

NEWS RELEASE

UOB launches search for Asia's top artistic talents through Painting Of The Year Competition

Singapore, 28 May 2012 – United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) today announced the launch of its regional UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition which seeks to showcase the best of Asia's budding artists.

This year marks the 31st year of UOB's annual POY Competition which has launched the careers of many professional artists including Cultural Medallion winners Goh Beng Kwan, Chua Ek Kay and Anthony Poon.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, UOB Deputy Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer said, "UOB's long-term support of the arts community began in the 1970s and was strengthened with the launch of the first UOB Painting Of The Year Competition in 1982. We know that Asia is brimming with budding artistic talent and the UOB POY Competition is our way to help new and existing artists share their works with a larger audience."

A panel of judges including Kwok Kian Chow, Senior Advisor to the Board of the Singapore National Art Gallery and Choo Thiam Siew, President of the Nanyang Academy Of Fine Arts will evaluate entries from across the region. Prizes will be awarded to winners from POY competitions held in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. The UOB POY winners in each country will then compete for the grand regional prize of S\$5,000.

The top five winners from Singapore also have the opportunity to win a four-week residency at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan. The residency is normally

only “by invitation” and as such, is a programme that is much sought after by artists across the world.

Last year more than 2,600 entries were submitted from across the region. The grand regional prize was won by Suwannee Sarakana from Thailand for her piece featuring a family in slumber. In Singapore, the POY competition was won by Gong Yao Min for his portrayal of Singapore’s urban landscape using traditional Chinese ink. Gong is a second time winner, having won the award previously in 2002.

UOB will display the POY award-winning pieces from around the region as well as all top entries from Singapore at the Singapore Art Museum from 15 July to 1 August 2012.

How to enter

The UOB POY Competition is open to all Singapore Citizens, Permanent Residents, and Employment Pass, Work Permit, Student Pass, Dependant’s Pass and Long Term Visit Pass holders, born in or before 1999.

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

There are no entry fees. The winner of the Singapore POY competition will win S\$30,000.

Artists in Singapore who wish to take part in the UOB POY Competition must submit their work on 7 July 2012 between 12pm and 6pm at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

Winners will be announced on 14 July 2012 and their pieces will be exhibited at the Singapore Art Museum from 15 July to 1 August 2012. Admission to the exhibition is free.

(Please refer to the attached Annex for details on the categories of prizes)

About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia. It provides a wide range of financial services through its global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America, including banking subsidiaries in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

UOB also plays an active role in the community, focusing on arts, children and education. It has organised the prestigious UOB Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition since 1982, and supports Very Special Arts Singapore which provides art programmes for the disabled. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB has been conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the seventh consecutive year. UOB has also established the annual UOB Heartbeat Run to raise funds for charity.

For more information about UOB, visit UOBgroup.com.

For media queries, please contact:

Celeste Cheo

Group Brand Performance and Corporate Communications

Email: Celeste.CheoYQ@UOBgroup.com

Tel: 6539 3950

31st UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

Prize Categories

UOB Painting Of The Year Award S\$30,000 and a Trophy

The UOB Painting Of The Year winner is also eligible to vie for the grand regional prize of S\$5,000. UOB may, at its sole and absolute discretion, award this additional grand regional prize to one of the four UOB Painting Of The Year Award winners from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand whom, in the judges' final and conclusive opinion, is the most exceptional artwork of the four.

**Most Promising Young Artist Award
(Youth Section)** S\$2,500 and a Trophy

Four Platinum Awards S\$10,000 each

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

The UOB Painting Of The Year Award and four Platinum Awards may be won by any entrant regardless of Category (Abstract, Representational or Ink Painting) or Section (Youth or Open) of submission.

In addition, the UOB Painting Of The Year Award winner and four Platinum Award winners will be invited for an interview to vie for a bonus prize of a one-month Residence Programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum. The winner awarded this Residence Programme has to attend the Programme within six months of the awards ceremony.

Each entrant is eligible for one award only.