~ Recommendations ~

- **Daren Shiau**
  Daren Shiau Vee Lung (b. 1971, Singapore–) is a writer, lawyer and an environmental activist. He won the Singapore Literature ...

- **Rex Shelley**
  Rex Anthony Shelley (b. 27 October 1930, Singapore–d. 21 August 2009, Singapore) was an award-winning Singaporean writer ...

- **Paul Tan**
  Paul Tan Kim Liang (b. 1970–) is a poet and winner of the Singapore Literature Prize in 1993 and 1997 for his collections ...

- **Nicky Moey**
  Nicky Moey (b. 1964, Singapore–) is a writer who specialises in horror fiction and thrillers. His first book, Let's ...

- **Gopal Baratham**
  Gopal Baratham (Dr) (b. 9 September 1935, Singapore–d. 23 April 2002, Singapore) was a neurosurgeon and author. He won ...

- **Boey Kim Cheng**
  Boey Kim Cheng (b. 1965, Singapore–) is widely regarded as one of the most promising Singapore poets to emerge in the ...

- **Lau Siew Mei**
  Lau Siew Mei (b. 1968, Singapore–) is a Singapore-born writer best known for her acclaimed debut novel, Playing Madame ...

- **Claire Tham**
  Claire Tham Li Mei (b. 1967, Singapore–) is the author of several award-winning short story collections and two full-length ...

- **Desmond Sim**
  Desmond Sim Kim Jin (b. 1961, Singapore–) is a playwright, poet, short-story writer and painter. He is best known for ...

- **Lee Tzu Pheng**
  Lee Tzu Pheng (b. 13 May 1946, Singapore–) is one of Singapore's distinguished poets. A retired university lecturer, ...

- **Tan Hwee Hwee**
  Tan Hwee Hwee (b. 1974, Singapore–) was the recipient of the National Arts Council's (NAC) Young Artist Award in 2003. ...

- **Joash Moo**
  Joash Moo Zun Yong (b. 1965, Singapore–) is a novelist and poet and an award-winning illustrator. His book, Sisterhood: ...

- **Felix Cheong**
  Felix Cheong Seng Fei (b. 1965, Singapore–) is a poet and recipient of the National Arts Council Young Artist Award ...

- **Goh Sin Tub**
  Goh Sin Tub (b. 2 December 1927, Singapore–d. 16 November 2004, Singapore) was a “first generation” Singaporean writer, ...

- **Literary awards and prizes in Singapore**
  Singapore's array of literary awards and prizes recognises writers and works of literary merit. The honours are applicable ...

- **Ho Minfong**
  Ho Minfong (b. 7 January 1951, Myanmar–), is an award-winning author of literature for children and young adults. Ho ...

- **Philip Jeyaretnam**
  Philip Jeyaretnam (b. 1964, Singapore–) is a senior counsel and an award-winning writer. He is the youngest son of veteran ...

- **Wong Meng Voon**
  Wong Meng Voon (b. 27 July 1937, Perak, Malaya–), pen name Meng Yi, is one of Singapore's most well-known Chinese authors. ...

- **Checha Davies**
  Checha Davies, also known as Mrs. E. V. Davis (b. 1898, Kerala, India–d. 2 September 1979, Singapore), was a social ...

- **Catherine Lim**
  Catherine Lim Poh Imm (b. 21 March 1942, Penang, Malaysia–) is the doyenne of Singapore stories. Lim is an accomplished ...

- **Rebecca Chua**
  Rebecca Chua (b. 1953, Singapore–) is a poet, writer and playwright whose short stories have been anthologised in a ...

- **Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus**
  Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus (CHIJ) is the oldest Catholic girls' school in Singapore. Founded in 1854 by the French ...

- **Alvin Pang**
  Alvin Pang (b. 1972, Singapore–) is considered as part of a new breed of young Singapore poets that emerged in the 1990s. ...

- **Nalla Tan**
  Nallammah Ruth Tan, née Navarednam, popularly known as Nalla Tan (b. 12 May 1923, Ipoh, Malaya–d. 27 March 2012, Singapore), ...

- **Heng Siok Tian**
  Heng Siok Tian (b. 1963, Singapore–) has published five volumes of poetry. An educator for more than 25 years, she received ...

- **Maria Dyer**
  Maria Dyer (b. 1803, – d. 21 October, 1846, Penang, Malaysia) established girls’ schools and inculcated Christian ...

- **Ovidia Yu**
  Ovidia Yu (b. 1961, Singapore–) is an award-winning novelist, short story writer and playwright. She is the recipient ...
Yong Shu Hoong (b. 1966, Singapore–) is an award-winning Singaporean poet and literary advocate. His collections of ... P. Krishnan (b. 1932, Johor, Malaya–), also known as Puthumaithasan, is regarded as one of Singapore’s Tamil literary ... Ng Yi-Sheng (b. 25 November 1980, Singapore–) is a full-time writer whose controversial literary works have garnered ... Joan Hon (b. 1943, Penang, Malaya–) is a writer and former teacher. She wrote and published a fiction book, Star Sapphire, ... Cyril Wong Yit Mun (b. 1977, Singapore–) is an award-winning poet and writer. He clinched the National Arts Council’s ... Edwin Thumboo (b. 22 November 1933, Singapore–), Emeritus Professor at the National University of Singapore’s ... Teo Soon Kim (b. 23 June 1904, Singapore–d. 23 April 1978), also known as Teow Soon Kim and later Lo-Teo Soon Kim, was ... Alfian Sa’at bin Sa’at (b. 18 July 1977, Singapore–), commonly known as Alfian Sa’at, is a prominent English- and Malay-language ... M. Balakrishnan (b. 18 September 1938, Singapore–), or Mayandiambalam Balakrishnan, is a prominent author popularly ... Dave Chua Hak Lien (b. 1970, Malaysia –), author of the novel Gone Case, was the recipient of the Singapore Literature ... Kirpal Singh (b. 1949, Singapore–) is a poet, literary and cultural critic, and university lecturer in English language ... Chia Hwee Pheng (Xi Ni Er) (b. 1957, Singapore–) is an accomplished Chinese poet and novelist who writes under the pseudonym of ... Tham Yew Chin (You Jin) (b. 1950, Ipoh, Malaya–), better known by her pseudonym You Jin, is a well-known local Chinese language ... Wong Yoon Wah (b. 13 August 1941, Perak, Malaysia–) is one of the few Singaporeans who excel as an international poet, ... Leong Liew Geok (b. 1947, Penang, Malaysia–) is a renowned local poet. She was one of the 10 Singaporeans selected for ... Gwee Li Sui (b. 22 August 1970, Singapore - ) is a writer and poet. Formerly an academic at the National University ... Margaret Leng Tan (b. 1945, Singapore–), popularly known as Margaret Leng Tan, is a pianist and a leading figure ... Bonny Hicks (b. 5 January 1968, Malaysia–19 December 1997, Indonesia) was a model and writer. She published two books, ... Roger Jenkins (b. 1953, Singapore – ), Singapore-born Briton turned Singaporean, drama educator, poet, playwright, storyteller, ... Robert Yeo (b. 1940, Singapore–) is a poet, playwright, novelist, essayist and librettist. He has written ... Yeng Pway Ngon (b. 26 January 1947, Singapore–) is a well-known poet, novelist and critic in the Chinese literary scene ... Isa Kamari (b. 1960, Singapore–) is a prominent figure in Singapore’s Malay literary scene. He has gained critical acclaim ... Chew Kok Chang (b. 1934, Guangdong, China–), otherwise known as Zhou Can ( ), or other pen names such as Qiu Ling ... Christmas at Singapore Casket The story revolves around Michelle, her mother and her brother, Leonard, who are gathered at her father’s funeral on ... Fistful of colours Fistful of colours is a novel about characters living in Singapore during the 80s and the struggle to find their identities ... Suchen Christine Lim (b. 1948, Malaysia–) is the first winner of the Singapore Literature Prize (Fiction) in 1992 for her novel, A Fistful of Colours. Lim has written short stories, children’s stories, students’ textbooks as well as a play. In 2000, she was the international writer-in-residence at the University of Iowa in the U.S. Early life Lim was born in 1948 in Malaysia, where she lived until she was 14 years old. A third-generation descendant of Chinese immigrants, her grandparents had come from Tangshan, China, before settling in Malaysia. She went to school at the Convent of the Holy Infant Jesus (CHIJ) in Penang and Kedah. In 1963, her family moved to ...
Writing
Lim first started writing fiction when she was attending a literature honours course at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Rice Bowl, her first novel, was published in 1984. It explored the complexity of living and loving in Singapore in the 1960s and 1970s. In 1986, Lim co-wrote a short play with Ophelia Ooi titled The Amah: A Portrait in Black and White, which earned them the Merit Prize in the NUS-SHELL Short Play Competition. She penned her second novel, Gift from the Gods, in 1990.

Lim’s third novel, A Fistful of Colours, was the first novel to be awarded the inaugural S$10,000 Singapore Literature Prize (Fiction) in 1992. Her novel was described as outstanding by the panel of judges comprising poet and academic Edwin Thumboo, Filipino writer and publisher Francisco Sionil Jose, and Australian writer Geoffrey Dutton. A fictional work about a woman’s dream of becoming an artist, the novel incorporates and brings events in Singapore’s early history to life. Historical events depicted in the novel include the rickshaw riots of the 1900s, where politicised Chinese rickshaw pullers demonstrated against the Japanese invasion of China’s Shantung peninsula, and the last gala ball held at Raffles Hotel prior to the Japanese Occupation of Singapore. Lim’s literary works have been influenced by her personal ancestry. The history of Chinese immigrants, for instance Chinese tin miners in Malaysia, has interested her since her teenage years. This is reflected in her fourth novel, A Bit of Earth, which is about the relationship between Chinese immigrants and the Malays in colonial Malaya.

Lim was awarded a Fulbright Foundation Award to attend the University of Iowa’s International Writing Programme in 1996 and became the university’s international writer-in-residence in the spring of 2000. She was also writer-in-residence at the University of Western Australia in Perth, the Moniack Mhor Writers’ Centre in Scotland, and Ateneo de Manila University in the Philippines. In 2012, Lim was awarded the SEA Write award for her contribution to literature.

Lim was a teacher at Catholic Junior College in Singapore, and subsequently worked as a curriculum planner at the Ministry of Education, before becoming a full-time writer in 2003.

Literary honours
2000: International writer-in-residence, University of Iowa, U.S.
2011: Visiting fellow in Creative Writing, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Awards
1986: Merit Prize, The Amah: A Portrait in Black & White (with Ophelia Ooi), NUS-SHELL Short Play Competition.
1996: Fulbright Foundation Award to attend International Writing Programme, University of Iowa.
2012: SEA Write award.

Works
Novels
1984: Rice Bowl
1990: Gift from the Gods
1993: Fistful of Colours
2001: A Bit of Earth
2007: The Lies that Build a Marriage: Stories of the Unsung, Unsaid and Uncelebrated in Singapore
2017: The Man Who Wore His Wife’s Sarong

Short stories
1998: Bandong
2000: Two Brothers in Yamada/Clash of the Clans
2002: Tragedy of My Third Eye
2003: Christmas at Singapore Casket/Retired Rebel/Ah Nah
2007: Gloria
2010: The Big Wall Newspaper
2012: The Big Wall Newspaper in Monsoon Feast

Plays
1986: The Amah: A Portrait in Black & White (with Ophelia Ooi)

Non-fiction
2005: Stories of the Overseas Chinese
References

Further resources


The information in this article is valid as at August 2018 and correct as far as we are able to ascertain from our sources. It is not intended to be an exhaustive or complete history of the subject. Please contact the Library for further reading materials on the topic.

Subject
Authors, Singaporean--Biography
Fiction
Writers
Language and literature>>Literatures>>East and Southeast Asian literature>>Singapore literature
Lim, Suchen Christine--Biography
Award winners--Singapore--Biography
Personalities>>Biographies>>Authors
Arts>>Literature>>English (Singapore) Literature>>Fiction

I have feedback on this infopedia article: Suchen Christine Lim
Name* Name
Email* Email
Suchen Christine Lim is the first Singapore writer and the first woman to win the Singapore Literature Prize for her third novel, Fistful of Colours. "If you want to enter the kingdom of New Art in Singapore, you will have to paint and reach beyond your ethnic group. Paint those you do not know well, for in learning to paint them or write about them, you will get to know them better," says Nica Sivalingam. Lim tells their story in prose that's subtle, cleareyed and lyrical, linking a city's rise with the emotional travails of its inhabitants. A fine, deeply felt saga of lives caught up in progress that's as heartbreaking as it is hopeful. Pub Date: May 27th, 2014. You'll get the first email of recommendations from our critics within a week! Bummer. There was a problem adding your email address.