



PRACTICE TUCKSHOP

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

实堂 Practice Tuckshop



PROJECT STOP!

# IMAGINING A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE THROUGH THE ARTS

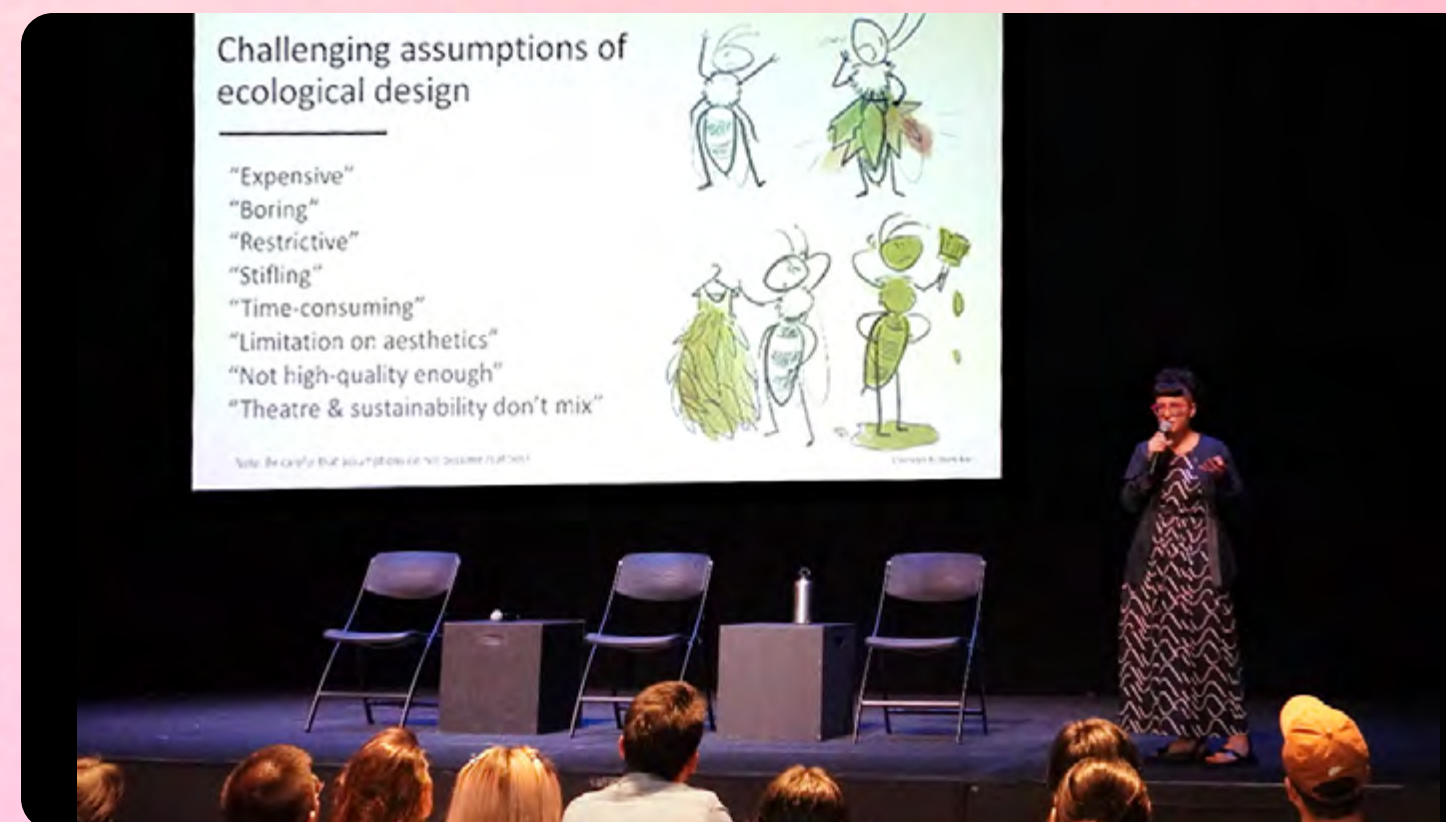




# WE MAKE ART. WE TELL STORIES.

# #PRACTICEGREEN IS OUR WAY OF LEADING THE CLIMATE TRANSITION. HERE'S HOW WE DO IT:

Our works push theatrical boundaries to open up critical conversations and inspire possible solutions.



Our art-making practice champions sustainability-driven creative decisions.

Our resources support eco-artists of all disciplines and approaches.







# A MESSAGE FROM THE TUCKSHOP GUNIANGS

**2024** has been a year of embracing the “Gín-Á” (kid in Hokkien) in all of us.

We’re known as Tuckshop Guniangs, but on occasion... we've also been referred to as “Gín-Á”s. Well, we loved it so much that we decided to make a new shirt (designed by designer Angmoteh) to celebrate what it truly means to be a [Tuckshop Gín-Á: Fun-loving. Fearless. Full of great vibes](#) .

You can [get yourself one !\[\]\(c3d993ca47bfe2a953c700506ce31fa0\_img.jpg\) here!](#) All proceeds go to funding our art-making and outreach efforts.

From welcoming a new Guniang to running multiple programmes from our humble Waterloo Street space — it’s been a very fulfilling year. Charging into 2025, we can’t wait to share our exciting line-up of programmes: food artist Kai Wen is back for phase 2 of his residency, while we have an exciting new artist-in-residence joining us in the first half of the year. Plus, *Pickle Party* will finally have its stage debut in September!

Of course, none of this would be possible without our larger Tuckshop community. Big hugs to all you wonderful humans — for your gifts (food, glass jars, a whole bookshelf), for advocating for us and sharing our work, plus other acts of care too numerous to name. Thank you for being a part of this community of Guniangs and Gín-Ás!

Love,  
Practice Tuckshop Guniangs



# HERE'S OUR 2024 IN A NUTSHELL!

◆ OUR HUMANS ◆ OUR HUMANS ◆ OUR HUMANS ◆ OUR HUMANS ◆

# 5

Tuckshop Guniangs  
(plus the Practice Kampung!)



# 275

Recess Time  
participants

# 3

Artists-In-  
Residence



# 44

Programmes

# 123

Volunteers in our  
*Pickle Pop-Up*  
community  
Telegram group







**OPEN UP CONVERSATIONS  
ON SUSTAINABILITY**



**REDUCE  
WASTE**



**PROMOTE  
SOCIAL  
COHESION**

**THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS**

**THE POWER OF ART TO..**



**BUILD STRONG FAMILY TIES**



**DEVELOP OUR ARTISTS AND SUPPORT OUR  
SINGAPORE ARTS COMMUNITY**



**DEVELOP NEW AUDIENCES FOR THE ARTS**



THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..



**OPEN UP  
CONVERSATIONS ON  
SUSTAINABILITY**

Launched bookable versions of *Recess Time* and *Pickle Pop-Up* for companies and schools for CSR workshops/ learning journeys.





*"SUCH JOY to be able to share my eco-theatre performances and practices. Depending on the audience, each presentation is different because the content is customised accordingly. However, what's common is that I mostly get to talk about the super cool artists and communities I've worked with from Singapore, Southeast Asia, Australia and America. Each show takes a VILLAGE. Especially when it undertakes ecological priorities so as to allow eco-creativity to thrive."*

— Ang Xiao Ting, Programmer, Practice Tuckshop

We were also invited to share about Practice Tuckshop at various panels and sharings — locally and internationally!



- Alternative Ecology: The Community: Sustainability Symposium
- Singapore Art Week
- Pickles and Chicken: Stories of Food and Sustainability
- National Library Board, Beyond Text
- Welcome Lunch for Esplanade Contemporary Performing Arts Research Residency
- Trans/Mission 2024 Keynote
- University of the Arts, Singapore
- Open Talk: An Ecological Approach to artistic creation through Ecoscenography and Eco Theatre
- Gyunnetk Arko Theatre, Korea
- Green Stages 2024 Esplanade — Theatres on the Bay
- School Of The Arts, Singapore
- Sustainable Theatre-Making in Singapore
- Singapore Writers Festival





*"Had an amazing time learning about the food supply chain Singapore (a unique process compared to other countries) and areas of wastage that the organisation is working towards controlling with a positive spin. It was a fun meal with laughs, good conversations and some delicious food!"*

— Nael Zuberi, Participant (Recess Time: Collinson)



THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..



**REDUCE WASTE**

Transformed **300kg of produce** destined for landfills into **275 Recess Time** meals + more than **100 jars of pickles, preserves and ferments**.

We've also sourced over **400 used glass jars** from our community!





*"We witnessed the circular economy in action, with the rescued food in our tummies, the repurposed napkins (from stage costumes) on our laps, the spirit of caring, sharing and spontaneous ideation. And left with the deep knowledge that **we are all part of an ecosystem that feeds us, and needs us to do better.**"*

— Jiehui Kia, Founder, Shin Seiki (*Recess Time: Shin Seiki*)



Photo by Joseph Nair (@roundthebout)



*Nasi Goreng Diplomacy:*  
Malaysia, Indonesia, Myanmar,  
The Philippines, Cambodia



# PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION

Through events and cross-industry dialogues, our programming created opportunities for people of different nationalities and backgrounds to meet.

THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..



*"So many people came forward to karaoke and the support from the crowd was tremendous. I could see everyone singing along, clapping and cheering the singers.*

*No one sounded bad as the crowd was so supportive. This is indeed a very inclusive arts event – different ages, races, nationalities – all participated."*

— Ethel Chong, Participant (Melon Garden)

*Melon Garden was attended by hundreds of Singapore Night Festival participants (aged 4-90)*





# BUILD STRONG FAMILY TIES

Requiring full participation from both adults and children, the family-centric *Play With: Pickles!* experience was designed to promote intergenerational bonding, while developing our children's character and confidence through edible play.

THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..



*"It was super interesting to see how the adults gain a better understanding of their children as they go through the process of pickling together. One child even refused to let his mum cut the cabbage, saying that her cutting was 'not nice, he cuts better!' His mum agreed and continued to let him cut!"*

— Priscill Koh, *Play With: Pickles!* Facilitator



THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..

***DEVELOP OUR ARTISTS  
AND SUPPORT OUR  
SINGAPORE ARTS COMMUNITY***

Now in our second year, our Artist-In-Residence programme supports the growth of artists from different disciplines and backgrounds, while our collaborations with CITRUS Fest were visited by 90 arts workers each night.



*"It's been a very rewarding journey with Practice Tuckshop and I thank them all for their support both creatively and logistically as well as my foreign & local collaborators over the last 6 months."*

— Chu Hao Pei, Artist-In-Residence





As an integral contributor of the Waterloo Street Arts Belt, our programmes function as an arts-forward third space for many non-art-goers, while theatre programmes offer an accessible first encounter to local arts.



# *DEVELOP NEW AUDIENCES FOR THE ARTS*

THIS YEAR, WE HARNESS THE POWER OF ART TO..





*"It's the 74<sup>th</sup> Recess Time and I've lost count of how many times I've been to them. Each one filling my tummy and soul to the brim. And **always an occasion to bring new people to meet these Guniangs and learn what they advocate for.**"*

— Ma Yanling, Participant (*Recess Time*)



Photo by Joseph Nair (@roundthebout)





# ◆◆ AND WE DO IT ALL THROUGH: ◆◆



**INTERDISCIPLINARY  
PERFORMANCES**



**RESEARCH AND  
EXPERIMENTATION  
IN CRAFT**



**CROSS-INDUSTRY  
EXCHANGES**





**INTIMATE AND DEEP  
ENGAGEMENT**



**CONSISTENT  
PLACEMAKING +  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**THOUGHTFUL  
DOCUMENTATION**



"Practice Tuckshop provides a gathering space for both artists and the street's residents; a place that offers both nourishment and stimulating ideas. Since its inception, it has advocated for green practices. When you bring together like-minded artists, there's no need to worry — interesting things are bound to happen..."

— Kuo Jian Hong, Artistic Director,  
The Theatre Practice



Thank you for joining us  
on this journey! See you  
in 2025!



# ◆ ◆ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ◆ ◆

## ◆ RECYCLE. REUSE. REGENERATE: ECOLOGICALLY-CONSCIOUS CREATION MODELS ◆

Instead of growing new programmes from scratch, many of Practice Tuckshop's works are created using a "spin-offs" model: maximise resources spent and experience gained by "upcycling" pre-existing IP.

This year, we developed three versions of *Pickle Pop-Up*: an adult-child experience for The Theatre Practice's *Berries Chinese Theatre Festival: Family Edition*, a sustainability-focused corporate workshop, and an arts education-centric learning journey for SOTA Literary Arts students. We also customised a new "private" version of *Recess Time* for corporate team-bonding and company dinners. Each event features an edible tablescape. Meanwhile, Tuckshop Guniang Xin developed the Kaypoh (Busybody)

Queen/King element as a stand-alone programme for *Makan the Change*, a food and sustainability-focused supper club.

We are also a key player in The Theatre Practice's approach to making works with a sustainability-focused mindset. R&D begins at Practice Tuckshop, before tried-and-tested ideas are scaled up and implemented on a bigger arena (main-stage productions, festivals, etc.) through the #PracticeGreen initiative. These projects and work processes were shared at the inaugural Green Stages symposium, and will be part of the upcoming Singapore edition of The Theatre Green Book!



# ◆ ◆ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR ◆ ◆

## ◆ EXPANDING AND EXTENDING RESEARCH: LEARNING WITH OUR ARTISTS-IN-RESIDENCE ◆

Beyond uplifting and supporting artists as a resource, our Artist-In-Residence programme has become a valuable avenue for Practice Tuckshop to extend our artistic explorations by working with artists of different backgrounds, practices and perspectives. These include: exploring food as material and context, interdisciplinary collaboration, documentation as art.

This year, we welcomed two new artists-in-residence, and saw a returning artist-in-residence who embarked on a longer second-phase of his residency:



**Kochabi Kitchen by Michelle Lee**  
(@kochabi.kitchen)

A former TV producer turned chef, food artist Michelle Lee's 6-month residency was her first opportunity at trialling a long-running F&B project.

Beyond refining her straits-inspired recipes, her residency also focused on developing an understanding of daily operations (sourcing, food production, service, etc.), and the long-term feasibility of such practices (labour, finances, etc.)

Michelle will continue developing her Kochabi Kitchen concept at The Lab by OwnselfMake Chef.





**Nasi Goreng  
Diplomacy by  
Chu Hao Pei**  
(@chu\_h\_p\_)

Visual artist and researcher Chu Hao Pei continued to develop his ongoing artistic project, *Nasi Goreng Diplomacy* as part of his long-term inquiry into the cultural and political nuances of rice.

Originally an interactive visual arts installation, the 6-month residency explored a new presentation format: public engagement sessions that combine communal cooking, eating and conversations between different Southeast Asian communities.

Each session was also documented, which includes a recap of topics discussed and Hao Pei's personal reflections as the programme's facilitator.



**Kai's by  
Kuah Kai Wen**  
(@drinkeatkw)

Returning for a second residency stint, food artist Kai Wen continues developing his practice of reinterpreting Southeast Asian ingredients through in-depth ingredient exploration, filtered through his background of French and Japanese cooking techniques.

As a food artist, Kai Wen has also collaborated on various programmes and outreach initiatives by Practice Tuckshop.

Kai's residency at Practice Tuckshop will continue into 2025.



*"On the final night of the Singapore Night Festival, I sat outside Practice Space with a glass of Prosecco, watching people come and go. Inside the 'Melon Garden', men, women of all ages, shared their feelings and stories through timeless love songs. At 10pm sharp the speakers turned off, as if the theatre was a magic pumpkin carriage..."*

— Seng Jing Fei, Lianhe Zaobao



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