



## CREATIVE ENCOUNTERS: CAPELLA SINGAPORE LAUNCHES NEW EVENT SERIES AT THE PINEAPPLE ROOM

**A new cultural platform for thoughtful conversations, creative collaboration and  
community-led discussions**



(from left – standing) Dr Kyle Tan, Alan Lo, Margaret Wang, Michael Lim,  
(From left – seated) Kim Tay, Talenia Phua Gajardo, Kristy Campbell, Victoria Ho, Chris Kong

**Singapore, 3 August 2026** – Following a successful inaugural session on 28 July 2026, Capella Singapore is redefining cultural dialogue with the debut of **Creative Encounters**, a new ongoing salon series designed to spark audience-led dialogue across art, design, gastronomy, literature, wellness, film and culture.

Hosted exclusively at The Pineapple Room, the launch transforms the property's intimate social venue within its heritage Tanah Merah building into a dynamic gathering and conversational space. This initiative marks the beginning of a long-term cultural platform where leading regional and global voices will come together to foster a community of culturally curious individuals.

The series kicked off with its premiere session, *Traces Across Borders: The Asian Diaspora and Experimental Art*. The series opened with a conversation on artistic identity, migration and cross-cultural practice. Featuring Alan Lo, Board Chair of Para Site, Margaret Wang, Managing Partner at Recharge Capital, and internationally acclaimed



Filipino-American artist Josh Kline, the evening set the tone for a programme designed to move beyond formal talks into a personal, reflective and genuine dialogue.

Creative Encounters builds on Capella Singapore's broader philosophy that hospitality extends beyond place. Through thoughtfully curated experiences, art-led collaborations as well as intimate gatherings and relationship building, the resort has long created opportunities for meaningful connection while celebrating Singapore's rich cultural tapestry. From Capella Curates and heritage-inspired experiences to workshops led by Capella's Culturists—ranging from Peranakan tile painting and culinary storytelling to collaborations with local artists and craftsmen—these programmes invite guests to engage more deeply with the destination and its creative community.

This philosophy finds a natural home at The Pineapple Room, an intimate space within Capella Singapore's historic Tanah Merah heritage building. Conceived as more than a cocktail destination, it was envisioned as a modern-day salon where guests gather over ideas and warm conversation. Rather than formal lectures or panel discussions, each Creative Encounters encourages open discussion, inviting audiences to explore the inspirations, philosophies and personal journeys that shape today's leading creative voices. With audience participation at the heart of every session, the series fosters genuine exchange in an intimate setting.



"The Pineapple Room was envisioned as a place for exchange, where guests could discover the people and stories behind the work they admire, over a drink rather than across a stage. Creative Encounters takes that vision further by bringing our community closer to those people; beyond their achievements, each session explores the experiences, questions and influences that shape how they think and create. We hope guests leave with a deeper appreciation not only of the craft itself, but of the individuals behind it," shared Christian Westbeld, Regional General Manager, Southeast Asia, Capella Singapore. "For us, this reflects our belief that inspirational hospitality is not only



about beautiful places, but also about creating opportunities for ideas, creativity and meaningful human connection to last beyond the moment."

Each 90-minute session welcomes just 25 to 30 guests, preserving the intimacy that defines the experience. Cocktails and light bites are available before and after each session, while audience Q&A is built into the format to encourage open exchange.

Running through November 2026, the inaugural programme continues with:

- 20 August 2026 - *The Hand and the Machine: Why Art & Craft Matters More in an Age of Automation*, featuring Talenia Phua Gajardo and Kim Tay
- 16 September 2026 - *The Measured Body, The Unmeasured Life*, with Dr Kyle Tan
- 5 October 2026 - *Founders After Breakfast*, featuring Kristy Campbell, Chris Kong, founders of Dearborn
- 20 October 2026 - *Cultural Sustainability: Designing Fashion with Purpose*, featuring Lisa Von Tang and Victoria Ho
- 10 November 2026 - *From Ananas to Pineapple in the Pineapple Room*, with Khir Johari

The series will continue beyond its inaugural programme, with additional sessions already in development, including a January 2027 conversation with Michael Lim, Festival Director of Animation Nation under the Singapore Film Society, exploring insights into his work in animation.

Creative Encounters is complimentary for in-house guests, with a limited number of spaces available for the public. As each session is intentionally kept intimate, advance reservations are strongly encouraged.

For reservations and more information on 'Creative Encounters', please visit [this page](#).

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High-resolution images are available for download [here](#).

**For more information, please contact:**

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## ABOUT CAPELLA SINGAPORE

Located within 30 acres of lush rainforest on Sentosa island, Capella Singapore has cemented itself as one of the most luxurious hotels in the region over the last decade. The resort has been recognised on The World's 50 Best Hotels list in 2023 and 2024. In addition, it has also received the prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star rating for 14 consecutive years.

Inspired by the colonial building that houses the hotel lobby, aptly named Tanah Merah which translates to red soil in the Malay language that was unearthed during the construction, architect Lord Norman Foster of Foster + Partners, designed the resort to sit in harmony with surrounding nature, while combining old-world colonial charm with contemporary chic. Capella Singapore offers some of the city's most spacious accommodation options with 113 guest rooms that include 38 villas and two Colonial Manors, complete with plunge pools.

Capella The Club Residences Singapore also offers the opportunity for extended stays with complete access to the hotel's facilities. These long stay options include 72 residences and duplexes, and eight manors with private pools.

For more information, visit [capellahotels.com/singapore](https://capellahotels.com/singapore)  
Instagram @capellasingapore

## ABOUT CAPELLA HOTELS AND RESORTS

Capella Hotels and Resorts embodies excellence in the craft of hospitality. Our constellation spans Asia Pacific with future openings in the Middle East and Europe. Each property is a custodian of heritage, reflecting meticulous restoration and unseen artistry to offer experiences that illuminate travel. Named World's Best Hotel Brand by Travel + Leisure for four consecutive years, Capella combines the highest levels of craftsmanship with personalised service to create bespoke luxury. Auriga Spa, our signature wellness sanctuary inspired by lunar cycles, brings holistic wellbeing to each destination.

For more information, visit [www.capellahotels.com](https://www.capellahotels.com)  
Instagram @capellahotels | LinkedIn @capellahotels



#### APPENDIX A: Creative Encounters Inaugural Series Overview

| Date              | Session Title                                                                  | Speaker(s)                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 July 2026      | Traces Across Borders: The Asian Diaspora and Experimental Art                 | Alan Lo, Board Chair of Para Site<br>Margaret Wang, Managing Partner at Recharge Capital<br>Josh Kline, Artist                                            |
| 20 August 2026    | The Hand and the Machine: Why Art & Craft Matters More in an Age of Automation | Talenia Phua Gajardo, Head Art & Design Hunter and CEO of The Artling<br>Kim Tay, Co-Founder and Gallery Director of The Artling                          |
| 16 September 2026 | The Measured Body, The Unmeasured Life                                         | Dr Kyle Tan Xin Quan, Co-Founder and Chief Product & Business Development Officer, NOVI Health                                                            |
| 5 October 2026    | Founders After Breakfast                                                       | Kristy Campbell, Chris Kong                                                                                                                               |
| 20 October 2026   | Cultural Sustainability: Designing Fashion with Purpose                        | Lisa Von Tang, Designer and Founder of Lisa Von Tang<br>Victoria Ho, Programme Leader, BA (Hons) Fashion Design and Textiles, LASALLE College of the Arts |
| 10 November 2026  | From Ananas to Pineapple in the Pineapple Room                                 | Khair Johari                                                                                                                                              |



## APPENDIX B: Session Details

### Traces Across Borders: The Asian Diaspora and Experimental Art

Traces Across Borders explores how contemporary artists of the Asian diaspora utilize experimental mediums to navigate geographic displacement, cultural hybridity, and geopolitical shifts. The panel bridges the gap between artistic creation and the ecosystems that support it, bringing together a pioneering conceptual artist with leading patrons who actively champion boundary-pushing contemporary art.

*Tuesday, 28 July 2026*

Speakers: Alan Lo, Margaret Wang, Josh Kline

#### Session Overview:

The session focuses on three core themes:

1. Medium as Message: The Turn to Experimental Formats

Why traditional mediums often fall short of capturing the complexities of the modern diasporic experience.

How artists like Josh Kline utilize modern tools (AI, synthetic materials, digital rendering) to reflect the fragmented, high-tech, and hyper-connected realities of global migration.

2. Geopolitics, Memory, and Speculative Futures

Navigating the shifting borders of the 21st century: How diasporic artists archive personal and collective memory while projecting future political landscapes.

The tension between preserving cultural heritage and participating in a borderless, globalized art dialogue.

3. The Patron's Role in Sustaining the Avant-Garde

The unique challenges of collecting and preserving experimental, non-traditional, or ephemeral art (e.g., bio-art, digital media, large-scale installations).

How patrons like Alan Lo and Margaret Wang build sustainable funding structures and institutional support for artists whose work challenges market norms.



Alan Lo  
*Board Chair of Para Site*

Alan Lo is an entrepreneur, investor, and leading voice in the Asian cultural scene. As a passionate art collector and advocate, he actively supports various arts and culture non-profits and museum committees. He is co-founder and former chairman of Design Trust. Lo is a vital force in the Asia-Pacific art ecosystem, dedicated to fostering dialogue between Asian contemporary art and the global stage. He serves on various international museum acquisition committees, championing experimental and institutional patronage.

He is currently board chair of Para Site, and is a member of Art Basel's Global Patrons Council as well as Global Council of Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (MOCA) and Advisory Council of Princeton University Art Museum. Alongside his wife, Yenn Wong, Alan co-founded the Singapore-based Yenn and Alan Lo Foundation to foster transnational artistic practices. Notably, the foundation was a founding sponsor of the S.E.A. Focus Art Fund, which facilitates the acquisition of contemporary Southeast Asian artworks for the Singapore Art Museum.



Margaret Wang  
*Managing Partner at  
 Recharge Capital*

Margaret Wang is a Managing Partner at Recharge Capital, where she leads the firm's women's healthcare investments, and the Founding CEO of Rhea Fertility and GenPrime, reproductive healthcare platforms operating across Asia. Her art involvement spans a range of cultural institutions and initiatives dedicated to supporting contemporary artistic practice. She serves on the Board of Creative Time, a New York-based arts organization that partners with artists to bring their most ambitious and timely projects into the public realm. Margaret is a Patron Advocate for STPI, a member of Tate's Asia-Pacific Acquisitions Committee and the Guggenheim's Asia Circle, and Founding Co-Chair of the Friends of the Carpenter Center for Visual Arts at Harvard University. She is also co-founder of SUPER PROJECTS, a Singapore-based non-profit dedicated to supporting contemporary artistic practice and cultural exchange. Margaret concentrated in Economics and History of Art and Architecture at Harvard University, with a focus on modern and contemporary art. Her collecting interests centre on material experimentation, diasporic narratives, and the intersections of care, identity, and the body in contemporary art. A strategic art patron and advisor with a deep focus on supporting diasporic narratives and cross-cultural initiatives, Wang acts as a crucial bridge between East and West, funding and facilitating challenging, non-traditional contemporary projects that push the boundaries of conventional gallery spaces.



Josh Kline  
*Artist*

Josh Kline (b. 1979, Philadelphia) is one of the leading artists of his generation. Kline is renowned for using cutting-edge technologies (such as 3D printing, biotechnology, and commercial imaging) to interrogate the future of labour, climate change, and human optimization. His work offers a visceral, speculative look at how systemic global forces reshape individual lives. He makes art that questions how emergent technologies are being used to change human life in the 21st Century. Kline currently has a solo project on view at Mori Art Museum, Tokyo and is an artist in residence at STPI, Singapore. Kline recently had a midcareer survey of his art at the Whitney Museum, a major solo exhibition at MOCA LA, and was included in the 24th Biennale of Sydney and the 8th Yokohama Triennial. His essay New York Real Estate and the Ruin of American Art was published this spring by the journal October. Josh Kline is based in New York City. He is Filipino-American.

### **The Hand and the Machine: Why Art & Craft Matters More in an Age of Automation**

With the world turning to AI as a solution for everything, the human touch in art and design becomes more precious, as proof of what cannot be simply replicated.

*Thursday, 20 August 2026*

Speakers: Talenia Phua Gajardo and Kim Tay

Session Overview:

In a world where machines can produce in seconds what once took a lifetime to master, what happens to the value of human skill? This talk examines why craftsmanship is becoming more sought after, as automation reshapes creative industries. Drawing on examples from collecting, design, and traditional artisanship, the discussion considers how scarcity, process, and narratives are being redefined.

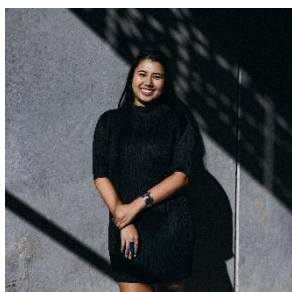


**Talenia Phua Gajardo**  
*Head Art & Design Hunter  
 and CEO of The Artling*

Talenia is the head Art & Design Hunter and CEO of The Artling. She is a Loke Cheng-Kim Foundation scholar and received her BA (Hons) Architecture from Central Saint Martin's in London. In 2013, as she was working on various interior design and architecture projects, she discovered that there were no aggregated online platforms to discover contemporary art in the region; The Artling was thus founded to fill this gap in the market.

Prior to The Artling, Talenia founded her own interior architecture and design practice which she started after working for Zaha Hadid Architects for several years in London. Talenia's life passions are intertwined with the world of contemporary art, architecture and design. She has served as design judge for Dezeen's Awards, was on Hong Kong's Design Trust benefit committee for three consecutive years and was a Milken Institute Young Leader Circle member. She has also spoken at numerous international conferences and has been part of panels for UBS, DBS, The Milken Institute, Facebook, SuperReturn Asia, Dezeen, Art Basel and STPI.

Besides The Artling's digital platform, they also offer end-to-end consultancy and sourcing services for both private and corporate clients. Working with private collectors, interior designers, architects and property developers, The Artling assists with developing art themes and narratives, guiding concept design processes, and sourcing and commissioning site-specific artworks. Their portfolio of esteemed clients includes the likes of LVMH, Google, GIC, JLL, Pontiac Land Group, Frasers, Just Co, Shiseido and many more.



**Kim Tay**  
*Co-Founder and Gallery  
 Director of The Artling*

Kim is the Co-Founder and Gallery Director of The Artling and a long-standing founding member of the team. Kim manages The Artling's online platform, where she oversees an online inventory of over US\$2b, working with artists, designers and galleries from all over the world. She also leads the company's various consultancy projects across the globe, sourcing and commissioning artworks for private and corporate clients, ranging from the Google offices in Singapore to luxury hotel Capella Taipei.

Kim has spoken about art collecting, the regional art scenes, and the crucial synergies between art and technology at various conferences, such as Art World Forum in Singapore and Hong Kong and the 2nd Immersive Augmented and Virtual Reality World Conference in Singapore, as well as panels for Hermes and The Art Week Conversations in Singapore.



She joined The Artling in 2014 upon returning to Singapore after spending a number of years in the United States and Russia. She has a degree in Art History and Government from Georgetown University in Washington, DC. The online platform, theArtling.com lists over thousands of designers, artists and galleries from all over the world, with new artworks and design items added to the site daily.

The Artling offers consultancy services to both private and corporate clients, working with private collectors and with interior designers, architects and property developers. Sourcing from both emerging and established artists, The Artling provides end-to-end advisory service, from developing art themes and narratives, concept design development, and the commissioning of artworks to project and site specifications.

Their portfolio of esteemed clients includes the likes of Google, GIC, JLL, Pontiac Land Group, Frasers Hospitality, Just Co, Shiseido and many more.



## The Measured Body, The Unmeasured Life

Everyone is tracking sleep, fearing food and chasing biomarkers. But when the pursuit of longevity consumes life itself, what can health data reveal, and what can it never truly measure?

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Speakers: Dr Kyle Tan

### Session Overview:

We have never had more information about our health. Wearables monitor our sleep, apps score our recovery, blood tests generate increasingly detailed biomarker profiles, and social media delivers an endless stream of advice on supplements, diets, exercise and longevity.

Yet despite having more data than any generation before us, many people feel more anxious about their health, not less.

This session explores the rise of optimisation culture—from the casual tracker to the committed biohacker—and our growing impulse to turn the body into a dashboard: measured, scored and constantly improved. It asks which tools genuinely help us live longer and better, which are expensive noise, and what may be lost when health becomes a permanent self-improvement project.

Moving between preventive medicine, technology and the cultural pursuit of self-mastery, Dr Kyle Tan examines the promise and limits of measurement, the mental toll of constant self-monitoring and the fast-growing business of longevity. Ultimately, the conversation asks a deeper question: are we using health data to make more life possible, or allowing the pursuit of health to crowd out the life we are trying to extend?



**Dr Kyle Tan Xin Quan**  
*Co-Founder, Chief Product  
& Business Development  
Officer, NOVI Health MBBS,  
MPH, FAMS*

Kyle Tan Xin Quan is the Co-Founder and Chief Product & Business Development Officer of NOVI Health, where he leads the company's growth, innovation, and clinical product strategy. A preventive medicine physician by training, he co-founded NOVI Health with the vision of transforming how metabolic diseases such as diabetes and obesity are prevented, managed, and reversed, and how people can live longer, healthier lives, through data-driven, technology-enabled care. With more than 15 years of experience spanning clinical medicine, public health, healthcare strategy, and population health transformation, Dr Tan is recognised for his work at the intersection of medicine, technology, and preventive healthcare. Alongside his leadership role, he continues to practise clinically at NOVI Health, supporting patients in chronic disease prevention, metabolic health optimisation, with a focus on longevity. Prior to NOVI Health, Dr Tan served as Deputy Head (Planning & Development) at the Regional Health System Planning Office within the National University Health System (NUHS), where he played a key role in advancing Singapore's preventive health strategy and system-wide care transformation initiatives. His research work focused on leveraging big data analytics, predictive modelling, and risk stratification to identify



high-risk populations and enable earlier, targeted interventions. He also served at Singapore's Ministry of Health (MOH) as Assistant Director at the Ageing Planning Office, where he contributed to the development of the nation's landmark S\$3 billion "Action Plan for Successful Ageing", a multi-sector initiative designed to prepare Singapore for the challenges and opportunities of an ageing population. Dr Tan's contributions to public health have been recognised with the Permanent Secretary for Health Award. He obtained both his Bachelor of Medicine & Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) and Master of Public Health (MPH) from the National University of Singapore, where he currently serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health. He is also a Council Member of the College of Public Health & Occupational Physicians under the Academy of Medicine, Singapore. His peer-reviewed research spans obesity care, diabetes, digital health, and health services research. He is also a regular voice in national media on metabolic health, preventive care, and longevity, with published commentary in outlets including CNA and the Straits Times.



## Founders After Breakfast

An intimate conversation hosted by Dearborn, where founders share honest lessons, meaningful challenges, and practical insights through open, candid discussion.

*Monday, 5 October 2026*

Speakers: Kristy Campbell, Chris Kong

### Session Overview:

Founders After Breakfast is an intimate gathering designed for founders who value honest conversation over networking and thoughtful discussion over presentations. Hosted in Capella's intimate Pineapple Room, this session brings together a small group of entrepreneurs to explore topics that matter to building enduring businesses - from leadership and hiring to growth, resilience, creativity, and decision-making.

There are no panels, pitches, or prepared speeches. Instead, the conversation is guided by a moderator who encourages candid stories, diverse perspectives, and practical lessons drawn from real experience. The small format allows every founder to contribute meaningfully, ask questions openly, and build genuine relationships with peers facing similar challenges.

Whether you're navigating your first venture or leading a growing company, Founders After Breakfast offers a rare opportunity to slow down, share what's keeping you up at night, what gets you out of bed in the morning and a chance to leave with fresh perspectives.



**Kristy Campbell**  
*Co-founder of Dearborn*

Kristy Campbell is a Singapore-based entrepreneur and the co-founder of Dearborn, an independent breakfast F&B company known for its chef-driven approach to reimagining breakfast. Before moving into hospitality, she built her career as a director of photography, working across commercial, documentary, and branded productions. That background continues to shape Dearborn's strong visual identity, thoughtful storytelling, and attention to detail.

Today, Kristy leads Dearborn's operations, partnerships, and brand strategy, combining creative thinking with disciplined execution. She is passionate about building a business rooted in craftsmanship, meaningful hospitality, and genuine community.



**Chris Kong**

Chef Christopher Kong's culinary journey began in his family's Italian restaurant in Seattle, where an early appreciation for quality ingredients sparked a lifelong passion for cooking. Seeking to broaden his perspective, he moved to Southeast Asia, training across Chinese-Malaysian cuisine before refining his craft at Restaurant Guy Savoy in Singapore.

He went on to work at Waku Ghin under Chef Tetsuya Wakuda before moving to New York City as a sous-chef at The NoMad, led by Daniel Humm of Eleven Madison Park. Today, Chris is the co-founder and executive chef of Dearborn in Singapore, where he brings his interpretation of Modern American cuisine to



*Co-founder and Executive  
Chef of Dearborn*

life, drawing on the techniques, experiences, and stories that have shaped his career.



### Cultural Sustainability: Designing Fashion with Purpose

As AI, technology and globalisation reshape fashion, this session explores why cultural heritage, human connection, storytelling and purpose are becoming essential to creating more meaningful and resilient fashion futures.

*Tuesday, 20 October 2026*

Speakers: Lisa Von Tang, Victoria Ho

#### Session Overview:

As AI, technology and globalised production continue to reshape fashion, what becomes more valuable?

Through case studies from Bali and Vietnam, the session explores how emerging Southeast Asian SMEs that place traditional knowledge, craft practices and cultural heritage are developing new models of fashion that place environmental stewardship, cultural continuity and human connection at their centre.

Rather than looking backwards, these businesses demonstrate how traditional ways of knowing, making and living can inform the future of fashion. They challenge conventional models of production through systems that value relationships, storytelling, authenticity and purpose alongside commercial success.

The conversation positions Southeast Asia not simply as a manufacturing hub, but as a region generating new approaches to fashion that are culturally grounded, environmentally responsive and socially connected, offering valuable lessons for the future of the fashion industry.



**Lisa Von Tang**  
*Founder & Creative  
Director of Lisa Von Tang*

Lisa Von Tang is a Singapore-based designer, artist, and entrepreneur whose work sits at the intersection of fashion, culture, sustainability, and social impact. Founder and Creative Director of the eponymous label Lisa Von Tang, she is known for creating bold, contemporary designs that celebrate diversity, empowerment, and conscious living. Through fashion, art, performance, and storytelling, she explores themes of identity, heritage, and human connection. A sought-after speaker and creative collaborator, Lisa advocates for more sustainable and inclusive approaches to design while building bridges across cultures and creative disciplines.

Victoria Ho is an educator, fashion designer, social entrepreneur and advocate for cultural sustainability, with over 20 years of experience across Vietnam, Shanghai, Singapore and the UK. She holds an MA in Womenswear Design from Central Saint Martins and is currently completing a research practice PhD at the Centre for Sustainable Fashion, London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London.

Victoria has extensive experience in designing cross-cultural curricula and managing academic programs. She has held leadership and academic roles at several leading institutions, including RMIT Vietnam (HCMC), Central Saint



**Victoria Ho**  
*Programme Leader, BA  
(Hons) Fashion Design and  
Textiles*

Martins (UK), Edinburgh College of Art (UK), and Donghua University (Shanghai). Across these diverse contexts, she has developed and delivered programs that integrate cultural heritage, sustainability, social innovation and transnational perspectives.

For over a decade, Victoria served as co-founder and Creative Director of Fashion4Freedom (F4F), a pioneering social enterprise that empowers artisans and supports traditional craftsmanship through ethical production models. Through this work, and her long-standing partnership with the Centre for Preservation and Economic Development (CPED), she was officially recognised in 2021 as an investor in cultural development and sustainable economic transformation in Vietnam.

Victoria's industry experience spans design, creative direction, and consultancy. She has worked internationally as a brand owner, senior designer, business mentor and production specialist.

At LASALLE, Victoria brings a unique ability to connect education, industry and social impact. She is dedicated to cultivating the next generation of creative changemakers and building global networks that address pressing cultural, environmental and economic challenges through design.



## From Ananas to Pineapple in the Pineapple Room

Tuesday, 10 November 2026

Speakers: Khir Johari

### Session Overview:

In this conversation, food ethnographer Khir Johari traces the remarkable journey of the pineapple from the Americas to the Malay world, where it took root in our kitchens, plantations and everyday lives. From the Bugis owned estates that once stood just across the water from Sentosa to the rise of Singapore's pineapple canneries, the story of the pineapple is one of trade, migration, empire and taste. Along the way, discover how one tropical fruit became part of our landscape, our desserts and our collective memory.



**Khir Johari**  
*Author & Food Historian*

Khir Johari is the author of *The Food of Singapore Malays: Gastronomic Travels Through the Archipelago*, winner of the 2025 Gourmand "Best of the Best in the World for Food Culture" and the NUS Singapore History Prize. His work examines how food, memory, and identity connect communities across the Nusantara. Born in historic Kampong Gelam, he furthers this work through the platform *Dialogues by Khir* and its symposium, *Serumpun*, bringing together chefs, thinkers, and makers to celebrate shared food heritage. An avid collector of insular Southeast Asian material culture, Khir also serves on the board of the Asian Civilisations Museum.

January 2027 (tbc)

Speakers: Michael Lim



**Michael Lim**  
*Festival Director,  
Animation Nation/  
Singapore Film Society*

Michael Lim is the visionary Festival Director of Animation Nation under the Singapore Film Society, Singapore's premier international animation festival. With over 20 years of industry experience, Michael curates groundbreaking programs that showcase cutting-edge storytelling from global creators. His strategic leadership has transformed the festival into a vital cultural hub, fostering international collaborations and bringing elite masterclasses to Southeast Asia. Deeply committed to industry growth, Michael champions emerging filmmakers and connects independent artists with commercial markets. Under his direction, Animation Nation continues to elevate Singapore's creative economy and redefine the global animation landscape.