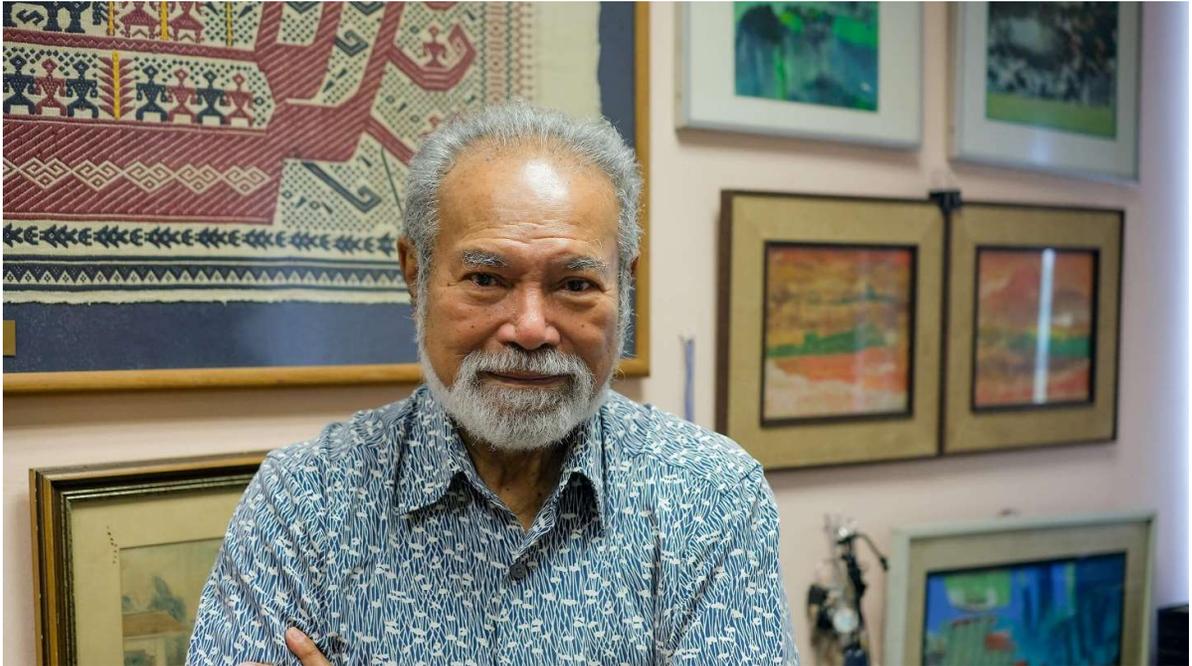


A SPECIAL FEATURE ON EDWIN THUMBOO



Introduction to the Special Feature on Edwin Thumboo

The Editors

The June 2022 issue of *Men Matters Online Journal* (MMOJ) celebrates Edwin Nadason Thumboo (b. 22 November 1933), Emeritus Professor at the National University of Singapore (NUS)'s Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and widely regarded as the father of Singapore literature, whose oeuvre in English spans over seven decades. This issue of *MMOJ* includes one previously unpublished poem by Thumboo and a critical essay on his work as a literary anthologist.

The first part of this special section presents Edwin Thumboo's unpublished poem "A Stitch . . . in Time," an ekphrastic poem inspired by a tapestry by the late David Medalla at National Gallery Singapore in 2017. This is followed by a triptych of Thumboo's poems from different stages in his illustrious writing career. The fifth text is Thumboo's essay covering the tradition of anthologies in English and the place in it for his edited anthologies of Singapore and Southeast Asian writings. The final article in this section is by Thumboo's biographer, Nilanjana Sengupta. It provides insights into Thumboo's personality and values from his poems and *objets d'art*.

The second part of this special section comprises tributes to Edwin Thumboo. It starts off with an old friend of his, Oliver BH Seet, who became acquainted with Thumboo in the 1950s. The following three tributes are from Thumboo's fellow poets from NUS, Heng Siok Tian, Robert Yeo and Cyril Wong. The fifth poem is by Eric Tinsay Valles, a poet, scholar and director of Poetry Festival Singapore, which was established by Thumboo in 2015. This section closes with a poem by Thumboo's friend and peer, Wong Phui Nam, as well as interview excerpt with Wong on dedicating the poem to Thumboo.