

Indonesian artist's evocation on social conflict wins UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year 2018

UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) awarded to Mr Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab

Singapore, 1 November 2018 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) has awarded the 2018 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award to Indonesian artist Mr Suvi Wahyudianto for his painting titled *Angs't (ANGST)*. Mr Wahyudianto's painting was chosen from among the national winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competitions held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand¹.

Through his painting, the 26-year-old artist examined the themes of social harmony, empathy and the importance of embracing racial and cultural differences following the inter-ethnic tensions in Sampit, Central Kalimantan in February 2001.

A panel of established art industry experts from Southeast Asia was impressed by Mr Wahyudianto's ability to evoke a sense of empathy towards communities involved in social conflicts. Mr Wahyudianto also experimented with various techniques and textures to transform his ideas into a thought-provoking art piece, including through the creative use of resin, plastic enamel and pigment.

On winning the 2018 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award, Mr Wahyudianto said, "Through *Angs't (ANGST)*, I wanted to share the importance of empathy as beneath our skin, we are all made of the same flesh. As a young professional artist, I am honoured to represent Indonesia at the regional level and to win the 2018 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award. This is my first international art competition and it has been a rewarding experience."

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Group CEO, UOB, said that over the last 37 years, the UOB Painting of the Year has helped showcase the works of emerging and established Southeast Asian artists.

¹ See Appendix for full listing of country winners

“Just as we stay committed to supporting business in the region, we do likewise with art. This is because we believe that art plays an essential role in the strengthening of community bonds and connects people by celebrating cultures across language, space and time.

“The UOB Painting of the Year competition has helped to uncover a new generation of Southeast Asian artists. It has also contributed to greater awareness and appreciation of art and to a deeper understanding of the cultural influences across Southeast Asia.”

UOB has been championing art as a key pillar of its corporate social responsibility programme for close to four decades. UOB’s various art activities across the region today include partnering its alumni artists to share knowledge and experiences with art students, holding art workshops for underprivileged children and those with special needs, and hosting exhibitions for established and emerging artists.

Since 2007, UOB has been exhibiting artworks at the UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza in Singapore, the only gallery space in the Central Business District that is free for artists to exhibit their works. To raise the profile of artists, UOB also organises art exhibitions for UOB Painting of the Year alumni artists and involves them in dialogue sessions across art schools in the region. UOB’s support of art also extends to the UOB Southeast Asia Gallery at the National Gallery Singapore, which is home to the largest permanent collection of Southeast Asian art.

The annual UOB Painting of the Year competition, now in its 37th year, is the Bank’s flagship art programme and is also the longest running art competition in Singapore. Over the years, the UOB Painting of the Year competition has launched the careers of well-known artists in Singapore and the region including winners of the prestigious Singapore Cultural Medallion winners – Mr Goh Beng Kwan, Mr Anthony Poon and Mr Chua Ek Kay.

This year’s regional panel of judges comprised representatives from each of the four participating countries: Associate Professor Kwok Kian Chow, Senior Fellow of the Wee Kim Wee Centre and Programme Leader for the Arts and Culture Management Programme at the Singapore Management University; Mr Entang Wiharso, Leading Indonesian Contemporary Artist; Ms Lim Wei-Ling, Owner and

Founder of Wei-Ling Gallery and Wei-Ling Contemporary from Malaysia; and Assistant Professor Somporn Rodboon, Academic Adviser of the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts in Mahasarakham University in Thailand.

The winners received their awards at a ceremony held at the Victoria Theatre in Singapore on 1 November 2018. The Guest of Honour was Mr Baey Yam Keng, Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, and Ministry of Transport.

The winning paintings from the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year competition will be exhibited at the UOB Art Gallery, UOB Plaza 1 at 80 Raffles Place. The exhibition will run from 9 November 2018 to 28 February 2019.

Singapore Award winners

Established Artist Category: Mr Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab wins UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award

Mr Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab, was presented the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) award for his painting titled *Rite of Passage*. Using acrylic on linen, *Rite of Passage* depicts a scene from an oil bath ritual practised in Silat Gayong, a style of martial arts from Malaysia. Silat Gayong practitioners rub hot oil over their bare bodies as a physical and spiritual test to withstand pain – a ceremony that requires patience and confidence.

Emerging Artist Category: Ms Hu Jingxuan wins the Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore)

In the Emerging Artist category, Ms Hu Jingxuan wins Most Promising Artist of the Year with her mixed media (acrylic and graphite) on canvas titled *Encapsulated Time*. Drawing from Ms Hu's own travel experiences, she questions the ideas cultural borders and evolving social contexts by constructing fragments of architectural and historical elements in her artwork.

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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, Thailand and Vietnam as well as branches and representative offices across the region.

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 14th consecutive year in 2018. 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, Thailand and Vietnam.

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Appendix

Winners of the 37th UOB Painting of the Year competition

2018 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year	Mr Suvi Wahyudianto, <i>Angs't (ANGST)</i>
2018 UOB Painting of the Year, Indonesia	Mr Suvi Wahyudianto, <i>Angs't (ANGST)</i>
2018 UOB Painting of the Year, Malaysia	Ms Cheong Kiet Cheng, <i>Through the Eye of the Flower</i>
2018 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore	Mr Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab, <i>Rite of Passage</i>
2018 UOB Painting of the Year, Thailand	Mr Apiwat Banler, <i>Persistent Problems</i>

Winners of the 37th Most Promising Artist of the Year competition

2018 Most Promising Artist of the Year, Indonesia	Mr Seno Wahyu Sampurno, <i>Introspeksi Diri (Self Introspection)</i>
2018 Most Promising Artist of the Year, Malaysia	Ms Koh Kai Ting, <i>The Double Portrait</i>
2018 Most Promising Artist of the Year, Singapore	Ms Hu Jingxuan, <i>Encapsulated Time</i>
2018 Most Promising Artist of the Year, Thailand	Mr Chaichana Luetrakun, <i>Rhythm of Transformation No.4</i>

Established Artist Category (Singapore)

2018 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore:	Mr Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab, <i>Rite of Passage</i>
Gold Award:	Ms Joanne Pang Rui Yun, <i>Slash</i>
Silver Award:	Ms Ho Seok Kee, <i>Ingrain 2.0</i>
Bronze Award:	Ms Valerie Ng Lay Peng, <i>Into the Ether</i>
Highly Commended:	Mr Loh Fah Rong, Esmond, <i>Migration</i>
Highly Commended:	Ms Wyn-Lyn Tan, <i>Presence/Absence</i>
Highly Commended:	Mr Loong, Ben, <i>The River</i>

Emerging Artist Category (Singapore)

2018 Most Promising Artist of the Year, Singapore:	Ms Hu Jingxuan, <i>Encapsulated Time</i>
Gold Award:	Ms Velda Phua Zi-Yan, <i>Film</i>

Silver Award:

Ms Teo Si Ru, Jamie, *Untitled*
(*Kings Blue Light, Cadmium Yellow, Naples Yellow*
Red, Cadmium Red)

Bronze Award:

Mr Keane Tan Jin Howe, *Unexpected Results*

Highly Commended:

Mr Ng Hoi Weng, Jonathan, *Spaces*

Highly Commended:

Mr Chen Junyu, Ryan, *Unlabelled*

Highly Commended:

Ms Ava Kong Jia Ying, *Whispers*