

# STORIES BEHIND THE ARTWORKS



## *“Our United Singapore”*

*----- Alicia Phua Shi Yin, Maha Bodhi School*

In her artwork, Maha Bodhi School’s Alicia Phua portrayed the circuit breaker period in a relatively optimistic light.

In the bottom half of the artwork are numerous familiar objects that people associate with the circuit breaker period. For instance, some objects represent different hobbies that many individuals who stayed home engaged in – a palette for painting, weights and running shoes for exercising and so on. Others like face masks and soap relate to the increased focus on hygiene, while bubble tea and fast food represent some foods that Singaporeans were most obsessed with.

Meanwhile, on the top half are several of Singapore’s most famous landmarks. She explained: “These landmarks still stand tall to show how far we have come, and they are constant reminders that we shall continue to move forward together as a nation.”

Of these attractions, her favourite is the Gardens by the Bay. She loves visiting and admiring the different wondrous garden themes on display, which appears almost like a fairy-tale to her.

National Day has a special significance to her as her own birthday falls on the eve of National Day. In any other year, she would love to feel the festive atmosphere when they are near the floating platform on the day.

However, this National Day will be a special one for her. Her plan is to stay home and watch the remote celebration while eating her own birthday cake and virtually connecting with her extended family to celebrate together. Her birthday wish – for both herself and Singapore – is a powerful one: for all of us to be more compassionate and empathetic to everyone in society.

