

## EARLY LIFE & EDUCATION

1926: Born on 6th May, Madurai, South India, the first of ten children in a respectable landowning family.

1931: Arrived with his mother in British Malaya (as it was then known) at the age of five to join his father, who was a foreman-mechanic at the Central Electricity Board in Kuala Lumpur (KL).

Attended a private primary school in Brickfields, KL, run by the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).

Transferred to a government primary school at Batu Road, KL, after being recommended by a British engineer working with the Board, who spotted potential in him. It was here that the young Namasivayam first discovered his love for art, aided and nurtured by the encouragement of his teachers, who quickly noticed his natural aptitude for the subject.

1939: Enrolled at KL's Victoria Institution (VI), Malaya's premier boys' school, for his secondary education.

1942-1946: Education disrupted by World War II and immediate aftermath.

1947: Completed Senior Cambridge Education at Victoria Institution, Kuala Lumpur.

## PROFESSIONAL

1950-1954: National Training Certificate, Diploma in Teaching, Singapore Teachers' Training College. Primary School Teacher (various subjects, various schools).

1957-1961: Colombo Plan Scholarship, Sydney, Australia. Studied Fine Arts. Graduated, majoring in Figure Drawing and Painting.

1961-1962: Secondary School Teacher (Graduate Scale). Taught English, Maths, Art at various schools.

1962-1981: Lecturer in Audio-Visual Education, Singapore Teachers' Training College (TTC), later re-named Singapore Institute of Education (IE) – now known as the National Institute of Education (NIE).

1967 till mid-1970s: Pioneer producer/presenter on Educational Television (ETV) programmes, produced at TTC's Paterson Road studios, which were broadcast nationwide on weekdays via Radio Television Singapore (RTS), the precursor to Mediacorp. His episodes featured lectures on various subjects including Art techniques and Art History. In 1974, ETV was renamed the Singapore Education Media Service (SEMS), which was merged in 1980 into the newly established Curriculum Development Institute of Singapore (CDIS), a policy department within the Ministry of Education.

1982-1985: Senior Media Advisor (Lecturer and Media Specialist), SEMS/CDIS, Ministry of Education.

1987-2001: Lecturer in Fine Art and Specialist Lecturer in Figure Drawing, La Salle-SIA College of the Arts. Introduced 'Life Drawing' as a specific specialist subject into its Fine Arts curriculum in 1987.

## EXHIBITIONS

c. 1987: Founder, in close collusion with Brother Joseph McNally, Mr. Chia Wai Hon and Mr. Sim Tong Khern, of the nucleus of what later came to be known as 'Group 90', an elite cohort of dedicated senior luminaries from within the Singaporean artists' fraternity, who devoted their time to the interpretative study of the human form. As word of Group 90 spread through the grapevine, other well-established and highly reputed personalities joined in. They included Liu Kang, Dr Earl Lu, Ng Eng Teng, Loh Khee Yew, Choy Weng Yang and Prof. Roy Calnes, to name but a few.

1990: Indian Cultural Exhibition.

1990: 'FIGURAMA' by Group 90 (First Exhibition), Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) Gallery.

1991: Indian Artists' Exhibition.

1992: 'THE FIGURE IN ART' (in the Singaporean Context) & Forum, by Group 90, NAFA Gallery.

1992: 'TEACHERS' ART EXHIBITION 1992', organised by MOE, Singapore Conference Hall.

1993: 'ART IN ASIA', World Trade Centre, Harbour Front Centre.

1994: 'ART OF THE NUDE' by Group 90, NAFA Gallery.

1995: First Solo Exhibition, Mr. S. R. Gopal's Security Training Centre, Little India Arcade.

1998: 'IMAGE NUDE' by Group 90, Orchard Point Exhibition Hall.

2000: 'NUPHORIA 2000' by Group 90, The Gallery @ PARAGON, Orchard Road.

2002: 'NUSENSE' by Group 90, NAFA Gallery.

2008: 'NUSPIRATION' by Group 90, Bhaskar's Arts Academy.

## COLLECTIONS

1. Professor/Doctor Victor Savage. Head of Department of Geography, National University of Singapore.
2. Mr. S. R. Gopal, P.P.A., P.B.M., P.B.S., Singapore.
3. Singapore Art Museum
4. Singapore American School
5. Other Private Collections: UK, USA, Japan, Australia. Various private collections.