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Not your usual school art

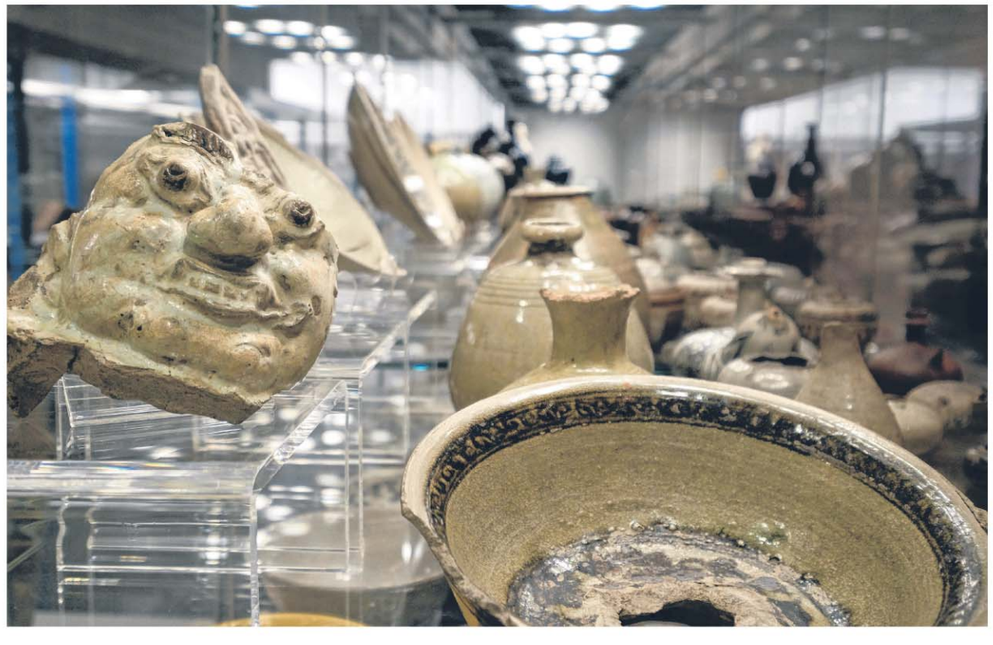
NUS Museum
The Resource Gallery, Scroll & Paper Study, and the Resource Library

NUS Museum might be small in size but it's big in historical resources, from artefacts to scholarly texts. After a major renovation of its third level last year, it now displays classical sculptures and Chinese ceramics in glass cabinets, alongside South-east Asian art objects collected by early university curators in Singapore.

These include collections by Michael Sullivan, William Willetts and Lu Yaw, which formed the seed collection of the university. The open storage is to facilitate research and educational access – after all, it is a university museum and serves the academic community.

The Scroll and Paper Study features key works such as woodblock prints by Singaporean artists from the 1950-60s, including a large selection by Lim Mu Hue. There are also Chinese classical paintings and a big collection of Vietnamese war drawings and posters (mid-1950s to mid-1970s) on loan from the Ambassador Dato' N Parameswaran Collection.





Clockwise from above: After a major renovation of its third level last year, the museum now displays classical sculptures and Chinese ceramics in glass cabinets, alongside S-E Asian art objects collected by early university curators.



Meanwhile, the Resource Library features publications on South-east Asian art history, exhibition catalogues and art auction catalogues. A separate section houses publications donated by the art historian TK Sabapathy.

The museum also offers space for artists to incubate ideas via its award-winning Prep-Room Initiative.

In 2011, the Prep-Room Initiative enabled artist Charles Lim to create his *In Search of Raffles Light* project which was housed in the museum in late 2013. Lim went on to represent Singapore in the 2015 Venice Biennale.

Says Siddharta Perez, the museum's assistant curator: "The hope is to show to the visitors that ideas for a project takes shape, over time, by bringing into play objects or textual information, with curators working actively with partners that may include academicians, artists and participating students.

"For the general visitors it is exciting for them to see how curatorial ideas are seeded and developed."

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