

SUN YU-LI (孙宇立)

Artist (May 25, 1948, China)

Sun Yu-li Sculptures

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About

Sun Yu-li is one of Singapore's leading artists. He has a distinctive style, unique and innovative technique. Yu-li is an active artist who has put Singapore on the world map with overseas installations and exhibitions.

Yu-li gives back to community through charity efforts, educational outreach and advisory roles. Yu-li constantly reaches out to other arts groups (dancers, musicians, theatre groups) to stage new forms of artistic expression. He strives to bring art to people with initiatives like the Chingay Art Float, PA Talent Musical, SMRT EZ-Link cards, National postal stamps, National coins and KrisShop Gift Pack.

Yu-li is the 2016 Dayawati Modi Award recipient for his outstanding contributions to the field of Fine Arts.

Education/Professional Qualifications

University of Illinois, USA, Master of Urban Planning

Catholic University of America, USA, Master of Architecture

Tung-Hai University, Taiwan, China, Bachelor of Architecture

Registered Architect, NSW, Australia

Registered Architect, Taiwan, ROC

Arts Training/Membership/Positions Held

Tutelage under Professor YuYu Yang, renowned Taiwanese sculptor	(1985-1997)
Board Member, International Young Artists Exchange, TOPH	(Since 2013)
Founder and Director of Sculpture Square Singapore	(1996-2010)
National Arts Council Resources Panel member	(1998-2006)
Advisor to URA for Marina Bay Youth Olympic Park Singapore	(2006-2008)
Advisor to YuYu Yang Sculpture Park, Kaohsiung, Taiwan, China	(2006-2008)
Founder and Core Member of Emily Hill Artist Village	(Since 2006)
Advisor of Sculpture Society Singapore	(Since 2001)
Member of Modern Art Society Singapore	(Since 1998)
Member of Singapore Art Society	(Since 1996)

Artistic Intention

Sun's artistic pursuit of truth is through oriental and western reasoning in art. His art is an expression of abstract thought based on metaphysical principles. He is interested not in forms per se but in finding the form from which all forms originate.

The knowledge fields of topology, archaeology, metaphysics, linguistics and mathematics intrigue Sun.

His artistic mind is helped by the rational and logical instinct, which sets him apart from other artists.

His attempts are about the spark of insight that is attained when man seeks the highest knowledge. It is about the point of genesis when man experiences at first-hand the fullness of the origin of creativity and emotion.

Artistic Style

Yu-Li's sculptures have been described as "sculptures of the mind" and his style "an expression of abstract thought based on metaphysical principles". His works have simple shapes and forms, but there is deeper meaning behind his works.

As a former architect, Yu-li has a rational and logical mind and he has spent over past 30 years studying the fundamentals of metaphysics, linguistics, topology, geometry, archaeology and philosophy. He has developed the "Universal Language" in search of the "universal truth"; a search for the original state of form. Thus he is interested in not forms per se, but in finding the "form from which all forms originate" and he strives to create the "sculpture of all sculptures".

Artistic Technique

He has his own unique way of creating, inspired by the essence of the Universal Language: Beginning with the dot, forming a line, then progressing to a plane, and finally into volume. Just as grammar is basic and fundamental to language, Yu-li attempts to achieve the mutual communication between creator and viewer through the use of basic concepts and structural models. His technique is unique and innovative, and completely different from more traditional sculpting methods: For the shaping of moulds, he cuts basic shapes or "forms" from cardboards, stacks them and twists them into shapes and forms. He then turns these moulds into sculptures of various materials.

Recent Innovation

He continues to experiment with different techniques, instead of casting metal, his latest innovation is to incorporate LED light into his stainless steel sculptures. He hand-forges metal sheets, which makes him freer to incorporate metal frames inside his sculptures. This enables him to make his sculptures with greater dimensions yet stronger, lighter and easier to move around. In the past years, with NAC's support, he has been able to bring art to people in different places; with a mobile exhibition called "Arts on the Move" which saw his large art pieces exhibited at Sentosa, City Link, Paragon, Night Safari, Fullerton and One Esplanade. His sculpture "Heaven and Earth" traveled to Beijing and was exhibited at the China World Hotel and Kerry Centre from October 2007 to June 2008.

Selected Exhibitions / Events

- 2023.09 "Faith Work" charitable exhibition, Sentosa, Singapore
- 2023.09 "True Love" SSS annual exhibition, Singapore
- 2023.04 "Singapore Story" / Mural along Singapore River, Singapore
- 2023.01 Shoe Sculpture Biennale 2023, Singapore
- 2022.09 Singapore Sculpture Society – ReKindle, SCCC, Singapore
- 2022.01 Modern Art Society 57th Annual Exhibition, Singapore
- 2022.01 Openhouse Event, Tanglin Club, Singapore
- 2021.08 Singapore Sculpture Society, ReTHiNGing the Site, SCCC, Singapore
- 2021.07 HDB 60th Anniversary Community Week 2021, online, Singapore
- 2021.01 State of Consciousness: Early Works of Sun Yu-li, Esplanade Singapore (Solo)
- 2019.09 "FaithWorks" Catholic Foundation Fundraising Event, Singapore
- 2019.09 Sun Yu Li & Ramon Orlina, SG-PH@50 Charitable Art Exhibition, Manila, Philippines
- 2019.08 PASSionArts Festival – Bukit Gombak, Singapore
- 2019.06 Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre Exhibition, Singapore
- 2019.06 "Turning Point", Parklane, Singapore
- 2019.02 Chingay Finale Float (Dreams Funtasia – Bicentennial Edition), Singapore

2019.01 Singapore Sculpture Society – Wood Symposium, Pasir Ris Park-Singapore
 2018.04 Urban Planning Festival – Live Art Jamming, URA Centre, Singapore
 2017.12 “A Message from Outside”, Global Cultural Alliance, Singapore
 2017.05 London BAFTA Golden Gala, Charitable Auction, London
 2017.01 SSS International Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition, Singapore
 2016.12 Modern Art Society (MASS) Annual Show, Singapore
 2016.08 Fukushima Traumatized Children Art Workshop, Singapore
 2016.03 Monaco Royal Ball Charitable Auction, Hong Kong
 2016.01 Singapore Sculpture Society – Wood Symposium, Fort Canning Park-Singapore
 2015.03 SingaPlural “Celebrating Design”, Singapore
 2015.03 SHBA Charitable Auction at Resort World, Singapore
 2015.02 Chingay Prelude & Finale Float (Trees of Hope, Singapore Dreams), Singapore
 2014.06 PAssionArts Festival, Singapore
 2014.03 Tree of Hope, Youth Square, Hong Kong
 2014.01 Tree of Hope, iLight Marina Bay Art Festival, Singapore
 2013.08 Wishing Tree, Malay Heritage Center, Singapore
 2013.06 Love. Revolve The World, Painting Exhibition, Singapore Art Museum
 2012.12 The Wishing tree, Fete Des Lumieres Lighting Art Festival, Lyon France
 2012.10 Looking for You, Bratislava, Slovakia and Brono/Prague, Czech
 2012.06 Vivid Sydney, Passage to Happiness, NSW, Australia
 2012.01 Elephant Parade- Painting of Baby Emily and Baby Paragon
 2011.11 Helix, Fete Des Lumieres Lighting Art Festival, Lyon France
 2011.11 100 Friends, TCC the Gallery, Singapore
 2011.05 Vivid Sydney Lighting Festival, Australia
 2011.05 Sculpture Society 10th Anniversary show, Singapore
 2010.11 Stage Design for “Nut Cracker in Singapore”, musical, UCC, Singapore
 2010.10 In Celebration, iLight Marina Bay Art Festival, Singapore
 2010.10 47th Mass annual Exhibition, Singapore
 2010.04 “Quest” The Gallery at TCC, Singapore (Solo)
 2008.11 Asia on the Edge, Singapore
 2008.02 Chingay 2008 Art Float, Singapore
 2007.10 China World Hotel/Beijing Kerry Center, China (Solo)
 2006.05 Art on the Move, 6 prominent venues, Singapore (Solo)
 2004.01 Mapping the Universe (2003), Singapore (Solo)

Selected Public & Private Collections (1990 - Present)

“Cosmos” / digital paintings / 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(H) 6pcs / 1.5m(W) x 1.2m(H) 2pcs / Guoco Tower, Singapore	2023
“Moving Forward” / fibre glass in gold foil / 0.7m(W) x 1.6m(H) x 0.7m(D) / MBS Hotel, Singapore	2023
“Ever Ascending” / stainless steel / 2.2m(W) x 1.2m(H) x 2.2m(D) / Rembang, Indonesia	2022
“Morning Dew” / stainless steel / 1.2m(W) x 2.4m(H) x 1.2m(D) / Holland Road, Singapore	2022
“Trio” / stainless steel / 3pcs / 1.2m-4.0m(W) x 2.2m-3.6m(H) x 1.2m-2.0m(D) Raffles Hotel, Macau	2022
“Jubilation” / brass / 2.0m(W) x 2.2m(H) x 0.5m(D) / Holland Hill Condominium, Singapore	2020
“Friends” / Painted Stainless Steel / 30cm(W) x 18cm(H) x 15cm(D), Singapore Art Museum	2021
“a Drop” / stainless steel / 1.7m(W) x 4.0m(H) x 1.7m(D) / Wison Headqurter, Shanghai, China	2019
“Dreaming High” / Office Wall / 10.0m(L) x 2.1m(H) / Emulsion Paint Endowus, Singapore	2019
Artistic Intervention, LKY World City Summit / Murals 69m(L) x 2.5m(H) / 16 Totems / paint on canvas 220m2, with 800 participants Medellin, Colombia	2019
“Globe-Trotter” / stainless steel / 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(H) x 1.0m(D) Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre	
“Home” / stainless steel / 1.8m(W) x 2.1m(H) x 0.6m(D) Teck Ghee Community Club, Singapore	2018
“Family” – 160 Years Anniversary / stainless steel / 2.1m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 0.45m(D)	2018

KK Women's and Children's Hospital, Singapore	
"Friends from Afar" / Painted Stainless Steel / 1.8m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 0.6m(D)	2017
"In Conversation" / Fiberglass / 1.0m(W) x 2.0m(H) x 0.6m(D)	
MediaCorp Singapore	
"One Belt, One Road" / stainless steel and brass / 6 pcs of large public sculptures along Beijing 3rd Ring Road, China	2017
"Petai Symphony" / stainless steel / 3.0m(W) x 12.0m(H) x 1.8m(D)	2017
Duo Tower, Singapore	
"Togetherness" / paint on canvas / involving 1,000 NTUC First Campus Staff Participants / 3.0m(H) x 14.0m(L), Singapore	2017
"Love is ..." / Art Mosaic Mural / 2.0m(H) x 20.0m(L)	2016
Waterway Point, Singapore	
"Our Mosaic for NDP 51" / paint on canvas / involving 45,000 participants / 400.0m(W) x 2.1m(H), Singapore	2016
"Heaven & Earth" / Brass / 4.0m(W) x 2.1m(H) x 1.2m(D)	2016
Singapore	
"Passion Arts 2015" / paint on canvas / cover 10 HDB – block facades	2015
Singapore	
"Ocean Rhythm" / stainless steel / 1.8m(H) x 3.0m(W) x 2.1m(D)	2015
Singapore	
"Reaching High" / stainless steel / 5.8m(H) x 2.2m(W) x 2.2m(D)	2015
SEA Games Singapore	
"Yu Neng 80" / brass / 5.6m(W) x 2.2m(H) Yu	2015
Neng School, Singapore	
"With My Heart" / stainless steel / 2.2m(H) x 1.6m(W) x 1.6m(D)	2015
Yu Neng School, Singapore	
"Perpetually" / stainless steel/brass / 3pcs / each 2.4m(H) x 1.5m(W) x 1.5m(D)	2014
China Trust, Shanghai, China	
"Love Is" / stainless steel / 2.2m(H) x 2.2m(W) x 5.5m(D)	2014
Melbourne, Australia	
"Treble Clef" / stainless steel / 4.2m(H) x 2.2m(W) x 2.2m(D)	2014
Paterson II, Singapore	
"Tree of Hope" / stainless steel / 3.2m(H) x 6.5m(W) x 6.5m(D)	2014
Chai Wan, Hong Kong	
"Guardians" / stainless steel / 4pcs / each 3.6m(H) x 2.4m(W) x 1.2m(D)	2013
Shen Zhen, China	
"5 Element" / stainless steel/brass / 5pcs / each 2.4m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D)	2013
Mount Kiara Condominium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia	
"Space/Time Tunnel" / stainless steel / 3.0m(H) x 3.0m(W) x 8.0m(L)	2013
Suzhou Industrial Park MRT Station, Suzhou, China	
"Dot/Line/Plane" / digital printed paintings / 7pcs / each 1.2m(H) x 2.0m(W)	2012
DFG Bank, Singapore	
"Flying High" / stainless steel / 5pcs / 0.3m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D)	2012
Holland Collection Condominium, Singapore	
"Echo" / stainless steel / 3 pcs / 1.8m(H) x 0.6m(W) x 0.60(D)	2011
Hangzhou, China	
"Loose II" / brass / 2.0m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D)	2011
Marq Condominium, Singapore	
"Window of Hope" / brass / 4.5m(H) x 4.5m(W) x 5.5(W)	2010
Collyer Quay, Singapore	
"Cosmic Dance II" / digital paintings / 12 pieces, each 0.9m(H) x 1.5m(W)	2010
EFG Bank, Singapore	
"Entwining" / stainless steel / 0.4m(H) x 2.0m(W) x 0.4m(D)	2010
Marina Bay Front, Singapore	
"Celestial Earth II" / cast bronze / 2.0m(H) x 2.0m(W) x 0.8m(D)	2009
Private collection, Singapore	
"Collaborate" / stainless steel / 4.2m(H) x 6.6m(W) x 4.2m(D) Kerry Center, Beijing China	2008

“Globe Trotter” / stainless steel / 0.8m(H) x 0.8m(W) x 0.8m(D) Fraser Service Apartment, Beijing, China	2008
“Alpha Omega” / stainless steel / 2pcs / 4.2m(H) x 2.2m(W) x 2.2m(D) Keppel Marina, Singapore	2008
“Heaven & Earth” / stainless steel / 3pcs / 2.4m(H) x 6.0m(W) x 6.0m(D) Holmdel, New Jersey, USA	2008
“Invite” / stainless steel / 2.4m(H) x 1.6m(W) x 1.6m(D) Mega Box, Hong Kong	2007
“Friends to Solo” / stainless steel / 4.2m(H) x 6.0m(W) x 0.8m(D) Central Soho, Singapore	2007
“Singapore River Story” / glass mosaic /) x 3.2m(H) x 16.0m(W) Central Soho, Singapore	2007
“Happily Together” / stainless steel / 3.2m(H) x 5.0m(W) x 0.8m(D) Central Soho, Singapore	2007
“BC-AD” / paintings on transparency / 15pcs / 3.0m(H) x 1.0m(W) Central Soho, Singapore	2007
“Welcome” / brass / 2pcs / 3.0m(H) x 3.0m(W) x 3.0m(D) Shangri-la, Chengdu, China	2007
“Rising High” / stainless steel / 10.0m(H) x 2.0m(W) x 0.8m(D) JiangYin, China	2006 / 2007
“Prosperity” / brass / 2.25m(H) x 2.0m(W) x 2.0m(D) Shangri-la, Kwangchow, China	2006 / 2007
“Up-ward” / fiber glass / 1.7m(H) x 0.8m(W) x 0.8m(D) Gloucester Hotel, Kensington, London, England	2006
“Excel” / stainless steel / 2.4m(H) x 0.5m(W) x 0.5m(D) ITE College East Singapore	2005
“Partership” / fiber glass / 2.0cm(H) x 0.8m(W) x 0.80(D) Ahimsa Hotel, Bali, Indonesia	2005
“Mother River” / granite / 4.0m(H) x 60.0m(W) x 1.0m(D) Wuxi, Jiangsu, China	2005
“Dance” / bronze / 2pcs / each 2.2m(H) x 1.5m(W) x 1.5m(D) Pudong Shangri-la, Shanghai, China	2005
“Ascending” / fabric / 8pcs / each 4.0m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D) Philatelic museum, Singapore	2005
“Infineon Spirit” / stainless steel / 4.6m(H) x 4.0m(W) x 2.5m(D) Infineon Corporation, Singapore	2004
“Hand-in-Hand” / stainless steel / 2.5m(H) x 8.0m(W) x 8.0m(D) Yi-Shou University, Kaoshiung, Taiwan	2004
“Aiming High” / steel mural / 2pcs / 2.0m(H) x 6.0m(W) x 0.8m(D) Yi-Shou University, Kaoshiung, Taiwan	2004
“Unison” / stainless steel / 2.8m(H) x 1.8m(W) x 1.8m(D) Paterson Condominium, Singapore	2004
“Harmony” featured in the Singapore coins Singapore	2004
“Harmony” featured in the postal stamps Singapore/China	2004
“Circle in a Square” / fiber glass / 1.7m(H) x 1.76m(W) x 0.4m(D) Aziz Alsuhaimee Office Building Damman, Saudi Arabia	2003
“Unity” / steel / 6.0m(H) x 1.0m(W) x 1.0m(D), 4.0m(H) x 0.8m(W) x 0.8m(D), 2.0m(H) x 0.6m(W) x 0.6m(D), United Square, Singapore	2003
“Heaven & Earth” / bronze / 2.4m(H) x 2.4m(W) x 1.6m(D) Lex House, Berkshire, England	2002
“Harmony” / bronze / 1.05m(H) x 0.9m(W) x 0.75(D) Sheraton Utama Hotel, Brunei	2002
“Wholeness” / bronze / 1.8m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D) Raffles Hospital, Singapore	2002
“Integrated Art” / 180pcs on floor and pillars, BC-AD paintings Dhoby Ghaut MRT Station, Singapore	2002

"Milkyway" / glass Mosaic Mural / 4.8m(H) x 6.0m(W) Dhoby Ghaut MRT Station, Singapore	2002
"Soaring" / bronze / 3.2m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D) SATS Limited, Singapore	2002
"Jubilation" / steel / 1.6m(H) x 3.5m(W) x 0.47m(D) Equatorial @ Bukit Timah, Singapore	2001
"Cosmic Dance" / enamel paint / 2.0m(H) x 5.0m(W) Chase Manhattan Bank, Singapore	2001
"Harmony" / stainless steel / 12.0m(H) x 10.0m(W) x 10.0m(D) Suzhou Industrial Park, China	2001
"Stack of Stone" / cement fondue / 3.2m(H) x 1.0m(W) x 1.0m(D) Paragon Shopping Centre, Singapore	2001
"New Frontier" / bronze / 4.8m(H) x 3.8m(W) x 3.8m(D) The JTC Summit, Singapore	2000
"Circle" / aluminum / 3.2m(H) x 2.4m(W) x 2.4m(D) Wafer Park, Woodland, Singapore	2000
"Mita Spirit" / bronze / 1.6m(H) x 2.0m(W) x 1.6m(D) MICA Building, Singapore	2000
"Cosmic Dance" / Paintings on canvas / 8 pieces 10.0m(H) x 1.5m(W) MITA Building, Singapore	2000
"Celestial Clock" / stainless steel / 7.5m(H) x 7.6m(W) x 1.6m(D) Singapore History Museum	1999
"Celestial Earth" / bronze / 4.5m(H) x 4.5m(W) x 3.5m(D) URA Centre	1999
"Striving II" / fiber glass / 4.0m(H) x 1.8m(W) x 1.8m(D) TIC Tech Centre, Teck Wah Paper Products Ltd, Singapore	1999
"Striving" / bronze / 5.6m(H) x 3.1m(W) x 2.5m(D) NUS Faculty of Engineering, Singapore	1998
"Land Before Time" / bronze / 6 sculptures / up to 5.0m(H) x 6.0m(W) x 1.2m(D) Paragon Shopping Centre, Singapore	1998
"Dance II" / bronze / 0.38m(H) x 0.76m(W) x 0.10m(D) Private Collection, Texas, USA	1997
"Reaching II" / bronze / 1.8m(H) x 6.0m(W) x 1.5m(D) UE Square, Singapore	1997
"BC-AD" / bronze / 1.65m(H) x 1.65m(W) x 1.15m(D), 0.9m(H) x 0.9m(W) x 0.6m(D) NTU School of Communication Studies, Singapore	1997
"Ascending II" / bronze / 0.6m(H) x 0.3m(W) x 0.3m(D) Private Collection, Singapore	1997
"Harmony IV" / bronze / 1.15m(H) x 0.65m(W) x 0.45m(D) APEC Sculpture Garden, Manila, Philippines	1996
"Resting" / bronze / 0.65m(H) x 0.85m(W) x 0.65m(D) China Fine Arts Museum, Beijing, China	1996
"Abundance III" / bronze / 3.6m(H) x 3.6m(W) x 1.0m(D) Suntec City, Singapore	1995
"Harmony" / bronze / 8.0m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 1.2m(D) Chung-Cheng Park, Keelung, Taiwan, ROC	1995
"Heaven & Earth" / bronze / 2.4m(H) x 3.0m(W) x 2.1m(D) Private Collection, Aarhus, Denmark	1995
"Yin Shang" / bronze / 0.65m(H) x 0.2m(W) x 0.08m(D) Kaoshiung Fine Arts Museum, Taiwan, ROC	1994
"Flame of Life" / bronze / 0.65m(H) x 0.25m(W) x 0.12m(D) HPL Properties Pte Ltd, Singapore	1994
"Vitality" / bronze / 5.0m(H) x 1.7m(W) x 0.85m(D) Four Seasons Hotel, Singapore	1994
"Tunghai People" / bronze / 2.8m(H) x 0.52m(W) x 0.52m(D) Guo Bao Building, Taipei, Taiwan	1993
"Dancer" / bronze / 2.4m(H) x 2.2m(W) x 2.2m(D) Park Mall, Singapore	1993
"Born Free" / bronze / 0.21m(H) x 0.61m(W) x 0.15m(D)	1993

Singapore Embassy, Washington D.C., USA	
"Fluttering" / bronze / 0.75m(H) x 2.4m(W) x 0.36m(D)	1992
Private Collection, New Jersey, USA	
"Jing Jin" / bronze / 0.38m(H) x 0.25m(W) x 0.12m(D)	1992
National IT Award, National Computer Board, Singapore	
"Predestined" / bronze / 1.5m(H) x 1.2m(W) x 0.34m(D)	1992
Chancery Park Condominium, Singapore	
"Reaching" / bronze / 2.28m(H) x 2.28m(W) x 1.0m(D)	1992
Ministry of National Development, Singapore	
"Loose" / bronze / 0.5m(H) x 0.3m(W) x 0.20(D)	1992
Hyatt Regency, Singapore	
"Born Free" / bronze / 0.84m(H) x 2.44m(W) x 0.6m(D)	1991
Private Collection, Singapore	
"Trace" / bronze / 0.62m(H) x 0.9m(W) x 0.1m(D)	1990
"Affection" / bronze / 0.39m(H) x 0.6m(W) x 0.18m(D)	
Singapore Art Museum, Singapore	

Bringing Art to the People

a. Trophy Design

Singapore Education Award	2009
Singapore Tourism Award, Singapore Tourism Board	2007/2008
IDA National Infocomm Awards, Information Development Authority	2006
ITE College East Awards	2006

b. Art Items

"from a dot", journey of Sun Yu-li, book launch, Singapore	2014
The Coffee Connoisseur art merchandise (entire range)	2011
Singapore Airlines KrisShop, Art Gift Pack	2008
EZ-Link Card/EZ-Link Watches, 3 designs each, issued by SMRT	2008
ChinGay	2008
Official Gift, ArtWine Pack	2008
Music CD "Give Me a Dot", Lyric by Sun Yu-li, Prata Records	2008
Stamp featuring "Harmony" Sculpture by Sun Yu-li, Singapore Post	2004
Stamp featuring "Harmony" Sculpture by Sun Yu-li, China Post	2004
Coins featuring "Harmony" Sculpture by Sun Yu-li, 3 types, Singapore Mint	2004