Established in April 2010, the ISEAA aims to develop the capabilities of the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) in a niche area of global art being practiced in the region. This endeavour is of benefit to the multidisciplinary nature of NAFA’s contemporary arts training, which includes 3D Design, Design & Media, Fine Art, Arts Management, Fashion, Theatre, Dance, and Music.

As a research and resource development agency within NAFA, ISEAA leverages the inventory holdings of the Academy and develops Southeast Asian study resources to contextualise practice-based and practice-led learning for NAFA’s students and faculty.

ISEAA also builds a network of external partners to represent the spectrum of visual and performing arts in Singapore and the region. Activities include artist talks, masterclasses, workshops, artist-in-residence and interdisciplinary projects of participatory nature, which harness heritage and contemporary arts, leading to collaborative outcomes such as exhibitions, performances and publications.
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