

Arts Resume

Rita Wu

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Summary

Interdisciplinary artist and plein-air painter with extensive experience in watercolor. Passionate about creating art that bridges nature, cultural narratives, and natural heritage.

- First and only teenage mentee of Singaporean master watercolorist Ong Kim Seng.
- Recipient of six national and international awards, including exhibitions in the UK and Singapore.

Awards & Honors

2025 YoungArts Winner with Distinction in Design Arts

Top ~1.5% of 11,000 applicants. Received the highest honor from YoungArts, one of the most prestigious U.S. national programs recognizing exceptional emerging talent in the arts. This year, winners were selected from nearly 11,000 applications across 10 artistic disciplines—classical music, dance, design, film, jazz, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing. As part of this recognition, I'll participate in National YoungArts Week 2025 in Miami, engaging in interdisciplinary workshops and receiving mentorship from leading artists in their fields. During this event, I'll also be eligible for financial awards of up to \$10,000 and considered for nomination as a 2025 U.S. Presidential Scholar in the Arts (<https://youngarts.org/>).

Additional Awards/Honors:

- 1st Place, Singapore Watercolour Society 16th National Junior Watercolour Competition 2024 (1/1100)
- Silver Award (2024), Bronze Award (2023), Asian Art Association World Heritage Painting Competition (International)
- Finalist, David Shepherd Wildlife Art Competition, 2023 (top ~11% of 1,400 submissions)
- Commendation Award, Singapore International Art Contest 2023 (International)
- Interscholastic Association of Southeast Asian Schools Art Delegate (Grades 10, 11, 12): Selected as 1 of 8 traveling delegates from over 130 entries to represent Singapore American School at the IASAS Art Showcase, hosted by the International School of Kuala Lumpur (G12). Artworks exhibited across Southeast Asia, including International School Manila (G10) and Jakarta International School (G11).
- National Art Honor Society; Handcrafted 3D props for large-scale events (Prom, Halloween, cultural celebrations, & exhibitions). Commissioned by MATE and VEX Robotics to design banners for the annual international fair. Produced educational & engaging media to celebrate contemporary artists.

Exhibitions:

- David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation | Wildlife Artist of the Year Exhibition 2023: Selected as 1 of 157 finalists from over 1,400 submissions in this prestigious international competition, which celebrates exceptional talent in wildlife art and supports global conservation efforts. Artwork was exhibited at the Mall Galleries in London from September 12–16, 2023, a renowned international venue.
- Singapore Watercolor Society 55th Annual Exhibition – Colourful Splashes 2024: Artwork was exhibited at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Center alongside works from over 20 international artists and Singapore Watercolor Society (SWS) members. The exhibition, held from September 7–12, 2024, was officially opened by Mr. Edwin Tong, Singapore’s Minister for Culture, Community and Youth.