



Singapore Living Galleries - Photography Gallery  
Images of New Additions

A photo-display by The Standard Chartered Bank

With a recent sponsorship from Standard Chartered Bank, a new photo display in the Photography Gallery will feature the individuals and families behind the institutions that have witnessed and contributed to the nation's growth and development over the years. The new addition to the National Museum's permanent gallery pays tribute to the prominent businessmen and families responsible for these institutions. Photographs taken by the renowned Lee Brothers Studio and of the Haw Par family, as well as images contributed by the great-granddaughter of Lim Nee Soon, are some of the photographs that will be on display.

Interspersed among these photographs will be those of the lesser-known individuals and families whose lives had, in some ways, been shaped by the generosity, skills and enterprise of these pioneers, thus capturing that elusive relationship between the elites and the masses, as well as the changing social landscape of Singapore in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

	<p>Chinese Children Lee Brothers Studio, 1910 Lee Hin Ming Collection Image © National Archives of Singapore</p> <p>The Lee brothers came from a family of photography background. Their renowned studio, located along Hill Street, attracted a wide diversity of clients.</p>
	<p>Haw Par Family Portrait, 1950s National Museum of Singapore Collection Image © National Museum of Singapore</p> <p>The Haw Par family was renowned for its Tiger Balm brand, a Chinese ointment remedy popularised by the brothers, Aw Boon Haw and Aw Boon Par. The brothers were also well-known for their generosity. Aw Boon Haw funded school-building projects during the 20<sup>th</sup> century and contributed to China's war efforts against the Japanese. He also set up Haw Par Villa (or Tiger Balm Gardens) to share the Chinese culture and folklore with the community.</p>



Lim Nee Soon with family members at Marsiling Villa, 1930  
Image © Joanna Tan Siok Lian

Lim Nee Soon, a philanthropist, co-founded the Chinese High School and headed both Thong Chi Yi Yuen Hospital as well as Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce. A renowned pineapple planter and rubber factory owner, Lim played a significant role in the development of rubber plantations in Nee Soon area.



Lim Chit Geck with sisters and foster daughter, Eva See, on board Conti Verde, 1937  
Image © Joanna Tan Siok Lian

Lim Chit Geck was the eldest daughter of Lim Nee Soon. She was married to Oei Tjong Tiong, the son of Oei Tjong Ham – a Chinese businessman prominent in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.



Yeow Meng Cheow and family, 1950s  
Donated by Lucy Yeow  
National Museum of Singapore Collection  
Image © National Museum of Singapore

Singaporean Yeow Meng Cheow was known for many achievements and innovations in several industries in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. As a famous outboard motor racer, Yeow won two categories in his *Sea Queen II* at Singapore's first few races held at Pasir Panjang in 1953, when speedboat racing was a craze.

### **The Legacy of Willie Phua**

The photographs that will be on display trace the period of Willie Phua's work as a cameraman in Asia from the early 1960s till the 1990s. The donations include black and white photographs of Willie Phua as a young man working with what would now be regarded as somewhat primitive film cameras, as well as pictures of several important local news events that he covered, such as the tragic Bukit Ho Swee squatter fire in 1963 and the racial riots in 1964 and 1969. One of the film cameras that will also be display was used by Willie Phua during the Vietnam War in 1972, when a South Vietnamese patrol boat on which he was travelling on was attacked by Vietcong rocket fire.



*Konfrontasi* (Indonesian Confrontation), 1965  
Image © Willie Phua Collection

Willie Phua races past a police officer to capture the terror bombing attacks during *Konfrontasi*. This took place in support of President Sukarno's opposition to the formation of the Federation of Malaysia: the merging of Singapore, Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak.



Camera Collection, c. 1980  
Image © Willie Phua Collection

Willie Phua is seen here photographed with his cameras and lenses at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) office in Singapore.



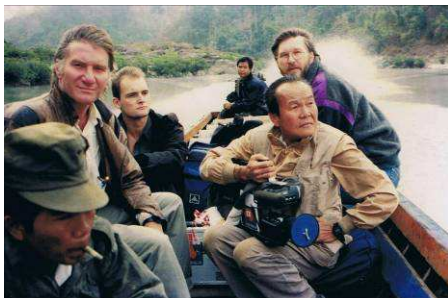
Filming Khmer Rouge Soldiers, 1983  
Image © Willie Phua Collection

Willie Phua films a unit of the Khmer Rouge soldiers at the Cambodian-Thai border. The soldiers, then part of the Democratic Kampuchea forces, were parading for the return of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.



Tiananmen Square Protest, 1989  
Image © Max Uechtritz

Willie Phua films the Tiananmen Square protest before the military coup in Beijing.



Boat Ride to Mannerplaw, Burma, 1992  
Image © Joe Phua

Willie Phua and Australian foreign correspondents travelled by speed boat from Thailand to Mannerplaw, Burma to visit the Karen minority. The group stayed in hillside villages in Burma.