



## HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP 2010-11 Call for Applications and Guidelines

### HERITAGE CONSERVATION CENTRE FELLOWSHIP

The Heritage Conservation Centre (HCC) in Singapore is inviting conservation professionals specializing in paintings to apply for a 6-month research fellowship.

The Conservation Fellowship was established in 2009 to contribute to the conservation and research into the National Heritage Board (NHB) Collections. The goal of the 2010-11 fellowship will be to conduct research into the painting techniques, materials and practice of Singapore artist Liu Kang and the most suitable methods for the conservation of his paintings.

Liu Kang (1911-2004) is regarded as one of the most significant and influential artists in Singapore's Art History. The NHB holds a collection of over 1,000 paintings by Liu Kang, of which 134 are oil paintings; and many of the latter show bad degradation phenomena which seem to be associated with the artist technique and its response to Singapore's tropical climate. The results of the research will influence conservation treatments and approaches for a retrospective exhibition on Liu Kang curated by the National Art Gallery of Singapore, which will be on show at the Singapore Art Museum in June 2011.

### GUIDELINES FOR FELLOWSHIP

#### I. Fellowship Scope

The work scope for the Conservation Fellowship will comprise of the following:

- a. To undertake literature review on artist literature and the behaviour of painting materials in tropical climates;
- b. To survey the materials and condition of the Liu Kang oil paintings in the NHB collections and in other collections when appropriate;
- c. To undertake in-depth examination of representative paintings with equipment available at HCC (UV, IR, and polarising microscope);
- d. To source analytical services and undertake materials analysis in collaboration with outside laboratories when required;
- e. To identify consistencies in the use of paintings materials and their causes of deterioration;
- f. To provide recommendations for the conservation of the Liu Kang collection.

#### II. Eligibility

Fellow should meet the following criteria:

- a. Graduate of a recognized graduate-level program in conservation, with a



- specialization in paintings.
- b. A proven record of research and writing ability, as well as English-language skills, is required.
- c. Demonstrated knowledge of conservation principles, chemistry and museum practices.
- d. A minimum of 5 years experience in conservation of paintings is desirable.
- e. Familiarity with analytical techniques used in the study and identification of artist materials, including the use of polarising microscope.
- f. Ability to work independently.
- g. Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- h. Knowledge of South East Asian Art History will be an advantage.

### III. Stipend

A stipend of S\$21,000 plus a travel allowance of S\$3,000 will be offered for the entire fellowship period. Research fellows are held liable for local taxes according to tax regulations in Singapore. Please refer to the FAQ section on page 6 for more information.

### IV. Award period

The fellowship will be awarded for any 6-month period in between Sept/Oct 2010 and end of March 2011, depending on the time availability of the applicant.

### V. Duties of the Research Fellow

Conservation fellow will spend most of the time in the HCC premises, unless required to travel for meetings, documentation or reference work to other premises within Singapore, such as the National Art Gallery or the Singapore Art Museum.

Fellow will report to Head of Paintings Section and work closely with conservation staff and with Liu Kang exhibition curator and other curatorial staff familiar with the Liu Kang collection.

Fellow will share the research findings through monthly progress reports and sharing sessions to engage rest of paintings conservation team in the progress of the research.

At the conclusion of the fellowship period, conservation fellow will be required to:

- a. Submit a detailed research report;
- b. Give a presentation for HCC/TNAGS staff;
- c. Produce a paper to be presented in a suitable international conference or conservation journal. The choice of which would be a joint decision between HCC and the Fellow.



## VI. Fellowship programme outline

The Fellow will be expected to work independently and prepare a research timeline and schedule. However, as a general overview, it is foreseen that the division of time will comprise the following outline:

- Month 1 - 2: Orientation and literature search & review
- Familiarisation with HCC Conservation section, equipment and facilities.
  - Introduction to Museum Plus database and NHB Libraries
  - Literature review on published material on Liu Kang and Singapore Art History
  - Literature review on behaviour of western materials in tropical climates
  - Brief introductory viewing of the Liu Kang collection stored at HCC
  - Source any available oral history records, archival materials, etc
  - Source any collected artist materials and related information from artist studio
  - Meetings with TNAGS Curators
  - Meetings with HCC staff (and ex-staff if available) familiar with the collection and previous conservation treatments
- Month 2 - 4: Data Collection
- Conduct survey of 134 paintings in the collection
  - Undertake detailed examination of paintings materials and condition with available equipment
  - Collect samples and source services for analysis at outside laboratories
  - Conduct interviews with late artist's family if appropriate
- Month 5: Data Analysis
- Compare, study, and evaluate all data collected over the previous months. Collate data in a comprehensive way, including any results from scientific analysis.
- Month 6: Final report
- Preparation and writing of final research report that includes discussion of results and an overview of significant findings
  - Preparation of a paper to be submitted to suitable international conference or conservation journal.

## APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

Interested candidates must submit the following materials in English:

1. Transcripts of both undergraduate and graduate courses of academic study
2. A curriculum vitae including basic biographical information, current and permanent addresses, telephone numbers, and a description of previous conservation experience.
3. Offprints of any publications or lectures.
4. A short statement of the applicant's interests and intent in applying for the fellowship.
5. Two supporting letters of recommendation from conservation professionals familiar with the candidate's work, sent directly to the address below.



HERITAGE CONSERVATION  
CENTRE

Applications should be submitted to:

Ms. Janice Teng  
Assistant Manager, Conservation Services  
Heritage Conservation Centre  
32 Jurong Port Road  
Singapore 619104  
Republic of Singapore

Or email to: [janice\\_teng@nhb.gov.sg](mailto:janice_teng@nhb.gov.sg)

All applications should be submitted by 16<sup>th</sup> July 2010.



## HCC Conservation Fellowship 2010-11

### Frequently Asked Questions

**Q1: How may I learn more about the Liu Kang collection?**

The NHB online collections can be accessed on the website <http://www.sgcool.sg> though this site is not comprehensive.

**Q2: What are the resources in Singapore available for my research?**

HCC and Singapore Arts Museum offer the use of their library and collection as the primary resource besides other field based resources which Fellows will identify for their research. NHB also has interlibrary loan arrangements with the National Library of Singapore (<http://catalogue.nlb.gov.sg>), the libraries of National University of Singapore (<http://www.linc.nus.edu.sg>) and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (<http://www.iseas.edu.sg/library.html>).

**Q3: Will airfare be covered?**

Overseas fellows will receive a one-time relocation allowance of S\$3,000 which includes airfare allowance. This relocation allowance will be given to the fellow within the first week of the start of the fellowship.

**Q4: Is accommodation provided on top of the stipend?**

No, accommodation is not provided. The stipend amount goes towards all discretionary expenses in Singapore, including accommodation, meals, local transport, medical insurance, etc.

**Q5: Does HCC provide hostel accommodation?**

The HCC does not provide hostel accommodation. Fellows are responsible for arranging their own accommodation. However, HCC will provide fellow with some suggested accommodation options.

**Q6: May I ship my belongings to HCC?**

HCC does not accept personal belongings and cannot be liable for them.

**Q7: Do I need a special visa to go Singapore?**

Visitors from most countries do not need a special visa to enter Singapore, except for the countries listed on the website of the Singapore Immigration and Checkpoints Authority ([http://www.ica.gov.sg/services\\_centre/overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165](http://www.ica.gov.sg/services_centre/overview.aspx?pageid=252&secid=165)). The Singapore tourist visa is for 30 days, before which the research fellow will receive an employment permit.



**Q8: When should I travel to Singapore in the event that I am awarded the fellowship?**

Once the candidate is informed of his/her successful application, the National Heritage Board will arrange for the employment permit. As the award is subjected to the successful application of the employment permit, it is not advisable for the research fellow to travel to Singapore until the employment permit is granted. Research fellows will be informed when the employment permit has been obtained and they can start making their travel arrangements.

**Q9: Will I be taxed on the stipend?**

Yes, research fellows are held liable to pay local taxes according to tax regulations in Singapore. The stipend for the final month will be withheld for a period of 30 days for taxation purposes. The withheld amount after taxes will be returned to the research fellows after tax clearance from the local tax authority, the Inland Revenue Authority of Singapore (IRAS). Please refer to the website of IRAS for more information:  
<http://www.iras.gov.sg/irashome/page04.aspx?id=1190>.