

The Kartik Foundation

Our Impact

Impact Report 2025

ReFAB
STUDIO

gradvisor

ACCESS
INTERNS





Welcome

Welcome to The Kartik Foundation (Kartik Prabhu Memorial Foundation) 2025 Impact Report. As we look back on 2025, we're extremely proud to see the progress that Kartik Foundation has made on all of its initiatives.

In the area of *gradvisor*, we have now completed the app and launched in November 2025, and we are seeing strong growth in users. We are also currently working with five universities: UCL, City St. George, Nottingham University, Nottingham Trent and Royal Holloway.

Then in *ReFAB Studio*, the pivot has been successful and this year has seen a very full calendar of programs of training with various leading colleges of art and textiles in and around London.

Similarly, with *WriteSpace 2025*, this year we have extended the scope to include two new schools, St Paul's and Alleyn's, along with their state school partners. Thereby increasing the overall WriteSpace network to over 25 state schools.

So this impact report is testament to the dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters. As the foundation continues to grow, we have taken great strides in establishing, improving our programs, and making new connections and reaching new audiences. Whether it is a textiles workshop, an ambassador-led event at the University Careers Fair, or an interactive session with an expert for creative writing, or the Spark Awards, we continue to advance the lives of people from less advantaged backgrounds in a variety of areas.

Thanks to you, our brilliant supporters, we're confident we can continue to develop and grow our services in 2026.

As we reflect on our history and look forward to the future, we remain committed to making sure that young people in all walks of life achieve the opportunities that they richly deserve.

Our Partners: Across the Initiatives

The Kartik Foundation supports young adults and disadvantaged groups across London, alongside our partners:

Access Interns



Pell Frischmann

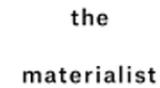
Writespace



gradvisor



ReFAB Studio



TIMOROUS BEASTIES



WriteSpace

In its third year of programming, WriteSpace had significant expansion across both sessions and schools.

In addition to our partner school Westminster, we expanded into both St. Paul's and Alleyn's, giving our programme a reach of over 25 state schools. We launched in St Paul's with three sessions covering fiction, podcast, and poetry. In the coming year we look to expand the session and launch the school's own Spark Awards, with the potential of winners from each partner school having a further competition.

A new cross-genre one day session launched at Alleyn's called Dramatising Fact Without Fiction, where three leading creators in the podcast, theatre, and film mediums explore how stories are formed out of true experiences and how to keep their authenticity while still enticing the audience.



WriteSpace Calendar



WESTMINSTER

- 8 Feb** Jenny Kleeman
- 1 Mar** Susannah Hart
- 22 Mar** Inbali Iserles
- 10 May** National Theatre workshop
- 17 May** *Dear England* matinee
- 27 June** *Connections* Youth Theatre Festival
- 4 July** National Theatre workshop
- 4 Oct** Graduation



ST PAUL'S

- 14 June** Inbali Iserles
- 21 June** Jessica Morriss
- 28 June** Susannah Hart



ALLEYN'S

- 26 June** Stephen Grey
Dheeraj Akolkar
Jessica Morriss



Jenny Kleeman



Susannah Hart



Inbali Iserles



Jessica Morriss



Stephen Grey



Dheeraj Akolkar

National
Theatre



If you are interested in hosting a WriteSpace workshop or partnering with us,
please contact us at Writespace@kartikfoundation.org

WriteSpace

To inspire WriteSpace students, we have created the “Spark Awards”, a creative writing contest in which they can enter either any piece of writing from the sessions or a new piece entirely.

It was a lively and tough competition this year with 21 entries across the categories of poetry, fiction, non-fiction, and interview-style response.

An immense thank you to the three judges Solly Hardwick, *Westminster School*, Lucy Freeland, *Westminster School*, Ankhi Mukjerjee, *Wadham College Oxford* for their time and herculean effort to determine the winners out of an impressive cohort this year.

The winners this year were:

Overall winner: **Ovie Owe** (Fiction)

Highly Commended: **Fatima Jamula** (Non-Fiction)

Elden Davidson (Fiction)

Eleanor Dang (Poetry)

Chrishna Moukoumbah (Poetry)



gradvisor

gradvisor is a social-impact platform dedicated to improving career exploration and social mobility outcomes for students and recent graduates.

Our mission is simple: to make career knowledge accessible, relatable, and grounded in real lived experience — empowering young people to make informed, confident decisions about their futures.

In 2024–2025, gradvisor has strengthened collaborations across universities, charities and partner organisations. Our key partners include:

- City, University of London
- University College London (UCL)
- University of Gloucestershire
- University of Nottingham
- Mentivity
- CMD Careers
- 2020 Levels



gradvisor

9,000+ career insights accessed by students across the UK.

100+ careers captured across 10 sectors

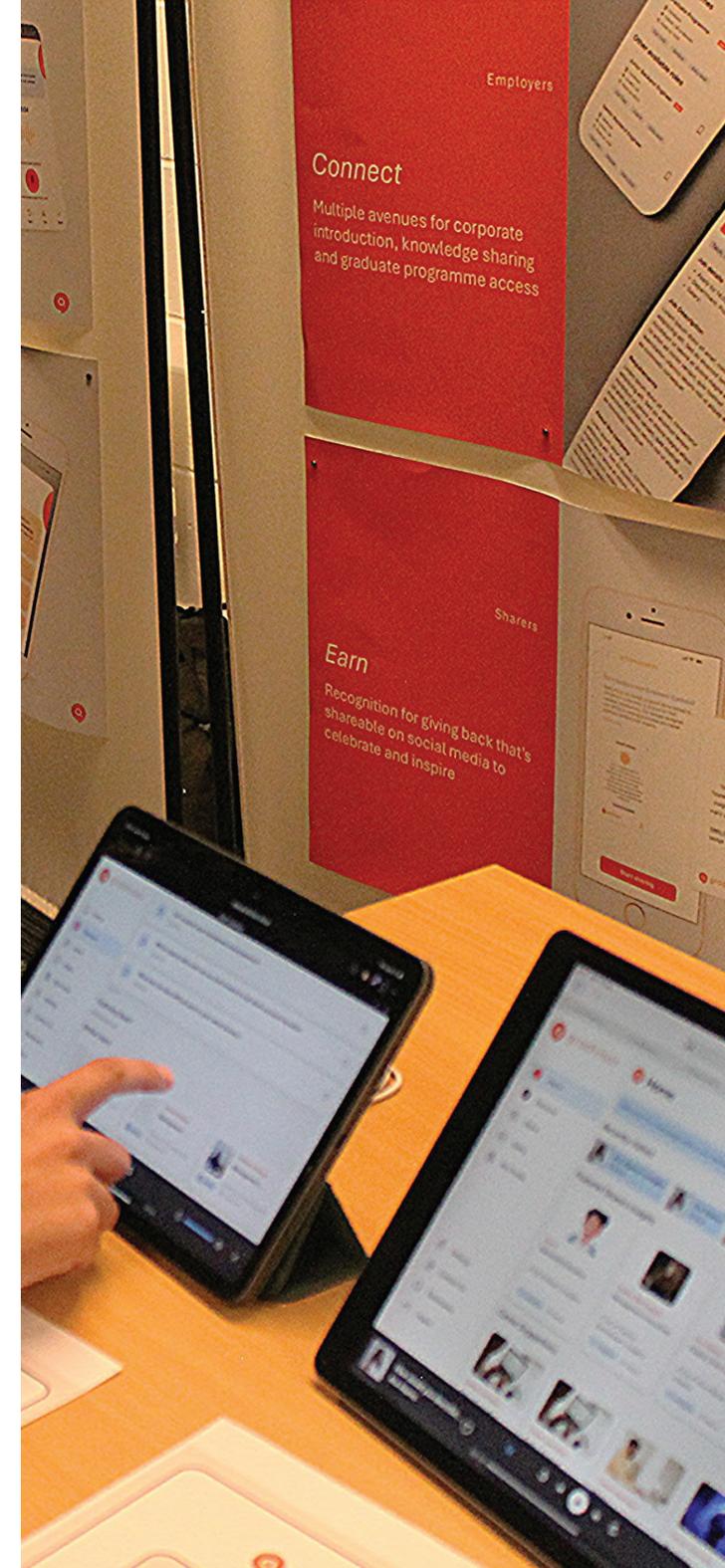
4+ trained ambassadors

Next Steps

November 2025 Launch: gradvisor's official launch will expand platform access, introduce new features, and scale outreach across UK campuses.

Product Development: the new Accelerator Programme will bring a gamified layer to gradvisor, encouraging continued exploration through badges, streaks, milestones, and unlockable partner perks.

Scaling Features: we will expand the Voices for Impact programme to partner with more employers.



gradvisor

Testimonials:

"As an Ambassador for gradvisor, I think the idea of having access to Early Career Professionals is excellent for graduates who are struggling in today's job market. While I have been an Ambassador for only a few months now, I have already been able to develop and expand my professional network by reaching out to numerous people from different backgrounds and universities. I believe that everyone should be able to achieve their full potential!"

~ **Faraz Gul (Ambassador)**

Upon graduating, many students find themselves demotivated by the current job market. Facing repeated rejections can significantly impact our confidence. This is where gradvisor becomes incredibly valuable it's all about building the right network. In a world where AI is increasingly integrated into our daily lives, this initiative stands out by helping individuals connect with the right people and providing essential career guidance. Wishing the gradvisor team all the best in their mission!"

~ **Dishna Wilson (Sharer)**



gradvisor

Testimonials:

"The noise around the job market and its developments can be anxiety-inducing, which makes gradvisor's mission all the more important. Entering the professional world is a challenging adjustment, and so I was more than happy to contribute to this mission of helping students make informed career choices."

~ **Malick Abdullah (Sharer)**

"Gradvisor is an excellent initiative that's helping bridge the gap between ambition and access for students from underrepresented backgrounds. I'm passionate about social mobility, and it's great to see a platform that provides tailored guidance and real-world insight to help young people navigate their career paths with confidence."

~ **Shahzeb Kazmi (Sharer)**



Access Interns

Launched in October 2022, in partnership with The Kartik Foundation, the Access Interns Programme has made substantial strides in its third year.

The initiative is designed to support disabled and SEN young people in accessing corporate internships and work experience, fostering empowerment, and enhancing their employment prospects. The interns work at their placements for a 4-week period.

In 2025, the programme successfully placed 14 interns across 7 employers. A notable improvement from the previous years: as a pilot programme in 2023 three interns were placed; in 2024 six interns were placed.

After completing the programme 80% of the 2025 interns felt better prepared for their future employment opportunities and rated their reasonable adjustments as very satisfied.

We also welcomed two new employers to the programme this year: Mount Park & Tecknuovo, bringing our 2025 corporate partners to a total of 7 companies.

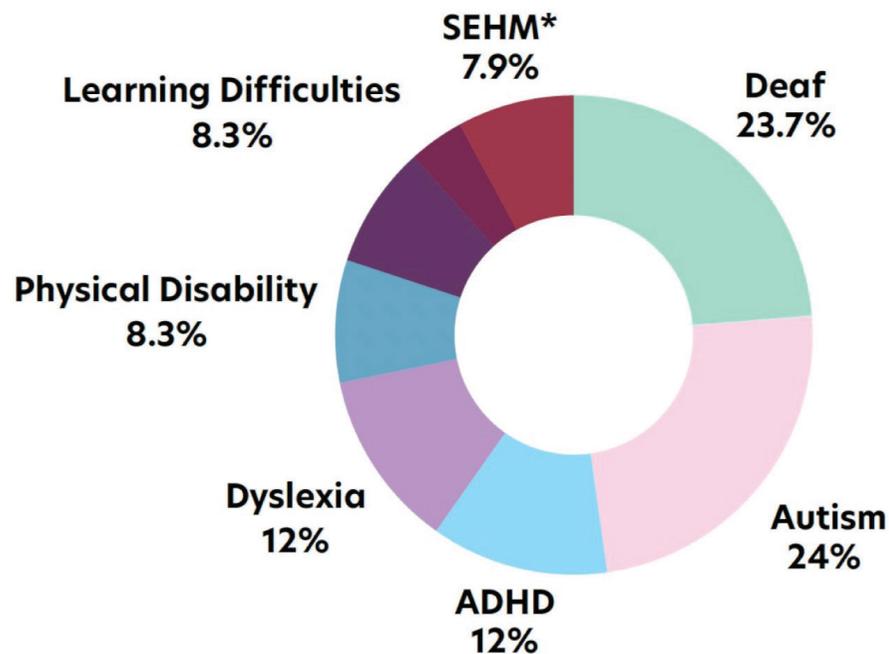
Looking ahead to Summer 2026, several colleges and sixth forms have expressed interest, with 10 young people already signed up, and we have a pool of 8 companies that have expressed willingness for placements.

2025 has shown us what's possible when young disabled people are given the tools, trust, and opportunity to thrive. This year's interns brought talent, resilience, and ambition into the workplaces - and they left changed, and changing things.



Access Interns

We proudly championed a diverse array of disabilities.



Intern Cohort 2025: In Their Own Words:

“Being in a professional [environment] is probably one of the best things ever, that happened to me. It gave me more confidence to speak to people and ask for help as was very timid and shy. Access Interns was a really big step into helping me break out of that shell.”

Stevie, 18, Pell Frischmann 2025 Intern

“I am pleased to say that I am getting along with my colleagues and enjoying this internship. I’d say that this [has] prepared me for the world of work where I have learned how to conduct myself in a professional environment and to specific colleagues. I do appreciate this opportunity; it was a priceless experience”

Johann, 18, Bellway Homes 2025 Intern

“This internship has been incredibly beneficial in teaching me about the corporate workplace. I learnt how to manage a long commute, budget my finances, and dress appropriately for a professional setting. I’m so grateful for this opportunity - the skills I’ve gained will support me throughout all my future careers.”

Ranoo, 18, Bellway Homes 2025 Intern

Note: Disabilities often involve co-morbidity, meaning many interns identify with more than one condition.

Access Interns

Case Study: Adam's story

19-year-old Adam lives with Becker Muscular Dystrophy, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and learning difficulties, which can make navigating professional environments more complex.

These conditions impact physical stamina, information processing, and social communication - factors that can pose a significant challenges in the workplace without the right structures in place.

Throughout his internship, Adam gained valuable experience in a supportive environment that recognised his strengths and needs. He particularly enjoyed writing test cases and seeing them applied in real scenarios, using Jira to track bugs, and independently exploring web apps through hands-on testing.

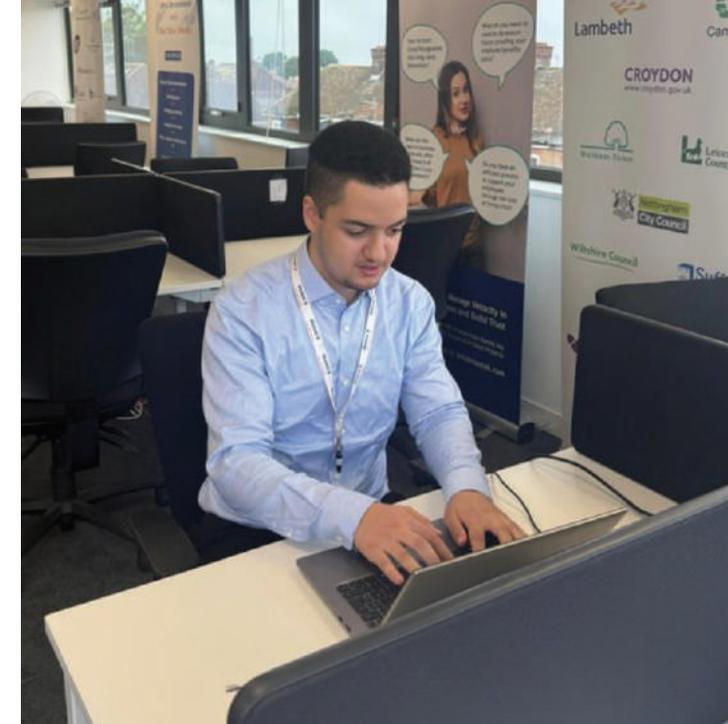
"Seeing my own progress and growing confidence week by week was the best part of this internship," Adam shared.

Watch Adam at his internship with Mastek

"It has been a pleasure hosting Adam during his internship at Mastek. Over the past few weeks, he has demonstrated a strong work ethic, eagerness to learn, and a positive attitude, which made his placement both productive and enjoyable.

We truly value the opportunity to contribute to the development of emerging talent and look forward to supporting [Access Interns] in the future"

Upsana Gupta, ,HR Business Partner, UK and Europe, Mastek

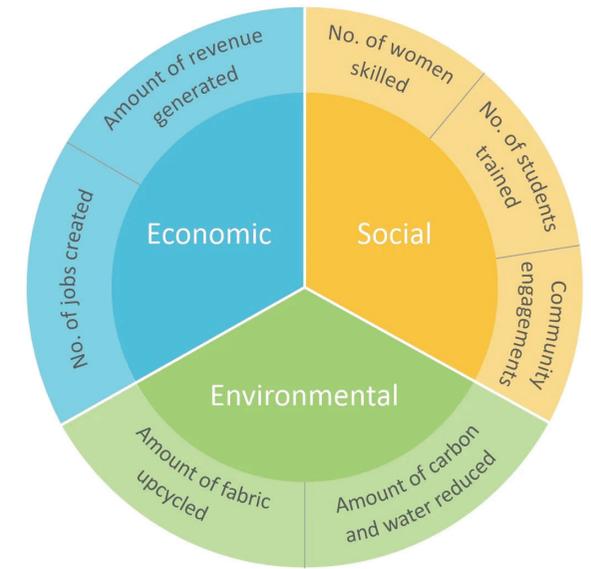


ReFAB Studio

ReFAB Studio is a pioneering upcycling-upskilling initiative that inspires and enables tailors and design students to upcycle textile remnants into beautiful, bespoke lifestyle products, in the UK and in India. All profits are reinvested in upcycling and upskilling.

Our impact spans social, economic, and environmental metrics, which means we are helping build genuinely sustainable communities. We're a social enterprise with a big heart and even bigger ambitions. We dream that one day, you'll be able to send any loved-out pieces back to us so we can transform them into something new. If something needs repairing, our female artisans could take care of that for you too.

We are not quite there yet but give us time and we will be. As we grow, we promise to always remain transparent about our processes, costing, and sustainability metrics.



OUR SOLUTION: UPCYCLING X UPSKILLING SOCIAL + ECONOMIC+ ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS



SOURCE

SORT

STYLE

SKILL - STITCH

SELL

OUR COLLABORATORS



COLLEGES

London College of Fashion, UAL
Royal College of Art
Morley Colleges
Working Men's College *and more*



TEXTILE BRANDS

Altfield | Sandersons
Timorous Beasties
Designers Guild
Beaumont and Fletcher *and more*



COMMUNITY ORGS

Making for Change - HMP Downview
NIWBH Brighton
W11 x Kensington & Chelsea
Lambeth Council *and more*

ReFAB Studio

Date	2025 Events
19 Feb	Design Session 1: Royal College of Art, Textile Students
26 Feb	Design Session 2: Royal College of Art, Textile Students
11 March	Design Session with WMC Tutors
23 April	Design session with Central St Martin's Textile Students
6 May	HMP Downview X UAL: Training Women Prisoner's, Workshop 1 – Upcycling Textiles
12 May	Design Session: Working Men's College, Textile and Fashion Students
13 May	HMP Downview X UAL: Training Women Prisoner's, Workshop 2 – Pattern Design and Cutting
20 May	HMP Downview X UAL: Training Women Prisoner's, Workshop 3 – Sewing and Finishing
22 May	Presentation at the Clothworkers Company, Textile Committee
28 May	Lecture at the Royal College of Art, Textile Design Programme
7 June	Creative Making Workshop: Lambeth Country Show x Morely College
9 June	Creative Making Workshop for Residents of RBKC with W11
11 June	Talk and Design Session at Working Men's College, Camden
14 June	Grenfell Tower Anniversary – Community Workshop with W11 and RBKC
24 June	Upcycling workshop 1: Community Tailors at Poplar Works
30 June	Upcycling workshop 2: Community Tailors at Poplar Works
1 July	Upcycling workshop 3: Community Tailors at Poplar Works
3 July	ReFAB Awards UK's First Upcycling Award at ND
3 July	Master Class at New Designers 2025
7 July	Upcycling workshop 4: Community Tailors at Poplar Works
18 Sept	Sanderson Upcycling Workshop
7 Nov	Design Session 2: Royal College of Art, Textile Students
14 Nov	Design Session 2: Royal College of Art, Textile Students
11 Dec	ReFAB Studio Roundtable Event



ReFAB Studio

Key Events of 2025

- Ran multiple design workshops with Royal College of Art Students in our studio and helped supported their final major projects. See more here.
- Delivered a bespoke upcycling training workshop series in a women's prison HMP Downview in the UK in collaboration with Making for Change. See more here.
- Delivered a training workshop series for community tailors at Poplar Works.
- Created the UK's first award for upcycling in partnership with New Designers and delivered a bespoke masterclass for selected guests. See more here.
- Won a 30k Grant from The Clothworkers in partnership with Fashion Enter to deliver bespoke upcycling training workshops to community tailors in London.
- Delivered a large corporate Lampshade making workshop at the Sanderson Showroom at the Design Centre Chelsea for their huge FOCUS event.
- Hosted several creative making workshops with W11 and the RBKC community including an upcycling charm making workshop to commemorate the 7 year anniversary of Grenfell Towers.
- Worked collaboratively with designers on bespoke commissions to transform remnant fabric for reupholstery projects like chairs and sofas.
- ReFAB Got invited to speak at several panel discussions including one at The Working Men's College and participated as a guest speaker on two podcasts.
- Hosted several creative making workshops with students from Morely College and ran a public upcycling working with them in partnership with Lambeth Council. See more here.
- An article was published about ReFAB Studio by journalist Elspeth. See more here.
- We are in conversations with the London Transport Museum to create a limited-partnership with Fashion Enter.

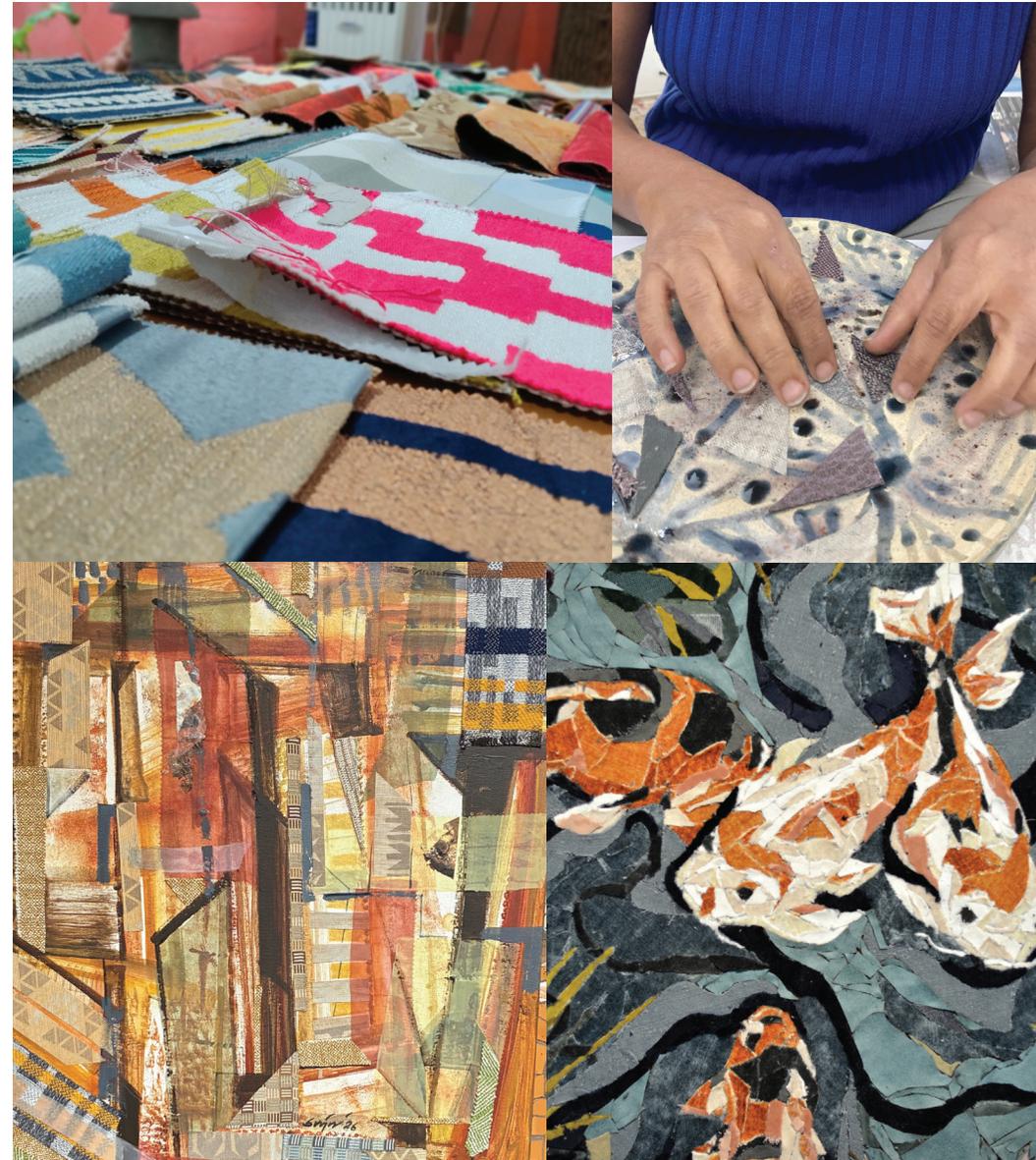


ReFAB Studio

Project Showcase

The Fabric of our Lives is conceived as a creative exploration of textile waste and more generally a reflection on our patterns of consumption and disposal. Further, as our lives morph into a blend of real and digital, and our planet reels with climate change, what constitutes the fabric of our life? What are the threads that bind us together and how do we come apart? What is the warp and the weft, the texture and patterns, the lustre and embellishment that make up our individual and collective lives?

- Selected artists were invited to explore designer remnants curated by ReFAB Studio to create provocative, unusual artworks of a small/medium size no larger than 3 x 4 ft. About 3 - 5 pieces were expected from each artist.
- ReFAB Studio booked a gallery to show and sell these artworks in Pune, in December 2025. Artists donated 30% of the sales revenue to The Kartik Foundation towards its upskilling work for disadvantaged communities in India.
- Artists used ReFAB fabrics as a primary material but were free to mix other media and use diverse bases.
- ReFAB will showcase these artworks on its website and socials.



Thank you - From Us to You

We would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who supports us, in terms of time, money, and effort.

None of this would be possible without you!

If you would like to volunteer or donate to The Kartik Foundation or one of our initiatives specifically, please click [here](#) or contact us at info@kartikfoundation.org for further details.

