

News Release

UOB Painting of the Year artists touch the lives of 100 children through art workshops in 2015

Singapore, 14 December 2015 – One hundred children from United Overseas Bank’s (UOB) charity partners explored their creativity with artists from the UOB Painting of the Year competition through a series of art workshops organised by the Bank this year¹.

These art workshops are the Bank’s way of bringing art to a wider group in the community, helping those who may not have the opportunity to be exposed to art, especially helping children with special needs to express themselves more fully.

Most recently on 11 December 2015, 23 children aged between seven and 12 years old from Punggol Family Service Centre attended a painting workshop conducted by Ms Lee Jia Zhen, the winner in the Emerging Artist category of the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year competition.

The 18-year-old Ms Lee, who has just completed her A-level examinations, demonstrated the technique of painting on a glass surface and shared some ideas on combining colours with design. Guided by 24 UOB employee volunteers, the children were each given a glass jar to paint festive designs in keeping with the season this time of the year.

After the workshop, the children were taken on an excursion to the UOB Southeast Asia Gallery at the National Gallery Singapore, which holds the world’s largest collection of modern Southeast Asian art.

Ms Lee said it was her first time working with children and it was a delightful experience to see them express their creativity through painting.

“It was interesting to observe how each of them approached the artwork differently, discussed their ideas among friends before starting to paint, and their choice of colours and symbols for the season. I hope that through this workshop, they will develop an appreciation for art and culture, as well as the confidence to express their own thoughts and feelings through art.”

¹ Please refer to the Annex for the list of art workshops organised by UOB in 2015

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Ms Lee Jia Zhen won the Singapore 2014 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year award for her oil-on-canvas painting titled *Let's Have A Burger*, which shows how students turn to comfort food, such as burgers, to cope with stress.

Committed to art for the long term

UOB has been supporting the development and appreciation of art in Southeast Asia since the 1970s, starting with the collection of paintings from emerging artists in Singapore. It launched the annual UOB Painting of the Year competition in Singapore in 1982 and extended the competition to Thailand in 2010 and to Malaysia and Indonesia in 2011. The competition has since developed into one of the most prestigious art contests for emerging and established artists in the region. It also helped to launch the careers of many artists in Southeast Asia. For its contribution to art, on 4 September 2015, UOB received the Distinguished Patron the Arts Award for the 11th consecutive year and a special SG50 Arts Patron Award from Singapore National Arts Council.

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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. 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, Thailand and the Philippines, 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 eleventh consecutive year in 2015. 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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Annex

Art workshops organised by UOB in 2015 for the community

- April** UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Established Artist category finalists Ms Hong Sek Chern and Mr Chua Say Hua taught contemporary Chinese ink painting at a Mother's Day art workshop for children from APSN Katong.
- June** Winner of the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) competition Ms Om Mee Ai conducted an abstract art painting workshop for children from Thye Hua Kwan Family Service Centre @ Tanjong Pagar.
- July** In celebration of Singapore's Golden Jubilee, the first winner of the UOB Painting of the Year competition in 1982, Mr Goh Beng Kwan, 79, painted a wall mural with 30 children from the Association for Persons with Special Needs (APSN) Katong School that depicts their love for their home and country.
- October** To celebrate Children's Day, Esmond Loh, one of the youngest winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competition when he won in 2012 at the age of 17, taught children from THK Family Service Centre @ Jurong how to paint on handmade fabric lanterns.