



Lai Foong Moi: Crossings Brings a Trailblazing Nanyang Artist Back Into View

Description

National Gallery Singapore is giving one of the country's most overlooked artists her due. *Lai Foong Moi: Crossings* opens on **14 August 2026** and runs all the way to **3 October 2027**, and it is the first solo presentation of Lai Foong Moi (1931–1995) since the 1960s.

That gap is the story here. Lai was a trailblazing female artist in a Nanyang art scene largely remembered through its men, and she spent much of her career teaching at her alma mater, the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, shaping a generation of Singaporean artists in the process.

Stillness in a country in a hurry

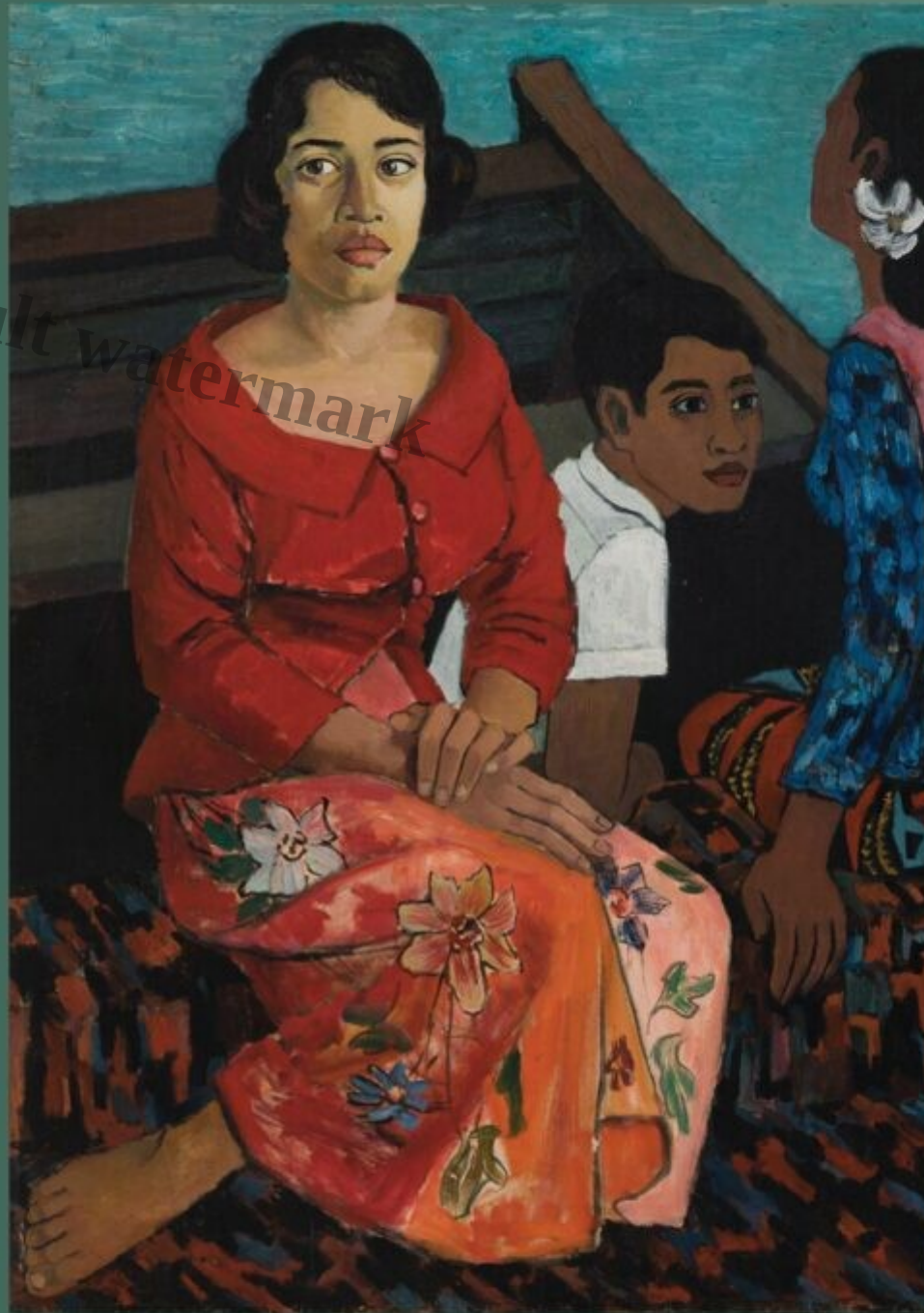
The exhibition gathers striking artworks alongside archival material, spanning portraiture, still life and landscape painting. What emerges is a quieter counter-narrative to the familiar account of Singapore's transformation in the 1960s and 1970s.

Where the national story of those decades is one of speed, construction and nation-building, Lai's canvases dwell on moments of stillness and on ordinary, nostalgic scenes. It is an alternative facet of a country in transition, seen from the inside rather than from the vantage point of policy.


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Lai Foong Moi: Crossings, part of the Dalam Singapore exhibition series. Image: National Gallery Singapore.

Part of the Dalam Singapore series

Crossings is the second edition of the Gallery's *Dalam Singapore* exhibition series, which sets out to surface lesser-known figures and stories from Singapore's art history. Presenting rarely seen works by an underexplored artist is exactly the brief, and a nearly 14-month run gives visitors an unusually generous window to catch it.

Visiting Lai Foong Moi: Crossings

- **Dates:** 14 August 2026 to 3 October 2027
- **Venue:** DBS Singapore Gallery 3, Level 2, City Hall Wing, National Gallery Singapore
- **Admission:** General Admission ticket required; free for Singaporeans and Permanent Residents
- **More information:** nationalgallery.sg

Planning a wider arts weekend? See our write-ups on the Singapore Art Museum's [Hello Future: Adventure Awaits](#) and its [Momentary Pulses](#) public art trail.

Image credits: National Gallery Singapore.

Date Created

29/07/2026

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