
NEWS RELEASE

Young Artists in the Limelight at the 31st UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

SINGAPORE, 14 July 2012 – The majority of the awards in the 31st United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting Of The Year (POY) competition were won by youths aged between 10 to 18 years. They swept two thirds of the prizes in the annual competition.

The top honor of the UOB POY Competition was awarded to 17 year-old Mr Esmond Loh Fah Rong for his oil and acrylic painting titled ‘Just Let Me Sleep’. The experimental self-portrait illustrates the artist’s desire for sub-consciousness at a time when he was plagued by exhaustion and a loss of direction in life.

Mr Loh was presented the UOB Painting of the Year award by Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, at a ceremony held today at the Singapore Art Museum.

“I adopted an experimental approach which played with intuition and creative impulse. The free exploration during the painting process was a form of liberation and the technique used developed on its own. The gestured nature of the strokes used to compose the face was meant to bring out the chaos of the mind,” explained Mr Loh, a first year student at Hwa Chong Institution.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, UOB Deputy Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, and Chairman of the UOB Art Committee, said the large number of youth winners was encouraging because it showed that the competition was succeeding in its aim to discover emerging Asian talent.

“We have helped to cultivate a whole generation of artists since the competition was launched 31 years ago and will build on this success by nurturing a new wave of promising artists as they follow their passion, flourish and become true artists in their

own right. The UOB POY Competition will continue to draw out and harness the potential of artists and elevate the interest and support for the arts across the region.”

This year, the youngest winner is ten year-old Ms Andrea Yap En Rui whose artwork ‘Animal’s Kingdom’ depicts her love for animals. She was awarded the Highly Commended prize in the Open category.

The Most Promising Young Artist award was presented to 16 year-old Sherilyn Shaan Veera for her artwork titled ‘Alone and Unwanted’, which was inspired by her growing awareness of the less fortunate around her.

The grand regional prize of S\$5,000 was won by Mr Y. Indra Wahyu of Indonesia for his work ‘School Hymns’ which depicts a school choir trying to create harmony in an unorganised environment. He said he hoped to draw attention to the importance of education through this painting, and to encourage society to voice out the challenges that exist in educating youth and to work together to solve them.

All the winning artworks were evaluated and selected by a panel of judges headed by Mr Choo Thiam Siew, President of the Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts.

Mr Choo said, “ The judges were pleasantly surprised that despite the tender ages of the artists, many of the artworks produced were technically sound and conceptually mature, exhibiting energy and creativity.”

On the winning artwork of this year’s UOB POY competition, Mr Choo explained that the painting had a simple concept that would resonate with urban dwellers in a city like Singapore and an articulation of good technical skills and refinement in presentation.

The UOB POY Competition is the longest running art competition in Singapore. Over the years, it has launched the careers of many professional artists including Cultural Medallion winners Goh Beng Kwan and the late Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon.

The award-winning pieces of the 2012 UOB POY Competition from Singapore and the region will be exhibited at The Singapore Art Museum, from 15 July to 1 August 2012, between 10:00 am and 7:00 pm daily. Admission is free.

Please refer to the Annex for the full list of winners.

About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia. It provides a wide range of financial services through its global network of over 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America, including banking subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on children, education and the arts. Its staff volunteerism programme was initiated in 2007. Through the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk, UOB has raised funds for its named beneficiaries. UOB has also organised the prestigious Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition since 1982. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB has been conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for seven consecutive year.

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Results Of The 31st UOB Painting Of The Year Competition (2012)

Award	Winner	Title Of Painting	Medium	Size (cm) Height X Width
The UOB Painting Of The Year Award S\$30,000 and The UOB Painting Of The Year Trophy	Esmond Loh Fah Rong, 17	Just Let Me Sleep	Oil & Acrylic On Canvas	170.0 X 120.0 cm
Platinum Awards S\$10,000 each	Liu Quandai, 35	Wandering Cloud	Mixed Media On Paper	152.0 X 120.0 cm
	Eugene Tan Wei Jie, 17	Growing Up	Oil On Canvas	120.0 X 165.0 cm
	Lu Yun Ru, 16	Don't Rush Into Growing Up	Oil On Canvas	123.0 X 92.0 cm
The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Award S\$2,500 and The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Trophy	Sherilyn Shaan Veera, 16	Alone And Unwanted	Acrylic On Canvas	91.0 x 122.0 cm
Open Section Highly-Commended Awards	Andrea Yap En Rui, 10	Animal's Kingdom	Acrylic On Canvas	100.0 X 150.0 cm
	Alvin Ong Liang Jie, 23	Still Life	Acrylic On Canvas	122.0 X 91.0 cm

S\$2,500 each	Boedi Widjaja, 36	HOR2S1E	Graphite On Paper	70.0 X 100.0 cm
Youth Section Highly-Commended Awards* S\$1,000 each	Ge Xiao Cong, 16	Time Brought Forward	Acrylic On Canvas	140.0 X 105.0 cm
	Chia Yu Xuan, 16	I Said, Hello, I Said, Is Anybody There	Oil On Canvas	70.0 X 142.0 cm
	William Batara Jeremiah Samosir, 18	Soliloquy	Oil On Canvas	120.0 X 120.0 cm
Grand Regional Award S\$5,000	Y. Indra Wahyu	School Hymns	Acrylic On Canvas	175.0 x 180.0 cm

**The Youth Section is open to all entrants born between 1994 and 1999*