

## ALL ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE

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*Hotel Vagabond, the first to be opened by Garcha Hotels, is an art-centric hotel with an artist-in-residence programme. Artists are picked by a jury which includes founder Satinder Garcha. Following the hotel's September opening, Garcha explains what the programme is all about and why, at Hotel Vagabond, art is not limited to what the eye sees*

### **What appealed to you about the location for Hotel Vagabond?**

The fact that it is located smack in the middle of two of Singapore's most historic and conservation districts, Kampong Glam and Little India.

### **How does art differentiate the hotel experience at Hotel Vagabond?**

The hotel's focus on art is not only in terms of the art in our collection and adorning our walls, but live artists in residence that live in the hotel and interact with our guests. For example, we plan to have a regular artist cocktail hour at the Salon where these artist guests can mingle with our usual guests.

### **Please tell me more about the Artist-in-Residence programme.**

Up to two artists at a time can spend anywhere from a day to three months in one of the two Ateliers. We

provide them a platform for interaction with our guests in the Salon, an interactive environment that is purpose-built for this. We're interested in all kinds of art, be it the written word, photography, film-making, performance and so on.

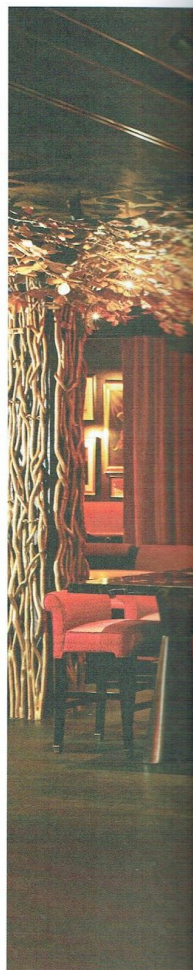
### **What's an Artist Atelier?**

A large flexible open space with a murphy bed and a fully fitted kitchenette. Meant for long term stay, and meant to inspire thinking and creativity!

### **Would the Artist-in-Residence programme have been viable, say, 10 years ago?**

It is perhaps a lot more relevant now since there is a growing interest in the arts in Singapore. We hope to further add to that and enliven the scene.

*Your first artist in residence is DJ Synapse, which in a way is quite unusual. How did it come about?*







He will be responsible for creating the music programme for the hotel and is with us for two months. We have a special focus on writers, poets, musicians, and film makers.

*There's an emphasis on creating a space for art of various media, even music as in the case of DJ Synapse. What message would you like to convey in the artists you work with?*

Hotel Vagabond is all about creating a place where luxury and old-world service are a given but alongside that, and what makes us special, is our commitment that guests who stay with us or who come for a meal or a drink or an event are immersed in a very art-infused, sensory environment that is always fun. So our artists must share that sensibility.

*I understand you have personally sourced and commissioned the art pieces.*  
Our beautiful brass rhino in reception was created

specifically for Hotel Vagabond in India by the same family, Allahbuksh, who have made armour for the Rajasthani royal family for centuries. The Brambilla piece I saw in a gallery in Berlin and loved – it's very mesmerising and I think it will be a great conversation piece.

*What can guests expect to experience at the Vagabond Salon?*

The heart and soul of Hotel Vagabond will be the Vagabond Salon, a modern interpretation of a Parisian salon, where guests will come together to enjoy the heady experiences of theatre, art, food, drink and conversation. 5th Quarter, a collaboration with celebrated restaurateur Loh Lik Peng, together with Vagabond Bar, conceptualised by renowned drinks collective Proof & Company, will provide the Vagabond Salon five-star dining experience.

*Hotel Vagabond is located at 39 Syed Alwi Road in Kampong Glam. For more information, please visit [Hotelvagabondsingapore.com](http://Hotelvagabondsingapore.com).*

