

Jameel Arts & Health Lab designates National Gallery Singapore as its first ‘Healing Arts Centre of Excellence’ in Asia

Announcement made by the [Jameel Arts & Health Lab](#) in collaboration with the World Health Organization as part of its [Healing Arts Singapore](#) campaign launch week running 8-12 December 2025



Facade of National Gallery Singapore.

- **Dr. Patrick Flores**, Chief Curator at the National Gallery Singapore, received the award on behalf of the institution from the Jameel Arts & Health Lab’s Global Director for Healing Arts, **Catherine Cassidy-Dedics**. Remarks were also made by representatives from the World Health Organization, Jameel Arts & Health Lab, Community Jameel, Temasek Foundation, Community Foundation of Singapore, National University of Singapore, and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts at the University of the Arts Singapore.
- As the Jameel Arts & Health Lab’s inaugural Healing Arts Centre of Excellence in Asia, National Gallery Singapore will champion the role of museums as partners in public health and advance research on the role of museums in supporting wellbeing, especially among underserved communities.
- The announcement was made as part of the launch of Healing Arts Singapore, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab’s first Healing Arts campaign in Asia. This multi-year, nationwide arts and health initiative which to embed the arts within systems of care, advancing evidence-based and scalable interventions to improve wellbeing across Singapore and the wider Western Pacific region.

SINGAPORE, 8 December 2025 – The Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) announced today that the National Gallery Singapore has been designated as Asia's first Healing Arts Centre of Excellence. National Gallery Singapore is the first museum to receive this accreditation, joining prestigious cultural institutions including Carnegie Hall and Scottish Ballet.

The announcement was made at the opening event of the Healing Arts Singapore campaign, a multi-year initiative that aims to embed the arts within systems of care, advancing evidence-based and scalable interventions to improve wellbeing across Singapore and the wider Western Pacific region. As part of a global campaign by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab in collaboration with WHO, Healing Arts Singapore is co-led by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), University of the Arts Singapore (UAS).

This designation recognizes National Gallery Singapore as an exemplar in the field of arts and health, with a history of inclusive and transformative arts and health programs. As a Centre of Excellence, National Gallery Singapore will champion the role of cultural institutions and artists as partners in public health and advance ambitious scientific research on the role of museums in supporting wellbeing.

Dr Eugene Tan, CEO and Director of National Gallery Singapore, commented, "Being the first museum globally to receive this accreditation is an honour that reaffirms our belief in the role of art in everyday wellbeing. Art has the power to connect, to heal, and to help us see ourselves and one another more clearly. Through this recognition, we hope to inspire the wider arts community to deepen its efforts in creating spaces where creativity fosters empathy, resilience, and care."

Ms Ong Zhen Min, Director, Learning, Public Engagement & Content Publishing, says, "This recognition reflects the Gallery's longstanding commitment to designing person-centred, evidence-based programmes that create a holistic and welcoming museum experience. Our team has worked hard to understand the needs of our visitors and communities, and to develop initiatives that use art to support wellbeing, reflection, and inclusion. We are encouraged to continue strengthening this work as the role of museums in the area of health and wellness continues to evolve."

The accreditation was made by the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's Global Director for Healing Arts, **Catherine Cassidy-Dedics** at a special event at the National Gallery Singapore, featuring remarks by **Dr. Rabindra Abeyasinghe**, Head of the WHO Country Office to Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, **Kirk Chuen Kee**, Head of Health & Well-being at Temasek Foundation, **Paul Tan**, Chief Executive Officer at Community Foundation of Singapore, **Stephen Stapleton**, Co-Director of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab and CEO of CULTURUNNERS, **Uzma Sulaiman**, Associate Director of Community Jameel, **Dr. Michael Tan**, Dean of Research and Knowledge Exchange at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, University of the Arts Singapore, and **Dr. Kat Agres**, Director of the Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, National University of Singapore.

Stephen Stapleton commented, "The Jameel Arts & Health Lab is immensely proud to honour the National Gallery Singapore for its ongoing commitment to community health, in particular to highlight the role of art museums in supporting our physical, mental and social wellbeing across the lifespan."

Uzma Sulaiman said: "We are very pleased to see the Jameel Arts & Health Lab further extend its global reach with the designation of its first Healing Arts Centre of Excellence in Asia. We look forward to the National Gallery Singapore's contributions to expanding the evidence base for arts and health and further strengthening the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's network of centres of excellence in Asia and beyond."

National Gallery Singapore has long championed the role of art in fostering wellbeing and social connection. Through initiatives such as [Slow Art Guide](#), [Art with You](#), the [HOLD Collection](#) and Gallery Wonders, NGS has continually offered mindful and inclusive experiences that encourage reflection and accessibility for diverse audiences – including persons living with dementia and their caregivers, and persons with disabilities.

Healing Arts

↪ Singapore

8–12 Dec. 2025



Complementing these are efforts like the [Calm Room](#), a dedicated space for rest and sensory regulation, and the Access Guide, which provides vital information on access accommodations to visitors with access needs, and was developed in collaboration with the Disabled People's Association and Levelfield Consultants – a first-of-its-kind resource for a cultural space in Singapore. Grounded in research and partnerships with organisations such as Dementia Singapore and the Agency for Integrated Care, these programmes demonstrate how the visual arts can nurture both individual and collective wellbeing. Moving forward, the Gallery will continue to deepen its work in this area, exploring new ways for art to contribute to health, empathy, and community care.

The Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global Healing Arts campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organization brings together leaders and practitioners from health, culture, academia, and community sectors to drive long-term implementation of scalable, evidence-based arts interventions around the world. Healing Arts Singapore will launch from 8-12 December 2025 and feature two academic symposia, policy meetings, capacity-building workshops, artists commissions, exhibitions, live performances, and training to support national and regional policy implementation, and deliver measurable impact.

For the World Health Organization, the collaboration brings together WHO's Regional Offices for Europe and the Western Pacific Regions, demonstrating the universality of the link between arts and health across diverse geographies and sociocultural contexts. It also indicates WHO's role in curating a range of innovative approaches that seek to strengthen the ability of governments and civil society stakeholders to achieve WHO's vision and mandate of Health for All.

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High resolution Images available here: [PRESS IMAGES](#)



Notes to Editors:

About Healing Arts Singapore

As Asia's first national-level Healing Arts activation, Healing Arts Singapore aims to embed the arts within systems of care, advancing evidence-based and scalable arts and health interventions to improve wellbeing across Singapore and the Western Pacific region. As part of the Jameel Arts & Health Lab's global Healing Arts campaign in collaboration with the World Health Organization, Healing Arts Singapore is co-led by the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Music and Health at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music, and the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) at the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS). The multi-year initiative – supported by Temasek Foundation, Community Foundation of Singapore and the ECCA Family Foundation - will launch with a one-week program featuring academic symposia, policy meetings, artist commissions, and the appointment of Asia's first Healing Arts Centre of Excellence.

healingartssingapore.org

About the Jameel Arts & Health Lab

Launched in January 2023 by the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, the Steinhardt School at New York University, Community Jameel, and Culturrunners, the Jameel Arts & Health Lab is a global initiative to measurably improve health and wellbeing through the arts. With a focus on overlooked and underserved communities, the Lab leverages scientific evidence, a global Healing Arts campaign, and capacity building to drive the integration of the arts into mainstream healthcare.

jameelartshealthlab.org

About National Gallery Singapore:

National Gallery Singapore is celebrating its 10th anniversary this year as a leading visual arts institution and the largest modern and contemporary art museum in Southeast Asia. Dedicated to making art accessible to all, the Gallery engages audiences of all ages through its exhibitions, educational programmes, and public festivals.

Home to the world's largest public collection of Singapore and Southeast Asian art, the Gallery is redefining the region's art history through pioneering research, strategic acquisitions, and thoughtfully curated exhibitions. By offering new perspectives, it recontextualises the region's artistic contributions within global narratives.

Located in the heart of the Civic District, the Gallery is housed in two national monuments – the City Hall and former Supreme Court – making it an iconic cultural landmark where architectural grandeur meets deep historical significance.

A vibrant cultural destination, the Gallery has been ranked among Asia's Top 10 most visited museums by The Art Newspaper since 2019. It has also received accolades at the Singapore Tourism Awards, including "Best Leisure Event" for Light to Night Festival 2020 and "Outstanding Leisure Event" for Gallery Children's Biennale 2021.

As a registered Charity and an Institute of Public Character, the Gallery relies on public support to expand its collection, advance research, and bring art to more people, shaping cultural discourse and inspiring creativity for generations to come.

nationalgallery.sg

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