By Uyen T. Hoang (Hoang Tu Uyen)

# Documenting AUTISM

## Portfolio



# INTRODUCTION

**Artism** is an art education project with the aim of bringing the arts closer to children with special needs, giving them another way to express their thoughts, emotions, and individual perspectives through drawing.

Founded in late 2025, the project has gone through three main stages: **art education**, **exhibition**, and **fundraising**.

I started the Artism project with the goal of introducing to autistic children an alternative outlet for their emotions as well as their desires. Many children on the autistic spectrum struggle with spoken communication, leading to frustration for both parties involved in the conversation, whether they be parents, teachers, peers, or the children themselves. By introducing art to them as a communicative tool, the project assists these children in making their thoughts and feelings known, while also giving them a creative outlet.





# INTRODUCTION

## Art education

I began by organizing small-scale art activities and teaching art to children at Reach, a center under the Department of Special Education at Ho Chi Minh City National College of Education. These experiences allowed me to further understand the diversity in how children approached art as a tool for self-expression.












# INTRODUCTION

## Exhibition

Going beyond the classroom, Artism blossomed into an exhibition that brought the children's artworks and stories to a wider audience.















# INTRODUCTION

## Fundraising

The project then moved on to the next stage by fundraising to support children with special needs in difficult circumstances.









# Start of Class Contemplation

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting is of one of my students, mentally contemplating whether she should take one of the pencils lying on the table. It captures a small moment in the artistic process, with the student personalizing their drawing.



ARTISM

# When in Rome

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting depicts me sitting at a table coloring in one of my students' draw-in-the-lines worksheet, capturing a tranquil moment where I actively participated in class activities.





# Spontaneous Math lesson

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting is of me instructing four of my students using supplemental posters. It captures a hands-on teaching moment, where I guide the students through an extraneous activity with the aid of visual materials.





# Spontaneous Math lesson 2

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting is of me instructing 2 other students using the same set of supplemental posters. It depicts a slightly more intimate teaching experience, with me teaching the students English words via pictures.





# Creative Fatigue

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting is of one of my students putting his hand on his head as he grows tired of coloring his picture. It shows another common experience: the moment before the artist throws up their hands and takes a break from drawing.



# Daydream

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting depicts one of my students absentmindedly coloring his drawing. It captures his lack of focus on his picture as he daydreams, head in hand.



# Industriousness

**Watercolor** | **A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)**

This painting depicts one of my students coloring in her drawing. It shows her quiet focus as she carefully works on her drawing and adds color to her artwork.





# Creative Enjoyment

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting depicts one of my students gleefully drawing. It captures his joy and focused state as he expresses his creativity through drawing.



# All Together

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting depicts some of my students, coming together to create a group portrait of sorts. I could not fit all of them in, so I added extra limbs extending off-screen to imply that there were other children right outside the frame.



# End of Class

Watercolor | A3 (29.7 x 42.0 cm)

This painting is of me and one of my classes standing together for a group photo, depicting the jolliness of children playing together at the end of class.





# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS




I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who supported me throughout the development of Artism.

I am especially grateful to the teachers and staff at REACH, under the Department of Special Education at Ho Chi Minh City National College of Education, for giving me the opportunity to work with the students and learn from each art session.

I would also like to thank my students and their families for their trust, participation, and the many meaningful moments we shared through art. Their creativity and individual ways of expressing themselves continue to inspire me.

Finally, I am grateful to everyone who supported Artism along the way, from the early art activities to the exhibition and fundraising journey. This project would not have been possible without their encouragement and support.

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# THE END

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