

四位青年艺术奖得主 传承艺术的动力

四位生于1980年代的本地青年艺术工作者，获得今年国家艺术理事会颁发的青年艺术奖。他们是青年指挥黄佳俊、独立舞蹈艺术工作者雅拉（Yarra lleto）、视觉艺术工作者陈珂睿，以及诗人、编辑小叶子。青年艺术奖得主个别可得2万元奖金，以资助他们从事艺术创作。年轻得奖者接受《联合早报》记者访问，畅谈他们的艺术生涯和未来规划。

黄向京 王一鸣 / 报道

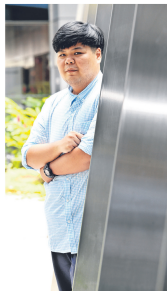
邱启聪 / 摄影



这几个星期黄佳俊跟不同国际乐团合作演出，担任指挥。（受访者提供）

陈珂睿（视觉艺术工作者，30岁） 探讨社会对身体的规范

视觉艺术工作者陈珂睿（前名陈科睿）意外自己会获得青年艺术奖，觉得奖项来得有点早，可能得承受周围人不必要的目光。然而，他受访时说，得奖是



陈珂睿从事表演、录像、电影与互动装置创作。

好的，奖金可以用以提升录像器材，或正在开展的创作计划。他也想到外面世界呼吸一下，认为“换个环境，有助于创作”。

陈珂睿是拉萨尔艺术学院兼职讲师，2014年考获视觉艺术硕士学位。他曾参与西班牙科尔多瓦、法国卢瓦尔当代艺术基金会和南洋理工大学当代艺术中心入驻艺术工作者计划。

创作最初源于个人故事

陈珂睿从事表演、录像、电影与互动装置创作，主题环绕记忆、身体和惯性打转。录像《现在运动，以后装入尺寸一样的棺材》探讨社会对于身体的规范与约束、健身与有效率身体的迷恋。以英语歌曲“I'm a Steamroller Baby”为灵感的同名录像装置，重现当兵时过量的身量如何通过运动、号码和唱歌进行再“雕塑”。《50个定义我人生的号码》通过一系列数字，看被标签化和数码化的身体。

陈珂睿说，其实身体不是他

唯一的关注点，但创作最初源于个人故事。陈珂睿从小爱吃，觉得吃东西让他非常快乐，家人爱着他，任他吃喝，结果体重超重，常被同学嘲笑欺负。当兵时，他的体重又成为问题。他那个超重兵团得受训26个星期，普通团仅九个星期。

他说：“在新加坡，人人身体被规范为机器，肥胖身体被视为缺乏效率的机器，我关心的是，在社会与政治制约下的我们怎样看自己，谈的其实是人的处境。我们迷恋健身，将自己的身体调整成最标准或最理想的身体。如果你不跟随大众，就有可能比大众死得早。”

2013年，他成功减肥30公斤，目前体重维持120公斤，感觉到体重减轻，有益健康。

因爸爸闲来喜欢四处寻找野生榴槿，陈珂睿一次跟他他去寻宝，拍成短片《捡榴槿》，在2016年新加坡国际电影节上播映。他透露，下一部短片将以婚礼为主题。

雅拉（独立舞者，35岁） 启发老人小孩参与舞蹈活动



来自澳大利亚的独立舞者雅拉扎根新加坡，教育并推广舞蹈。

雅拉（Yarra lleto）出生于澳大利亚，2001年移居本地，以新移民身份获青年艺术奖。更值得一提的是，她的先生卓子豪也于2012年获得两个奖项。

雅拉2008年毕业于拉萨尔艺术学院，随即加入同年成立的本地现代舞团舞者舞团（T.H.E）主团。她和卓子豪都是该舞团成员。直至2015年离开舞者舞团前，身为舞者的她，参加了团内在亚洲和欧洲的所有重要巡演，与梅卓燕、邢亮、张晓雄、Boi Sakti等海内外知名编舞合作过。

此外，她也涉猎编舞，为舞者舞团主团和二团在“M1触·现代舞剧”上编创作品，主要作品包括2011年的“Spare Rm”、2012年的“Accidentally on Purpose”、2013年的

“perfect strangErs”、2014年的“Noted with Thanks”、2016年的“Against”等。

2015年，她加入另一本地舞团化生艺术团（Arts Fission），以资深舞者身份广泛参与社区舞蹈推广，用表演、沟通与影像等手段启发老年族群参与舞蹈活动；除老年人，3至15岁的儿童和少年，也是她舞蹈普及的对象。

时刻保持舞者状态

2016年4月，雅拉成为独立舞蹈艺术工作者，在拉萨尔艺术学院、新加坡国立大学、城市芭蕾（City Ballet）等院校任教或编创，今年刚在由艺理会发起的Dance Nucleus“孵化”项目中与卓子豪共同发表新作。雅拉受访时说：“在舞团中

工作时必然要以表演为重，拥有自由身份后，时间安排上得更加紧凑，我可能上午授课，下午编导，晚上或周末与小学员练舞，我要更加合理地管理自己，尤其是自己的身体。我是那种很肢体性的老师，我喜欢做很多示范，来引导和启发学员。即使不是全职舞者，我也坚持让自己时刻保持在一舞者状态，这是对学员的负责。”

独立艺术工作者的生计问题

独立艺术工作者，名称听起来来自自由度，雅拉以自己的经验来说，独立艺术工作者的生计始终是关键问题。

“没有全职工作，就没有固定月薪。”雅拉说：“而且社会上给我这个年龄段的女性不少压力，还好我已经结婚了，虽然目前还没有孩子，但可能也要面临子女的养育问题。庆幸的是，我拥有家庭的支持，即使如此，还是要非常注意自己的经济状况。”

与生计话题相关，她发现本地年轻舞蹈学员的一个特殊共性：许多怀有舞蹈梦想的年轻人会在大学修读一个职业应用度高的学科，同时不忽略业余的舞蹈学习，拿到大学学位后，再投入舞蹈工作。雅拉说，本地仍有大批对舞蹈抱有热情的年轻人，但全职工作机会仍有限。

雅拉希望有关当局能为舞者和编舞提供更多工作，也继续引导舞蹈，并协助开拓新观众。

Four Young Artist Award winners inherit the power of art

Born in the 1980s, four of Singapore's young local art practitioners were the recipients of the National Arts Council's annual Young Artist Award. They are music conductor Wong Kah Chun, independent dance practitioner Yarra Iletto, visual artist Kray Chen Kerui, and poet Joshua Ip. The Young Artist Award winners each received \$20k to help fund their creative art practice. The recipients sat down with Zaobao to discuss their artistic careers and future plans.

Photo: Over several weeks, Wong Kah Chun will serve as conductor for a number of international orchestras.

Kray Chen Kerui (Visual artist, 30 years old)

Exploring social norms relating to the body

Photo: Kray's body of work includes performances, videos, films and interactive installations

Receiving the Young Artist Award was a bit unexpected for visual artist, Kray Chen Kerui. He felt that the timing was a bit premature, and that he now has to deal with the unwanted pressure that comes with the spotlight. Nevertheless, when interviewed, he said that the award was a positive event as the prize money can be used to enhance his current stock of video equipment, fund a new project, or aid him in his travels as "a change of environment is good for creativity".

Obtaining his MA Fine Arts from LASALLE College of the arts in 2014, Kray is now a part-time lecturer at his alma mater. He has participated in multiple art residences in Hangar (Spain), FRAC Des Pays De La Loire (France) and NTU-CCA Singapore.

Created works draw from one's personal stories

Kray creates performances, videos, films and interactive installations with themes that revolve around memories, body and inertia. His video, *Exercise Now and Fit a Standard Size Coffin Late* (2016), explored social norms related to the body and fitness. Following this same thread, another work of Kray's saw him draw upon his memories as an overweight soldier during National Service. Through a video installation, Kray captured the feelings he had then when he would sing *I'm a Steamroller Baby*, with his fellow obese comrades, on an endless loop whilst they march. Another work of his, *50 4-Digits Numbers To Define My Life in Chronological Order* (2016), explored how dates associated with one's life can affect the bodily experience on Earth.

While the body is a recurrent theme in Kray's work, his main focus is rather on one's personal stories.

Since he was a young boy, Kray loved eating because that was when he felt the happiest. His family thus pampered him, allowing him to eat or drink whatever he wanted. This resulted in him being overweight, and earned him

endless amount of teasing from his classmates. Kray's weight was also a problem during his military service, and he had to undergo 26 weeks of training compared to the usual nine weeks.

Kray said, "In Singapore, people's bodies are seen as machines, and fat bodies are seen as inefficient machines. My concern is how we view ourselves under social and political restrictions. Today, we are obsessed with exercise, subjecting our bodies to adhere to some standard or the most ideal shape. The message is that if you don't follow the crowd, you may just die sooner."

In 2013, Kray successfully lost 30kg and currently maintains his weight at around 120kg. He now feels healthier than before. With that said, there was one time he accompanied his father to on a hunt for wild durians. He decided to record his experience into a short film, *Durian Picking*, that was shown at *Singapore International Film Festival 2016*. Kray revealed that his next short film project will focus on the subject of weddings.

Yarra lleto (Independent dancer, 35 years old)

Inspiring both young and old to dance

Photo: Originally from Australia, independent dancer Yarra lleto came to Singapore to study, promote and teach dance.

Yarra lleto was born in Australia, and in 2001, she relocated to Singapore where she obtained citizenship and received the Young Artist Award. Mention should be made that her husband, Zhuo Zihao, was also a recipient of the Young Artist Award back in 2012.

Yarra graduated from LASALLE College of the Arts in 2008. The same year, she joined the local contemporary dance troupe, T.H.E. Dance Company, as a lead dancer and founding member. Before she left T.H.E. Dance Company in 2015, she participated in all of the troupe's major performance tours throughout Asia and Europe, working with well-known choreographers including Mei Zhuo Yan, Xing Liang, Zhang Xiao Xiong and Boi Sakti.

Beyond dancing Yarra is also involved in choreography, being in-charge of choreographing works for T.H.E. Dance Company and its youth wing, T.H.E. Second Company, during the *M1 Contact Contemporary Dance Festival*. For instance, in the 2011 edition of the Festival, she choreographed *Spare Rm*; in subsequent editions, she created several original pieces that included *Accidentally on Purpose* (2012), *perfect strangErs* (2013), *Noted with Thanks* (2014) and *Against* (2016).

In 2015, Yarra joined another local dance troupe, Arts Fission, as a Senior Artist. In that capacity, she combined her knowledge and experience as a dancer, with performances and film imagery, to inspire the elderly and youths to participate in dance activities.

Maintaining a constant state of dance

In April 2016, Yarra became an independent dance practitioner, and took up teaching engagements at LASALLE College of the Arts, the National University of Singapore, and the City Ballet Academy. This year at the National Arts Council's *Dance Nucleus*, Yarra and her husband co-published several new works.

During our interview, Yarra said, "When working in a dance troupe, the focus is centred around the performance but after going solo, planning my time takes up a lot more of my attention. For instance, in the morning, I will have to teach a class. Then in the afternoon, I will have to choreograph a routine, and on nights or weekends, I will have dance rehearsals with kids. I have to properly manage myself now, not only my time, but especially my body. I'm a very hands-on kind of teacher as I like to do a lot of demonstrations to guide and inspire my students. Despite not being a full-time dancer, I strive to keep myself in a constant state of dance. This is my responsibility to my students."

Work-life balance of an independent dancer

While being an independent arts practitioner may sound like it has a high degree of freedom, Yarra shared that her experience has been otherwise since work-life balance is a major issue.

She also added, "Without a full-time job, there is no stable income. Additionally, society puts a great amount of pressure on women my age. Fortunately, I'm already married. While my family supports me, I still need to pay a great deal of attention to my financial situation."

Yarra has also discovered a common trend among her local dance students. That is, many of them with dreams of becoming professional dancers are often enrolled in science classes in university. Consequently, they do not have the time to practice their craft. Once they have gotten their degrees and intend to go back into dance, they thus found it tough since the body is no longer in optimum form. Compounding the problem is the fact that Singapore has a large number of young passionate dancers, and with only so few opportunities for full-time job placements.

Yarra therefore hoped that organisations can provide more work for dancers and choreographers. In addition, she felt that efforts on promoting dance to a broader audience should be continued as this will cultivate greater interest to the art.