

# NEWSLETTER #24

Image features Germaine Goh in *Performing Normal*, a collaborative project between disabled and non-disabled artists, staged as part of the Arts & Disability Forum 2025





# SECTORAL LEADERSHIP

As the leading charity at the intersection of Arts and Disability, ART:DIS equips persons with disabilities and partners with confidence to make an impact in advancing disability inclusion.

## Redefining Access for the Sector with the Arts & Disability Forum 2025

Enriching, empowering, engaging — the Arts & Disability Forum (ADF) 2025 converged over 540 individuals from varying fields of disability, culture, community engagement, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEI), policy and academia to explore key trends and evolving models of practice in arts access. Organised by ART:DIS, with the support of the National Arts Council, the sixth edition of ADF was momentous on several fronts.



Firstly, the forum expanded its programming across 5 days from 25–29 March 2025, involving numerous arts and cultural institutions. This collective effort signalled a strong commitment by the sector to increase arts access in Singapore.



(Images from top left, clockwise)

- Delegates taking a short break during the anchor plenary at Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay.
- Neurodiverse artist Jaspreet Kaur, together with non-disabled artist Alecia Neo, leads participants on a train dance in *Performing Normal* at Singapore Art Museum.
- A participant, at the learning journey to the Children's Museum, uses her sense of smell to discover local drinks in an exhibit about hawker culture
- Participants to a tactile art workshop, jointly conducted by National Gallery Singapore and Beyond Vision International, use their sense of touch to discover a painting.





Secondly, the forum was headlined by Asian perspectives. Featuring 27 speakers from diverse backgrounds, including 7 thought leaders from the region, they discussed inclusive culture programming, disability arts as a field of practice, and the professional practice development of artists with disabilities across 6 panels.



Thirdly, the forum was developed with guidance from a Resource Panel, comprising individuals with disabilities who advised the working committee on access issues to note. Such knowledge sharing ensured ADF was highly inclusive, facilitating the participation of the very community we serve (right).

Last but not least, the forum inspired young minds through a partnership with the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS). Students from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and LASALLE College of the Arts participated by contributing think pieces, documenting key moments and developing practical skills in accessibility support (right).

Discover key learnings from ADF ([bit.ly/ADF2025\\_Insights](https://bit.ly/ADF2025_Insights)) or watch highlights from the event ([bit.ly/ADF2025\\_Highlights](https://bit.ly/ADF2025_Highlights))



# PROGRAMMES

ART:DIS provides a structured pathway for PwDs to reach their fullest potential through the arts. Our range of Foundation programmes encourage arts exploration. Individuals who wish to pursue higher professional training may progress into the more tailored tracks.

## Foundation Programmes at ART:DIS

Every week, students come to our centres to attend classes in the visual or performing arts. Following a curriculum that is scaled for each individual's development, students get to discover their interest in the arts, form peer friendships and inculcate important skills/habits.

### Performing Arts

- Percussion
- Drums
- Piano
- Violin
- Guitar
- Choir
- Drama
- Vocal Music
- Creative Dance
- Hip Hop Dance (below)
- Dance Movement Therapy

### Visual/Digital Arts

- Fine Arts
- Ceramics
- Digital Illustration
- Stop-motion Animation

### Caregiver-Accompanied Classes

- DigiPlay
- ClayPlay
- ArtsPlay

With 4 semesters per year, following the national schooling calendar, learn more about how we can support your child's expression by joining our quarterly group consultation: [bit.ly/ARTDIS-Prog-Enquiry](https://bit.ly/ARTDIS-Prog-Enquiry)



**“It took two years, but we began to see noticeable changes in Aden’s ability to take instructions in a calm manner. His psychomotor skills has also improved — from drawing straight lines with a ruler to safely using scissors and glue. We see his progress and celebrate it.”**  
—Aik Pek Hoon, Aden’s mother

### This is Aden’s Story

Despite having limited speech, Aden’s voice is loud and clear through his drawings (above). With simply paper and art materials, he can respond to questions through illustrations when words are difficult. His parents saw the value of giving Aden a safe space to express himself through art and decided to enroll him into ART:DIS.

Under the guidance of dedicated teachers, with developmentally appropriate and structured classes, Aden was empowered with the confidence and familiarity he needed to flourish in his own unique way.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLATFORMS

Artists with disabilities lack access to capacity development programmes in pursuing professional careers. At ART:DIS, we provide aspiring artists opportunities to participate in projects and showcase platforms that help to develop their practice and confidence.



## INVISIBLE

Co-presented by ART:DIS and The Necessary Stage, with the support of the Enabling Lives Initiative, *INVISIBLE* was a developmental theatre showcase written by award-winning playwright Haresh Sharma and co-directed by Grace Kalaiselvi.

Staged as part of the ART:DIS Emerging Artist programme, this collaboration built upon the mentorship experience our artist Jaspreet Sekhon (left) had with Haresh in 2022. With the backing of a respected theatre company in Singapore, Jaspreet performed alongside seasoned actors Dalifah Shahril, Deonn Yang, and Periyachi Roshini, touching 110 audiences with their thoughtful unpacking of the invisible struggles many face.

Relatable and heartfelt, this meaningful work will continue its journey with a full staging at the Singapore Fringe Festival in 2026.

## MONSTRESS - The Reclaiming of Medea & Medusa

Presented under the ART:DIS Emerging Artist programme, with support from the Enabling Lives Initiative, *MONSTRESS* marked a compelling pilot staging with artist Claire Teo (right) in the lead role.

Co-written by playwright Jean Tay and Claire Teo, and directed by Yvan Karlsson, the production featured a stellar cast including Oon Shu An and Syarifuddin Sahari, with movement direction by Zhuo Zihao.

Across five shows with close to 200 audience members in attendance, including artistic directors and theatre practitioners, the performance sparked enthusiastic feedback for its powerful storytelling of unseen struggles, shared strength, and the quiet resilience behind care-giving.







## Smartypants and the Swordfish

From 19–23 May 2025, 7 puppeteers from ART:DIS’s Artist-in-Training programme presented Smartypants and the Swordfish to students of Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore School (CPAS).

This unique theatre experience went beyond a performance as it included both pre-and-post-show sensory segments, all facilitated by our artists themselves. Incorporating elements of puppetry, touch, and smell, the sensory components enabled CPAS students to be involved with the story in a multi-sensory, immersive way (left).



Over five days and 15 sessions, the team engaged close to 70% of the school’s student population, including those from the Functional and High Support programmes. Beyond building confidence and deepening friendships, this experience also offered our artists a glimpse into the possibilities of inclusive arts facilitation as a meaningful career path, opening up discussions for future opportunities.



**“It was so nice seeing the students interact with the performers. I know they really enjoyed the storytelling experience!”** —Gena Tan, Head of Programme at CPAS

## The Gallery Children’s Biennale

To champion greater accessibility and inclusivity for kids, ART:DIS partnered with the National Gallery Singapore to showcase artist Fern Wong at the Gallery Children’s Biennale from 31 May 2025–29 Mar 2026!

Curated with the goal to empower children as active participants of art, the Biennale features installations that encourage hands-on exploration of the senses. Take *Colourful Play* by Fern for instance, where kids can create their own intricate patterns using magnetic shapes (right). Inspired by Fern’s vibrant paper-cut works, this large interactive wall invites young minds to exercise creativity and experience joy through art-making.





## Callum's Courage & Loud Little Mermaids

Co-presented by ART:DIS and Gateway Arts' KIDS CLUB, Deaf artist Grace Ng collaborated with mentor Tan Beng Tian to stage 2 advocacy stories based on lived experiences of muscular dystrophy survivors – *Callum's Courage* by Shalom Lim and *Loud Little Mermaids* by Sherry Toh (right).

Staged as part of the ART:DIS Emerging Artist programme, 80 children and their parents witnessed the beauty of Singapore Sign Language (performed by Grace) and Mandarin (performed by Beng Tian) blending together in harmony to spotlight narratives of acceptance and strength.

Through theatre and interactive elements, this inclusive performance moved audiences to embrace diversity in small ways such as listening with empathy or communicating with kindness (right).



## COLONY – A True Colours Project

1 dance production featuring 13 disabled and non-disabled dancers from 6 regions, *COLONY* was a festival commission at the Singapore International Festival of Arts 2025 and ART:DIS was honoured to be official accessibility advisor.

Our artist Timothy Lee was also a featured performer, dancing alongside fellow artists from Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, Japan and the Philippines to tell a story about overcoming challenges by synergising individual differences (left, in brown t-shirt).

Staged at the Drama Centre Theatre from 30 May–1 Jun 2025, the dance drama moved audiences with its lyrical storytelling, with many particularly touched by the depth of detail in our access provisions.

**“The creative captions was very poetically written, triggering your imagination to truly see what was beyond the stage. It was just beautiful.”**

—Audience at COLONY





## Singapore Art Week 2025

6 artists with disabilities took center stage at Singapore Art Week (SAW) 2025, where across 3 flagship events they expanded the viewpoints of visitors, illustrating what diversity and inclusion meant within the visual arts scene of Southeast Asia.

### S.E.A. Focus

Chng Seok Tin, a visually-impaired artist who was highly-respected for critically shaping the local print-making landscape, exhibited significant works from earlier periods of her practice at S.E.A. Focus 2025. Alongside other galleries invited to showcase the best of contemporary art from the region, ART:DIS was proud to put on show 18 works that highlighted the strong conceptual verve of Seok Tin's artistry (below).

For the first time ever, art fair-goers also had the opportunity to experience tactile artworks. Originally intended as resource materials for visually impaired visitors, these tactile artworks provided an insightful entry points for sighted guests to consider and discuss how art can simultaneously exclude and include individuals.



### Light to Night

Claire Teo, another visually-impaired artist known for her strong advocacy of access and representation in the arts, presented a multi-disciplinary installation during Light To Night 2025 at National Gallery Singapore.

Titled *Through the Looking Glass*, it combined prose, poetry and performance to tell stories of resilience and triumph from the disabled and migrant communities (right).

Through shifting lights and immersive soundscapes, supported with universal access provisions such as creative captions and narrations, the installation empowered marginalised individuals to speak their truth and outsiders to listen with authenticity.







## Turning Points II

Abraham Koh, Amelia Tan, Noah Tan and Zulkhairi Lutfi are 4 neurodiverse artists who underwent mentorships with established artists. Under the guidance of Tang Ling-Nah, Andy Yang, Leo Liu and Justin Lee, they stepped out of their comfort zones to embrace new approaches, growing professionally to debut 20 new works at *Turning Points II*.

Held at The Arts House and curated by John Tung, the exhibition demonstrated our artists' willingness to push the boundaries of their current practice – be it attempting much larger-scale of paintings to adopting new techniques that add dimension to hyper-flat works, and incorporating pop-art influences that elevate the traditional into bold, conversational pieces. The resulting improvement in technical finesse, composition and chromatic harmony was praised by visitors, with many excited to see what's next in each artists' journey.



**“Amelia is a naturally gifted painter with extraordinary focus. I enjoyed working with her because this mentorship was more like a dialogue where we openly shared and learned from each other.”** —Andy Yang



# COLLABORATIONS

Through strong partnerships, ART:DIS elevates the work of our artists in the public sphere, enabling more to experience new ways of seeing the world and strengthening the portfolios of our artists.

## Singapore Oceanarium

From S.E.A Aquarium to Singapore Oceanarium (SGO), ART:DIS is proud to have journeyed with them on their transformation to becoming a world-class destination!

To mark this milestone, we were commissioned to create a signature artwork that reflects SGO's commitment to marine conservation and education. Conceptualised by artist Eugene Soh and co-created with staff, the three-part piece titled *Evolving Oceans* captured the spirit of shared purpose and community (right).

Featuring a myriad of sea creatures across 22 immersive zones, including iconic species such as manta rays, sharks and starfishes, Eugene's artwork was further translated into a dynamic animation that welcomed guests at the grand opening (right)! It was also adapted into a suite of thoughtful merchandise, turning the artwork into keepsakes that extended the experience beyond the event (below).



**“This collaboration not only spotlights artists with disabilities, but also fosters a more inclusive environment for visitors, bringing different people together through a shared appreciation for marine life.”** — Lam Xue Ying, Vice-President of Singapore Oceanarium





## Raffles Hotel

A reflection of elegance and meaningful impact, ART:DIS is thrilled to collaborate with Raffles Hotel Singapore to present an exclusive premium mooncake box to usher in the mid-autumn season (left). Where beloved signatures meet artisanal craftsmanship, each box features 2 flavours of classic mooncakes and a set of handcrafted porcelain cups, lovingly created by our artists and staff from Raffles Singapore.



From meticulous casting, trimming and glazing sessions over 3 months, 2,000 porcelain cups were produced from this inclusive teamwork, each infused with creative passion (above). For a limited time only, purchase these precious keepsakes: [rafflescelebrations.com.sg/product/raffles-singapore-premium-baked-mooncake-box](https://rafflescelebrations.com.sg/product/raffles-singapore-premium-baked-mooncake-box)



## Goldman Sachs

As part of Goldman Sachs' office refurbishment, artist Abraham Koh was commissioned to create a striking mural symbolizing Singapore's journey as a cosmopolitan city-state, built on the values of unity, resilience, and progress.

Titled *Tapestry*, the artwork layers iconic architecture, lush green spaces and cultural motifs, capturing the balance between tradition and innovation. With the entire project six months in the making from ideation to installation, the large mural spanning the entire office pantry was unveiled to great applause (left).





## Azalea

To commemorate their 10th anniversary of investing in private equity funds, Azalea Asset Management commissioned our artist Vicki Tan to create a triptych.

Titled *Unbound Horizons*, she used colours and abstract forms to convey dynamism and motion, engaging viewers' senses via her signature paint-pouring technique (left). These paintings were unveiled at their Gala dinner, and also adapted into a sustainable tiffin carriers for all guests to take home (below).



## Hotel ORA

In partnership with the Sustainability team at Resorts World Sentosa (RWS), ART:DIS Studio launched a year long pop-up at Hotel Ora's lobby. The curated selection of quality lifestyle merchandise highlights the creativity of our artists such as Joshua Tang, Chong Yao Qing, and Tan Yong Ling, offering visitors a meaningful way to bring home impactful gifts.

Such touch points enable us to share stories of strength and passion from the disabled community, and we look forward to this continued partnership with RWS.







## Shake Shack Singapore

In a first-ever in-store collaboration with a non-profit, Shake Shack commissioned our artist Joycelin Toh to conduct a Jumping Clay workshop for diners (left).

Together through the medium of art, participants learn to make hamburger figurines, using their hands and palette knives to mould soft clay into form. For many, it was their first time experiencing such a medium but they were curious to try and ended with a ball of a time!

To round off the day, Shake Shack pledged 5% of all Shack Attack sales to ART:DIS, demonstrating their support of diversity and access in the arts.



## KPMG Singapore

As part of their workplace initiative to improve staff well-being, KPMG Singapore reached out to ART:DIS for a therapeutic texture-art workshop. Conducted by artist Noah Tan (below right), the hands-on experience saw a large turnout of staff putting on aprons to try their hand at creating a 3D masterpiece.

There was much laughter shared as individuals experimented with gel mediums and the use of a palette knife. With smiles all around, we hope staff at KPMG Singapore not only learn something new as part of personal enrichment, but also found joy in strengthened relationships with their colleagues (below left).





## Lunar New Year Red Packets

The Year of the Snake begun with much abundance for ART:DIS and our corporate partners, with 4 commissioned projects for our artists to design one-of-a-kind red packets to usher in the Lunar New Year:

- For Bank of Singapore, artist Eugene Soh painted a majestic pair of peacocks with resplendent plumage to signify harmony. Framed by beautiful, golden peonies, the artwork conveyed blessings of harmony and prosperity for all (right).
- For Bloomberg, artist Koh Jun Kai illustrated elegant koi fishes adorned in gold and silver, swimming in a sea of red to welcome good fortune (right).
- For Liberty Specialty Markets, artist Amelia Tan drew a charming snake adorned with patterned flowers to wish all a joyous Chinese New Year (below).
- For UOL they bought the royalties of artist Fern Wong's Flowerworks, a vibrant explosion of spring blossoms that celebrated the beginning of a new season, and adapted it onto red packets and lohei plates (below).



These projects are fantastic opportunities for our artists to diversify their portfolios and build sustainable careers. To support disability inclusion via a commission, reach out through [social@artdis.org.sg](mailto:social@artdis.org.sg)



**“When Jun Kai receives a commission, that sheer joy that lights up his face when his artwork is brought to life is truly priceless!”** —Christine, Jun Kai’s mother



## Liberty

For 15 years, Liberty has been a firm supporter of Studio A, a Sydney-based arts company that provides professional development for artists with disabilities. As an extension of their commitment in the Asia region, Liberty Specialty Markets embarked on a meaningful partnership with ART:DIS.

Together, we organised the Liberty x ART:DIS Art Awards to recognise the talents of neurodiverse artists and encourage them to continue developing their artistry. Following a month-long deliberation by Liberty staff, the winners were announced in great celebration at their Singapore offices:

- *Wings of Dawn* by Simeon Tan
- *Rainbow of Hope* by Noah Tan
- *Ice Cream Paradise* by Chong Yao Qing
- *Atmosphere City II* by Joshua Tang

These works were further adapted into corporate merchandise such as reusable bags and notebooks (below). To complete the capsule collection, artist Noah Tan's commissioned painting *Garden of Happiness* was also transposed onto tumblers, encouraging staff to find nuggets of joy no matter how mundane work gets.



## United Square Exhibition

From 5 May-14 September 2025, UOL and ART:DIS partnered to present 2 exhibitions at United Square:

- *POP! Goes the Ordinary* by Zulkhairi Lutfi, featuring the artist's impression of local heritage buildings in a modern pop-art style.
- *A World in Colours* by Noah Tan, highlighting the artist's vibrant view on life through his signature hyperflat and patterned style.

This collaboration aims to bring the works of artists with disabilities into everyday spaces, increasing public access to their art while celebrating their creative achievements. By showcasing their portfolios in a high-footfall venue, the initiative encourages greater appreciation and support for diverse artistic voices.

As part of the programme, visitors also participated in art jamming sessions conducted by Noah. Designed for young children and parents, these sessions foster connection between public and artists through inclusive art-making experiences!



## Brightening Lives

In a joint collaboration between Majurity Trust and ART:DIS, the facade of The Fullerton Hotel was illuminated with light projections during the year-end countdown.

From 26–31 December 2024, vibrant artworks by our artists Abraham Koh, Amelia Tan, Brennan Tay, Crystal Tay, Nicole Koo, Noah Tan, Sophie Valerio and Zoe Tan were animated into a magnificent light show, illustrating a Singapore where everyone can grow, contribute and thrive.

This project proved challenging for our artists as it was their first time creating a large work that synced with an architectural facade. They nevertheless took it on with gusto and found the experience enriching.



**“Projection art requires computers to create multiple layers that blend together. This is my first attempt and I look forward to experimenting more.” —Abraham Koh**







## Enabling Lives Festival

An annual celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the Enabling Lives Festival returned for its fourth edition from 30 November – 3 December 2024 and ART:DIS was thrilled to be a programme partner to bridge disabled and non-disabled communities.

Across SG Enable's headquarters at Enabling Village, we transformed the space into a vibrant playground of creative energy through 8 programmes led by 35 artists with disabilities and 135 caregivers:

- Live music performances across genres such as classical, evergreen pop and even original compositions (left)
- The Human Condition, a development showcase of verbatim theatre exploring themes of love, family, identity, empathy and hope
- Speaking of Which, a development showcase blending storytelling and movement to challenge preconceived notions of ability and potential
- Interactive storytelling, in collaboration with Zip Zap Zoom collective (below left)
- Between Earth & Sky, an immersive art experience in collaboration with artist Alecia Neo on the complexities of care-giving
- Knots & Braids, an immersive installation in collaboration with Adeline Loo on recognition of caregiver communities (left)
- Gelli-plate printing on tote bags (below)
- Cyanotype printing into posters





# FUNDRAISING

The generosity of corporates, foundations, donors and sponsors enable us to continue running programmes that empower persons with disabilities in the arts.



(Left) Tight friendships blossom within our Ceramic classes

## The 60 For 60 Campaign

Singapore did not turn 60 by chance — we got here by dreaming big, working hard and lifting one another up. In this same spirit, ART:DIS is inviting everyone to be part of a campaign that reflects who we are and what we want to become.

The 60 for 60 Campaign aims to raise \$260,060 by rallying people across Singapore to give generously in multiples of \$60, in support of artists with disabilities. Every contribution unlocks access to arts education, mentorships and livelihoods, empowering our artists to thrive and be part of the Singapore Story.

With the support of a Tote Board matching grant, your gift to ART:DIS in this campaign will go even further in making a difference. All donations are eligible for 250% tax deduction. **Scan to support!**



### This is Hong Hui's story

Known to all as a gentle giant, Hong Hui is a quiet boy whose art skills came as a surprise (right)! "I did not know my son could draw so well until he attended classes at ART:DIS," his mom shared.

An award-winning swimmer, having attained Gold in the Special Olympics 2017, who has a remarkable memory for numbers, Hong Hui can now add artist to his cap! What started as a parent's simple wish for her son to be engaged, following graduation from SPED school, has grown into a weekly, treasured routine for Hong Hui.

ART:DIS is glad to be an enabler in his creative journey, and we look forward to how his arts education develops!

(Right)  
A training class for aspiring disabled actors, who are doing a class on vocalisation







## Swing for Disability Inclusion 2025

Swing back to your childhood — marbles, chapteh, spinning tops — as we celebrate SG60 with a nostalgic twist for ART:DIS Annual Charity Golf! Participants can look forward to:

- Hole-in-One prize: BMW i5 worth \$232,821 and IWC Big Pilot's Watch Perpetual Calendar Watch worth \$50K
- Adidas Golf F/W 2025 fashion fits for gentlemen and ladies
- Limited Edition SG60 Event Bag, designed by our artists who were part of the NDP 2025 Pack design
- Lucky draw, live art, wine, and more surprises in the pipeline!

Where nostalgia meets purpose in a golf experience like no other, let's Par-Tee with heart and the SG60 spirit all in support of artists with disabilities! Here are some ways to contribute!

1. Flights sponsorship — Presenting (\$50,000), Golf (\$10,000), Silver (\$5,800)
2. Donation in kind — Items for lucky draw and tournament prizes
3. Cash donations — \$1,500 and above

For a full list of entitlements with each contribution: [bit.ly/ARTDIS-CharityGolf2025](https://bit.ly/ARTDIS-CharityGolf2025)

For queries, email [jennifer@artdis.org.sg](mailto:jennifer@artdis.org.sg)

### Date

24 October 2025

### Time

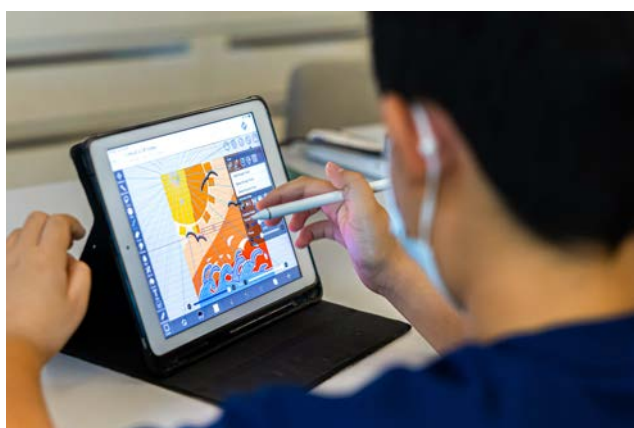
11:00am (Registration)

1:00pm (Shotgun)

6:30pm (Dinner)

### Venue

Tanah Merah Country Club  
(Tampines Course)



(Anti-clockwise)  
Students  
attending  
weekly  
classes in Fine  
Arts, Digital  
Illustration and  
Vocal Music



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ARTS & DISABILITY  
SINGAPORE