

NEWSLETTER #25



Image features people interacting with an artwork on the Art Bus, a public art commission as part of Singapore Art Week 2026. Read the full story on page 5!

PROGRAMMES

Our structured pathway enables PwDs to reach their fullest potential. ART:DIS Foundation programmes encourage arts exploration, with more tailored tracks for those who wish to pursue higher professional training.

Exploring Art Interest in a Supported Environment

Embedded within the community, ART:DIS operates three centres across Bedok, Changi, and Bukit Merah, delivering weekly visual and performing arts programmes for persons with disabilities. These centres serve as inclusive, accessible spaces where individuals can engage in creative learning while building meaningful social connections.

Across our programmes, students develop not only artistic skills, but also essential life competencies including movement coordination, time management, emotional regulation and collaboration. By offering diverse pathways for creative expression, we support holistic development and long-term participation in society.

Through community-based, inclusive arts education, ART:DIS advances social inclusion, wellbeing, and equitable access to opportunities, contributing to a more resilient cultural ecosystem.



Performing Arts

- Percussion
- Drums
- Piano
- Violin
- Guitar
- Choir
- Drama
- Vocal Music
- Creative Dance
- Hip Hop Dance

Visual Arts

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

Join our quarterly group consultation to discover more of our offerings:

https://bit.ly/ARTDIS_GroupConsult

Parent Testimonial

Gareth Mark Hendricks (left) is a foundation student at ART:DIS for over 5 years, learning the piano, drums and fine arts under patient teachers. His parents continued to enrol Gareth after they noticed marked improvements with his emotions and situational awareness.



“ART:DIS provides opportunities for him to grow and thrive in his own special time and space. The pace of learning and class size is especially a good fit for children with special needs.” —Gareth’s parents

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.

Steward Leadership 25

At the Steward Leadership Summit 2025, which recognises initiatives that have significantly enhance the environment or society, ART:DIS was honoured to be among 25 organisations to receive the award for our flagship employment initiative ART:DIS Studio (below right).

Annually, the awards receive over 450 entries across 27 countries and ART:DIS Studio stood out as a model of how inclusive employment can drive both social impact and economic value. By providing flexible employment pathways for PwDs, the Studio addresses a critical ecosystem gap by aligning individual strengths and interests with job opportunities.



UOL x ART:DIS Art Prize 2025

The UOL x ART:DIS Art Prize is Singapore's first comprehensive platform recognising artists with disabilities. In its second edition, the biennial competition received over 570 entries from participants aged seven to seventy-eight, and emerging as Grand Prize winner was Christian Tan. He received \$20,000 and the opportunity to stage a solo exhibition in 2026!

In an awards ceremony and winner's exhibition at ION Art Gallery, graced by Mr David Neo (Acting Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Senior Minister of State for Education), a total of 18 artists were commended for their artistry, originality and skill across different age categories.

The winner's exhibition went on to travel to Velocity@Novena Square, West Mall, PARKROYAL on Beach Road, United Square and Punggol Regional Library.



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.

Singapore Art Week 2026

At Singapore's premier visual arts season of the year, ART:DIS was thrilled to present 3 projects to the global arts community, expanding perspectives on what diversity and inclusion looks like when disabled artists and their non-disabled peers collaborate.



Turning Points III

The third and final edition of our emerging artists group exhibition, this is a culmination of a year's mentorship training that saw 5 our artists reinventing their practice.

Congratulations to Aaron Yap, Chong Yao Qing, Hugh Lee, Kenji Teo and Zack Ling for deepening their technical vocabularies and experimenting with new materials, contributing new textures to Singapore's contemporary arts landscape.



Curated by John Tung, the exhibition offers a tapestry of resilience and adaptability, inviting audiences to witness the complexity of change in an artist's journey. The Turning Points programme is sustained by the generosity and commitment of its mentors, and in this iteration we extend our deepest appreciation to Joshua Yang, Kim Whye Kee (right), Lewis Choo, with Mary Bernadette Lee and Tristan Lim. Their contributions shaped conditions of trust that have left lasting imprints on our artists' evolving practices.



“This initiative serves as a catalyst, encouraging artists to step forward and showcase their work, regardless of the challenges they may face. Such diversity is crucial for enriching the cultural landscape.” —Tristan Lim, artist-mentor



Next Stop: Together!

Presented in partnership with National Arts Council, Land Transport Authority, SMRT Buses and ART:DIS, *Next Stop: Together!* is a major public art project comprising 8 large-scale MRT station commissions and a travelling Art Bus. Bringing art island-wide from 22–31 January 2026, 19 disabled and non-disabled artists collaborated to re-imagine routine commutes as sites of encounter and connection.

The MRT commissions by Chawaphon Phungnoi (below), Christian Tan, Kenneth Lee, Raymond Lau, Eugene Soh x Yeo Shih Yun (top left), Joel Keong x Mit Jai Inn, Isabelle Lim x Toni Cuhadi and Junle Font offered colour & reflection on daily commutes.

“This partnership with ART:DIS extends the spirit of Singapore Art Week beyond gallery walls, ensuring art is a shared & accessible experience for all!” — Low Eng Teong, Chief Executive Officer at National Arts Council



The Art Bus (below) by Calvin Pang, Chng Seok Tin, Hong Shu Ying (left), Isabelle Lim, Twardzik Ching Chor Leng, Victor Tan and Vincent Twardzik Ching introduced works encountered via touch, sound & play.



Light to Night Singapore

Organised by National Gallery Singapore, this annual light festival from 9–31 January 2026.

Our artists Noah Tan and Dr Azariah Tan were commissioned to present *Flower Power* (right), an immersive audiovisual experience for festival-goers. Projected on the façade of Victoria Theatre and Concert Hall, Noah’s series of floral paintings was animated to a fresh piano score by Dr Azariah, inviting audiences into a beautiful garden where which flowers and foliage pulse and sway to an underlying harmony of sound.





Pocket Fest

ART:DIS presented its inaugural mini arts festival *Pocket Fest* at Objectifs, demonstrating how the arts can advance social inclusion, economic empowerment, and meaningful public engagement. 55 artists with disabilities led 13 hands-on workshops and showcased over 75 artworks, engaging more than 2,000 visitors in creative exchange. The festival created an accessible platform for artists to lead, self-advocate and connect with the public, reinforcing the role of the arts as a catalyst for dialogue and shared value.



Festival-goers engaged deeply across multiple touch points:

- Workshops led by ART:DIS artists, including miniature clay, texture painting, coffee art, paint-pouring, ceramics, and linocut print-making (top left).
- Fringe activities and live performances that encouraged participation and community connection (left).
- A retail space featuring quality lifestyle products by our artists (top right).
- An exhibition curated by John Tung, *My Favourite Things*, spotlighting a year of artistic growth of our over 30 young artists-in-training (below).



The festival's impact was made possible through strong cross-sector collaboration. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to:

- Volunteers from GIC, Bloomberg, and Citibank, whose time and commitment enabled inclusive participation throughout the festival.
- Our partners Objectifs, AUX Media, Hydse, HeySprouts, Doob Bean Bags, Chagee and Hook Coffee, whose support reflects how corporate and community partnerships can contribute to inclusive, sustainable cultural ecosystems.

BEYOND DIS:PLAY Graduation

Access to professional development remains one of the biggest barriers for aspiring artists with disabilities. At ART:DIS, we address this gap through BEYOND DIS:PLAY — a theatre training programme designed to cultivate the next generation of D/deaf, neurodivergent, and disabled performers.

Over a two-year immersive curriculum beginning in 2023, 11 artists honed their craft through mentorships with industry professionals, gaining technical and creative competencies that prepare them for sustainable careers in the arts. From in-depth scene work and character studies, to rigorous movement drills and vocal exercises, our artists grew in confidence, discipline, and self-expression, culminating in 8 theatre showcases.



Congratulations to trainees Amanda Yip, Hay Qing Hui, Jade Ow, Kaeden Lim, Kimberlyn Kiew, Luo Mang, Megan Tang, Odilia Ser, Shalom Lim, Sherry Toh, and Trevor Lee.

Our deepest gratitude as well to our industry mentors who generously gave their time and knowledge to this cohort — Auderia Tan, Chiew Peishan, Claire Teo, Lim Chin Huat (below right), Karen Tan (below left), Nicole Shaan, Pat Toh, Peter Sau, Su Paing Tun, Tung Ka Wai, Verena Tay, and Yazid Jalil.

“This programme has shown me that access in theatre is more than just functional. When artists are empowered to self-advocate, we create a theatre that is positioned to challenge systemic ableism.”
—Jade Ow (above centre)





Emerging Artist Developmental Showcase

Access to industry-relevant training is critical for building inclusive and resilient creative sectors. Over the past year, our Emerging Artists participated in an intensive mentorship programme with acclaimed music practitioners, strengthening technical capabilities and professional confidence for long-term careers:

- Wan Wai Yee and Ivni Yaakub deepened their practice in music theory, chord progressions and rhythm, enabling them to compose more complex original works.
- Shy Shen expanded his artistic range by stepping beyond familiar genres through experimentation, culminating in a collaborative duet with fellow singer-songwriter Odelia Rei.
- Bryan developed industry-relevant competencies in music arrangement, mixing and marketing, equipping him with skills essential for work as a music producer.

From original compositions to personal interpretations, the artists' performances reflected artistic growth. We extend our sincere appreciation to mentors Daniel Purnomo, Evan Low, and Jasmine Pinder-Choe for their commitment to nurturing artists with disabilities.



Collaboration with The Necessary Stage

First incubated at ART:DIS as part of our Emerging Artist programme in 2025, and then further developed with the support of Temasek Foundation, ART:DIS was proud to co-present *INVISIBLE* with The Necessary Stage as part Singapore Fringe Festival 2026 from 21–25 January. Starring our artist Jaspreet Kaur Sekhon in a lead role, alongside professional actors Dalifah Shahril, Deonn Yang, and Periyachi Roshini, the production at Esplanade-Theatres on the Bay challenged assumptions about disability, encouraging audiences to engage with the realities of those who are marginalised in society.

Written and directed by award-winning playwright Haresh Sharma, with co-director Grace Kalaiselvi, the compelling work drew acclaim for its stagecraft, access features and advocacy narrative, reminding viewers of their shared humanity in a world troubled by division.



“The play presents a picture you do not see often – with directors casting Sekhon, who has Down syndrome, not as the disabled character but as the demanding hotel guest... She delivered a commendable performance with a dose of humour.”

—The Straits Times



NAFA Visual Arts Top-up Certificate

We have partnered with Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) since 2018 to provide accredited pathways in arts education for persons with disabilities. Our joint top-up certificate in Visual Arts programme is designed to strengthen conceptualisation and time management skills, while equipping students with the discipline and confidence to articulate their ideas—critical foundations for building successful careers in the arts.

We have successfully graduated 3 cohorts from this programme, including our latest batch of 6 students in 2024. Congratulations to Avlynn Ng, Chong Yao Qing, Hugh Lee, Sunshine Tay, Thilak Laxman and Trevor Lee for preserving through months of study and practice (top).



Foundation Programme Year-End Showcase

From moving solos, beautiful duets, inspiring ensembles and breath-taking exhibitions, our Foundation students have shown how the arts can foster confidence, well-being and connection.

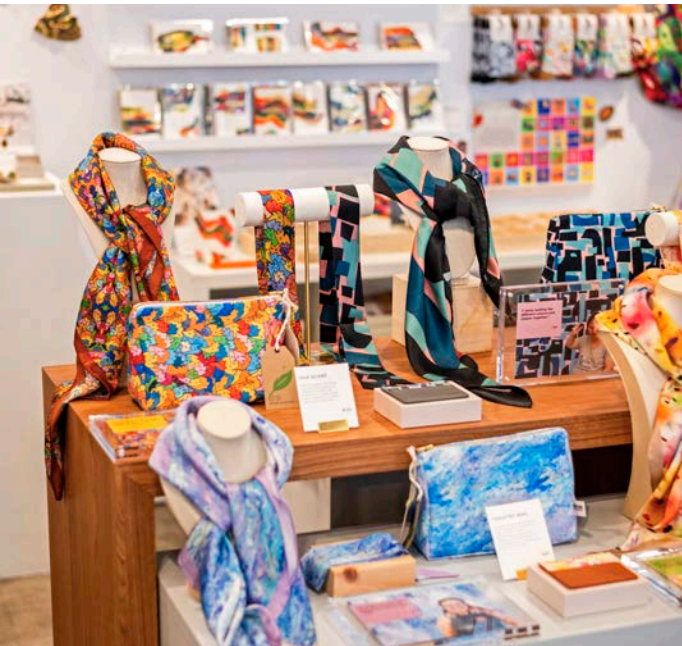
The showcase was more than a celebration of talent — it was a testament to what inclusive arts education can achieve. Many of our students scaled new heights in their development, reaching milestones we always knew they had it in them to achieve. We look forward to discovering more of your passions and dreams as ART:DIS embraces diversity in every form of expression!



Boutiques Singapore

ART:DIS Studio was invited once again to showcase the beautiful products of our artists at Boutiques Singapore, the country's largest design-led shopping event with over 300 independent brands.

This marks our fourth time participating in the fair and it was our biggest yet, with the highlight being an experiential beads bar where customers can create their own bespoke keychains from ceramic beads handcrafted by our artists. Other new merchandise included silk scarves/twillies, vegan cardholders and make-up pouches, perfect for the gifting season!



Singapore Clay Festival

This annual celebration of the art of clay converged master, professional and hobbyist potters from across the region, and we were proud our ceramic artists from ART:DIS Studio were part of this showcase, passionately sharing their story and process with visitors!

Through ART:DIS Studio, artists with disabilities are supported to translate their artistic strengths into professionally crafted works, demonstrating how structured training advances social inclusion and sustainable livelihoods.



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.



COP30

To introduce international delegates at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30) to Singapore, the Ministry of Trade and Industry commissioned artist Zulkhairi Lutfi (left) to design a pin badge. Featuring HDB blocks set against nature, his design reflects Singapore's balance of urban life and environmental stewardship.

Since graduating from Eden School in 2023, Hairi has strengthened his practice at ART:DIS via mentorships with professional artists and commissioned projects. His progress from student to emerging artist illustrates how equitable skills development, market access, and personalised support can empower persons with disabilities to thrive.



The Laurus Hotel

Singapore's first Luxury Collection Resort by Marriott, The Laurus opened in October 2025, offering a tranquil retreat for the global traveller. To welcome guests into this elegant sanctuary, Resorts World Sentosa commissioned our artists to create unique artworks for their new suites.

Natalie Holstad painted several large-scale abstract pieces that invited guests to slow down. Her addition of gold flakes to these works imbued rooms with a touch of refined grace (above left). Isabelle Lim used her lens to capture stylish black-and-white photos of Singapore. Her emotive street photography conveyed the island's beauty and spirit, encouraging guests to explore the hidden beauty of the little red dot (above right).

Singapore Pavilion at the World Expo

From April to October 2025, 28 million visitors from 165 countries visited Osaka for the World Expo, celebrating the unique diversity of humankind. Through countries' pavilions & satellite events, the Expo created an out-of-the-ordinary experience where diplomatic, business, academic and cultural exchanges took place, building mutual understanding for positive change.

ART:DIS was honoured to share the perspectives of our artists with disabilities at Singapore's pavilion:

- *Magic Hour* is a captivating installation featuring intricate paper-cuts of Fern Wong. Encased in glass orbs, Fern's artwork pulsed to the rhythm of acclaimed composer Avik Chari's melodies (top right).
- Soprano Claire Teo and pedagogue-pianist Dr Azariah Tan performed a collaborative stage, demonstrating the height of their classical artistry (right).

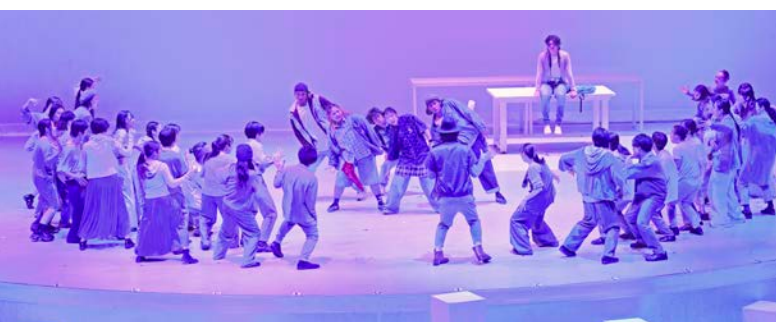


International Collaboration with BiG-i

Established by Japan's Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, BiG-i promotes the participation of PwDs in society through art and cultural activities. ART:DIS has formed a strong allyship with BiG-i since 2018, collaborating on numerous occasions to increase equitable opportunities for artists with disabilities. In 2025, we are proud to have partnered with them for 2 showcases.

Heavy Lines, Light Touch is a duo exhibition featuring our artist Fern Wong and Toshio Okamoto at Patina Osaka (top left). Despite their different mediums, both artists' expressive spirit echoed each other to convey freedom. Through their joy in artistic creation, the exhibition celebrated the friendship that continues to grow between Singapore and Japan.

Breakthrough Journey is a dance drama about realizing dreams in spite of adversity, featuring over 100 performers from South East Asia including our dancers Timothy Lee, Ammar Amezzy and Faiiqah Shariffah (left). First conceived in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic, the production was re-staged at the World Expo for its celebration of diversity, bringing together people of different abilities onto a unified stage.





“This was my first-time doing linocut. I’m proud of the print I made and I’m happy that many will use this bag!” —Sage Tan, an artist with ART:DIS (right)

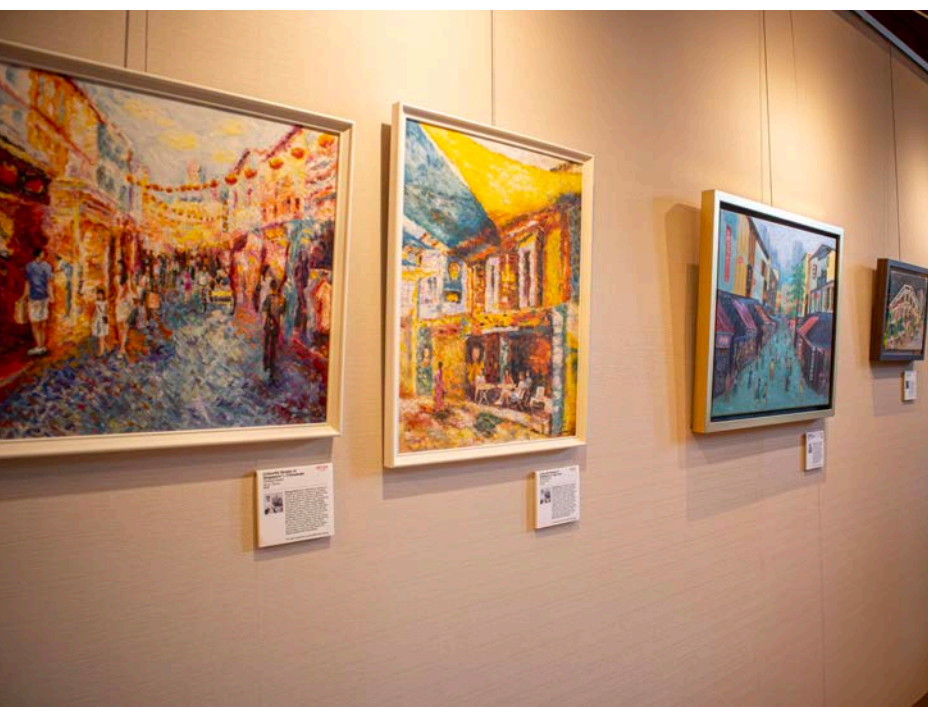
One Diverse Nation

To celebrate 60 years of independence, ART:DIS was proud to have collaborated with SG Enable and MINDEF to create the National Day Parade 2025 packs. 21 of our artists, across all ages, disabilities and mediums were commissioned to design 4 unique pieces inspired by the themes of *Multiculturalism*, *Resilience*, *Openness* and *Boldness*. This was the first time for many to work on such a large-scale project, and they were excited to be part of the national celebrations!



National Day Exhibition at Fullerton Hotel

In celebration of SG60, 12 of our senior artists presented *Singapore Scenes: Impressions of Familiarity* at The Fullerton Hotel, an exhibition that highlighted the role of the arts in preserving collective memory and cultural identity (left).



Through depictions of local markets, historic landmarks, traditional life and festive gatherings, the artworks capture the lived experiences of a generation that witnessed Singapore’s journey from hardship to progress. By providing a platform for artists with disabilities to share their perspectives, this exhibition advances inclusive representation & intergenerational storytelling.

Majurity Trust

In celebration of The Foundry's first anniversary, The Majurity Trust commissioned artist Kenneth Lee to create a series of commemorative ceramic plates, each featuring his signature, detailed perspective drawings of the building from multiple angles (right).

Beyond the artistry, this commission exemplifies how sustained investment in creative capability can translate into economic empowerment, talent recognition and shared social value. The Majurity Trust's support for ART:DIS' ceramics programme in 2020 helped establish new pathways for skills development, empowering many of our ceramic artists with meaningful employment.



Photo credit: The Majurity Trust

“My artwork of dishes enjoyed during Hari Raya Haji shares the vibrancy and joy of the festive month.” —Dina Anati, an artist with ART:DIS

Kaiser Pharmaceutical

12 artists each gave their unique take on festive culinary delights for Kaiser Pharmaceutical's new 2026 calendar (below). From decadent treats for special occasions to everyday comfort foods tied to meaningful moments, the calendar showcased the richness and diversity of our food culture through distinct artistic interpretations.





Enabling Lives Festival 2025

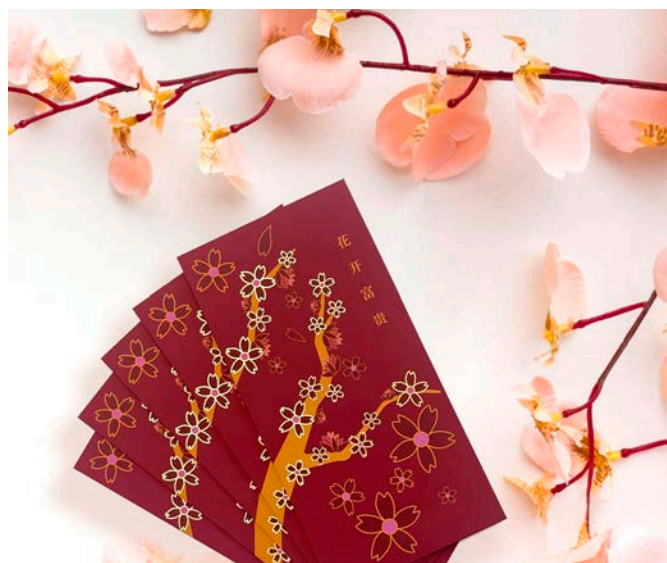
At this annual celebration of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, over 60 of our artists came together to demonstrate how inclusive arts practices can strengthen communities and broaden representation. Across both performing and visual arts, artists shared personal narratives of resilience, challenging traditional definitions of difference and expanding what diversity in the arts can look like (left and below).



Festive Art Commissions

To usher in Lunar New Year 2026, our artists were commissioned to create bespoke red packets:

- For Bank of Singapore, artist Nicole Koo painted delicate watercolour peonies paired with majestic horses, heralding prosperity and vitality (right).
- For The Elegant Group, artist Raemorriel Lee created a beautiful portrait of a cherry blossom tree, representing hope for the new spring (bottom).
- For Singapore Pools, artist Nicole Koo designed an auspicious artwork of graceful Koi fishes, swimming serenely in waters to convey interconnectedness and resilience (bottom right).



Super24

For the second year running, we were ecstatic to partner Singapore Pools to deliver a unique collaborative stage for dance competition Super24! Before the commencement of the open finals, our soprano Claire Teo and singer-songwriter Benjamin Kheng dazzled audiences with a high-octane rendition of *Defying Gravity* from the beloved musical *Wicked*. Their dynamic voices and the empowering anthem of the song, encouraged all dancers about to take to the stage to take flight on their own terms as they are authors of their own destiny (below)!



Brightening Lives

Together with our partner The Majurity Trust, ART:DIS is thrilled to once again usher in the new year with Brightening Lives, an annual light show of animated artworks projected on façade of The Fullerton Hotel. Celebrating the many strengths of our nation, 20 of our artists were commissioned to create or adapt artworks for this project, taking viewers on a vibrant journey through Singapore's past, present and future.



“Creating art brings me joy and relaxation. I enjoy drawing transport systems the most so I hope this painting will inspire everyone’s excitement for a vibrant tomorrow.” —Koh Jun Kai, one of the commissioned artists of *Brightening Lives*



Cyanotype workshop by artist Abraham for Bloomberg (above) and paint-pouring workshops by artist Vicki for Citibank (below).



Corporate Workshops

Art has the power to connect, dissolving barriers to bring people together through shared creativity. We are grateful to have numerous corporate partners championing livelihood opportunities for persons with disabilities, exemplifying the spirit of doing well by doing good through arts engagement for DEI celebrations and employee well-being.

At such hands-on art sessions, participants creatively expressed themselves while also connecting directly with our artists who generously shared about their craft and lived experiences. These partnerships demonstrate how corporate and community can come together to advance inclusive employment while cultivating dialogue around disability inclusion.



Linocut workshops by artist Christian Tan for VOPAK (above) and artist Sage Tan for Bloomberg (below).



Ceramic painting workshops by our Open Studio trainees for Singapore Courts (above) and Edrington (below).



FUNDRAISING

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



Charity Golf 2025

Swing for Disability Inclusion – SG60 Edition brought together sport & purpose in support of a more inclusive society. On 24 October 2025, over 120 golfers, supporters and partners gathered at Tanah Merah Country Club with a shared commitment to advancing disability inclusion and equitable access to opportunities in the arts.

Across 32 flights, participants teed off in a spirit of friendly competition, supported by generous Hole-in-One sponsorships that reflected strong private-sector engagement for social good. Beyond the fairways, the day was anchored by the creative voices of ART:DIS artists, whose performances reminded us that talent flourishes when platforms are inclusive.

We were honoured to welcome Mr Dinesh Vasu Dash (Minister of State for Culture, Community & Youth and Manpower) whose presence underscored the importance of cross-sector collaboration in building an enabling ecosystem for PwDs.

Thanks to the collective generosity of our sponsors, donors, partners and golfers, the event raised over \$270,000, directly supporting our artists in their learning, professional development and long-term livelihood pathways. Our sincere appreciation to all sponsors, volunteers, staff and Board Members who made fundraiser possible.



A Transformational Partnership with GIC

The ART:DIS Studio Programme is a vocational initiative that creates inclusive employment pathways for persons with disabilities in the creative sector. Through structured apprenticeships in Fine Arts, Digital Arts and Ceramics, artists receive job coaching and industry exposure to develop technical skills, produce market-ready works and undertake commissioned projects, ultimately creating sustainable livelihoods for themselves.

In 2025, ART:DIS partnered with GIC Private Limited, securing \$600,000 over three years as the programme's principal funder. This investment will enable ART:DIS Studio to expand its reach to over 80 artists, implementing a supported employment framework that broadens access to gig-work opportunities.

Together, this partnership advances inclusive growth and equitable opportunity, empowering artists with disabilities to build meaningful careers in a more diverse creative economy.



“I enjoy working in the ceramic studio as this brings in income and work experience. I have also learnt to improve and build up my resilience from the teachers.” —Zack Ling, a ceramic artist who is part of ART:DIS Studio (left)

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ART:DIS
ARTS & DISABILITY
SINGAPORE