
NEWS RELEASE

Tradition reinterpreted for modern Singapore wins 30th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

SINGAPORE, 16 July 2011 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) has awarded Mr Gong Yao Min the top prize in its 30th UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition for his painting 'My Dream Land'. Singapore's modern, urban cityscape was portrayed through Mr Gong's new approach to traditional Chinese ink painting. This is the second time the artist has won the UOB POY Competition.

"I am so happy. I have been working on 'My Dream Land' for more than two years. Winning this award a second time validates my hard work over the last few years," was Mr Gong's initial reaction to the news. "The first time I won the Competition was in 2002 and it encouraged me to carry on in my craft and reaffirmed my passion to continue creating and exploring cityscapes."

Mr Gong graduated from the An Hui Educational University in China in 1990, pursued art at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 1999 and now teaches the subject in Singapore. His signature style is one of elaborate detailing using Chinese ink.

Of his winning entry, Mr Gong said, "Having lived in Singapore for more than 10 years, I now draw my inspiration from cityscapes instead of nature. However, the traditional Chinese ink painting technique does not allow me to capture cityscapes the way I want to, so I use Chinese ink in a contemporary way to express myself."

Chief Judge Mr Choo Thiam Siew, President of Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts, said, "Of the 800 entries, the judges were impressed by the creativity and skillful techniques of this year's UOB POY award winner. The juxtaposition of the application of traditional Chinese ink brush techniques used mostly in illustrating China's natural landscape to depict the concrete, steel, pavements and vehicles of built-up Singapore was remarkable."

"This year's UOB POY competition has also shown the achievement of the Singapore art elective programme. Many of the entries, as well as recipients of the Platinum and Highly Commended Awards were students from the programme, which underlines the success and potential of developing artistic talent in Singapore," Mr Choo added.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB and Chairman of the UOB Art Committee said, "Arts and culture play an important role in Singapore's development into an exciting global city and I am proud of the fact that UOB has helped to see this flourish. Art will always be relevant to us, whatever we do. It inspires us to greatness. And as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Competition, I am pleased to say UOB has also contributed to the movement in the rest of the region where we have a strong presence."

The first UOB POY Competition and Exhibition was held in Singapore in 1982. Following the success of Thailand's first Competition in 2010, Indonesia and

Malaysia launched the Competition this year. In total, almost 2,700 entries were received across the region this year.

In addition to the prizes which UOB gave at the national level in the four countries, a Special Mention Award of S\$5,000 was also given to Thailand's winner. Ms Suwannee Sarakana won it for her heartwarming portrayal of a family sleeping after a hard day's work in her oil painting titled 'Hug of Love from My Family'.

Singapore's Senior Minister of State for Information, Communication and the Arts & the Environment and Water Resources, Ms Grace Fu, presented the prizes and certificates to the winners today.

The 30th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition

The UOB POY winning artworks from the region will be exhibited alongside the award-winning and highly-commended entries from Singapore at the 30th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition.

Date: 17 to 31 July 2011
Venue: Jendela (Visual Arts Space), Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay
Time: 11.00am to 8.30pm (Mon – Fri)
10.00am to 8.30pm (Sat - Sun)

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 plays an active role in the community, focusing on children, education and the arts. The UOB Heartbeat Staff Volunteerism programme was initiated in 2007. Through the UOB Heartbeat Run/Walk, UOB has raised funds for its named beneficiaries, including Very Special Arts Singapore which provides art programmes for people with special needs. UOB has also organised the prestigious Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition since 1982. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for six consecutive years since 2005.

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Results Of The 30th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition (2011)

Award/Prize	Winner	Title Of Painting	Medium	Size (cm)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UOB Painting Of The Year Award 最佳画作奖 S\$30,000 and The UOB Painting Of The Year Trophy • Platinum Awards 白金奖项 S\$10,000 each • Open Section • Highly-Commended Awards 优等奖 S\$2,500 each • The UOB Most Promising Youth Award 最佳新秀艺术奖 S\$2,500 and The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Trophy • Youth Section • Highly-Commended Awards 优等奖 S\$1,000 each 	• Mr Gong Yao Min	My Dream Land	Chinese Ink on Rice Paper	180.0 x 180.0
	• Mr Nah Yong En	This Work Lasts Forever	Colour Pencil & Pigment on Paper	23.0 x 23.0
	• Ms Ong Jie Yi	Old Haunt	Oil & Acrylic on Canvas	116.0 x 130.0
	• Mr Arivan Shanmugaratnam	And he gets his act together	Acrylic on Canvas	120.0 x 102.0
	• Mr Lester Lee Ngai Sing	The Idea of Great Success	Acrylic & Charcoal on Canvas	152.5 x 122.0
	• Ms Esther Puah Ting En	Unfamiliar Familiarity II	Oil on Canvas	160.0 x 180.0,
	• Ms Tan Sheau Ling	Heritage Tree	Charcoal on Paper	56.0 x 150.0
	• Ms Camille Louise Garcia Balete	What's Up, Bruce?	Oil on Canvas	180.0 x 120.0
	• Mr Clifford Goh Teck Kuang	Moon	Acrylic & Chinese Ink on Canvas	120.0 x 120.0
	• Mr Meiyappan Karthik	A Tracker's Life	Acrylic on Canvas	100.0 x 140.0
• Mr Shen Hanmo	Father and Son	Oil on Canvas	155.0 x 103.0	
<u>Special Mention Award</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Mention Prize 特别表扬奖 S\$5,000 	• Ms Suwannee Sarakana	Hug of Love from My Family	Oil on Canvas	170.0 x 170.0

**The Youth Section is open to all entrants born between 1993 and 1998.*