

NEWS RELEASE

Reimagining the UOB Painting of the Year collection

Singapore, 31 October 2013 – Visitors to United Overseas Bank's (UOB) Head Office at Raffles Place will be able to view the UOB Painting of the Year collection from a different perspective as part of the UTOPIA Festival – a new interactive art festival which launches tomorrow.

UOB has partnered with its Painting of the Year artists and UTOPIA Festival organiser Chouette to use digital technology to deconstruct and reimagine 14 pieces from its collection using the dimensions of sound, space and time.

The result is an interactive art exhibition titled *UOB Painting of the Year Reimagined*.

Each digital reimagination has been designed to draw the audience into the mind of the artist, their creative inspiration and the finer details of the painting.

Among the paintings to have been reimagined are works by Singapore's early masters of modern art – the late Mr Anthony Poon and Mr Chua Ek Kay, winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competition in 1983 and 1991 respectively. Mr Poon is one of the pioneer abstract artists of Singapore and Mr Chua is famed for his contemporary Chinese ink paintings. Both artists were conferred the Singapore Cultural Medallion in 1990 and 1999 respectively.

Also included in the exhibition are works by young emerging artists such as the 2005 Painting of the Year winner, Mr Alvin Ong Liang Jie. Mr Ong was the youngest person to win the competition at the age of 16 with his painting titled *The Window*, which is shaped by the surrealist influences and the dystopian vision of George Orwell.

The *UOB Painting of the Year Reimagined* exhibition will run from Friday, 1 November 2013 to Sunday, 10 November 2013 at the atrium between UOB Plaza 1 and UOB Plaza 2 at 80 Raffles Place.

The exhibition is one of the three interactive art activities in the line-up of the UTOPIA Festival.

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The history of the UOB Painting of the Year competition

Driven by a passion to encourage aspiring artists in the pursuit of their craft, UOB started its annual Painting of the Year competition in Singapore in 1982.

Over the past 31 years, the competition has encouraged artists to create works that have pushed the boundaries of creativity. Today, the competition has evolved to become the longest running art contest in Singapore and one of the most prominent in the region. It has helped to discover many emerging artists and recognised several established professionals who have contributed significantly to the development of the Southeast Asian arts scene.

This year, the Painting of the Year competition is into its 32nd year. UOB is inviting artists from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to share their vision and passion in the 2013 UOB Painting of the Year competition.

For details on the 2013 UOB Painting of the Year competition, please visit www.uobpoy.com

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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, Western Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. In Asia it operates through its branches and representative offices as well as banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on the arts, education and children. For three decades UOB has organised the prestigious UOB Painting of the Year Competition and Exhibition. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the ninth consecutive year in 2013. UOB also encourages its employees across the region to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run which is held in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

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