
NEWS RELEASE

UOB launches 29th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

Call for painters and photographers to submit entries for UOB's flagship competition on 4 July 2010; results will be announced on 10 July 2010 and exhibition of winning works will be held on 11 July 2010

Singapore, 18 May 2010 – United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is pleased to announce the launch of the 29th UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition. Painters and photographers in Singapore who wish to take part in the competition may submit their works on 4 July 2010 at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts. Winners will be announced on 10 July 2010.

The Competition is open to all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, Employment Pass, Work Permit, Student Pass, Dependent's Pass and Long Term Visit Pass holders. There are no participation fees.

Entry forms and a copy of the rules and regulations of the Competition are available at uobgroup.com, all UOB branches, schools and art institutions.

All entries must be submitted at the Visual Arts Seminar Room, Level 2, Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts Campus 1 (Wing B), 80 Bencoolen Street, Singapore 189655 on Sunday, 4 July 2010 between 1pm and 6pm.

All award-winning and highly-commended entries will be exhibited at the 29th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition to be held at Jendela (*Visual Arts Space*), Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay, from 11-25 July 2010.

(Please refer to the attached Annex for details on the categories of prizes and the Factsheet for more information on the UOB POY)

About United Overseas Bank

UOB is a leading bank in Singapore that provides a wide range of financial services through its global network of over 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America. It has banking subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

UOB also plays an active and meaningful role in the community, focusing on children, education and the arts. It has organised the prestigious UOB Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition since 1982. It also supports the Very Special Arts Singapore which aims to use art as a form of rehabilitation for children and youths with disabilities, and supports visual arts programmes run by Northlight School and the Little Arts Academy. In recognition for its contributions of the arts, UOB was conferred the title of Distinguished Patron of the Arts by the National Arts Council for five consecutive years since 2005.

About UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

UOB has been supporting the arts since 1973. Chief among its efforts is the UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition, which has become a significant event in the Arts calendar. The UOB POY was launched in 1982 and has been held annually since. The year 2010 marks the 29th anniversary of this premiere art event in Singapore.

Through the POY Competition, UOB aims to promote a greater interest in local art, to further encourage artists in their creative endeavours and to provide a platform to recognise and exhibit the best creative works. The Bank believes that the arts can inject vibrancy into society and contribute to the uplifting of a community.

Alumni of the UOB POY include Cultural Medallion recipients such as Goh Beng Kwan, Thomas Yeo and the late Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon.

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ANNEX

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Prize Categories

- A. UOB Painting Of The Year Award** S\$30,000 and a Trophy
In addition, a bonus prize of a 1-month Residence Programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum may be awarded to the UOB Painting Of The Year winner whom, in the judges' final and conclusive opinion, has submitted an entry of exceptional standard. The winner, if awarded this Residence Programme, has to attend the Programme within 6 months of the awards ceremony.

Only entrants from the Open and Youth Sections are eligible for the UOB Painting Of The Year Award.

- B. Most Promising Young Artist Award**
- Youth Section S\$2,500 and a Trophy
 - Junior Section S\$2,000 and a Trophy

- C. Platinum Awards** S\$10,000 each
The four Platinum Awards may be won by any entrant regardless of Category (Abstract, Representational, Ink Painting and Photography) or Section (Junior, Youth or Open) of submission.

- D. Highly-commended Awards for each Section**
- Three awards for the Open Section S\$2,500 each*
 - Three awards for the Youth Section S\$1,000 each
 - Three awards for the Junior Section S\$500 each

Each entrant is eligible for one award only.

* Previously, the winners of the Highly-commended Awards (Open Section) received S\$1,500 each.

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Fact Sheet

1. Introduction

The United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition was launched in March 1982 and has been held annually since. 2010 marks the 29th anniversary of this premier art event in Singapore.

2. Objectives

The main objectives of the Competition are to:

- promote greater interest in local art;
- encourage local artists to persist in their creative endeavours; and
- provide recognition for the best creative works.

3. History & Development

Since 1973, the UOB Group has been supporting budding local artists by selectively purchasing their works of art. Through this purchase-support programme, the Group has, to date, acquired a large collection of artworks totalling more than 1,500 pieces. These paintings are displayed at the Group's Head Office at 80 Raffles Place as well as at its network of over 500 offices worldwide.

The UOB POY Competition is an extension of the Group's patronage of the arts. For its contribution to the arts, UOB was conferred the "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" by the Singapore National Arts Council for five consecutive years from 2005 to 2009.

The first POY Competition - held in 1982 - was jointly organised by the UOB Group and the then Ministry of Culture (now called the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.)

Since 1983, the competition has been the sole effort of the UOB Group.

4. Structure of the Competition

Since its launch in 1982, the format of the Competition has undergone various changes. These changes, recommended by the panel of judges, were introduced to enhance the quality and prestige of the Competition.

- 1982: The first Competition was divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Young People's Section.
- 1983: The Competition was reduced to one section - the Open Section.
- 1984: The Competition was divided into three categories – Abstract Medium, Representational Medium and Traditional Chinese Medium – to attract participation from the widest range of artists.
- 1991: The Competition was again divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Junior Section. The Junior Section was introduced for those 18 years old and below to build on the Group's objective of nurturing young talents. Participants in the Junior Section were eligible to compete in the Open Section.

- 2003: A new photography category was added to the existing three, bringing the total number of categories to four.
- 2006: The Junior Section was further expanded into two separate categories – the Youth Section for participants aged 13 to 18, and the Junior Section for those aged 6 to 12.
- 2008: The prize money for the Painting Of The Year was increased to \$30,000. This is accompanied by increases in the prizes for the other awards.
- 2009: A partnership was formed with the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (FAAM), where the winner of the Painting Of The Year award will attend a one-month residence programme at the FAAM, sponsored fully by UOB. The FAAM is an internationally-renowned museum that systematically collects and exhibits Asian modern and contemporary art. The award will be given on top of the S\$30,000 cash prize, subject to the discretion of the judges. In addition, four Platinum Awards, open to artists across all the four categories (Abstract, Representational, Traditional Chinese and Photography), replaced the Open Section Category Awards which were restricted to participants within each category.

5. Judges

Each year, the entries are judged by a panel of judges comprising renowned artists/art connoisseurs/art curators who are specially appointed by the UOB Group Art Committee. The panel includes prominent personalities from overseas to ensure objectivity in the judging.

6. UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition

Each year, the award-winning and highly-commended paintings from the Competition are displayed at the UOB POY Exhibition. The aim of the Exhibition is to foster a higher level of art consciousness among the public.

Since 1985, the UOB Group has also concurrently staged a special exhibition featuring works by the winner of the preceding year's Competition at the Exhibition. The Group hopes to help local artists gain more recognition for their works and inspire them to achieve even higher standards through such sponsorships.

In 2007, UOB presented an exhibition called The Best Of UOB in conjunction with the Singapore Arts Show 2007, where the top painting from the first 26 POY Competitions were showcased.

7. Premier Event Status

The success of the UOB POY Competition can be seen by such healthy indicators as the good response over the last 28 years, the high standard of styles and mediums adopted, the extensive publicity enjoyed by the winners, and the wide recognition gained by the participating artists as a result of winning the Competition. The Competition is also now regarded as a yardstick in judging the standard of their works.