

CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Franco Savordi, Curator

The True Value of Art

I am honored to present "The True Value of Art," a landmark exhibition that marks the culmination of Artbridger's groundbreaking residency program at Soho House Hong Kong. This showcase emerges at the intersection of artistic heritage and contemporary innovation, drawing inspiration from the rich lineage spanning 19th-century art through German Expressionism—movements that have profoundly shaped my curatorial vision.

The exhibition, a prelude to Artbridger's global residency program for artists of varying seniority, weaves together multiple narratives of artistic evolution and mentorship. Like the German Expressionists who both honored and challenged their predecessors, our resident artists have undertaken transformative journeys under the guidance of distinguished mentors. This dynamic echoes the historical master-apprentice relationships that gave rise to revolutionary artistic movements, now reimagined for the contemporary era.

I firmly believe that art's true value transcends both aesthetic appeal and market metrics. It lies in its power to educate, inspire, and catalyze personal and societal transformation. Our residency program embodies this philosophy through its rigorous selection process and dedication to artistic excellence. The diverse cohort includes visionaries like Ane Alferian, whose cross-cultural artworks challenge conventional boundaries, and Ka Fai Fung, whose work masterfully bridges classical techniques with contemporary sensibilities.

The program's mentors serve as creative catalysts and cultural bridges. Maria Marshall's visionary guidance and Wai Hong's cross-cultural expertise have provided our residents with invaluable perspectives, fostering an environment where artistic innovation flourishes. Their mentorship approaches mirror the historical traditions that nurtured the great artistic movements of the past while addressing the unique challenges of contemporary art practice.

Throughout the exhibition, visitors will discover layers of influence and innovation. Francesco Lietti's architectural expertise manifests in vibrant cityscapes that capture urban energy and structural poetry. Farrukh Shahab's and Ghanem Hassan's boundary-defying works demonstrate the liberating power of artistic freedom, creating pieces that transcend conventional categorization.

"The True Value of Art" celebrates not only individual artistic achievement but also the vital importance of creative community and educational exchange. By nurturing these collaborative environments, we lay the groundwork for future artistic movements and innovations. The exhibition space becomes a forum where historical resonance meets contemporary dialogue, creating opportunities for new artistic languages to emerge.

This exhibition represents more than a collection of artworks—it is a testament to the enduring power of artistic mentorship and the vital role of community in nurturing creative excellence. As you explore these galleries, I invite you to consider how each piece contributes to an ongoing dialogue between past and present, tradition and innovation, mentor and mentee. Through this experience, we hope to spark meaningful reflection on art's essential role in shaping our understanding of the world and ourselves.