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UOB Painting of the Year Competition invites Southeast Asian artists to inspire the imagination

Singapore, 18 September 2013 – United Overseas Bank (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.

Over the past 31 years, the competition has encouraged artists to create works that have inspired the imagination and pushed the boundaries of creativity.

This year, UOB has revised the award categories of the UOB Painting of the Year competition into two distinct segments - Emerging Artist and Established Artist - to reflect the natural progression of an artist's career. UOB has also doubled the regional prize pool to more than US\$200,000, making it one of the largest purses among art competitions in Southeast Asia.

A new Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award is also being introduced to commend the most outstanding painting of the competition and to elevate the profile of Southeast Asian art. The winner of this top prize will receive a total of US\$35,000. UOB Painting of the Year winners from each country will also have the chance to enter a prestigious residency programme at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO of UOB said, "The annual UOB Painting of the Year competition is our way of giving back to the community by recognising and showcasing local talents, whether they are budding or established artists. We hope the competition will challenge artists to produce works that inspire their local communities, their peers and audiences across Southeast Asia."

UOB has drawn together a panel of renowned artists, established curators and influential art critics to judge the 2013 Painting of the Year competition. Judges will select the best works based on creativity, outstanding technique and the artist's expression of ideas.

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In Singapore, the panel includes Mr Chua Soo Bin, gallery owner and Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient, Mr Mok Kim Chuan, Head of Sotheby's Southeast Asian Paintings department, and Dr Susie Lingham, Director of the Singapore Art Museum.

Be part of an illustrious alumni

Last year, Indonesian artist Mr Y. Indra Wahyu took home the Grand Regional Award prize for his piece depicting a school choir, *School Hymns*, which honoured the role of schools in imparting knowledge and creating a harmonious society.

The 2012 UOB Painting of the Year competition also identified emerging talents such as Mr Esmond Loh from Singapore, Mr Mohd Azri bin Abdullah from Malaysia and Mr Aimrom Yunu from Thailand, who were all awarded Painting of the Year prizes in their respective countries. Mr Loh, a 19-year-old arts student, was recognised for his emotive self-portrait *Let Me Sleep*. Mr Mohd Azri intrigued judges with his interpretation of the shadowy world of the illegal money lender in his charcoal and bitumen painting, *Ah Long*. Mr Yunu touched hearts with his work *Faith*, a portrait of his beloved grandmother which expressed the strong religious values and belief in goodness that she imparted to him.

Many emerging artists who have won the competition in the past, such as two-time UOB Painting of the Year award recipients Mr Gong Yao Min and Ms Kit Tan Juat Lee, have gone on to pursue successful careers in painting. The UOB Painting of the Year alumni also includes many artists who are now considered national treasures in Singapore. These include Cultural Medallion winners Mr Goh Beng Kwan, and the late Messrs Anthony Poon and Chua Ek Kay.

View the winning works from the past 31 years and find out how you can enter the competition at www.uobpoy.com.

Invitation to inspire: How to enter the 32nd UOB Painting of the Year competition 2013

The UOB Painting of the Year competition is open to citizens and residents of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Artists are invited to submit original paintings that have been created within the last two years. There are no entry fees.

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Artists in Singapore who wish to take part in the competition must submit their artwork and entry form between 8 to 10 November 2013, 11am to 5pm daily, at Helu-Trans (39 Keppel Road, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore 089065).

Further details on the conditions of entry and entry forms can be found at www.uobpoy.com. The entry forms are also available at all UOB branches in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Announcement of Winners

Shortlisted artists in Singapore will be notified by phone by 14 November 2013. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Singapore on 26 November 2013 and winning paintings will be exhibited at the 73-12 Gallery from 26 November to 7 December 2013.

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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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