

## **Indonesia takes UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award for the third year running**

*Carey Ngai wins UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award 2016*

**Singapore, 9 November 2016** – United Overseas Bank (UOB) today announced that an Indonesian artist has won the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year for the third consecutive year. With Mr Gatot Indrajati's win, Indonesia is the first country to be recognised with the competition's top award three times in a row.

'*Right or Wrong My Home*', the 36-year-old artist's winning relief acrylic painting, resonated strongly with a panel of established industry experts from Southeast Asia. The judges commended his innovative use of wood, a medium for traditional art in Indonesia, and paint to create a visually compelling and contemporary art work. They observed Mr Indrajati's intelligent treatment of composition and layering to create range of perspective in the painting which emphasised a sense of space while reflecting a typical Southeast Asian cityscape. The judges further noted that his application of light-hearted iconography invites the audience to contemplate the artist's intent behind the visual elements.

Mr Indrajati said, "I was inspired by the passion that Indonesians have for their country and how that attitude is such an inherent part of the Indonesian identity. Indonesians also have a wry sense of humour and we often use humour as a way to demonstrate the love for our country. I wanted my painting to portray that passion and patriotism. I am extremely honoured to represent Indonesia on the regional stage with this award."

The annual UOB Painting of the Year competition is held across four Southeast Asian countries. In Singapore, it is the longest-running art contest and is also the Bank's flagship art programme. UOB's focus on championing art as a key pillar of its corporate social responsibility programme began in Singapore more than 40 years ago.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said that the Bank remains committed to supporting the development of art in Southeast Asia for the long-term.

## News Release

"We recognise the important role art plays in strengthening the fabric of a society. It connects people and communities, celebrates cultures and enriches lives. What is also distinctive about the UOB art programme is our focus on giving back. Beyond nurturing and profiling artistic talents, we also connect our artist alumni and our community partners to bring art appreciation to underprivileged and special needs children," Mr Wee said.

Over the years, the UOB Painting of the Year competition has launched the careers of well-known artists in Singapore and the region including Singapore Cultural Medallion winners Mr Raymond Lau, Mr Chua Say Hua and Ms Hong Sek Chern.

The regional panel of judges comprised representatives from each of the four participating countries: Mr Agung Hujatnikajennong, an independent curator and lecturer at the Faculty of Art and Design at the Bandung Institute of Technology in Indonesia; Mr Choy Chun Wei, an award-winning contemporary artist from Malaysia; Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Art Galleries, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore; and Mr Amrit Chusuwan, an artist and Dean of the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University in Thailand.

### **Established Artist Category: Mr Carey Ngai wins UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award**

Mr Carey Ngai, 49, was presented the Singapore 2016 UOB Painting of the Year award for his oil on canvas painting titled '*Industry 2.0 III*'. The judges were impressed by Mr Ngai's use of shades and colours in his realistic art piece. His painting draws a parallel between the obsolescence of industrial machinery and that of human abilities as societies evolve and as artificial intelligence becomes integrated into daily life.

### **Emerging Artist Category: Ms Yoko Choi Chi Mei wins the Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore)**

In the Emerging Artist category, 38-year-old Ms Yoko Choi Chi Mei, won the Singapore 2016 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year award for her diptych piece titled '*City Wandering*'. Using ink marker on Chinese ink paper to create intricate, overlapping and multi-directional patterns, the artist explores how the search for change can reshape one's perception of order and certainty.

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The winners from the four participating countries received their awards at a ceremony held at Clifford Pier in Singapore on 9 November. The Guest of Honour was Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Singapore.

The winning paintings from the 2016 Painting of the Year competition will be exhibited at the UOB Art Gallery, UOB Plaza 1 at 80 Raffles Place. The exhibition will run from 11 November 2016 to the end of February 2017.

### **Winners of the 35th UOB Painting of the Year competition**

2016 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award:	Mr Gatot Indrajati, <i>Right or Wrong My Home</i>
2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Indonesia:	Mr Gatot Indrajati, <i>Right or Wrong My Home</i>
2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Malaysia:	Ms Yim Yen Sum, <i>The Floating Castle</i>
2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore:	Mr Carey Ngai, <i>Industry 2.0 III</i>
2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Thailand:	Mr Jongjit Moolmat, <i>Awaiting Enlightenment 2</i>

### **Established Artist Category (Singapore)**

2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore:	Mr Carey Ngai, <i>Industry 2.0 III</i>
Gold Award:	Mr Tang Kok Soo, <i>Elephants Crossing the Water</i>
Silver Award:	Mr Yeo Tze Yang, <i>Ah Ma's Kitchen</i>
Bronze Award:	Mr Kobayashi Satoshi, <i>The Producer</i>

### **Emerging Artist Category (Singapore)**

Most Promising Artist of the Year, Singapore:	Ms Yoko Choi Chi Mei, <i>City Wandering</i>
Gold Award:	Mr Ariel Dong Zixin, <i>Self-portrait</i>
Silver Award:	Ms Shirley Koh Li Qing, <i>Gentle Shade of Blue Beyond...</i>
Bronze Award:	Mr Ryan Lim Ding Xuan, <i>Smithereens</i>

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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, Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. UOB is rated among the world's top banks: Aa1 by Moody's and AA- by Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings respectively.

In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, as well as branches and representative offices.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on art, children and education. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running art competition in Singapore, the UOB Painting of the Year, which has since been extended across Southeast Asia. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the twelfth consecutive year in 2016. 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 China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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