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UOB Indonesia launches its 2018 Painting of the Year competition and a series of art workshops for underprivileged children

Jakarta, 15 May 2018 – PT Bank UOB Indonesia (UOB Indonesia) today launched its 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (POY) competition, an annual event that demonstrates the Bank’s long-term support of the local art community.

As part of the UOB POY outreach programme, UOB Indonesia will also hold a series of art workshops for more than 200 underprivileged children. These workshops will be conducted by UOB POY alumni artists in Jakarta, Bandung, Yogyakarta and Bali, including 2016 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year winner, Mr Gatot Indrajati; 2017 UOB Painting of the Year Bronze winner from established artist, Mr I Wayan Arnata; 2016 UOB Painting of the Year Bronze winner from established artist, Mr Haldi Alfa, and 2016 UOB Painting of the Year Gold winner from emerging artist, Miss Henryette Louise YT.

Mr Kevin Lam, President Director of UOB Indonesia, said that as art helps to enrich lives and to strengthen community bonds, it forms a key pillar of the Bank’s corporate social responsibility programme.

“UOB has been championing art in Southeast Asia through our regional flagship programme, the UOB POY competition. Through this annual competition, we hope to create meaningful and sustainable avenues of for Indonesian artistic talent to be uncovered, to be nurtured to their full potential and to inspire future generations of artists.

“We also believe that education is fundamental to children receiving a head start in life and art is one way through which they can express themselves creatively and confidently. This is why this year, as part of our art and community outreach activities, we have invited our UOB POY alumni artists to conduct workshops where they share their experiences with children from less privileged backgrounds,” Mr Lam said.

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In addition, UOB Indonesia will continue its partnership with leading art experts and established artists to conduct art discussions at Bentara Budaya¹ and the Bandung Institute of Technology. The discussions aim to demonstrate how art competitions play a role in drawing attention to the value that art generates across time and space and to help aspiring artists broaden their perspectives on art.

UOB Indonesia invites artists to enter the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year competition

The 2018 UOB Painting of the Year competition is now open for entry. Submissions for both the Established and Emerging artist categories will be accepted until 3 September 2018.

This year's judges are:

1. Mr Entang Wiharso

Mr Wiharso is a contemporary artist based in Yogyakarta and Rhode Island, USA, and who has received national and international recognition in works ranging from paintings, sculptures, installations to performance art.

2. Dr Wiyu Wahono

Dr Wahono is an art collector who sits on Art Stage Jakarta's Board of Young Collectors. He has written extensive articles on, and spoken at various international museums about collecting contemporary art across Asia.

3. Mr Bambang Bujono

Mr Bujono has been a writer since 1960s. For his contribution to art and literature, he was awarded the *Anugerah Adhikarya Rupa* 2014 from the Ministry of Tourism and Creative Economy and the Visual Art Award 2011 from the *Visual Arts* magazine.

The winners of the UOB POY competition in Indonesia will be announced at an award ceremony on 16 October 2018. Artworks of the top 50 finalists will be exhibited at the National Gallery of Indonesia from 8 to 19 November 2018.

¹ Bentara Budaya is an art cultural centre owned by Kompas Gramedia Group, and is located in Jakarta, Yogyakarta and Bali.

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The winner of UOB POY will also compete with fellow winning artists from Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand for the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award. The prestigious award will go to the artist with the most outstanding work in the region.

In addition, the UOB POY country winners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand will be considered for a month-long residency programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan.

More details on how to enter the competition can be found at www.uobpoy.com.

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

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conduct art education activities for UOB employees and children from beneficiaries supported by the Bank.

In Indonesia, the UOB Painting of the Year competition has attracted the participation of thousands of emerging and established artists and cultivated strong alumni of artists over the last seven years.

The high quality of Indonesian art has seen Indonesian artists winning the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award four times. Indonesia is also the only country to win this regional award for three times in a row. 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 competition's illustrious alumni also include talents from the region, such as Thailand's Mr Sukit Choosri who won the 2017 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year and the 2017 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand) awards with his artwork, 'One Life'. The 2017 UOB POY competition also recognised the works of Indonesia's Mr Kukuh Nuswantoro, Singapore's Ms Sunny Chyun, and Malaysia's Mr Chok Yue Zan.

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 13th consecutive year in 2017.

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