

**SPEECH BY NUSS PRESIDENT MR EDDIE LEE
AT NUSS PAINT-A-PORTRAIT PROJECT UNVEILING AND LUNCHEON
21 NOVEMBER 2018, WEDNESDAY
12PM AT KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE**

1. Address the Audience

Good afternoon.

- Professor Tommy Koh, Patron of the NUSS Paint-A-Portrait Project and NUSS Advisory Panel member
- Management Committee members
- Past Presidents
- Paint the Portrait Panel members

Ladies and Gentlemen

- Thank you for taking the time to join us for today's unveiling of the portraits of the Past Presidents of NUSS, **Mr Tan Siang Chik, Mr Clarence Lim Soo Hwee, Mr Lai Kim Seng and Mr Chandra Mohan and late Dr V Thambillai**

A warm welcome to the children of late Dr Thambipillai, Miss Sivayogini and Dr Sivarajah, who have flown in specially from Australia to witness the unveiling of their late father's portrait.

2. About the Paint-A-Portrait Project

As you know, NUSS had its humble beginning in 1954 with 44 members. We now have more than 16,000 members. The Society has grown not only in numbers but also in stature, our members are respected for being generous and gracious and this is attributed to the able and selfless Management Committees led by the Presidents.

We set up the Legacy Wall in 2014 to honour our past Presidents through the permanent display of their portraits.

The Project also presents an opportunity for the Society to engage with the local arts community. We have commissioned 12 young artists to paint portraits of 19 past Presidents in the past cycles of the Project.

3. Introduce Paint-A-Project 2018 Cycle

This year, 15 artists responded to our call-for-invitations which was sent to art colleges, polytechnics, junior colleges and various art platforms. The submissions were reviewed by our Panel Members who eventually decided to commission 4 artists. I'd like to thank our Panel Members for their time and effort taken to review the submissions and interview the artists. The Panel Members are:

- **Ms Juliana Lim** [*pause and ask Juliana to rise to be acknowledged*];
- **Dr Kenson Kwok** [*pause and ask Dr Kenson Kwok to rise to be acknowledged*];
- **Mr Low Sze Wee** [*pause and ask Mr Low Sze Wee to rise to be acknowledged*];
- **Associate Professor Victor Savage** [*pause and ask Assoc Prof Victor to **wave** to be acknowledged*];

and

- **Ms Hong Sek Chern** (who unfortunately cannot join us this afternoon as she is busy with the assessments of her students at La-Salle College of Fine Arts.

I would also like to extend our appreciation to the artists and their mentors for their dedication in producing these intricate portraits. Thank you:

- **Steve Chua**, who painted the portrait of Mr Lai Kim Seng, mentored by **Mr Low Sze Wee** [*pause and ask Steve to rise to acknowledge*];
- **Atin Yeo** who painted the portrait of Mr Chandra Mohan and mentored by **Dr Kenson Kwok** [*pause and ask Atin to rise to acknowledge*];
- **Chee Kia** who painted the portrait of **Dr V Thambipillai** [*pause and ask Chee Kia to rise to acknowledge*];
- And last but not the least, **Leslie Low** who painted the portraits of Mr Tan Siang Chik and Mr Clarence Lim Soo Hwee [*pause and ask Leslie to rise to acknowledge*];
- Both Chee Kia and Leslie are mentored by **Hong Sek Chern**

4. Special Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to Professor Tommy Koh for your support as the Patron of the Paint-A-Portrait Project. As we all know, Professor Tommy Koh is a great supporter of the arts in Singapore, and we are grateful for your advice always.

5. Conclusion

I hope you had enjoyed these new portraits as well as the portraits of the previous past Presidents unveiled earlier.

Thank you for joining us today, and I wish you a pleasant afternoon ahead.