

News Release

UOB launches its 2017 Painting of the Year competition and a series of art sharing sessions to nurture the next generation of Singapore artists

Singapore, 23 May 2017 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) today launched its 2017 Painting of the Year (POY) competition and announced additional plans to develop young Singaporeans into artists. UOB will partner its artist alumni to conduct a series of art sharing sessions with secondary school and junior college students enrolled in the Art Elective Programme¹.

From July, seven UOB POY alumni artists, including Carey Ngai, the 2016 Winner in the Established Category (Singapore), and Aaron Gan, the 2015 Gold Award Winner in the Established Category (Singapore), will conduct hour-long sessions with students from Bukit Panjang Government High School, CHIJ Secondary, Hwa Chong Institution and Nanyang Girls' High School.

The artists will share their insights and inspirations, and will guide students on how to fulfil their artistic ambitions. UOB plans to extend the art sharing sessions to more schools offering a dedicated art curriculum in 2018.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said the Bank's efforts to widen the appreciation of art and to nurture artistic talents are part of the Bank's long-term commitment to the communities in which it operates.

"We believe art plays an essential role in the progress of a country, its economy and its people. The youth, being the future of any society and with their fresh perspectives, play a vital role in ensuring the progress and evolution of art. As such, we remain steadfast in our support of artistic talent in children and youth so that they can contribute to the thriving art communities in Singapore and Southeast Asia. By connecting award-winning artists with the next generation of talent, we hope to hone further the skills of the young, thereby enabling more of them to express themselves creatively, to find their niche in artistic mediums and to keep the diversity of our cultural heritage alive," Mr Wee said.

¹ The Art Elective Programme is offered by the Ministry of Education and is designed to enable students with artistic abilities to undertake an enriched art programme. The curriculum aims to develop students' conceptual and analytical thinking and creativity. It is a four-year programme at the secondary school level and a two-year programme at the junior college level. Source: www.moe.gov.sg



This latest education initiative is part of UOB's commitment to help identify artistic talents and to provide them with opportunities to hone their skills and to showcase their works to a wider community. UOB also runs a series of community-based art initiatives, including partnerships with the Little Arts Academy and Northlight School to support their visual arts programmes. The Bank also organises monthly art workshops with previous UOB POY winners for children from underprivileged backgrounds or with special needs. In 2017, UOB expects to engage with more than 1,600 students, beneficiaries and aspiring young artists in Singapore through these programmes.

UOB's art education programme will also be enriched across the region. In Thailand, art workshops and art sharing sessions with UOB POY alumni artists such as Ketsakda Wimolsong, the 2016 Most Promising Artist of the Year (Thailand), will be held at universities and colleges across the country. Similar art sharing sessions will also be conducted in Indonesia by the chief curator of the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Raiji Kuroda, and UOB POY judges, such as Agung Hujatnikajennong and Nindityo Adipurnomo, in Bandung and Yogyakarta.

UOB invites artists to enter the 36th Painting of the Year competition

UOB today also opened its call for entries for the 36th UOB POY competition. The annual UOB POY competition is the longest-running art competition in Singapore and is one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia.

This year's competition will focus on the theme of Reciprocity, which is how viewers perceive and appreciate art through their own experiences and memories.

Entry for Singapore-based artists will be accepted from 18 to 20 August 2017 at Artspace@Helutrans². More details on how to enter the competition can be found at www.uobpoy.com. The Singapore winners will be announced at an award ceremony in November. There, UOB will also announce the regional winner of the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year. The prestigious award will go to the artist with the most outstanding work in the region. In addition, the UOB POY country winners in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will be considered for a month-long residency programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum.

² Artspace@Helutrans, 39 Keppel Road, #01-05, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore 089065





This year's UOB POY competition judges are Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Art Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore, Ms Vera Ong, Vice-President of Art Galleries Association of Singapore and Owner of Art-2 Gallery, and Mr Milenko Prvacki, artist and Senior Fellow, LaSalle College of the Arts.

Note to media:

About UOB and art

The Bank started its annual UOB Painting of the Year (POY) competition in Singapore in 1982 and has since extended it to Thailand in 2010 and then Malaysia and Indonesia in 2011. Over the years, the competition has helped to discover many talented emerging artists and to recognise several established professionals who have contributed significantly to the development of the Southeast Asian art scene. Today, the annual art competition is the longest-running in Singapore and is one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia.

As part of the UOB POY competition, the Bank started a residency programme with the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in 2009 with the aim of encouraging artists to exchange creative ideas with their peers in the region. Every year, one winner of the UOB POY competition is given an opportunity to attend the residency programme as part of the prize.

Winners of this year's competition will have the opportunity to exhibit their artworks at the UOB Art Gallery. They will also be invited to participate in art exchange workshops overseas and conduct art education activities for UOB employees and children from beneficiaries supported by the Bank.

The UOB POY competition has cultivated strong alumni of artists across the region over the last 35 years. Mr Goh Beng Kwan, one of Singapore's masters of modern art, was the inaugural winner of the competition in 1982. Mr Goh went on to receive Singapore's most distinguished arts award, the Cultural Medallion, in 1989. Other well-known artists who won the competition are the late Mr Anthony Poon and Mr Chua Ek Kay in 1983 and 1991 respectively. Both artists are also recipients of the Singapore Cultural Medallion.

The competition's illustrious alumni also include talented artists in the region, such as Indonesia's Mr Gatot Indrajati who won the 2016 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year and the 2016 UOB Painting





of the Year (Indonesia) awards with his artwork, *'Right or Wrong My Home'*. The 2016 UOB POY competition also recognised the works of Singapore's Mr Carey Ngai, Malaysia's Ms Yim Yen Sum and Thailand's Mr Jongjit Moolmat.

In recognition of the Bank's long-term commitment to art, UOB was presented with the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 12th consecutive year in 2016.

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About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world's top banks: Aa1 by Moody's and AA- by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings respectively.

In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on art, children and education. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running art competition in Singapore, the UOB Painting of the Year, which has since been extended across Southeast Asia. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 12th consecutive year in 2016. UOB also encourages its employees across the region to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk which is held in China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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