

Welcome to my world



Soaring
Eugene Soh (1963), Acrylic Painting, 50CM X 50CM

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MISSION

To create and provide access and opportunities for people with disabilities through the arts.

VISION

A world where people with disabilities are empowered through the arts, contribute to and integrate with the community.

EDITORIAL TEAM

Leong Wen Shan, Mabellyn Tang,
Maureen Goh, Sarah Sim

Artists Exhibit Their “Dynamic Touch”

Running from December to February, “Dynamic Touch” was an exhibition that showcased the artworks by seven of our artists: Stanley Lim, Chai Hong, Wesley Seah, Tan Aik Lan, Daren Lesie, Lau Su An and Aaron Yeo. All of the artists underwent art training by Teacher Yoko Choi.

The artists drew inspiration from life and created works that focused on their favourite subject matter, abstracts, landscapes and florals.

Exhibition period: 12 December 2020 – 27 February 2021

For purchase enquiries or any other information, please contact sales@vsa.org.sg for more details.



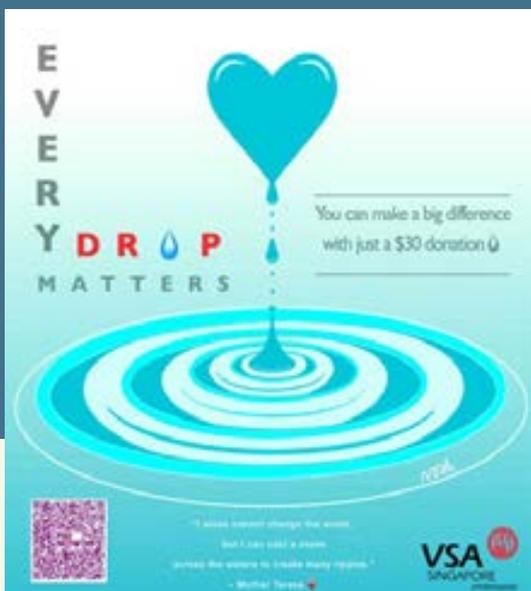
Scan the QR Code to experience the exhibition in the comfort of your home!



Every Drop Matters Fundraising Campaign

Helen Keller said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”

2020 was not an easy year, with the COVID-19 pandemic affecting everyone. Our fundraising project, titled “Every Drop Matters”, aimed to garner 5,000 supporters to donate \$30 each so that we could continue to provide quality art lessons and activities for our beneficiaries (i.e., people with disabilities).



The “Every Drop Matters” online fundraising campaign ran for six months from 5 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. We are thankful to have successfully raised \$33,637 from 273 donors via the Giving.sg and PayNow platforms. Thank you everyone for all your efforts and contributions to the campaign. The donations will go a long way in empowering our beneficiaries through the arts.



See What I See, VSA(S)'s Annual Art Competition

“See What I See” Award Ceremony on Zoom

We had our very first online SWIS (“See What I See”) Award Ceremony on 20 March 2021. Held on Zoom, the event was attended by the winners, their parents/caregivers, judges, teachers, volunteers and staff. Congratulations once again to the talented winners and our warm appreciation to all who tuned in and supported the ceremony.

Exhibition at Far East Plaza

The exhibition of the SWIS winning and commendable entries was held at Far East Plaza, Unit #01-73/74 from 17 April 2021 to 13 June 2021. Showcasing 72 artworks in total, the exhibition was made possible through the support of the Cultural Matching Fund and Far East Plaza. This exhibition was open to the public and served as a platform to raise awareness of the abilities of our children and youths with disabilities in visual art.



SWIS Exhibition at Far East Plaza



MARCH HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

20 March: Contemporary Puppetry Holiday Workshop

To all who have grown up enjoying the American children's television series Sesame Street, the Contemporary Puppetry Workshop was an excellent chance to learn the art of puppetry and recreate those magical moments.

Helmed by multi-award winning actress Tan Beng Tian, this one-off intimate contemporary puppetry workshop kept participants captivated right from the start. There, they learnt the fundamental techniques of animating a puppet – breathing life into it and using it for storytelling, performance, and communication. The workshop also had many crafting opportunities. For instance, participants made beautiful butterflies from recycled paper, adding pieces of tissue to form embellishments while colouring the wings with attractive patterns. The attending caregivers expressed their appreciation for the workshop, which they felt sparked their child's creativity and imagination. After the workshop, some participants also reported using what they had learnt to create more such pieces on their own.



21 March: Hip Hop Holiday Workshop

Mention hip hop and we often think of able-bodied dancers or celebrities performing slick choreographies. At VSA(S), hip hop is all-inclusive – and we welcome everyone, regardless of physical ability, age and culture, to take to the dance floor.



On 22 March 2021, VSA(S) Art Space @ Changi presented a dynamic dance ensemble of 14 participants. Coached by hip hop instructor Luqman B Asad through step-by-step visual cues, our young dancers capped the workshop with an energetic performance. The dance even included a storytelling of the beloved children's story, Alex and the Lion.

With warm and excellent feedback from participants as well as caregivers, we look forward to bringing back this popular workshop in the June holidays.

BIZLINK DAY ACTIVITY CENTRE

After our very first pro-bono Theatre and Dance Experiential Workshop at Bizlink Day Activity Centre (DAC) held last November, we now have a recurring drama programme at the centre.

We are pleased to have brought back the drama programme on 2 February 2021, incorporating more in-depth theatrical elements to the talented beneficiaries of Bizlink DAC. Spanning six sessions, the workshop explores unique ways of using theatrical elements – such as body form, body language and puppets. Learning also takes place beyond the curriculum, where each participant is encouraged to contribute as a responsible team player and also lead from time to time.

We are extremely proud to see our participants' growth and look forward to conducting the dance programme with Bizlink DAC this April. This full-year programme for Bizlink DAC is a definite step forward in VSA(S)'s provision of access to the arts and opportunities for persons with disabilities. By garnering more support, we hope to extend this platform to many more social service organisations and special education schools.

V'Day Oil Paintings by Nicole Koo

Our professional artist Nicole Koo created a lovely floral collection for Valentine's Day 2021 and we are delighted to announce that the paintings were fully sold out. Nicole is an artist who is often inspired by flora and fauna. The details in her paintings truly illustrate her keen eye, artistic skill sets and talent. We hope to continue to showcase more of our artists' talents and we are thankful for your unwavering support.



Limited EZ-Link Cards On Sale Now

Own a limited edition EZ-Link card featuring the works of our Artists-in-Training! The series of cards are beautifully designed by Aaron Yap, Amelia Tan, Floyd Thien and Noah Tan. Each card is priced at \$15; the entire collection of four is priced at \$54 (instead of \$60).

This limited offer ends 31 July 2021.

To purchase or enquire on commission work, contact our team at sales@vsa.org.sg



Big-i Japan Exhibition

Last December, five of our artists had their works exhibited in Koka City, in Japan's Shiga Prefecture. Artists Raymond Lau, Eugene Soh, Chuan Yew Eng, Nicole Koo and Ng Siang Hoi were part of the artists lineup for the Big-i Japan exhibition that ran from 14 to 23 January 2021.

The show's focus was to share artworks by people with disabilities, to promote a better understanding of their lives and aspirations, and to move closer to becoming a diverse society where people respect and support one another.

Koka City is registered as the host town for Singapore when Japan holds the 16th Summer Paralympic Games later this year. The city will host Paralympians, conduct international exchange between people with disabilities through art and culture, and create opportunities for residents of Koka City to encounter attractive artworks by such artists from both Singapore and Koka City.

Uniqlo and Comm Chest Collaboration

To mark Giving Week in December 2020, Uniqlo's UTme! app (which lets users customise their own T-shirts) collaborated with the Community Chest to produce T-shirts bearing the works of creative individuals from four social service agencies, including VSA(S).

Entitled "A Kaleidoscopic View of the World", the campaign successfully raised \$10,000 from the T-shirt sale proceeds, which was disbursed equally among the four organisations. VSA(S)'s Artist-in-Training Noah Tan had two of his artworks, "Happy Fish" and "Beautiful World of Colour and Shape" selected by Uniqlo for the campaign. We are grateful to be part of the campaign and congratulate Noah on his wonderful achievement.

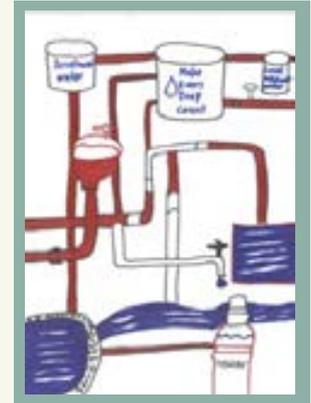
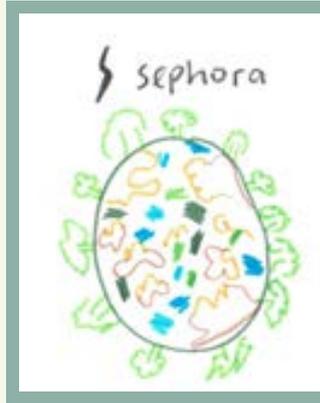
Supporting our Artists-in-Training is a sure way of creating a positive impact on their training journey towards a professional career. If your organisation would like to partner us, come find out what we can offer. Please contact sales@vsa.org.sg for more information.





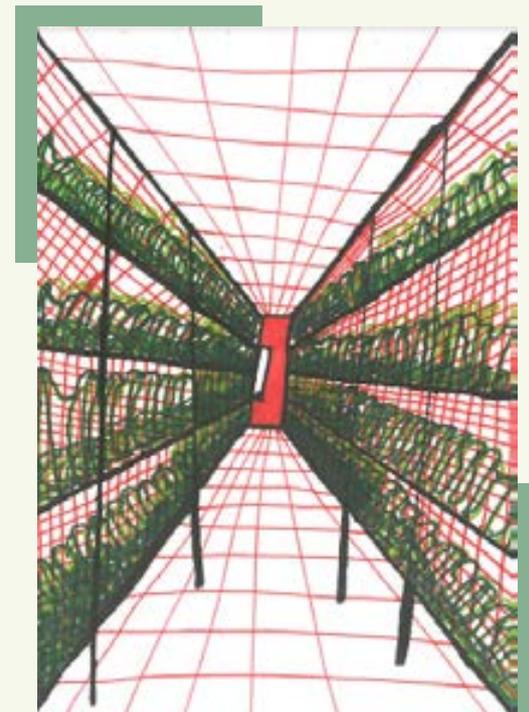
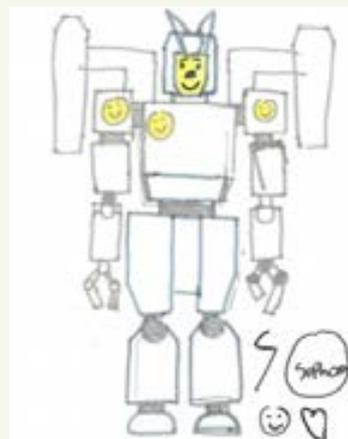
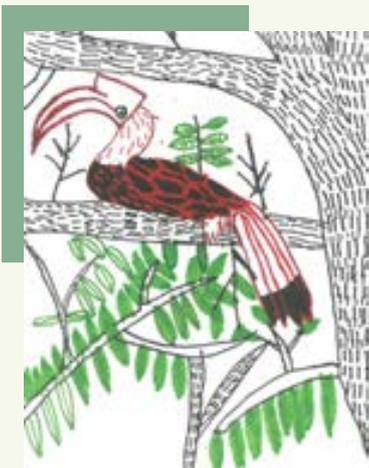
Sephora x VSA(S) Raising Awareness for Persons With Disabilities

Students of our visual arts foundation programme collaborated with French beauty retailer Sephora in Singapore, where they produced a series of designs that adorned Sephora's selected products/stores to raise awareness of persons with disabilities. The five students who participated in this project were: Au Chin Siang, Janelle Seah, Jonathan Lew, Tan Cher Xuan and Timothy Charles Ganesan. Thank you Sephora and our five students.



National Day Parade's Goodie Bag Design

On behalf of National Day Parade (NPD) organising committee, SG Enable organised a call for designs for this year's NDP goodie bags. As one of the participating organisations, VSA(S) submitted three artworks from our ALERT programme (short for "Arts in Learning, Rehabilitation and Training"). The student creators are Li Xiang, Isaac Tan, Julian Chan. SG Enable will be announcing the winning results in the upcoming weeks.





Decorating a New Space? Do Good While Enjoying Art

Recently, several paintings from our very own professional artists were seen at the showflat for Clavon, a condominium development in Clementi. Some visitors enjoyed the displays so much that they reached out to VSA(S) to inquire about artist-commissioned works and to purchase some of these paintings for their homes. Thank you for your warm support.

Our artworks are exclusive pieces. You can also commission your favourite artist to create something specifically for your home or office. Each of the artwork is unique in every sense of the word – with a special story and an inspired vision, reflecting the special talent behind it.

If you're looking to add a special piece of artwork to your collection or a pottery piece for new space, do reach out to us at sales@vsa.org.sg.



Art Jamming Workshops for CSR and Teambuilding

Fraser's Properties generously provided its space at Changi City Point for an art jamming workshop during the weekend of 21st and 22nd March. Over the two days, our professional artist Raymond Lau was on site to conduct the workshops for interested shoppers at the mall. Participants found the session relaxing and fun as they were guided in producing their very own pieces of art starting from a blank canvas.

If your organisation is looking for creative corporate team building activities, or a channel to carry out CSR work, our artists are available for art jamming workshops at your premises or at our own art studios. You will be supporting our artists and promoting our cause while meeting your CSR goals. Please email sales@vsa.org.sg to find out how we can tailor our programmes to suit your needs.



CONNECTIONS — A Performance Showcase

CONNECTIONS, a performance showcase of neurodiverse, gender diverse and disabled artists, was held at Singapore Repertory Theatre on 22 & 23 April 2021. It included a long-distance creative collaboration with Jeremy Goldstein and London Artists Projects. This was a truly memorable week for VSA(S) in establishing the works of our professional artists with disabilities. The creative collaboration was held in conjunction with British Council Singapore and British High Commission.



Photo 1: In long-distance creative collaboration with Jeremy Goldstein from London Artists Projects.

Photo 2: A call-to-action from London Artists Projects.

Photo 3: 4 Singaporean disabled artists (left to right): Dawn-joy Leong, Claire Teo, Stephanie Esther Fam, June Chua

Photo 4: Closing speech by Sarah Meisch, Director of Arts, British Council for CONNECTIONS: A performance showcase of neurodiverse, gender diverse and disabled artists.



Volunteer Appreciation Party

The Volunteer Appreciation Party on 26 February 2021 was held virtually via zoom. The event was attended by some Board members and staff who wanted to express our appreciation to our volunteers for their kind support and service to our beneficiaries and organisation.

It does take a village to raise a child. Having all the extra hands truly help with our vision of empowering artists with disabilities. We are always happy to have more volunteers on board. If you are interested to volunteer, you may email Vileen via vileen@vsa.org.sg or register yourself via our official website, (<https://www.vsa.org.sg/volunteers>) so that our Volunteer Management team will be able to keep you updated on the latest volunteering opportunities.



Pretz Snacks for our Beneficiaries!

In April, we were thrilled to hear we would be receiving some delicious Glico Pretz snacks for our beneficiaries. We are thankful to Tung Shun Pte Ltd for sponsoring these cartons of Glico Pretz! This gesture brought smiles to the faces of our beneficiaries. Thank you.

We would also like to extend our thanks to our helpful parent volunteers for their kind involvement in making this happen – heartfelt thanks to Cecilia, Roger, Rosy and Sally!



“Facets of Reflection” Exhibition

“Facets of Reflection” Exhibition

15 May to 16 July 2021 held at The Gallery, VSA (S) Artspace @ Changi.

An exhibition that features 21 talented Artists-in-Training, “Facets of Reflection” showcases a collection of multimedia works – each a reflection of unique lives and experiences. Inspired by “Local”, “Playful” and “Inner” facets, they delved into a world of reflection, brimming with varied interpretations in the form of painting, sculpture, printmaking and animation. This exhibition gives a special glimpse into the minds of our beneficiaries – their memories, voices and lives.

VSA(S)’s Artists-in-Training are on a journey to become full-fledged visual artists. Please consider supporting their efforts by visiting the showcase or buying their works. The exhibition is held at The Gallery, VSA(S) Art Space @ Changi, 5 Changi Business Park, #03-01, Changi City Point. It is opened daily, please scan the QR code to book an appointment today.



“Fluidity” Exhibition

An exhibition showcasing the works of our Professional Artists 16 June 2021 onwards, at Far East Plaza, Unit #01-73/74.

Stay tuned for news of our upcoming exhibition, Fluidity, at Far East Plaza. All of us at VSA(S) are looking forward to the event as it has been a year since our last external exhibition in the heart of the city. See you there!



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT



Donate and make a difference to the lives of the people with disabilities. Help us reach out to and provide persons with disabilities the opportunities to access the arts. Your generous donation would go a long way in helping us to fund our programmes to support and empower persons with disabilities.



ATTENTION

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YES, I WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TO VERY SPECIAL ARTS SINGAPORE LTD.

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As VSA(S) is a registered organisation with Institution of Public Character (IPC) status, your donation, regardless of amount, will qualify for 250% tax exemption. In order for your donations to enjoy the tax exemption, kindly ensure that all necessary personal details are duly completed on the above form. If you have any enquiries, please contact VSA(S) at 6448 6275 or email general@vsa.org.sg.

In compliance with the Personal Data Protection Act (PDPA), I hereby give my consent to VSA(S) to collect my personal data and contact details which may be used and disclosed for purpose of tax exemption receipts of communication materials and other donor related management activities. To unsubscribe and/or withdraw this content, you may do so in writing to general@vsa.org.sg.

Signature _____ Date _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Very Special Arts Singapore Ltd (VSA(S))

As a charity organisation, VSA(S) highly values its volunteers and we are always looking for more to join this big family of ours. To volunteer with us, please visit vsa.org.sg/volunteers to read our volunteer FAQs and register yourself! You may also contact Ruo Xi at ruoxi@vsa.org.sg or 6448 6275 if you experience any issues or have further enquiries.



WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

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- [@vsa.singapore](https://www.instagram.com/vsa.singapore)

We are always striving to improve our newsletter and we welcome your feedback. Kindly share your comments with us at general@vsa.org.sg.

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