

News Release

A Depiction of Civilisation in Crisis takes the 2017 UOB Painting of the Year Indonesia Award

Jakarta, 25 October 2017 – PT Bank UOB Indonesia (UOB Indonesia) today presented the 2017 UOB Painting of the Year Indonesia Award to Mr Kukuh Nuswantoro for his art work titled *Kegelapan* or translated as *Darkness*.

The winning painting, in the style of neo-expressionism, presented modern civilisation in a state of crisis. It was chosen from among four finalists in the Established Artists category at this year's UOB Painting of the Year Indonesia competition. The 51-year old artist impressed the panel of judges comprising art experts and curators. They were Mr Agung Hujatnikajennong – Independent Curator and Lecturer at Bandung Institute of Technology, Mr Hendro Wiyanto – Art Writer and Independent Curator, and Mr Anindityo Adipurnomo – Artist, Owner of Cemeti and Co-Founder of IVAA (Indonesia Visual Art Archives).

Commenting on the quality of the winning painting, Mr Hujatnikajennong said the artist had expressed his emotional visualisation of the world's evolution and state through an almost raw and brutish manner using intense colours and distorted images.

As part of the competition, Mr Nuswantoro received a cash prize of IDR250 million. His artwork will now compete with the winning entries from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand for the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award¹, which will be announced on 8 November 2017 in Singapore. Mr Nuswantoro also stands a chance to win a one-month residency programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan.

Explaining his artwork, Mr Nuswantoro said, "I was inspired by the state of modern civilisation along with the many conflicts that are taking place around the world. It highlights the story of human greed and thirst for power that shape society today. Nonetheless I believe we can remain true to our humanitarian values

¹ The 2017 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award will be announced at the UOB Painting of the Year Award ceremony in Singapore

to foster peace and harmony. I am delighted to receive this award and I look forward to representing Indonesia at the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award in Singapore next month.”

In the **Emerging Artists**² category, 22-year-old Mr Alvian Anta Putra won the UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year award for his painting titled *Discussion*. His pixelated oil painting portrays a crowd of people in cyberspace. The painting captures how technology has created a cultural shift that makes us virtually close to each other but in reality far apart.

Mr Kevin Lam, UOB Indonesia’s President Director, said UOB Indonesia is committed to making a difference in the lives of its stakeholders and in the communities in which it operates, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

“I would like to congratulate all winners for their achievements. I am pleased to see many new vibrant talents among the submissions from across the country for the UOB Painting of the Year Indonesia competition. Each of their artworks presents a unique sensibility that speaks to our emotions and evokes our own experiences and memories. This reciprocity quality of art is what connects us to one another and to the larger community, thereby enabling greater appreciation of art.”

UOB champions art as a key pillar of its corporate social responsibility role. The annual UOB Painting of the Year competition is the Bank’s flagship programme. Over the past seven years, the competition has launched the careers of many well-known artists in Indonesia. Indonesian artists have won the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award four times. These past winners are Mr Y. Indra Wahyu in 2012, Mr Antonius Subiyanto in 2014, Mr Anggar Prasetyo in 2015 and Mr Gatot Indrajati in 2016.

The winning paintings from the 2017 UOB Painting of the Year competition will be exhibited at the UOB Art Gallery, UOB Plaza 1 at 80 Raffles Place, Singapore 048624 from 16 November 2017 to end January 2018. UOB Indonesia will also exhibit all winning paintings from Indonesia at the UOB Plaza, M.H Thamrin Street, Jakarta, Indonesia from 26 October to 26 November 2017.

² The Emerging Artist category is open to aspiring artists who are pursuing an arts education, are taking their first steps to a career in art, or simply paint for pleasure.

Established Artist Category Indonesia

2017 UOB Painting of the Year, Indonesia: Mr Kukuh Nuswantoro, *Kegelapan or Darkness*

Gold Award: Ms Citra Sasmita, *Old Mountain and Imaginary Pillars*

Silver Award: Mr Decky Firmansyah, *After Rain*

Bronze Award: Mr I Wayan Arnata S, *Foot Prints*

Emerging Artist Category Indonesia

Most Promising Artist of the Year, Indonesia: Mr Alvian Anta Putera, *Discussion*

Gold Award: Mr Galih Reza Suseno, *Ruang Epifani or Epiphany Room*

Silver Award: Mr Bambang Nurdiansyah, *Berburu Ego di Belantara Jiwa or Ego Hunting in a Wildlife of the Soul*

Bronze Award: Ms Anis Kurniasih, *Penanda or Marker*

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About UOB Indonesia

PT Bank UOB Indonesia (UOB Indonesia) was established in 1956. The bank's service network comprises 41 branch offices, 137 sub-branch offices and 173 ATMs across 32 cities in 18 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 a subsidiary of United Overseas Bank Limited, 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.

UOB Indonesia is committed to providing quality products and excellent customer services. UOB Indonesia offers various banking products and services categorised into personal financial services, business banking, commercial banking, corporate banking, global markets and investment management.

The bank has a strong retail customer base through its wide range of saving products, mortgage services and credit card. UOB Indonesia banking services are also accessible in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand through hundreds of UOB ATMs. With its full suite of corporate/commercial and personal banking products, UOB Indonesia offer customers a range of treasury and cash management products and services. UOB Indonesia has also been increasingly focused on helping companies with their expansion plans. It has facilitated many enterprises from industries such as construction, mining, real estate and the services sector expanding into Indonesia. UOB Indonesia is rated AAA (idn) by Fitch Ratings.



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UOB Indonesia plays an active role in the community, focusing on art, education and children. Since 2010, UOB Indonesia has held the annual art competition, UOB Painting of the Year. UOB Indonesia also encourages its employees to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. These include the annual UOB Heartbeat Run, blood donation and book donation activities.

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

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