhaemin” Goodman Arts Centre Gallery, Singapore
- 2011 “IMMIGRANT: The Question of Moral” The Substation Gallery, Singapore (collaboration
with Vichukorn Tangpaiboon)
“The Garden – I will send you to a better place” The Substation Gallery, Singapore
- 2009 “Some came with their heads in a bottle and left with their hearts under their soles”
Jendela (Visual Arts Space), Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, Singapore
- 2008 “A Bowl of Rice” Sculpture Square, Singapore

- 2005 "Urban Hermit: Brutality of the Facts" Front Room Gallery, Singapore
- "Mak Yong Melayu of Riau Archipelago" About Studio/About Café, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2004 "A Tree in a Room" Sculpture Square, Singapore
- "DUET" Studio 19, Singapore (collaboration with Jason Lim)
- "Regional Animalities, Part I" The Substation, Singapore (collaboration with Yuen Chee Wai)
- 1992 "The New Criteria" The Substation, Singapore

Group exhibitions:

- 2025 "In Dialogue", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- 2024 "En route: Southeast Asia", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Fragmented Reality", The Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok, Thailand
- "Shinano Primitive Sense Art Festival 2024", Omachi City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan
- "En Route: Southeast Asia", Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai, China
- "Collection Exhibition 1", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Ishikawa, Japan
- "Petite Grounds", Ota Fine Arts, Shanghai, China
- 2023 "Munakata Miare Art Festival", Munakata city, Fukuoka, Japan
- "Works On Paper", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Body", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Collection Exhibition 2 Sea Lane – Connecting to the Islands, " 21st Century Museum Contemporary of Art, Kanazawa, Japan
- 2022 "Invisible Border", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Gallery Collection", Ota Fine Arts 7CHOME, Tokyo, Japan
- "Flame", Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo, Japan
- 2021 "Dialogue: Rina Banerjee and Zai Kuning", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- 2019 "Reborn-Art Festival 2019", Ishinomaki, Japan
- "Habitat", Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- 2018 "Collection Asian Landscapes / Awazu Kiyoshi: Makurihirogeru 5", 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
- "Crossroads" Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Two Houses: Politics and Histories in the Contemporary Art Collections of John Chia and Yeap Lam Yang" Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA) Singapore, Singapore
- "SeaShorts Film Festival 2018", George Town, Penang, Malaysia
- "In Search of Southeast Asia through the M+ Collections", M+, Hong Kong
- 2017 "Mode of Liaisons", Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

- "ESCAPE from the SEA", National Art Gallery, Art Printing Works Sdn Bhd, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- 2016-17 "There are too many episodes of people coming here...", NUS Museum, Singapore
- 2015 "Our Nature: Ay Tjoe Christine + Zai Kuning" Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Who Interprets the World?" 21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
- "Waterway" Ota Fine Arts, Singapore
- "Secret Archipelago" Palais De Tokyo, Paris, France
- "Dapunta Hyang (Transmission of Knowledge)" Encounters, Art Basel Hong Kong, Hong Kong
- 2014 "2014 AASN Exhibition - The Mirror and Monitor of Democracy in Asia" Gwangju Museum of Art, Gwangju, South Korea
- 2013 "Not Against Interpretation: Untitled" Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- "Welcome to the Jungle: Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia from the Collection of Singapore Art Museum" Yokohama Museum of Art, Yokohama, Japan
- 2011 "Singapore Biennale 2011: Open House" Singapore
- "Negotiating Home History and Nation: Two Decades of Contemporary Art in Southeast Asia 1991 2011" Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- "Singapore Survey 2011: Imagine Malaysia" Valentine Willie Fine Art Artspace, Singapore
- 2010 "Future of Imagination 6" Sculpture Square, Singapore
- 2008 "Future of Imagination 5" Sculpture Square, Singapore
- 2004 "The LASALLE School: 20 years of fine art from LASALLE-SIA College of the Arts" Earl Lu Gallery, LASALLE College of the Arts, Singapore
- 2005 "The 3rd Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial" Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan
- "Interdisciplinary Performing – Human Zoo & Sound Art Performance" Taipei Artist Village, Taipei, Taiwan
- 1999 "Crisp" Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- 1997 "BODY" The Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia
- 1996 "The 2nd Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art" Gallery of Modern Art and Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia
- 1991 "A Sculpture Seminar" The National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore

Public collections

21st Century Museum of Contemporary Art, Kanazawa, Japan
Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan
Kadist Art Foundation, France, USA
M+, Hong Kong
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

Museum MACAN, Jakarta, Indonesia

Theatre productions (director and performer)

- 2002 "Orang Orang" Sculpture Square, Singapore
- 1998 "Prodigal Songs Preview" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, ST Spot, Yokohama, Japan
- "Prodigal Songs" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, ST Spot, Yokohama, Japan
- "No Alibi" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- "Circle of Rings" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- 1997 "Prodigal Songs" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- "Bluemonkish" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, Tampines Cultural Centre, Singapore
- "Words Passing Through Me" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- 1996 "Remnant 2000" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- "Bluemonkish" Metabolic Theatre Laboratory, The Substation, Singapore
- "Growing Madness: The Day After" TheatreWorks, Singapore

Theatre productions (writer)

- 2008 "Epic Poem of Malaya" The Esplanade, spell#7, Singapore (directed by Paul Rae)
- 1992 "Bukan Di Syurga Yang Ini (Not in this Heaven)" Teater Ekamatra, Singapore (directed by Lut Ali)

Music/dance/experimental sound performances

- 2024 "Zai Kuning / Shunichiro Hisada / Takeshi Seo" Koen-dori Classics, Tokyo, Japan (collaboration with Shunichiro Hisada and Takeshi Seo)
- "Zai Kuning / Otomo Yoshihide / Ko Ishikawa" Koen-dori Classics, Tokyo, Japan (collaboration with Otomo Yoshihide and Ko Ishikawa)
- "Kuroshio Ombak Hitam – When I wake up, I realise I'm dead" Matsushiro Bunmu School, Matsushiro Contemporary Art Festival, Nagano, Japan
- "Zai Kuning / Makoto Kawashima / Takeshi Seo" Atelier Dai Q Geijutsu, Toko, Japan (collaboration with Makoto Kawashima and Takeshi Seo)
- 2013 "Ombak Hitam – Orissi" Emily Hill White House, Singapore (collaboration with Raka Maitra)
- "Ombak Hitam – The Dark Wave" Emily Hill White House, Singapore (collaboration with Tetsu Saitoh & Kuning Sulaiman)
- 2011 "Words Passing Through Me" Singapore Art Museum, Singapore (collaboration with Zai Tang)
- 2010 "Gospel from a strange flower who grows stubbornly" Blackhole, Singapore

- "Gospel from a strange flower who grows stubbornly" Indicine, The Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
- "Strange flower who grows stubbornly" Mandala 2, Tokyo, Japan (collaboration with Amino Acid Orchestra, Otomo Yoshihide and Fuzz Lee)
- 2008 "Melancholy of a Flowering Plant" Singapore Management University Arts and Culture Centre Singapore
- 2007 "Tom Waits for Nobody" The Arts House, Singapore (collaboration with Yuen Chee Wai, Leslie Low and Koichi Shimizu)
- 2006 "Tom Waits for Nobody" The Arts House, Singapore (collaboration with Yuen Chee Wai, Leslie Low and Koichi Shimizu)
- 2000 "String in the Ocean" The Substation, Singapore
- 1997 "Words That Pass Through Me" The Substation, Singapore

Film festivals

- 2005 "Riau" International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- "Birdy" International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- "Even Dogs Have Choices" International Film Festival Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands
- "Riau" Busan International Film Festival, Busan, Korea

Awards

- 2013 "Jalan Jati" Best Sound, The Singapore Short Film Awards, Singapore (collaboration with Zai Tang; film directed by Lucy Davis)
- 2007 "Queen Ping" Best Sound Design, The Straits Times 7th Life! Theatre Awards, Singapore (collaboration with Natalie Hennedige; play produced by Cake Theatrical Productions; directed by Natalie Hennedige)
- 2006 "What Big Bombs You Have!!!" Best Sound Design, The Straits Times 6th Life! Theatre Awards, Singapore (play produced by the Necessary Stage; directed by Natalie Hennedige)