

Yellow Ribbon Art Exhibition Showcasing the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Drug Abusers in Singapore

Singapore organised a Yellow Ribbon Art Exhibition at the 66th session of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs. The Art Exhibition presented a selection of artworks created by recovering and rehabilitated drug abusers who are beneficiaries of the Singapore Prison Service's (SPS) art programme.

2. Since 2009, the SPS Visual Arts Hub has served as a creative oasis, providing training, mentorship, and exhibition opportunities to drug abusers. The art programme is a component of SPS' rehabilitation programme, which focuses on skills training and changing mindsets in the individual's rehabilitation and reintegration journey. The art programme seeks to inculcate values of perseverance, discipline, patience and hope in drug abusers. After completing the programme, the participants have used arts to meaningfully occupy their time, with the support of the community and other former drug abusers.

3. The exhibition, curated around the four themes of Consequence, Aspiration, Desistance, and Acceptance, took the audience through the artists' journey towards reintegration.

4. The first section of the exhibition, *Consequence*, shed light on the harmful impact of drugs, with the artworks expressing the realisation of the consequences of their drug abuse, and the start of their rehabilitation journey and a new chapter in their life. The second section, *Aspiration*, showcased the self-reflection and introspection of the artists on the rehabilitation journey and their commitment towards positive change and becoming contributing members of society. *Desistance* highlighted how a strong sense of belonging is a cornerstone in the ability of ex-drug abusers to break with their past habits of drug abuse. The closing chapter of the exhibition, *Acceptance*, profiled the initiatives of and the individuals who have championed the acceptance of ex-abusers back into society. More about the exhibition can be found at this [link](#).