

The 40th UOB Painting of the Year competition calls for artists to push the limits of their imagination and ingenuity

Bank to hold special commemorative exhibition featuring winning artworks from the last four decades

Singapore, 29 April 2021 – UOB is calling for artists in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to push the limits of their imagination and ingenuity through the 40th UOB Painting of the Year (POY) competition. This year, Singapore's longest-running annual art competition and one of Southeast Asia's most prestigious art awards, invites artists to create artworks that showcase their creativity and mastery.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said, “Art has the power to cut across culture, geography and time in lifting the human spirit and unifying minds. This has been most evident during the pandemic. Many around the world who have had to withdraw into their homes, have turned to art as a compelling means of expression, for comfort and to identify with others.

“Over the last four decades of the UOB POY competition, our POY artists have opened eyes and minds to new worlds and encouraged conversations and connections. Their imagination and creativity have helped broaden our world views and fostered a deeper appreciation of other cultures and perspectives. As we commemorate 40 years of championing Southeast Asian art and artists, UOB remains committed to supporting the next generation of artists as they continue to push the boundaries of creative expression.”

The UOB POY competition has helped to uncover more than 1,000 artists across the region over the last four decades. Many have gone on to define Southeast Asian art including Mr Goh Beng Kwan, Mr Anthony Poon and Mr Chua Ek Kay, who were also recipients of the Singapore Cultural Medallion. The country winner of the 2010 UOB POY (Thailand), Ms Pannaphan Yodmanee, has also gone on to win the distinguished Benesse Prize¹, the official award of the Singapore Biennale, in 2016.

¹ The Benesse Prize was established in 1995 by Benesse Corporation and it was first awarded at the Venice Biennale in the same year. It was created to recognise the artistic endeavours of outstanding artists and support those who embody the corporate philosophy of the Benesse Group, which is “Well-Being.” Since 2016, the Benesse Prize has been the official award of the Singapore Biennale, presented in collaboration with the Singapore Art Museum.

Mr Goh Beng Kwan said, “Winning the UOB Painting of the Year was one of the most important, life changing moments in my career as an artist. As a result of it, I was invited to participate in many local and overseas exhibitions. This gave me the opportunity to develop further as an artist, as well as interact and learn from other Southeast Asian artists. It also led to my artworks gaining tremendous recognition. Winning the award was what encouraged me to be a full-time artist.”

Call for 40th UOB POY competition entries

As with last year, submissions will be received digitally. UOB POY submissions will be open from 29 April 2021 until 31 July 2021. The competition is for citizens and permanent residents across Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The panel of judges for the 2021 UOB POY (Indonesia) competition include:

1. **Dr Agung Hujatnikajennong**, Independent Curator and Lecturer at Bandung Institute of Technology;
2. **Ms Nathasha Sidharta**, Director, IndoArtNow, an archival website that promotes and support the art scene in Indonesia; and
3. **Ms Mella Jaarsma**, Founder of Cemeti Art House and Artist.

The winners of the 2021 UOB POY (Indonesia) competition will be announced at an award ceremony on November 2021. Artworks of the top 30 finalists will be exhibited virtually from November to December 2021. The coveted UOB Southeast Asian POY award for the country winner with the most outstanding work will be announced at regional awards ceremony in November 2021. More competition details can be found at www.UOBandArt.com.

To mark the 40th UOB POY, this year, instead of one country winner, all four country winners will be able to participate in an art residency programme either in Shanghai, China or Fukuoka, Japan. The month-long exchange programme will enable artists to immerse themselves in the art culture of the host country and learn about various approaches to art creation.

Forty years of UOB POY alumni unite in special exhibition

To celebrate the UOB POY 40-year milestone, UOB will host a special commemorative exhibition in the third-quarter of this year. The exhibition will feature 45 winning works, comprising 39 pieces from UOB POY

(Singapore) winners and six artworks from UOB Southeast Asian POY winners. Attendees will experience how Southeast Asian art has changed over the years and at the hands of the competition's art luminaries.

The commemorative exhibition will also hold virtual tours on www.UOBandArt.com. With close to nine in 10 of Singaporeans using online channels as a means to engage with the arts during the COVID-19 pandemic last year², UOB expects the exhibition will draw many into the world of Southeast Asian art.

UOB Indonesia remains steadfast in its support of the local art community

UOB Indonesia continues to create and to offer meaningful avenues for Indonesian artists to showcase their talents, connecting them to more opportunities on the regional and international stage.

Mr Hendra Gunawan, President Director, UOB Indonesia, said, "Indonesian artists have demonstrated their resilience throughout the pandemic as they continue to express themselves creatively and confidently through the use of online platforms amid the ongoing social restrictions. In addition to our annual UOB POY competition in Indonesia, we have invited our alumni artists and prominent art practitioners to hold a series of public webinars to share their experiences. Through such community outreach initiatives, we hope to promote greater appreciation of art among the public and to help contribute to social progress."

– Ends –

Note to media:

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 2,500 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 part of this, the Bank has led a wide range of visual arts programmes, partnerships and outreach initiatives across the region.

² *Emerging from the pandemic, a special report*, by the National Arts Council, Singapore, 31 March 2021.
<https://www.nac.gov.sg/dam/jcr:d4e86caa-8c9f-4697-ba86-248a3d5b03ea>

The Bank's flagship art programme is the UOB POY Competition, which was started in 1982 to recognise Southeast Asia's artists and to offer them the opportunity to showcase their works to the wider community. The competition was extended to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

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 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 past UOB POY winners, 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 National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 16th consecutive year in 2020.

About UOB

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 Investors Service and AA- by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings. 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.

Over more than eight decades, generations of UOB employees have carried through the entrepreneurial spirit, the focus on long-term value creation and an unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers and our colleagues.

We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are dedicated to helping our customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB is steadfast in our support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

About UOB Indonesia

UOB Indonesia was established in 1956. The Bank's service network comprises 41 branch offices, 131 sub-branch offices and 160 ATMs across 30 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 UOB, 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 service. 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 cards. UOB Indonesia's banking services are also accessible in Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand through hundreds of UOB ATMs.

UOB Indonesia also offers a full suite of corporate/commercial and personal banking products, including 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.

We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and it is committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are 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, please visit www.uob.co.id

For media queries, please contact:

Adrian Dosiwoda

Vice President

Communications Head

Strategic Communications and Brand

Tel: +62 21 2350 6000

Email: adrian.dosiwoda@uob.co.id

Maya Rizano

Senior Vice President

Strategic Communications and Brand Head

Tel: +62 21 2350 6000

E-mail: maya.rizano@uob.co.id