

# \$312,000 donated to Nafa to help artists

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By HO AI LI

NANYANG Academy of Fine Arts (Nafa) has received a \$312,000 donation from the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation.

The money will fund 132 awards, ranging from higher-value scholarships to merit awards for students in need of financial help.

The donation means up to 11 per cent of the about 2,200 diploma and degree students at Nafa can now get financial aid, up from 4 per cent previously.

Nafa president Choo Thiam Siew said that without financial aid, many of its students might be forced to suspend their studies or drop out.

Mr Terrence Tan, 25, a second-year student in graphic design, is one of two winners of the Tan Chin Tuan Scholarship for Creative Education this year.

The money will come in handy because his parents are struggling to support him and his two younger siblings on a combined income of under \$1,500 a month.

Already, his father has had to borrow money from relatives to pay his \$12,000 course fee for the year.

Because Mr Tan has already earned an engineering diploma from a polytechnic, he is not eligible for a government fee subsidy at Nafa.

The scholarship "will help lighten the burden of having to pay the full fees", he said, relieved.

Fifty-nine financial awards have so far been given out to Nafa students.