

MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR, CULTURE ACADEMY

In all the disruption that the Digital brings, it also opens new doors for all of us who work in culture and heritage. From enhancing and expediting our research work to conservation and preservation efforts, it also helps to create innovative displays and dissemination programmes and also brings us closer to the various communities we serve and work with. The Digital has helped diverse and disadvantaged communities to connect with the cultural institutions and within and across communities; it has enabled new and old knowledge to be shared widely and instantaneously and has enhanced worldwide understanding, acceptance and appreciation of one another's cultures.

What made cultural institutions seen as distant and remote and for the elite and educated, is now seen as accessible, even to communities which were once considered remote both geographically and culturally. Cultural institutions have become more inclusive in the widest sense of the word and much of this has been enabled by the Digital.

However, it is also true that the digital cannot replace the special experience of

interacting with an authentic artefact, or the artist, craftsman, performer, actor or writer. The human brain, eye and touch is still needed and thus, digital should not be embraced for the sake of embracing it.

It was with these thoughts in mind that the Culture Academy Singapore organised our first international conference, "The Digital In Cultural Spaces" from 7th to 8th December 2016. Over the two days, we had many debates and discussions on how the culture sector could embrace and leverage technology to enable our work to reach out to and engage as many people as possible. This publication is a compilation of all the papers presented except for two whose authors were unable to send us their papers due to unforeseen circumstances.

In conclusion, this conference would not have been possible without the generosity and support of our collaborators and partners. They are the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) and all our sister agencies within the MCCY family, the University of Melbourne, the Nanyang Polytechnic and all our speakers, moderators and panellists.

Thangamma Karthigesu (Ms)
Director, Culture Academy Singapore