

MEDIA RELEASE

Art competition winner brings Singapore's early history to life

19 September 2018

Very Special Arts Singapore (VSA), a charity committed to offering access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts, is proud to announce its 16th instalment of 'See What I See', an Annual Art Exhibition. This year's theme is "Journey".

Ms Serene Sng, the artist from this year's top prize in the Young Adult Category, is heavily inspired by Singapore's early history. Her award-winning artwork entitled "Singapore Journey" tells the audience a story of Singapore's pre-colonial history.

She explained the concept behind her work, "When people see my work, I want them to feel the love I have for Singapore. Before modern times, Singapore is rich in culture, of stories of Malay leaders, warriors and people with wit that can overcome obstacles. Look at how Sang Nila Utama came to Singapore, it was a long journey for him. The story of the attack of the swordfish, and many more."

Commenting on her inspiration for her art piece, Ms Sng said, "I was moved when I learned about Singapore's early history. I just wanted to share that through my art."

The exhibition features top entries of VSA's 16th Annual Art Competition for Children, Youths and Adults with Special Needs. This year, it received 639 submissions from 34 schools and related organizations. Submitted entries are reviewed and judged by a panel of artists: Ms Tan Sock Fong, Mr Justin Lee, and Mr Muhammad Noh Bin Arjuna.

"It was not easy to pick a winner just by looking at the visuals. I observe the use of technique. I can tell that each participant put in a lot of effort to express themselves." said Mr Muhammad Noh Bin Arjuna, who is also VSA's Career Artist, and two-time winner of VSA's Annual Art Competition. He is currently working as an illustrator, and publishes some of his works on Instagram, @NohImagination.

The exhibition is supported by National Arts Council, and venue sponsor, Forum the Shopping Mall. It is open to the public and will run from 21st to 30th September 2018, at the Basement One Atrium of Forum the Shopping Mall. Support VSA Singapore by joining the Bubble Wrap printing workshop that lets you print your own

unique artworks on the 22nd and 23rd September. VSA's own established artist, Ms Mimi Ng, will be selling her creations and conducting a 'I LOVE YOU' painting workshop on the 29th and 30th September.

Please refer to Annex A for full list of winners.

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About Very Special Arts Singapore

Very Special Arts Singapore Ltd (VSA) is a registered charity under National Council of Social Service in Singapore. VSA Singapore is also affiliated to VSA International in the United States. Founded by Singapore's Ambassador-at-large, Professor Tommy Koh, on 27 September 1993, the mission of VSA is to create and provide access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts. To achieve this, VSA promotes the educational, social, rehabilitative and therapeutic benefits of visual, performing and literary arts. In March 2018, VSA Singapore produced and presented the inaugural Asia-Pacific performing arts festival, True Colours, which featured disabled dancers and musicians from Asia Pacific and invited performers from other parts of the world and Singapore.

ANNEX A

Children Category

1st Prize – Wong Yu Jian Louis. Louis is 9 years old and is studying Primary 3 in Canossian School. He likes to draw when he is free. He loves to draw vehicles, animals and other.

2nd Prize – Ingrid Ang Jia Yi. Ingrid is a pre-mature baby with a twin sister. They both suffer from hearing loss but they stay strong with each other. Ingrid enjoys reading and playing piano.

3rd Prize – Siti Nur Aishah Bte Razali. Aishah is a quiet and soft-spoken girl who enjoys dancing and singing.

Merit – Tim Leow Yan Ka. Tim is an active boy who loves to draw and make clay figurines.

Merit – Lucas Teo Kai Woon. Lucas loves turtles ever since he watched 'Ninja Turtles' movie. He is a very cheerful boy, and loves drawing characters he love. He likes green colour and love the outdoors, animals and theme parks.

Merit – Ashley Yan Wing Yan. Ashley looks around her, in cartoon and books, for inspiration of her artwork. She captures her art through drawing and mixing of bright colours to bring out the excitement and great imagination she possesses.

Merit – Gonzaga Malik Joshua Barabat. Malik is a very helpful and vibrant boy. He has an inquisitive mind and is always trying his best.

Merit – Teo Zhan Rong. Zhan Rong loves things that are appropriate for girls such as nail polish, dressing up and flowers. She loves drawing and would draw anything out of her memory.

Youth Category

1st Prize – Tan Si Xue. Si Xue is a young man who loves making friends and sharing his ideas. He enjoys the freedom to doodle and draw when he is free. His drawings can be very detailed and intricate which always surprised us.

2nd Prize – Joy Koh. A cheerful but shy girl, Joy likes to colour and write in her diary during her free time. She enjoys going to VSA.

3rd Prize – See Zong Xian. Zong Xian recently had a flair in drawing chess. He can draw chess of different variations for hours. Merit – Daxx Lim Liang Fei Daxx loves trains, bowtie and his "girlfriend" (Twilight from My Little Pony). He is neat, has fine attention to detail and a unique perception of colours. Daxx aspires to have his drawings displayed at SMRT stations for all to see.

Merit – Monish Pillay. Monish has a well-mannered and friendly personality who thrives on creative expression through the arts, and enthusiasm through activities like swimming, badminton and rollerblading.

Merit – Mu Chuhong. Chuhong would like to travel to other countries with his family. Last year, his family toured Hokkaido. He has very good impression of Hokkaido. He likes their food, hot spring and snow. They will go to Australia to visit his auntie this year. He is really looking forward to this journey.

Merit – Noah Tan Kai. Noah is a talented youth who understands hues and shades meticulously. His understanding of colours creates marvelous vivid works, keeping to clean lines and sense of harmony. Noah constantly engages and challenges himself to learn new techniques and has participated in many exhibitions and competitions.

Merit – Chong Yao Qing. Yao Qing enjoys his art classes with Teacher Francis! He also enjoys performing.

Young Adult Category

1st Prize – Sng Wan Yan Serene. She likes Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollack's artworks. She also likes abstract art, illusionist, realistic and renaissance artworks.

2nd Prize – Salamah Binte Mohd Gazali Khan. Salamah loves domestic pets, and she has 5 cats at home!

3rd Prize – Joshua Tang Jin Lin. Joshua is 26 years old and a waiter. He swims competitively and likes movies and surfing the internet. He draws and paints from what he sees and imagines. Through art, he expresses himself - how he feels, what he likes and what's on his mind; and share with others the joy he experienced in art.

Merit – Lim Pei Hsien Elizabeth. Elizabeth loves art- drawing people/characters. Her favourite things are her IPAD and anything related to her favourite movie (of the moment). She loves watching YouTube and listening to pop music.

Merit – See Say Beng. Say Beng won 3rd prize in SWIS 2017 in the Young Adult category.

Merit – Leann Eng Yi Zhen. Leann is a sociable lady who enjoys her classes at VSA.

Merit – Shaun Sukan Kumar Shaun is a chatty, smart person. His favourite teacher is Mr. Leslie and proud of it. He always reports things that's happening around him.

Merit – Joyce David. Joyce is very involved in activities. She takes initiative and is independent in engaging herself through activities. A shy sweet natured individual.