

News Release

Artwork portraying the shaping of gender identity across history and culture wins the 15th UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia) Award



Kuasa dalam Setara (Power in Equality)
Mr Eddy Susanto, 15th UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia) award, Established Artist category

Jakarta, 15 October 2025 – UOB Indonesia presented the 15th UOB Painting of the Year (POY) (Indonesia) award from the Established Artist category to Mr Eddy Susanto for his painting titled “*Kuasa dalam Setara*” (Power in Equality). The 50-year-old artist from Yogyakarta composed his artwork on translucent cowhide, acrylic sheet and drawing pen, as he explored how history and culture shaped the understanding of male and female identities.

Inspired by Willem Isaacs van Swanenburg’s 1608 vanitas engraving and the Javanese philosophical text *Serat Sastrajendra Hayuningrat*, the artwork combined European visual allegory with Javanese cosmology to explore how power, equality, and identity are intertwined through cultural and historical lenses.



Mr Susanto said, “My artwork reflects on how history and belief shape our understanding of identity. By merging the European depiction of vanitas that reflects on the fragility of life with Javanese philosophy, it invites the public to see how the concepts of power and equality are continuously redefined within our cultural consciousness and serve as a prolonged dialogue across different cultures and philosophical contexts.”

The 15th UOB POY (Indonesia) competition panel judges comprise Dr Agung Hujatnika, Chief Judge, independent art curator and lecturer at the Faculty of Art and Design, Bandung Institute of Technology; Ms Alia Swastika, Curator and Director of the Biennale Jogja Foundation, and Ms Venus Lau, Director of Museum MACAN Jakarta.

Dr Agung Hujatnika said, “*Kuasa dalam Setara*” (Power in Equality) distinguishes itself through its conceptual depth and technical precision. The artist demonstrates refined skill in layering, collage, and intricate drawing, integrating Javanese scripts that evoke cosmological reflections. By weaving together European and Javanese visual traditions, the work creates a subtle dialogue between culture, history and belief. It reflects the artist’s maturity and thoughtful engagement with global history as well as Indonesian local culture, including the use of cow leather, the primary material traditionally used in *Wayang Kulit* puppetry.”

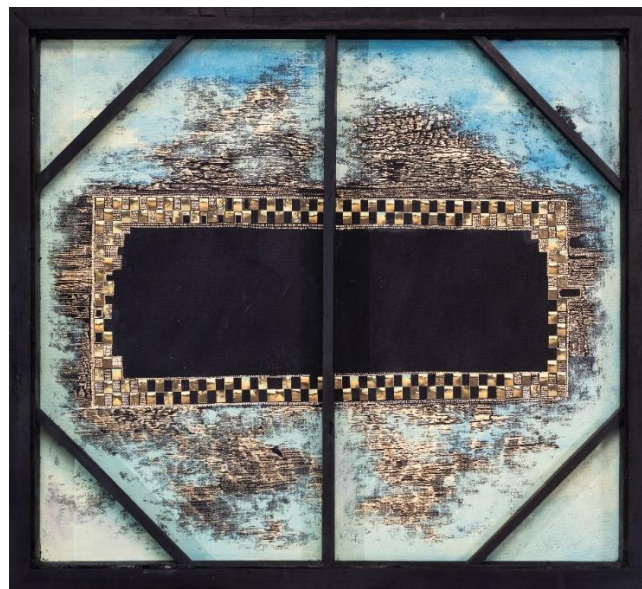
As the country winner of the 15th UOB POY (Indonesia) competition, Mr Susanto will receive a cash prize of IDR250 million. His artwork will compete with the winning entries from Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam for the UOB Southeast Asian POY regional award, to be announced at an award ceremony in Singapore on 12 November 2025. Mr Susanto also stands a chance to take part in an overseas residency programme supported by UOB.

Mr Hendra Gunawan, President Director of UOB Indonesia, said, “Congratulations to Mr Susanto for winning the top award in the 15th UOB POY competition in Indonesia. We are proud that UOB POY, in its 15th year in Indonesia, continues to support the growth of contemporary art in Indonesia and the wider region. By providing a platform for artists to showcase their creativity, we aim to promote meaningful dialogue and celebrate cultural expression. “*Kuasa dalam Setara*” (Power in Equality) exemplifies the quality and depth of work that this competition inspires, reflecting how art can challenge perspectives, connect traditions and enrich our understanding of society.”



Mr Giring Ganesha Djumaryo, Deputy Minister of Culture, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Indonesia said, “The UOB POY competition consistently demonstrates contribution in advancing Indonesian art beyond geographical limitations. As a platform for new artists, it strengthens the art ecosystem and heightens public appreciation for art. I extend my congratulations to the winners and finalists of UOB POY who continue to showcase Indonesia’s rich cultural heritage to the world. We hope the artworks will uplift everyone’s spirit to be appreciated on a regional and global scale.”

Artwork depicting the fragile bonds of transnational family wins 15th UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Indonesia)



i am here

Mr Muhammad Shodik, 15th UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Indonesia), Emerging Artist category

In the Emerging Artist category, Mr Muhammad Shodik, a 24-year-old artist from Probolinggo, East Java, won the 15th UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Indonesia) award for his painting titled “*i am here*”. The artwork reflects the fragile bond between the artist and his undocumented father, using photos, messages, and archival traces to explore memory, absence, and transnational connection. Repeated text “*i am here*” and subtle imagery evoked a liminal space between departure and uncertain return, highlighting presence, vulnerability, and the human desire to bridge distance across borders.



UOB Indonesia will exhibit 48 finalists' artworks from the 15th UOB POY (Indonesia) competition, including the eight winning pieces at the Melting Pot, ASHTA District 8, Jakarta, Level GF. Held in partnership with Art Jakarta, the exhibition will run from 15 to 30 October 2025 and is open to public from 10 am to 10 pm. Visitors can look forward to an inspiring showcase of creativity through a VIP guided tour, insightful art talks, and an engaging art workshop for children.

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Notes to media:

The winning artworks from the 15th UOB POY (Indonesia) competition are:

Established Artist Category

No.	Artists	Artwork	Award	Prize (IDR)
1.	Eddy Sutanto	<i>Kuasa dalam Setara</i> (Power in Equality)	UOB Painting of the Year	IDR250 million
2.	Aurora Arazzi	The Cold That Holds the Shadow	Gold Winner	IDR100 million
3.	Vendy Methodos	<i>Ingatan, Ikatan, Panguripan</i> (Memory, Bond, Life)	Silver Winner	IDR80 million
4.	Mutiara Riswari	<i>Ritus Tubuh</i> (Body Rites)	Bronze Winner	IDR50 million

Emerging Artist Category

No.	Artists	Artwork	Award	Prize (IDR)
1.	Muhammad Shodik	i am here	Most Promising Artist of the Year	IDR55 million
2.	Chakra Narasangga	Nights II	Gold Winner	IDR40 million
3.	Dionisius Maria Caraka Ageng Wibowo	<i>Catatan Sementara No. 01: Repetisi</i> (Temporary Note No. 01: Repetition)	Silver Winner	IDR25 million
4.	Alliya Rahma Heriadi	<i>Berpelukan</i> (Hugging)	Bronze Winner	IDR20 million



About UOB and Art

UOB's involvement in art started in the 1970s with its collection of paintings by Singapore artists. Today, the UOB Art Collection has more than 2,800 artworks, made up primarily of paintings from established and emerging Southeast Asian artists.

UOB plays an active role in communities across the region, most notably through its long-term commitment to art. As the leading patron of the arts in Asia, the Bank continues to make art accessible to a wider audience through a diverse range of visual art programmes, partnerships and community outreach across the region.

The Bank's flagship art programme is the UOB Painting of the Year competition, which was started in 1982 to recognise Southeast Asian artists and to offer them the opportunity to showcase their works to the wider community. The competition was extended to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam. It is now the longest running art competition in Singapore and one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia.

Over the past 40 years, the competition has cultivated and advanced the careers of many artists in Singapore. Notable among them are Mr Goh Beng Kwan (1982 winner), and the late Mr Anthony Poon (1983 winner) and Mr Chua Ek Kay (1991 winner), who received the Singapore Cultural Medallion, Singapore's most distinguished art award.

The competition has also recognised talents from across the region through the UOB Southeast Asian POY award. Previous winners include Mr Yong Wee Loon from Singapore in 2024, Ms Pratchaya Charernsook from Thailand in 2023, Mr Chomrawi Suksom from Thailand in 2022, Mr Saiful Razman from Malaysia in 2021, Mr Prabu Perdana from Indonesia in 2020, Mr Anagard from Indonesia in 2019, Mr Suvi Wahyudianto from Indonesia in 2018, Mr Sukit Choosri from Thailand in 2017, Mr Gatot Indrajati from Indonesia in 2016, Mr Anggar Prasetyo from Indonesia in 2015, Mr Antonius Subiyanto from Indonesia in 2014 and Ms Stefanie Hauger from Singapore in 2013.

Together with the UOB POY winning artists, UOB also runs art workshops for underprivileged and special needs children regularly. At these workshops, the young learn art techniques from art professionals and award-winning artists.

In recognition of the Bank's long-term commitment to art, UOB was presented with the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 23rd time in 2025.

About UOB Indonesia

UOB Indonesia is a subsidiary of UOB, a leading bank in Asia with a global network of around 470 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Established in 1956 through PT Bank Buana Indonesia, PT Bank UOB Indonesia was formed after a merger with PT Bank UOB Buana, which marked the existence of UOB Indonesia for more than a decade in Indonesia.

UOB Indonesia's service network comprises 91 branch offices and 108 ATMs across 42 cities in 16 provinces in Indonesia. UOB Indonesia's banking services are accessible through its regional ATM network, the ATM Prima and Bersama networks and the Visa network.

UOB Indonesia is committed to providing quality products and excellent customer service. The Bank offers various banking products and services categorised into digital bank, personal financial services,





business banking, commercial banking, corporate banking, global markets and investment management. UOB Indonesia is rated AAA (idn) by Fitch Ratings.

The Bank has a strong retail customer base through its wide range of saving products, mortgage services and credit cards. UOB Indonesia's banking services are also accessible in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand through hundreds of UOB ATMs.

UOB's award-winning digital bank, TMRW, serves Indonesia's generation of enterprising and digitally-savvy customers by providing a better, personalised banking experience through the use of data and customer feedback. Through TMRW, the Bank is committed to helping customers meet their financial goals as they build a better tomorrow.

UOB Indonesia also offers a full suite of corporate/commercial products, including a range of treasury and cash management products and services. UOB Indonesia is focused on helping companies with their expansion plans and has supported many enterprises from industries such as construction, mining, real estate and the services sector in their expansion into Indonesia.

UOB Indonesia believes in being a responsible financial services provider and it is committed to making a difference in the lives of its stakeholders and in the communities in which it operates. Just as the Bank is dedicated to helping customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB Indonesia is steadfast in its support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

For further details on UOB Indonesia, please visit www.uob.co.id

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