ARTS AND CULTURE ONE YEAR INTO COVID-19

APRIL 2021

Quarterly Research Newsletter

Culture Academy SINGAPORE

CultureBYTES

Dear Readers,

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated the widespread digitalisation of the arts and culture in Singapore.

Initially driven by the need to sustain audiences in the face of travel bans and the closure of cultural venues, our arts and culture practitioners and organisations have had to fundamentally re-think how they engage audiences across the physical-digital sphere, often in novel, hybrid forms of creativity. In the process, many have found new ways to connect to a wider, global audience, while also refocusing on local domestic stakeholders. Audiences, on the other hand, have grown increasingly accustomed to having instant access to online resources from their homes.

This issue highlights how some of Singapore's arts and culture practitioners and audiences have adjusted to these new realities, one year into the pandemic.

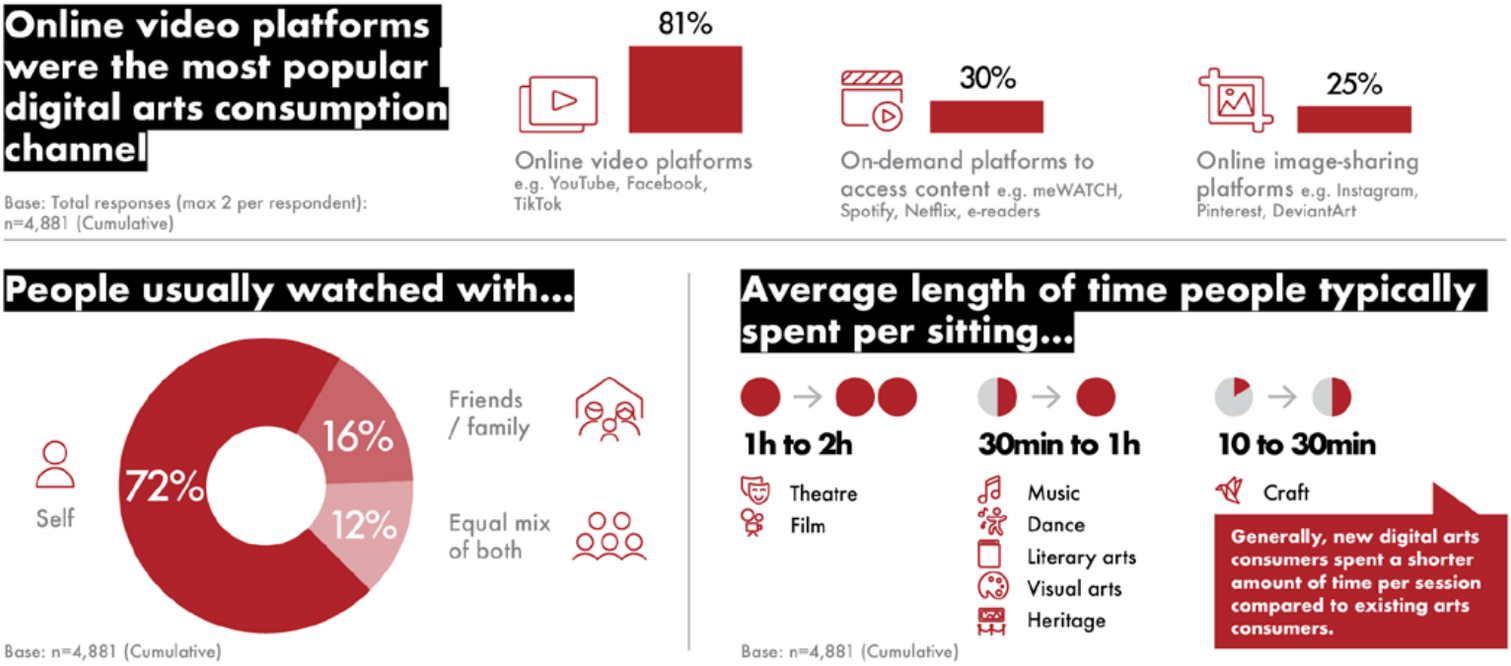
From all of us at Culture Academy Singapore

RESEARCH

Survey

Third Survey of Digital Arts Consumption Study

Digital arts consumption during COVID-19



This study sheds light on Singaporean public sentiments and behaviour during COVID-19. This third infographic is the final update to the three-part study, showing the shift in digital art consumption over time and with the resumption of live events on 1 November 2020.

View the full infographic

Report

Arts in the Post-Pandemic Normal: 5 Macro Trends to Watch

Forecasting the future

Commissioned by National Arts Council

Commissioned by

NATIONAL ARTS COUNCIL SINGAPORE

Conducted by

KANTAR PUBLIC

After a year of pandemic disruption, this NAC-commissioned research study highlights five macro trends impacting the arts and culture scene in Singapore:

- ARTS MADE ACCESSIBLE
- ARTS FOR A CAUSE
- THE ASIAN CULTURAL WAVE
- THE DELINEARISATION OF THE ARTS
- ARTS AS A LIFESTYLE

Find out more

Report

Singapore Cultural Statistics 2020

The numbers before the Pandemic

Report published by Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth

Published annually since 2008, the Singapore Cultural Statistics provide a snapshot on the state of the arts and culture landscape in Singapore, including data on performances, heritage events, museum exhibitions and government funding for the sector.

Find out more

INTERVIEWS

A Culture of Resilience

The onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic spurred emergency business continuity plans, leading many in the sector to rapidly adopt the use of technology and digitalisation.

Going *Phygital* – Lessons From Singapore Art Week 2021

Ms Emi Eu
Executive Director of STPI

Culture Bytes speaks to Emi Eu, Executive Director of Singapore Tyler Print Institute (STPI) since 2009, on the challenges of COVID-19 for the contemporary art scene.

> "Now we all have to be digitally proficient."

Read the interview transcript

Remaining Connected - The Private Museum

The Private Museum, known for its visual arts showcases, found new ways to stay connected to visitors and audiences during the pandemic.

> "COVID-19 has forced us to review our operational models and dive into the digital realm to remain connected to our audience as well as the arts community in Singapore."

Read the interview transcript

Going Digital – Opportunities For Young Artists During Crisis

Mr Brian Gothong Tan
Young Artist Award Recipient

Culture Bytes interviewed the Young Artist Award recipient, Brian Gothong Tan, on his experiences adapting to the pandemic and his thoughts on a post-pandemic world.

> "It's clear to me that Culture is the currency of the future."

Read the interview transcript

Virtual Entertainment and Education - The Intan

Mr Alvin Yapp
Founder of The Intan

Alvin Yapp discusses re-creating experiences digitally.

> "We bring real smiles and laughter with our Peranakan culture virtually into many social welfare homes."

Read the interview transcript

Expanding Boundaries - The Eurasian Gallery

Ms Jacqueline Peeris
Manager for Heritage and Culture
The Eurasian Association

Culture Bytes explores the Eurasian Gallery's showcase and its digitalisation journey with Jacqueline Peeris.

"People not just from Singapore, but all over the world to view the many stories, photos and artefacts in the Eurasian Heritage Gallery."

Read the interview transcript

Carving a Digital Experience - The Gem Museum

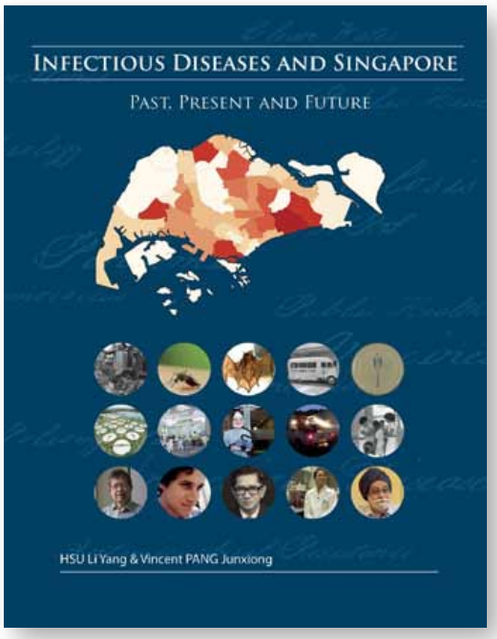
Mr Tay Kunming
Founder of The Gem Museum and *Director* of The Gem Institute

Tay Kunming shares the unique challenges of making tactile experiences digitally viable.

"Appreciating gem stones has always been very physical and in-person, therefore, this COVID pandemic has caused tremendous impact on the way the museum has to run."

Read the interview transcript

REVIEW



Dr Hsu Li Yang and Vincent Pang Junxiong

Infectious Diseases and Singapore – Past, Present and Future

Throughout Singapore's history, the island's openness to global trade made us vulnerable to the threat of widespread infectious diseases. Despite strategies such as quarantining new arrivals on an off-shore island, the colonial government's lack of investment into the healthcare system led to a constant struggle against waves of diseases such as Dysentery, Cholera, and the Plague.

Following independence and the vast improvements in the quality of life, Singapore made huge strides in overcoming many of these diseases. New vaccines, medicine and a strong healthcare system enabled the country to stay abreast of new diseases such as HIV, influenza and SARS. This book collates the stories and records behind Singapore's achievements and distills the lessons and price of its hard-won victories.

Gavin Lim

The Art of Jennifer Tham

The documentary *The Art of Jennifer Tham* by director Gavin Lim shines the spotlight on Young Artist Award and Cultural Medallion recipient Jennifer Tham. Due to safety measures to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, scenes from the rehearsals of *Curious and Curiouser*, the first piece written by Tham for the choir, were captured in the Esplanade Recital Studio.

This documentary is part of a research project supported by the National Arts Council. The film focuses on Tham's musical and educative journey. It was shot on site, while she was pursing her Master of Fine Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, B.C., Canada.

Readers may also want to check out "A Life in Song" by Michelle L.C. Yeo and Eleanor A.L. Tan, a related part of the research project exploring Jennifer Tham's professional career as artistic director and conductor of the SYC Ensemble Singers. This e-book is found online at Esplanade Offstage.

Watch this film

RESOURCES

Chris Lee

Clarissa Oon

Jervais Choo

V M Sai Akileshwar

DIGITAL TRAINING AID

Yours Virtually

Yours Virtually brings together

Nuriman bin Mohd Nor

Horikawa Lisa

Angie Ng

Kezia Toh

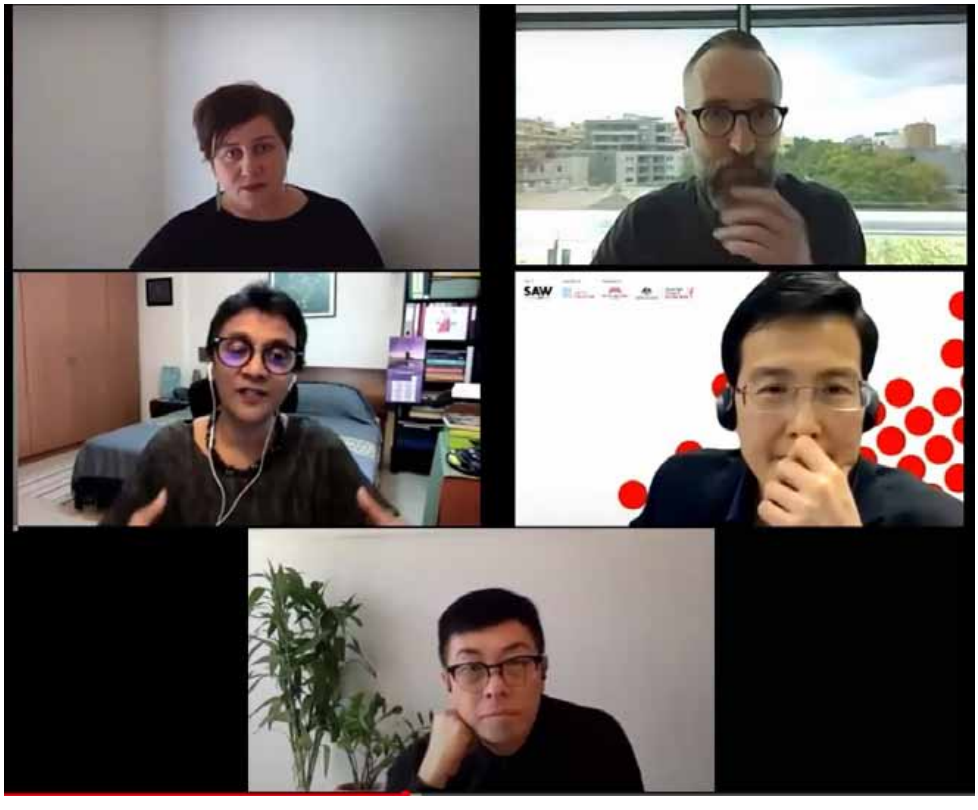
Lionel Chok

Vinitha Jayaram

Jean Loo

insights from practitioners and organisations on their journey to re-imagine their practices for the digital sphere. We find out how they have adapted their mediums into virtual formats and what new opportunities have emerged for the community in the arts and culture sector.

Watch this now



WEBINAR

Statistically speaking: What the data says about arts audiences in Singapore and Australia

Watch this now

In this webinar, speakers from Singapore's National Arts Council and the Australia Council for the Arts discuss audience attitudes towards the arts in both countries. Watch the discussion between Dr Sharon Chang, Tay Tong, Chris Pope and Jade Lillie, as they draw on research survey data collected in 2019, and address its implications for the future of the arts and arts policy.

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

MRadio, the podcast series from NHB's Museum Roundtable, is now available on Spotify or Apple Podcast.

In this third episode, join Charlene Rajendran (Assistant Professor, National Institute of Education) and guest host Paul Adams (Learning and Engagement Manager, Singapore Reparatory Theatre) as they examine how museum educators can use principles in dramaturgy, acting, and drama education to elicit responses from learners of all ages, and how museum facilitators can be more aware of their practice by integrating techniques in acting in their content delivery.

Listen to this now

The A-List Singapore is a one-stop online arts and culture digital portal, where you will find the most comprehensive event listings, along with feature stories, in-depth interviews and fun, bite-sized content.

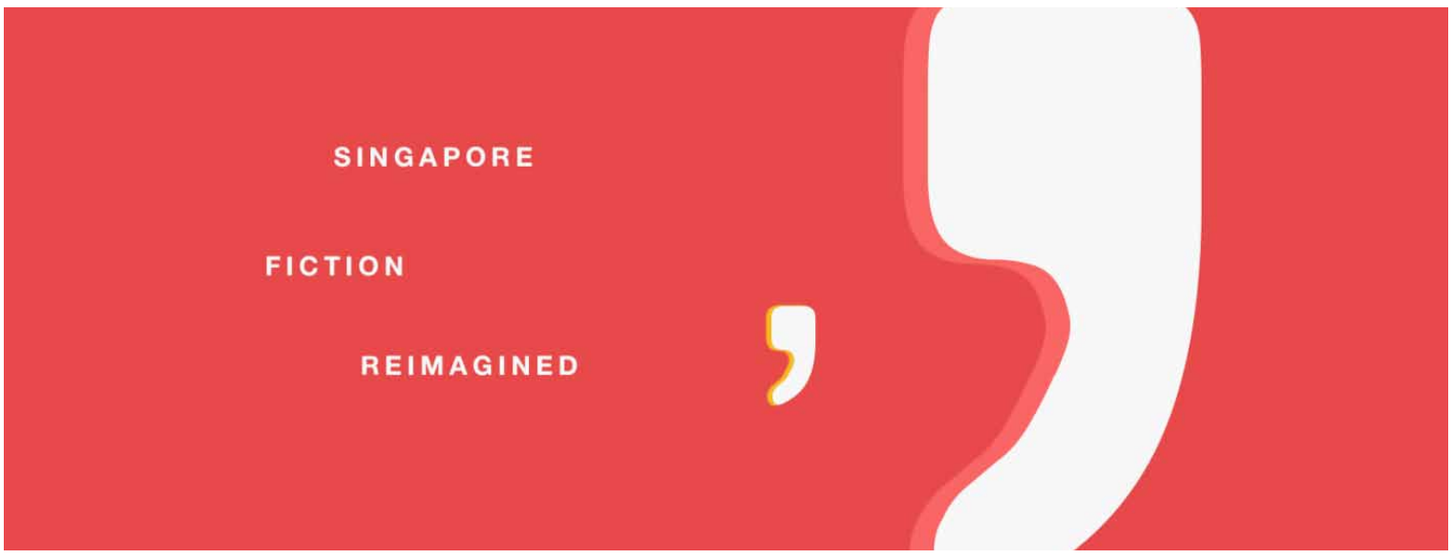
Visit the website now

ESPLANADE

Diving into Circus Arts in Singapore and Beyond

Circus arts are gaining prominence in Singapore. Esplanade Offstage presents a report, *Diving into Circus Arts in Singapore and Beyond*, alongside recordings of artist chats. There are also circus arts performances live and online at Esplanade's Circus Weekend from 28 May-30 Jun, as part of Flipside festival.

Find out more



ESPLANADE

Little Red Comma

Singapore literature, reimagined. *little red comma* comprises interactive digital adaptations of local literary works, as well as essays and podcasts inspired by them. This online resource is commissioned by the National Arts Council and presented by Esplanade Offstage.

Find out more

Stories of Us

Stories of Us is an online documentation project which aims to preserve your stories – in your own words and pictures – as a reminder of what living through a global pandemic means to us, in the spirit of Singapore Together. It is a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, the National Library Board, the National Museum of Singapore and the National Youth Council.

Watch this now

Picturing the Pandemic: A Visual Record of COVID-19 in Singapore

The National Museum of Singapore commissioned five local photographers and two filmmakers to visually document how the pandemic was experienced in Singapore. The photographs and short film produced from this commissioned project features a selection of objects collected from the public, presenting a poignant and resonant portrait of a nation responding to and coping with the crisis locally and globally.

Find out more

WEBINARS FOR THE MUSEUM ROUNDTABLE

Webinars for the Museum Roundtable

The National Heritage Board organised a series of webinars for sharing insights and strategies on digital engagement, as well as other ways to adapt to the pandemic.

Find out more

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