

MEDIA RELEASE

Bridging communities at inclusive arts festival by persons with disabilities

Singapore, 23 June 2025

In celebration of SG60 and Singapore's ongoing journey toward a more inclusive society, ART:DIS (Arts & Disability) Singapore presents **Pocket Fest** — a mini arts festival that champions creativity across all abilities. Held at Objectifs on 5–6 July, the festival brings together more than 55 artists with disabilities from ART:DIS to lead workshops, showcase original works, and foster meaningful engagement with the wider community through art.

In conjunction with the festival, ART:DIS will officially launch **ART:DIS Studio** – its flagship employment initiative. First piloted in 2024, this programme was designed to consolidate the diverse talents of artists with disabilities within a creative studio model, equipping them with industry-relevant skills and connecting them to flexible and meaningful work in the arts.

“We can do so much more than desk-bound jobs. I am a very hands-on person and love to create,” shared Nurul Natasya. A visually impaired trainee from the pilot Ceramics vocational training programme of ART:DIS Studio, Nurul found friendship, routine and empowerment through weekly studio sessions where she designed functional ceramic pieces.

“At first clay felt like play-doh. But with the teacher's guidance, I used tools and my hands to make plates, cups, candle-holders etc. All these were things I never thought I could make. With ART:DIS, I can explore my creativity freely,” she added.

Through her new found skills and confidence, Nurul together with her peers in the programme have taken on projects with brands such as Resort Worlds Sentosa, local jewelry brand Curious Creatures, and also conducted corporate workshops for employees of GIC, A&O Sherman and Standard Chartered Bank.

With \$600,000 funding support over three years from GIC as the Principal Funder, the programme is now set to expand, reaching an expected 80 artists. This next phase will introduce more vocational training opportunities across different creative tracks and a supported employment framework, which will enable persons with disabilities to access gig work opportunities within the creative sector. The programme is further supported by employee volunteers from GIC, who provide task-based support to trainees as they work within the studio. By creating more equitable and sustainable opportunities across a range of abilities, ART:DIS Studio will enable more artists to be recognised, celebrated, and gain the dignity of work.

Learn from and make art with artists with disabilities

ART:DIS Studio will also train and support artists to lead corporate and public workshops, offering another meaningful stream of livelihood. At Pocket Fest, 13

workshops led by 6 different artists will take place, giving them the platform to share their talents with the wider community. These include ticketed workshops (i.e. Texture art-painting with Noah Tan, Coffee art-painting with Abraham Koh, Paint-pouring with Vicki Tan, Sake cup-making with Zack Ling and Linocut print-making with Sage Tan) and free hands-on activities where festival-goers can get creative with DIY stations to design their own pin badges, ceramic charm keychains, posters and postcards.

One of the featured artists is Joycelin Toh, who discovered her love for clay as a teenager and taught herself to mould and sculpt. She joined ARTDIS to improve her proficiency in ceramics, and has since led air-dry clay miniature workshops for companies such as Mapletree, Bloomberg and Liberty Specialty Markets.

“As a creative, I enjoy inspiring people through art. Clay is a medium that offers many possibilities and never know what beautiful things you can create just by having fun with it,” said Joycelin. “These workshops let me share that joy and supports my day-to-day living.”

Encounter new ways of seeing the world in a group exhibition

Anchoring the festival as well is a showcase by more than 30 young artists with disabilities. Responding to the theme *My Favourite Things*, this exhibition highlights their year-long education and creative exploration across different mediums and subjects such as personal memories, treasured objects, places, and emotions.

“Working beyond conventional frameworks, the artists draw from personal experiences and sensibilities shaped by their unique journeys. Their artworks form a vibrant mosaic that resonates with the joy of creation, reminding us that art, at its core, is an expression of the things we love,” said John Tung, independent curator of the exhibition.

The exhibition would be held over an extended period of 5–14 July. It also celebrates 6 students who have recently completed a top-up certificate course from Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts’s Centre for Lifelong Education, acknowledging their achievements and commitments to their artistic studies.

Fun-filled social mixing for children and families

With everyone and anyone invited to *Pocket Fest*, festival-goers can also indulge in a whole host of other activities, especially with our event passport in hand where they can collect stamps at different stations to redeem goodies.

Must-visit pitstops at the festival include the community zone for live performances and the pop-up gift shop where beautiful, quality lifestyle products by artists from ART:DIS Studio will be for sale. Examples include popular items such as notebooks, bags, cutlery sets and tumblers featuring the artworks of Joshua Tang and Chong Yao Qing. They receive regular royalties from merchandise sales, alongside gig opportunities to share their world with others.

“Art is a form of relaxation for me. The many shapes and patterns make me calm,” shared Yao Qing. “Patterns are my unique identity and I want people to feel elated when they look at my art.”

FESTIVAL DETAILS

Title: *ART:DIS Pocket Fest*

Date/Time: 5 – 6 July 2024, 11am–7pm*

Venue: Objectifs, 155 Middle Road, Singapore 188977

Price: Free except for some workshops.

Website: <https://www.artdis.org.sg/artdis-pocketfest/>

*Exhibition and Shop continues through to 14 July 2025

Media assets: Downloadable [here](#)

Annex A: Workshop details

Annex B: Hands-on activities details

Annex C: Festival map

ABOUT ART:DIS SINGAPORE

Formerly known as Very Special Arts Singapore, ART:DIS (Arts & Disability) Singapore is a non-profit organisation established in 1993, championing the learning and livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities (PwDs) in and through the arts.

We provide a wide range of programmes to enable PwDs to develop their artistic interests, grow their self-confidence and engage them as active members of a supported community, outside of and beyond formal education. Our parallel professional development pathways further supports disabled artists to develop careers in the arts through industry mentorships and showcase opportunities.

[website](#) | [instagram](#) | [facebook](#)

ABOUT ARTDIS STUDIO

ART:DIS Studio is the flagship employment initiative of ART:DIS Singapore, dedicated to empowering persons with disabilities through meaningful work in the arts. It operates across two key areas: One focuses on the creation of original art merchandise and handmade goods. The other functions as a creative agency, delivering art-driven projects and design services that help companies & brands engage their stakeholders through the unique perspectives of ART:DIS artists.

Each year, the Studio supports over 80 artists with disabilities, equipping them with industry-relevant skills and connecting them to flexible, gig-based opportunities. It pioneers inclusive employment models that are creative, purposeful, and empowering.

Corporate partners have included GIC Private Limited, Bank of Singapore, UOL Group Ltd, Bloomberg, CapitaLand, among others.

FOR QUERIES

Sabrina Zhang

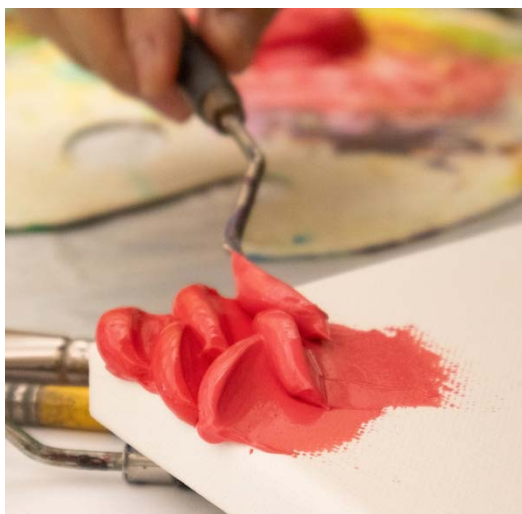
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Annex A – Workshop Details



Clay-making with Joycelin

Learn how to sculpt charming miniatures using soft, colorful jumping clay, perfect for all skill levels. Joycelin will guide you step by step as you shape, mold, and bring your characters or creations to life. Turn your finished piece into a magnet or create miniature displays to take home! Happening 5 July (12pm), register [here!](#)



Texture art-painting with Noah

Dive into Noah's vibrant world of colors and textures with our textured art workshop! Known for his precision with color and explorations in texture art, Noah will guide you through the fascinating process behind his stunning 3D creations. Gain hands-on experience as you craft your own masterpiece on canvas—experimenting with color gradient blending, precision mixing, gel mediums, and the use of a palette knife. This is your chance to explore new artistic techniques and take home a fun, unique piece of art. Happening 5 & 6 July (12:30pm), register [here!](#)



Coffee art-painting with Abraham

Explore a fun and simple way to create with coffee in this casual coffee art session. You'll learn how to use instant coffee to paint, experiment with tones, layer, and brush techniques to create your own artwork. No experience needed, just with love for art and coffee! As part of the session, enjoy a complimentary bottle of cold brew coffee from Hook Coffee, and receive souvenir coffee drip bags to take home together with your artwork! Happening 5 & 6 July (2:30pm), register [here!](#)



Paint-pouring with Vicki

Join artist Vicki for a vibrant, hands-on introduction to the mesmerizing world of paint pouring. In this playful and expressive workshop, Vicki will guide you through the essentials of fluid art from mixing your colors, to selecting your pouring technique, and learning how to manipulate the flow of paint across your canvas. Watch as swirling patterns and unexpected textures emerge, creating a one-of-a-kind masterpiece that's uniquely yours. Happening 5 & 6 July (3pm), register [here!](#)



Sake cup-making with Zack

Join Zack for a hands-on session in making your own sake cup using the hand-pinching method. You'll learn the basics of working with clay, shape your own cup by hand, and choose from a selection of glazes to finish your piece. Once fired, your cup will be ready for use—a practical, handmade item to enjoy or gift. Happening 5 & 6 July (multiple timings), register [here!](#)



Linocut print-making with Sage

Join Sage to learn the art of linocut printmaking from start to finish. Sage will guide you through each step of the process: designing your image, transferring it to a linoleum mat, carving intricate details with precision tools, and finally, inking and printing your unique creation. Discover the satisfaction of seeing your design come to life as you roll out ink, align your mat, and press it onto MUJI notebooks. Happening 5 & 6 July (5pm), register [here!](#)

Annex B – Hands-on Activities Details



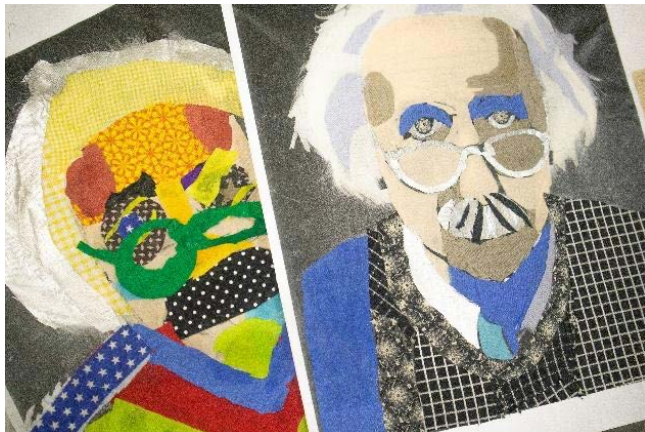
Watermarbling Bookmarks

Get creative with watermarbling in this fun, hands-on activity led by artist Joshua Tang! Try your hand at swirling colourful inks on water and make your own one-of-a-kind bookmark to bring home. Whether you're looking to unwind or just try something new, this is a great way to spend a little creative time!



Cyanotype Postcards

Discover the timeless beauty of cyanotype printing with Yao Qing, through the creation of your own unique postcard. Using natural materials and sunlight, you'll produce striking blue-toned impressions. This hands-on activity is a fun and accessible way to explore alternative printing techniques and create something truly one-of-a-kind.



Face the Scraps

Get crafty with collage in this playful activity all about reuse and creativity! Using all sorts of leftover scraps and offcuts, you'll piece together your own funky face artwork and bring our famous painters to life in a fun new way. It's a great chance to explore sustainability, get a little messy, and see how everyday materials can turn into something totally original.



Badgemaking -

Come make your mark at our Badgemaking booth! Pick from a specially curated selection of designs featuring works by our AIT artists, then customise your own one-of-a-kind badge to take home – a fun, wearable piece of your own creation!



Ceramic Keychain

Get artsy at our Ceramic Keychain booth! Mix and match colourful charms, then make it yours by doodling your own design on a ceramic biscuit charm. It's a mini masterpiece you can take on the go!

Annex C – Festival Map

ART:DIS POCKET FEST
5-6 July 2025
11:00AM-7:00PM
Exhibition continues till 14 Jul

EVERYONE IS INVITED

1 EXHIBITION
11:00AM-7:00PM

2 FRINGE ACTIVITIES PERFORMANCES
11:00AM-7:00PM

3 SHOP EXHIBITION
11:00PM-7:00PM

4 WORKSHOPS
12:00PM-6:00PM | BY REGISTRATION

5 FOOD AND BEVERAGE

FRINGE ACTIVITIES
11:00AM-7:00PM

- Byanotype
- Ceramic Keychain
- Badgemaking
- Caricature
- Watermarbling
- Face the Scraps
- Stamping

WORKSHOPS
12:00PM-6:00PM | BY REGISTRATION

- Textured Art
- Coffee Art
- Paint Pouring
- Sake Cup Making
- Linocut Notebook
- Jumping Clay

PERFORMANCES
4:30PM-6:30PM

- Kwang Sang
July 5 & 6
4:30PM - 5:00PM
- Jaffar Sidek
July 5 & 6
5:15PM - 5:45PM
- Strawberry Story
July 5
6:00PM - 6:30PM
- Adelyn Koh
July 5
6:00PM - 6:30PM

EXHIBITION
11:00AM-7:00PM

- Exhibition
- Ceramics

SHOP
11:00PM-7:00PM