

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Frontiering New Models of Patronage for the Arts: Artery Opens Artist Studio, Supported by Corporate Patrons

Commercial studio space specialist storage facilities, contributed in-kind by corporate partners, to support artists in the “missing middle”

SINGAPORE, 14 September 2026 – Artery, an independently funded non-profit dedicated to supporting artists in Singapore, today opened the Artery **Artist Studio** at Admirax Building in Sembawang. The studio is a new space for artists in its five-year Artist Accelerator Programme (AAA). The 4,000 square-foot studio will initially support the six visual artists in Artery’s inaugural AAA cohort. Contributed in kind by Admirax for two years, the space gives artists access to a dedicated room to develop, produce and store work. This is a form of practical support that can be difficult to sustain during the career years between early-stage grants and institutional recognition.

The studio is an important resource within AAA, providing working space for artists. Other patrons support the programme in different ways. Lotus Fine Arts contributes professional art handling and specialist storage to Artery; and Tiger Beer contributes to Artery’s placemaking sessions.

Together, these contributions put into practice Artery’s patronage model, which was introduced at its launch in July this year. Through its **Patron-as-a-Service (PaaS), Space-as-Giving, and In-Kind Giving** programmes, Artery works with companies and philanthropists to turn existing assets, services and expertise into practical, sustained support for artists.

Early patrons together validate a proof point for a model of giving that expands beyond traditional sponsorships, with each company supporting the arts in a sustained way rather than through one-off commitments. Artery’s patron programmes help turn existing or under-used business assets into working infrastructure for artists, aligning funding, workspace, professional services, and long-term development support into a single system.

“Securing a studio for our artists in Artery’s first year demonstrates what is possible collectively when companies participate to contribute resources they already have,” said **Belinda Ang, CEO of Artery**. “The question is how and what type of assets and capabilities can be made genuinely useful to artists and meaningful to Singapore’s culture infrastructure over time. Our role is to identify those needs, connect them to the right partners and make that support work not only as part of an artist’s everyday practice but to also value-add to the larger art ecosystem over time.”

WHAT SUSTAINABLE CORPORATE PATRONAGE LOOKS LIKE

For many early- and mid-career artists, the costs of workspace, storage and production remain ongoing regardless of whether a project is funded or an exhibition is underway. Before the studio opened, most artists in Artery’s inaugural cohort worked from home, where limited space can constrain the scale and type of work they are able to make.

Artery's Artist Accelerator Programme supports participating artists with curatorial guidance and access to business, legal and marketing support. The non-profit also purchases artists' works into its capsule collection and provides a monthly stipend of up to S\$2,000 in their first 12 months to help artists devote more time and attention to their practice.

The new studio closes the loop for this support system by reducing the practical barriers to making art, with resources now brought together to create an integrated support system.

"Nurturing an artist's practice goes beyond funding individual projects," said **Hsieh Fu Hua, Board Member of Artery**. "Access to space, time, expertise and networks are essential conditions that allow artists to sustain their practice and pursue new possibilities."

Located within a B1 light-industrial building, the Artery Artist Studio demonstrates how underutilised commercial space can take on a second purpose as cultural infrastructure. The arrangement enables artists to plan and work with greater continuity, while offering a practical model for companies seeking to support the arts within their means.

"We are proud to sponsor Artery and support its contribution to Singapore's arts scene. By bringing art into Admirax and making it part of an everyday working environment, we hope to give artists greater certainty and room to develop their work, and create more opportunities for people to encounter and appreciate local artistic expression beyond traditional cultural spaces," said **Brenda Sim, ADM Prize SG (Singapore)**. "This collaboration also reflects our broader vision for Admirax, not simply as a place of business, but as a welcoming and engaging destination that connects creativity, industry and the wider community."

By bringing private-sector support alongside the already mature public funding, Artery aims to build a more resilient ecosystem for artists. Its model recognises that sustainable artistic careers require not only funding, but also the practical infrastructure and professional support that allow creative practices to grow over time.

APPLICATIONS FOR ARTERY'S SECOND COHORT

Artery will open applications for the second cohort of its **Artist Accelerator Programme (AAA)** in October 2026. This will be the first cohort selected through an open call, following the invitation-only pilot that formed Artery's inaugural cohort.

More details on eligibility, the application process and timelines will be announced at www.weareartery.com from 6 October.

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About Artery

Artery is an independent non-profit dedicated to supporting those building professional career pathways in the arts, addressing the "missing middle" that many artists navigate between funding cycles. We catalyse their journey by becoming early acquirers of their work,

while building the systems and infrastructure they need to thrive. Through its flagship Artist Accelerator Programme (AAA), Artery provides living stipends, curatorial guidance, business and legal support, and access to mentorships, residencies, and career development opportunities. Artery also partners with corporates and philanthropists through its patron programmes – Patron-as-a-Service (PaaS), Space-as-Giving, and In-Kind Giving – creating meaningful channels for private capital to work alongside public funding in building a resilient arts ecosystem.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.weareartery.com/>

For more information or media enquiries, please contact:

Saeloun Asia, on behalf of Artery

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APPENDIX 1

The studio

- Location: Admirax, 8 Admiralty Street, Unit #05-13/14, Singapore 757438
- Approximate area: 4,000 square feet
- Term: Two years
- Contributed in-kind under **Space-as-Giving**.
- Available to artists in the **Artist Accelerator Programme** for the duration of the term
- Remaining space open to artists outside the programme on approval basis, for a monthly utilities contribution of S\$80
- For non-AAA artists, studio use will range from one to three months, with priority given to artists preparing for exhibitions
- Application details available on Artery's social media channels from 6 October

Patron contributions

Admirax, Space-as-Giving

- Dedicated studio space for the inaugural cohort of six artists
- Market value of more than S\$250,000 across the term, based on published asking rents of S\$2.80 psf

Lotus Fine Arts, In-Kind Giving

- Professional art handling
- Specialised art storage

Tiger Beer, In-Kind Giving

- In-kind contribution towards artist placemaking
- Beer sponsorship to facilitate Artery's monthly artist dialogues and conversations

Patron quotes

- "We are proud to sponsor Artery and support its contribution to Singapore's arts scene. By bringing art into Admirax and making it part of an everyday working environment, we hope to give artists greater certainty and room to develop their work, and create more opportunities for people to encounter and appreciate local artistic expression beyond traditional cultural spaces. This collaboration also reflects our broader vision for Admirax, not simply as a place of business, but as a welcoming and engaging destination that connects creativity, industry and the wider community."
- **Brenda Sim, ADM Prize SG (Singapore) Pte Ltd**
- Giving to the arts is important because, in this day and age, everything you look at is about manufacturing, technology and finance. Art is a subject that nobody wants to create a career out of. But these are the aesthetic parts of us as human beings that we should treasure and learn from. It is important that organisations like us try to create a platform whereby Singapore artists are given that opportunity, giving Singaporeans a chance to do what they aspire to do." - **John Lim, Managing Director, K C DAT / Asian Tigers and Lotus Fine Arts Logistics.**

- "As a brand born in Singapore and chosen worldwide, Tiger is proud to support The Artery in creating spaces where local artists can connect, collaborate and bring bold ideas to life." - **Tanya Lubis, Marketing Manager, Tiger Beer**

Artist Accelerator Programme, second cohort

- Open call expected to launch in October. Applicants are advised to follow our social media and Telegram channel <http://t.me/weareartery> for dates.
- First cohort recruited by open call, following an invitation-only pilot cohort of six artists
- Assessed by a panel drawn from Artery's curatorial team and the wider sector. Panelists shall be announced progressively.
- No upper age limit. Current students are not eligible. Active practice for a minimum of 2 years. Practice must be based in Singapore
- Each cohort takes five to six artists
- Details published on Artery's website and social media channels

Inaugural cohort

Alya Rahmat

Alya is a 24-year-old recent fine arts graduate who has undertaken independent regional residency work. Her practice explores multi-generational female identity within the Malay-Muslim community. She interrogates the intersections of culture, religion, and supernatural concerns through speculative histories using narrative forms such as batik, tapestry, and assemblage.

Joanne Lim

Joanne is a 41-year-old artist who transitioned into creative practice after a background in law, subsequently earning a master's degree in fine arts with distinction. Her practice focuses on translating and visualising data collected from long-term projects involving community collaboration. She examines themes of surveillance, presentation, and tracking by converting information into experience and aesthetic forms through sculpture, installation, and performance.

Koh Kai Ting

Kai Ting is a 30-year-old Malaysian artist based in Singapore who holds a bachelor's degree in fine arts. She employs natural history as a metaphor to construct visual narratives that critique systems of power, desire, and value. Her collective-inquiry projects reveal the entanglement of humanity with natural and spiritual elements across painting, installation, new media, and printmaking.

Rofizano Zaino (Rofi)

Rofi is a 56-year-old self-taught practitioner who is transitioning to a full-time artistic career after an established background in graphic design. He utilises personification to explore identity, spirituality, and power dynamics in socio-political discourse. His work focuses on the investigation of Malay cultural identity through Silat and its related philosophies, utilising acrylic, pastels, charcoal, and cement.

Shayne Phua

Shayne is a 29-year-old practitioner holding qualifications in fine arts ceramics and communication design. She sustains her practice by balancing multiple flexible part-time roles. Her practice reinterprets ceramics as utilitarian objects to explore overlooked local oral traditions, oriental folklore, and socio-political ideologies through ceramic sculpture and painting.

Siew Guang Hong

Guang Hong is a 26-year-old recent graduate from LASALLE College of the Arts. His practice uses biology and anatomical investigation to examine non-normative subjectivities. He works primarily with assemblage and object aesthetics to develop posthumanist modalities that address autobiography and absurd obliteration through installation, ceramics, video, and performance art.