

Docent Inspiration: Jacqueline Thng

By Amanda Jaffe

For the first 25 years or so of her professional life, Jacqueline Thng seldom visited museums. A born-and-bred Singaporean trained as a Radiographer, she worked in the healthcare sector. In 2009, however, Jacqueline accompanied her son on a school excursion to the National Museum of Singapore. She met a docent that day who inspired her to learn more about Singapore's history and – fatefully – piqued her curiosity about Singapore's museum scene.

Motivated by that meeting, Jacqueline soon joined FOM and started docent training at the Asian Civilizations Museum. While the training was rigorous, and the trainees came from many different backgrounds, cultures, and working styles, Jacqueline found herself part of a supportive FOM family. She since has expanded her horizons even further, training as an FOM docent at STPI Creative Workshop & Gallery, and guiding at National Gallery of Singapore, NUS Baba House, Former Ford Factory, Victoria Concert Hall, Istana Heritage Gallery and Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. Motivated by the patience and guidance shown her in her own docent training, Jacqueline has also served as a training group leader at both ACM and STPI. In addition, she has been involved with research for numerous special exhibitions at both ACM and NMS.

Jacqueline has a particular passion for guiding student and community tours. Her interest in guiding students stems from her belief that cultivating an appreciation for art and history from a young age is the key to building a strong local museum community. At the other end of the spectrum, Jacqueline loves community tours, particularly as elderly clients – many of whom she feels are convinced that museums hold little of interest to them – find themselves fascinated and add their own rich stories to the stories Jacqueline shares about the artefacts on her tours.

Pressed to name her favorite museum, Jacqueline finds it difficult to put one above the others, particularly as there are so many that she enjoys guiding in and visiting. She's eager, though, to share her excitement about STPI, which she considers a hidden gem in Singapore's arts scene.