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## NEWS RELEASE

### Thought-provoking images clinch top award at the 28<sup>th</sup> UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

*Visual Artist wins S\$30,000 and one-month residency  
at the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum*

**SINGAPORE, 4 July 2009** – Three thought-provoking photographs by full-time practising visual artist, Zhao Renhui, have won the top prize at the 28<sup>th</sup> UOB Painting Of The Year (POY) Competition.

Entitled *Space in Between*, the photographs - marrying the arts and the sciences - stood out from among 1,047 submissions and impressed the POY judges with its enigmatic message and calligraphic images.

Renhui said, “My friends and I always look forward to the annual POY Competition as it is one of the few established art competitions in Singapore. I am really thrilled to finally receive the top award as I have been submitting my works these last few years.”

He added, “For the Competition, I submitted three images that encapsulate my artistic practice. The three photographs talk about human’s relationship with nature, one that is full of irony. It is about how we try so hard to be a part of nature, how animals are increasingly being objectified into commodities and science experiments, and how our invested knowledge on animals may not necessarily be the best for them.”

Chief Judge Mr Kwok Kian Chow, Director of National Art Gallery of Singapore, said, “Zhao Renhui’s *Space in Between*, a photographic work, emerged as the strongest work among the 1,000 over entries. This work first attracted the judges for its unusual narrative. Photos tend to over-explain. But these images, as if each suggesting a sentence in a tightly constructed prose, lead you on to another or even an imagined line. The extremely subtle figure in camouflage cloak, the austere mouse trap and the lifeless sparrow appeared clinical and yet enigmatic. *Space in Between* may be regarded as “painting” in the way the images are constructed for their inherent tension. It is metaphysical like in an ink landscape, and yet scientific in a clinical exactitude.”

Gracing the prize presentation held at the Esplanade – Theatres on The Bay, RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew, Acting Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts, presented the prizes and certificates to the winners. UOB gave away a total of **\$83,500** in cash prizes.

“Since the inception of the first UOB POY in 1982, UOB has been a valuable partner in showcasing original content by local artists, identifying and nurturing new talents, and encouraging public appreciation of visual art. Indeed, it is heartening to see these efforts help promote our local talents and elevate the arts to greater heights. UOB’s efforts contribute to

Singapore's vision to be a Global City for Arts and Culture, as well as MICA's call under the Renaissance City Plan for greater private sector support for the arts, especially during these uncertain times," said RAdm (NS) Lui Tuck Yew.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, United Overseas Bank, and Chairman of the UOB Art Committee said, "We firmly believe that even in these uncertain times, the creative industries need our support. We can't afford for innovation and the arts to be 'interrupted'. At UOB, we hope to play our part in nurturing talent and cultivating wider appreciation of the arts in the long-run. It's important for artists to be given opportunities to share their creations with others, to share their perspectives with fellow artists. Such exchange of ideas broadens horizons and injects vibrancy into the industry. With this in mind, UOB added a regional dimension to the POY this year. We started a three-year partnership with the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (or FAAM), a renowned museum for modern and contemporary Asian art."

Please refer to Annex 1 for the full list of winners.

### **The 28<sup>th</sup> UOB Painting of The Year Exhibition**

All award-winning and highly-commended entries will be exhibited at the 28th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition:

Date: 5 July to 2 August 2009

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/Public Holidays)

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### **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 18 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 four consecutive years since 2005.

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Results Of The 28<sup>th</sup> UOB Painting Of The Year Competition (2009)

Award/Prize	Winner	Title Of Painting	Medium	Size (cm)	
<b>Open Section</b> • <b>The UOB Painting Of The Year Award 最佳画作奖</b> S\$30,000 and The UOB Painting Of The Year Trophy  • <b>Platinum Awards 白金奖</b> S\$10,000 each  • <b>Highly-Commended Awards 优等奖</b> S\$1,500 each	• Mr Zhao Renhui	The Space in Between #1, #6, #63	Archival Piezographic Print	90 x 130	
	• Mr Boo Sze Yang	Boom #8	Oil	112.5 x 150	
	• Ms Melissa Ho Xueling	Lyrical Memoirs	Digital Print	50 x 180 & 60 x 100	
	• Mr Max Kong Kum Chuen	Twilight	Mixed Media & Concrete on Canvas	130 x 120	
	• Ms Om Mee Ai	Nebula-G	Oil on Canvas	130 x 130	
	• Mr Anthony Chua Say Hua	Scripts of Selective Sympathies	Chinese Ink & Pigments on Rice Paper	180 x 180	
	• Mr C K Kum	Turbulence Mirror #03	Plexiglas, Oil on Canvas	120 x 60	
	• Ms Dina Rozana Bte Abdul Razak	Can You Read My Mind?	Encaustic, Oil on Collage	153.5 x 153.5	
	<b>Youth Section*</b> • <b>The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Award 最佳新秀艺术奖</b> S\$2,500 and The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Trophy  • <b>Highly-Commended Awards 优等奖</b> S\$1,000 each	• Mr Chew Seng Choon	Vanity Fair	Oil on Canvas	160 x 119
		• Ms Samantha Chia Hui Qi	Waiting	Acrylic	76 x 76
• Ms Rebecca Wang Chenying		Home, Finally	Oil Paint	60 x 120	
	• Ms Vanessa Lim Xin Ying	Flicker	Oil on Canvas	72 x 180	

<b>Junior Section#</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Award</b> 最佳新秀艺术奖 S\$2,000 and The UOB Most Promising Young Artist Trophy</li> </ul>	Ms Megan Lim Mei Xuan	The Perenakan Wedding	Mixed Media	50 x 70
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Highly-Commended Awards</b> 优等奖 S\$500 each</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ms Christina Chang Xue Fen</li> <li>Ms Siobhan Yeow Ying Hong</li> <li>Ms Dou Meihuan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Eating Picture</li> <li>Doughnut Dragon</li> <li>Let The Birds Fly</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watercolour, Acrylic Paints &amp; Ink</li> <li>Mixed Media</li> <li>Acrylic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>150 x 120</li> <li>64 x 153</li> <li>24 x 36</li> </ul>

*\*The Youth Section is open to all entrants born between 1991 and 1996.*

*#The Junior Section is open to all entrants born between 1997 and 2002.*