

HELD IN THE MIDDLE

CHRISTIAN TAN
01.10—11.10.26
OBJECTIFS CENTRE
CURATED BY JOHN TUNG

CO-ORGANISED BY

ART:DIS
ARTS & DISABILITY
SINGAPORE

UOL
华业集团



For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE

UOL X ART:DIS ART PRIZE 2025 WINNER, PRINTMAKER CHRISTIAN TAN, DEBUTS SOLO EXHIBITION

- *“Held in the Middle” brings together about 30 linocut prints by autistic artist and printmaker Christian Tan, drawing inspiration from everyday objects and pop culture icons*
- *Exhibition runs from 1 to 11 October 2026 at Objectifs, marking Christian’s first solo show*
- *Solo exhibition forms part of Christian’s prize as UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize winner, including \$20,000 grand prize*

Singapore, 30 September 2026 – UOL Group Limited (UOL) and ART:DIS (Arts & Disability) Singapore jointly organise *“Held in the Middle”*, the debut solo exhibition by artist Christian Tan, overall winner of the UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize 2025.

Featuring a collection of about 30 linocut prints, the exhibition brings together works inspired by Christian’s familiar objects and interests – from cleaning tools, workstations and chairs to pop stars – as reflections of labour, rest, aspiration and joy. The exhibition runs from 1 to 11 October 2026 at Objectifs, a visual arts centre at Middle Road.

The exhibition was officially launched today by Guest-of-Honour Ms Denise Phua, Mayor of Central Singapore District and Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar Group Representation Constituency.

Ms Phua said: “It is a privilege to witness the launch of *‘Held in the Middle’* and to celebrate Christian’s achievement as the winner of UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize 2025. His work shows how art can help us see familiar things in new ways and reminds us of

the importance of creating opportunities for artists of all abilities to thrive. I look forward to following his artistic journey in the years ahead.”

UOL Group Chief Executive Mr Liam Wee Sin said: “The UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize was established to create opportunities for artists with disabilities to develop their practice and reach wider audiences. Christian’s solo exhibition is an important milestone in his artistic journey, enabling him to further develop his practice and share his work with a wider audience.

“Every artist’s journey is different, and we believe in creating opportunities for them as they take their next steps. Personally, I see some thematic parallel between Christian’s work and Andy Warhol’s pop art philosophy. Warhol famously elevated everyday, mass-market goods, like the Campbell’s Soup can, into the realm of high art. Through his distinctive printmaking, Christian transforms the things around him into thoughtful works that invite us to see the ordinary in new ways, offering a glimpse into what captures his attention and imagination. We are proud to be part of his journey and share his work with the community.”

As winner of the grand prize at the UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize 2025, Christian was awarded the opportunity to stage a solo exhibition. “*Held in the Middle*” is the largest presentation of his practice to date. The title draws on Christian’s use of familiar objects and subjects, often placed at the centre of his compositions. Brought into focus, they draw attention to the everyday details that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Christian’s award-winning set of three prints, *Red Plumbing Set*, *Yellow Broom* and *Floor Scrubbing*, reflects his experience working as a cleaner, capturing the tools and gestures of labour through his linocut practice. Created using layered reduction printing, the works transform these tools into considered compositions, highlighting the dignity and value of labour that is often overlooked. The three prints will be featured alongside works spanning his practice.

Introduced to linocut printmaking in 2019, Christian has developed a visual language marked by bold outlines, vivid colours and a sensitivity to the things that shape his daily life. He draws inspiration from the objects, people and experiences around him,

working primarily with linocut printing, which involves carving images into linoleum before printing them onto paper. He demonstrates fluency across both wet and dry techniques, employing reduction processes that lend his works a layered depth. His art resists ornamentation, opting instead for clarity and strength of imagery that speaks to personal experience and the textures of daily life.

In January 2026, Christian's work was commissioned for "*Next Stop: Together!*", a public art project presented as part of Singapore Art Week, with his artwork installed at HarbourFront MRT station. Later this year, the opening of UOL's luxury NoMad hotel at Orchard Road will feature more than 1,500 newly commissioned artworks. Christian's works will form part of the 469 pieces created by artists with disabilities from ART:DIS.

Christian said: "I'm happy to have my first solo exhibition. I enjoy making linocut prints and drawing things I see and like. I hope visitors will look at these familiar things in a new way. I'm thankful to UOL and ART:DIS for supporting me and excited to share my work with more people."

Curator John Tung said: "This exhibition offers a holistic view of Christian's artistic interests. As with any solo-artist presentation, the opportunity to engage with a broader body of work offers keener insights into their practice. To this end, Christian delights – the toil of labour is blended with the whimsy of leisure. Each work is articulate in chronicling aspects of his life otherwise a secret to us. I endeavoured to articulate these sensibilities in my approach to curation of the exhibition."

UOL has championed inclusive arts since 2014 and supported ART:DIS for more than a decade. In 2023, the Group launched the UOL X ART:DIS Art Prize to recognise and support artists with disabilities at different stages of their artistic practice as part of its corporate social responsibility programme to commemorate UOL's 60th anniversary. The second edition in 2025 received more than 570 submissions, up from over 300 in the inaugural edition, with 18 winning artworks showcased at ION Art Gallery before travelling to UOL's malls and hotel, reaching more than one million visitors. UOL's longstanding commitment to the arts was also recognised with its fifth consecutive Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award this year.

"Held in the Middle" will be open from 1 to 11 October 2026 at Objectifs. Opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 7pm, and Sunday, 12pm to 4pm. The exhibition will be closed on Mondays and public holidays. Admission is free.

For more information, please visit <https://www.uol.com.sg/uol-x-artdis-art-prize-christian-tan>.

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About UOL Group Limited

UOL Group Limited (UOL) is a leading Singapore-listed property and hospitality group with total assets of about \$23 billion. The Company has a diversified portfolio of development and investment properties, hotels and serviced suites globally. With a track record of over 60 years, UOL strongly believes in delivering product excellence and quality service in all its business ventures. UOL, through its hotel subsidiary Pan Pacific Hotels Group Limited, owns three acclaimed brands namely “Pan Pacific”, PARKROYAL COLLECTION and PARKROYAL. The Company’s Singapore-listed property subsidiary, Singapore Land Group Limited, owns an extensive portfolio of prime commercial assets and hotels in Singapore.

The Group has won numerous accolades including Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award by National Arts Council, Champion of Good by National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre, Community Chest Awards – Enabler, Charity Platinum and Habuan Harapan – Sustainability Impact Awards by The Business Times and UOB, and SIAS Corporate Sustainability Award.

About ART:DIS (Singapore) Ltd

Formerly known as Very Special Arts Singapore, ART:DIS 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 sustainable & meaningful impact for PwDs to gain work experience, empowering them to live independently in the community.

At ART:DIS, we value the unique strengths and perspectives of persons with disabilities and believe the arts offers us a lens to understand who they are, to connect with and to experience the world together.

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ANNEX A: HELD IN THE MIDDLE

Date: 1 to 11 October 2026

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 12pm to 7pm; Sunday, 12pm to 4pm; closed on Mondays and public holidays

Venue: Objectifs, 155 Middle Road, Singapore 188977

Admission: Free

Website: <https://www.uol.com.sg/uol-x-artdis-art-prize-christian-tan>

Artwork	Picture	Description
Red Plumbing Set (Lino print on paper, 297 x 420mm) Yellow Broom (Lino print on paper, 297 x 420mm) Floor Scrubbing (Lino print on paper, 420 x 297mm)		In this series, Christian transforms everyday cleaning tools into emblematic forms through layered reduction printing. Rendered in bold palettes, these familiar objects take on a quiet dignity, affirming the value of ordinary gestures while inviting reflection on the overlooked textures of daily life.
Cleaning Station (Pink) (Lino print on paper, 420 x 300mm)		Spray bottles, mops, pails, plungers, brooms and scrubbers recur throughout Christian's practice. Drawn from his work as a cleaner, these familiar implements speak of the physical labour that sustain the spaces we inhabit. Christian presents each object with clarity and care, often amidst vivid fields of colour. Removed from their usual setting, the cleaning tools become more than practical instruments: their contours, mechanisms and repeated forms emerge anew. Through these works, Christian gives visibility and quiet dignity to the objects of his profession and the essential labour they represent.

Urban Chair (Lino print on paper, 297 x 420mm) A Rocking Chair (Lino print on paper, 297 x 420mm)		From stools and chairs to office seats and benches in public spaces, Christian's seating works turn towards the moments between activity. A chair supports the body, but it may also suggest waiting, companionship, solitude or relief. Christian attends closely to the particular character of each one: its posture, proportions, colour and construction. Often shown without a sitter, these chairs retain a human presence, as though someone has just left or may soon return. They offer a counterpoint to the tools of labour elsewhere in the exhibition, marking rest not as an absence of activity, but as a necessary part of everyday life.
Jon Bon Jovi – Blaze of Glory '94 (Lino print on paper, 297 x 420mm) Roxette – Joyride (Lino print on paper, 420 x 280mm)		Christian's portraits of pop stars reveal a world shaped by music, performance and admiration. These familiar faces belong to the private pleasure of listening as much as the public spectacle of celebrity. Rendered in his bold, graphic language, each figure becomes both an immediately recognisable icon and an expression of Christian's own interests and affections. The works speak to the ways popular culture accompanies daily life: filling quiet hours, providing escape, and giving form to aspiration and joy. Here, leisure is not merely time away from work, but a space where interests deepen, attachments form and the imagination is free to wander.

ANNEX B: ABOUT THE ARTIST

Christian Tan (b. 1994) is an autistic artist and printmaker with ART:DIS. An observant and expressive artist, his practice draws inspiration from the everyday. With a discerning eye for line and form, he transforms ordinary objects into images that are at once direct and resonant. He demonstrates fluency across both wet and dry techniques, employing reduction processes that lend his works a layered depth. His art resists ornamentation, opting instead for clarity and strength of imagery that speaks to personal experience and the textures of daily life.