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New ground-up initiative in Singapore co-creates art with vulnerable communities to raise funds

- Homegrown art platform Sound of Art invites local artist, Glacy Soh, to co-create original paintings, titled “Remembrance”, with HCA Hospice Care patients
- Co-created artworks expected to raise \$50,000 for HCA Hospice Care, Singapore’s largest home hospice provider

A new ground-up initiative dubbed “The Life Art” has been launched by Singaporean IT professional, Tracy Quah, with the support of homegrown art platform Sound of Art. Together, they started an art fundraiser to raise funds for HCA Hospice Care (HCA), Singapore’s largest home hospice care provider, through the sale of co-created paintings with the hospice patients.

This initiative is birthed from Tracy’s personal health scare, having personally undergone a major operation to remove a tumour in January 2020. From a workaholic of two decades in the fast-paced IT industry, the ordeal has given her a newfound passion in promoting the celebration of life through art.

Hospice patients leave behind legacy on co-created paintings

Over the course of three weeks in December 2020, Sound of Art’s artist Glacy Soh worked with patients from HCA’s Day Hospice to co-create a series of five paintings titled “Remembrance”. Together, they tell the story of a life well-lived through the depiction of five themes: youth, family, marriage, generational blessings and the golden years.

Proceeds from the sale of these five paintings will be donated to HCA. The funds will go towards helping the registered charity to continue providing services at no charge to over 3,000 patients annually, in addition to psychosocial support for patients and caregivers. To date, three out of five paintings have been sold. A private donor has also stepped forward to commission five additional paintings to be donated directly for display at HCA’s premises to commemorate its re-opening after a recent fire broke out at its headquarters. This brings the total expected funds raised to \$50,000.

“It takes a village to care for our patients and we are very thankful for the support we have received from Tracy and Sound of Art,” Ms Angeline Wee, CEO of HCA Hospice Care says. “The art sessions have also been a meaningful process for all involved. For our patients, it is a legacy that they will leave behind and for the rest of us, it allows us to reflect on the beauty and cycle of life.”

The start of a ground-up art movement

For the patients at HCA, the experience of working on the “Remembrance” paintings was a meaningful and purposeful time of fun and creativity – bringing them hope, laughter and joy,

SOUND OF ART

as they were reminded of the rich and precious memories from their own personal life journeys.

Galven Lee, co-founder of Sound of Art, says that art can be a powerful medium of expression for vulnerable communities, which contributes to their holistic wellbeing. “Sound of Art believes that art is inherently transformative and restorative. In supporting organisations like HCA, we hope to make art accessible to all groups of people. We are honoured to be able to rope in our artists to support initiatives like these which empower vulnerable communities to co-create art for a good cause.”

For Tracy, this fundraiser is the beginning of a movement she wants to start, to help vulnerable communities find meaning, experience restoration and express themselves through art. “In our Asian culture, we often mourn when our loved ones or someone we know passes on. We don’t give due recognition to the fact that the individual had lived a good life,” Tracy says. “Through this partnership with Sound of Art, we hope to encourage patients to celebrate and commemorate the good things in their lives as they co-create art with local artists. We hope to take this initiative to more non-profit organisations and reach more people to promote the celebration of life through art. Our joy can truly exceed our circumstances in life!”

To support the fundraiser, visit <https://www.soundof.art/hca>

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