



42nd

UOB

Painting
of the Year



42nd UOB Painting of the Year

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Message from the Chairman of UOB Art Advisory Panel

Art is a powerful source of inspiration and connection, reflecting the rich tapestry of culture, identity and aspirations. Across the region, fresh opportunities await artists to pursue their creative visions and illustrate their experiences through artistic expressions. In the 42nd edition of the UOB Painting of the Year (POY) competition, we are heartened to have received a record number of entries across Southeast Asia.

This year, we launched the first UOB POY competition in Vietnam, bringing our flagship art competition to a fifth country in Southeast Asia. The expansion into Vietnam reinforces our long-term commitment to supporting visual art and artists in Southeast Asia. The entries present the ingenuity of artists in depicting narratives that captivate and resonate with the audiences. The artworks draw attention to social commentary, highlighting social and environmental issues, and the importance of social changes.

As a leading patron of the arts in Asia, we continue to give back to the community through a diverse range of visual art programmes, partnerships and community outreach. Guided by our purpose of ‘Building the future of ASEAN’, we are committed to doing right by our community in this region, uncovering and nurturing talents, and providing them with opportunities to showcase their creativity.

In Singapore, more than 2,000 art students have benefitted from our Artist’s Conversation programme where our UOB POY artists shared art techniques and their artistic journeys. This year, we also launched #ArtforGood, a charity sale of a range of art wearables, co-designed by UOB POY artists and artists with special needs.

During the year, UOB FinLab and National Arts Council Singapore jointly organised the first run of the Acceleration Programme for the Arts, helping more than 20 art organisations to strengthen their businesses and digital capabilities.

In our efforts to champion Southeast Asian art, we will also collaborate with National Gallery Singapore to present the 2023 UOB POY Regional Winners’ Showcase to locals and tourists to grow the appreciation of art.

Across our regional footprint, UOB returned as the Lead Partner of Art Central Hong Kong and Art Jakarta, profiling our winning artists on the international stage. In China, we launched the inaugural UOB Art in Ink Awards Campus Edition to help uncover young artists and promote a traditional Chinese art form.

This year, our UOB Art Academy in Hong Kong is officially established as a charitable organisation, the first across UOB Group. The academy is committed to making a positive community impact through art. Founded in 2015, the academy aims to garner greater collective support from our stakeholders with its new charity status through partnerships and sponsorships.

I would like to congratulate all our winners and thank our esteemed judges and partners who have helped make our journey in art possible. With exciting possibilities ahead, we look forward to building a thriving art scene in Singapore, and to enabling artistic talents to scale greater heights.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong

Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB
Chairman, UOB Art Advisory Panel



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Arts education plays a pivotal role in the holistic development of individuals and society. Its significance extends far beyond the canvas or the stage. The arts help us to understand the nuances of human nature, appreciate cultural diversity, and connect us to society and the world.

Singapore's arts scene is more vibrant than ever today, and the Government will continue to give strong support for the arts. The National Arts Council (NAC) recently announced Our SG Arts Plan, the masterplan for the arts and culture in Singapore for the next five years (2023 to 2027). The plan is built on three ambitions – A Connected Society, A Distinctive City and A Creative Economy. We envision Singapore as a city inspired by the arts, with it being infused as a key part of our lives in education, work and well-being, and where the arts sector will flourish with artistic talent and excellence.

We want to nurture not only the intellect but also the creative spirit of our people. Singapore's first Government-supported private arts university, the University of the Arts Singapore (UAS) will welcome its first intake from 2024. UAS will build on the strengths of its alliance partners, LASALLE College of the Arts (LASALLE) and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) to provide a transformative arts education, empowering students to be well-rounded and future-ready individuals, capable of seizing opportunities and contributing to new ideas and innovations for the world.

To sustain a diverse and flourishing arts ecosystem, the Government, arts community and broader society must continue to work together, with strong and meaningful partnerships. To this end, UOB has been instrumental in shaping the Singapore arts scene with their extensive corporate art programme. As a long-term patron, UOB received the Honorary Patron of the Arts Award at NAC's Patron of the Arts Award Ceremony this year. The award recognises UOB for consistently supporting the development of our arts sector, and for receiving the Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award more than 20 times.

I look forward to UOB's continued support to give our people the opportunity to appreciate the multiplicity of works from Singapore and the region.

Congratulations to all the winners of the 42nd UOB Painting of the Year competition. I wish you all the best in your pursuit of artistic excellence. May you continue to enrich and enliven our local and regional arts scene, and fly the Singapore flag high on the international stage.

Mr Chan Chun Sing

Minister for Education



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About UOB Art Collection

*Uncovering artistic talent
and deepening art appreciation
over 42 years*

UOB plays an active role in communities across the region, most notably through our long-term support of visual arts. We believe that art can transcend language, culture, geography and time. This aligns with our commitment to connect and to strengthen bonds in our communities.

Over the last four decades, UOB has championed Southeast Asian art through a wide range of visual arts programmes, partnerships and outreach initiatives across Asia. The annual UOB Painting of the Year art competition, which is held in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and most recently Vietnam, has helped to uncover a new generation of great Southeast Asian artists and contributed to greater awareness and appreciation of art.

Honorary Patron of the Arts Award Recipient
20-time Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award Recipient
Founding Partner of the National Gallery Singapore

2023 UOB Painting of the Year
MILESTONES

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MILESTONES



Championing Southeast Asian Art

Uncovering artistic talent and deepening art appreciation over 42 years

1980s



Mr Goh Beng Kwan, first winner of UOB Painting of the Year and Singapore Cultural Medallion award recipient



The first UOB Painting of the Year award trophy designed by Brother Joseph McNally, leading arts educator and founder of LASALLE College of the Arts

> 1990s

1982

Launches UOB Painting of the Year with Ministry of Culture in Singapore



Awards Catalogue in 1982

1983

Invites Singapore's famous pioneer artist, Dr Chen Wen Hsi to lend his expertise through judging



Panel of judges for 1983 UOB Painting of the Year. From left to right: Mr Srihadi Sudarsono, Mr Damrong Wong-Uparaj, Dr Chen Wen Hsi, Mr Christopher Hooi and Mr Choy Weng Yang

> 2000s

2006

Launches UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza 1 in Singapore to raise the appreciation of art



Raising art appreciation through the UOB Art Gallery at Raffles Place in Singapore

2009

Establishes UOB-Fukuoka Asian Art Museum Residency Programme to nurture artistic talent



Artist's Conversation series at schools with UOB Painting of the Year artists



Profile artists on international stage

> 2010s

2010

Launches UOB Painting of the Year in Thailand



First UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand) in 2010

2011

Launches UOB Painting of the Year in Indonesia and Malaysia



First UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) in 2011

2013

Introduces the competition's top regional award, UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year

2015

Opens UOB Southeast Asia Gallery at National Gallery Singapore, housing the world's largest collection of modern Southeast Asian Art



UOB is the Founding Partner of the National Gallery Singapore

2018

Launches the purpose-built UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza in Shanghai, China



Celebrating Southeast Asian Artists at the 2019 Awards Ceremony

> 2020s

2020

Introduces e-submission for UOB Painting of the Year across four countries

Transforms our art outreach programme amid challenging times through the regional launch of UOB Art Explorer, an online visual arts programme



Inviting UOB Painting of the Year artists to #KeeptheGoodGoing by bringing art to disadvantaged children

2021

Celebrates 40th anniversary of UOB Painting of the Year



Singapore President, Madam Halimah Yacob gracing the 2021 Awards Ceremony

Launches UOB Digital Art Grant in partnership with National Arts Council Singapore

Launches new award trophy design, modelled after *Vitalità* bronze sculpture commissioned by UOB



2022

Sigs a three-year Memorandum of Understanding with National Arts Council Singapore to position Singapore as an arts hub for Southeast Asia



MOU Signing Ceremony between UOB and NAC

Launches SkyArtverse by UOB in Decentraland, the first immersive art theme park in the metaverse

2023

Launches UOB Painting of the Year in Vietnam



First UOB Painting of the Year (Vietnam) in 2023

Launches UOB Art In Ink Campus Edition in China and lists UOB Art Academy as charity in Hong Kong

Launches #ArtforGood fashion wearables co-designed by UOB Painting of the Year artists and artists with special needs

Launches the first UOB FinLab-NAC Acceleration Programme to strengthen capabilities of art organisations

Wins the inaugural lifetime Honorary Patron of the Arts award by the National Arts Council

2023

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UOB Painting of the Year Iconic Award Trophy

Design inspired by *Vitalità* by Anna Chiara Spellini

On the 40th Anniversary of the UOB Painting of the Year regional art competition in 2021, we introduced a new iconic award trophy design. It is modelled after *Vitalità* (生命力), a bronze sculpture by foremost Italian sculptor, Ms Anna Chiara Spellini. The sculpture was specially commissioned by UOB.

In the concept of 'dao' (道), the vital energy of the universe is 'qi' (气). Embodying the 'qi' in the visceral line of this sculpture, Ms Spellini has endowed the form of *Vitalità* with the vigour of being ready to move upward and forward. It is a life force that creates newness, growth, good fortune and abundance for all.

Vitalità begins life as a pillar of strength that also represents a form of physical movement, as though stepping forward. The front of the sculpture is arched backward, while the back is like a curved bow, ready to spring out.

The iconic UOB Painting of the Year award trophy, which also demonstrates the spirit of the UOB brand, aims to illuminate the passion of artists, inspiring their imagination and ingenuity as they express their artistic vision.

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Doing right by our communities through #ArtforGood

Apart from nurturing great Southeast Asian artists through artist residencies and international art fairs, UOB also rallies its art community, ecosystem partners and UOB POY artists to forge greater social impact and foster deeper art appreciation among young budding artists, children from disadvantaged families as well as those with special needs. In the spirit of #ArtforGood, we collaborate with partners through art workshops, commissioned artworks and projects, outreach and volunteerism to uplift our communities.



42nd UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Launch

To commemorate the 42nd UOB POY launch this year, a collection of 36 limited-edition art wearables was launched and co-designed by 10 UOB Painting of the Year artists and artists with special needs from JOURNEY by TOUCH Community Services (a local charity). The exquisite pieces, which illustrate how art can be present in our everyday lives, including fashion, was introduced at a fashion showcase for charity sale at the launch at National Gallery Singapore.

All proceeds have been benefiting TOUCH Community Services to promote art and education for special needs groups.



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Best of 2023 UOB Painting of the Year

SINGAPORE | Established Artist Category



2023 UOB Painting of the Year

Artist: **Jeremy Hiah**
Title: ***Gulliver's Travels***
Medium: **Mixed media on canvas**
(Acrylic paint and pen ink)
Size (cm): **76 x 196**

Gulliver's Travels is inspired by the adventure story of Lemuel Gulliver, who was washed ashore as the sole survivor of a shipwreck during his travel to remote regions and held captive by a race of tiny people.

The artwork represents the concept of a lockdown seen in the form of a restricted human body surrounded and plagued by tiny viruses, animals and machineries, creating a vivid scene of confinement during a haunting night.

About the artist

Jeremy Hiah is an interdisciplinary artist and curator whose works question the social systems we live in, using satire and an ironic sense of humor. Following his graduation from LASALLE College of the Arts/ RMIT University in Singapore, he continued to focus on paintings, and explore different medias such as sculpture, installations, and performance.

He has held numerous solo and group exhibitions at the Museum of Something, Thailand; Singapore Art Museum (SAM), Sydney Museum of Contemporary Art, Australia; and Kedai Kebun Forum in Indonesia. Jeremy's works have been collected by the SAM; National Gallery Singapore, ASIATOPIA Foundation Thailand, AIR 3331 as well as many private collectors.



Gold

Artist: **Hong Sek Chern**
Title: ***Accretion/Dissolution***
Medium: **Ink on rice paper**
Size (cm): **110 x 150**

Accretion/Dissolution is part of a series of paintings inspired by fire and water which engulfed the artist's studio 10 years ago - with the ceiling charred from the fire and floors flooded by the firefighters' water. However, the main motivation to create the series was the frequent forest fires that raged in mainland Southeast Asia and Canada in early 2023, as well as torrential rains flooding homes in California and Uganda, affecting millions of lives.

The ink used in her artwork is made from fire and water as well - soot from burnt barks of trees mixed in water for activation. The spaces depicted in the artwork were created by appropriating photographs uploaded by the public on apps such as Google Maps, using paper mounting to create a doubling of painted layers. The ambivalent gap can imply either an opening or closing strata of space which are intended to suggest a liminality of ambiguous outcomes.

About the artist

Hong Sek Chern enjoys exploring various themes within urban settings in her paintings. She focuses on traditional Chinese ink, applying contemporary strategies to push the possibilities of the traditional medium. Sek Chern is a graduate from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore and Goldsmiths College, University of London, United Kingdom.

A multiple UOB Painting of the Year award winner, Sek Chern has held seven solo exhibitions in Singapore and participated in group exhibitions held locally and overseas. She was selected to participate in the President Young Artist Show organised by the Singapore Art Museum in 2001. In 2002, she represented Singapore at the 25th *Sao Paulo Biennale* and the 5th *International Ink Painting Biennial of Shenzhen* in 2006. She was also the recipient of the Young Artist Award conferred by the National Arts Council Singapore in 2000.



Silver

Artist: **Ho Seok Kee**
Title: ***Preserving Peaks - Brush Strokes Unbound***
Medium: **Mixed media on canvas**
(Acrylic, archival ink, ceramic stucco and charcoal)
Size (cm): **120 x 100**

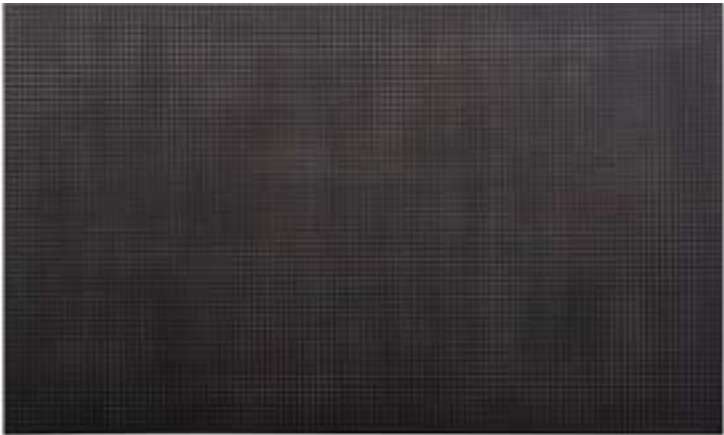
Preserving Peaks - Brushstrokes Unbound depicts a harmonious co-existence of tradition and innovation, past and future. This artwork is inspired by the Mustard Seed Garden Manual of Painting and the brushstrokes of Mifu, a Song dynasty Chinese painter and poet who invented the "Mi" (米) or rice dots to paint his famous misty landscapes.

It explores the possibilities of a future between nature and technology, ancient wisdom and modern advancements seen in futuristic human-carrying drones, collapsible solar-powered houses, portable satellites, and wind turbines against the natural landscape of towering mountains. Viewers are also invited to appreciate the balance of responsible human activities and the conservation of our natural world.

About the artist

Ho Seok Kee won the Silver Award, Established Artist Category in the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) and Third prize in the 2023 Saranggong Art Prize, organised by One Farrer Hotel. She held her first solo exhibition in 2020, and participated in various group shows locally as well as in China.

Besides her art practice, she conducts Art and Wellness programmes for seniors. As a wellness coach and advocate, Seok Kee is also passionate about working with institutions on programmes to support and empower persons in recovery from mental health conditions to live with dignity in a caring and inclusive society.



Bronze

Artist: **Om Mee Ai**
Title: ***R152-QUF***
Medium: **Oil on canvas**
Size (cm): **92 x 152**

R152-QUF is inspired by Beethoven's piano composition, *Moonlight Sonata* and conveys a visual interpretation of a complex emotional scape. The underlying narratives of tenderness, desperation, sorrow, happiness and melancholy are portrayed in the form of a geometric abstract visual through a meticulous and repetitive technique of "taping, layering and wiping".

Art is a reflection of an internal reality and should intrigue and hopefully uplift the spirit, emotions, and mind. The artist tries to achieve this through an abstract painting technique that displays the mixture of multiplied grids and translucent layers of colours. She sees abstract paintings as an open-ended dialogue between the artist, artwork, and audience.

About the artist

Om Mee Ai is a veteran artist known for her meticulously executed geometric abstract paintings that demonstrate a painstaking dedication to layers and details. She is a multiple-award winner of the UOB Painting of the Year competition, with her latest in 2014 as the Top Winner and in 2019, Highly Commended in the Established Artist Category.

She has participated in numerous group and solo exhibitions and received several recognitions, including the ASEAN Art Awards by Philip Morris. Her artworks are collected by Singapore Art Museum, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Singapore, Ministry of Manpower Singapore, Philip Morris Singapore, European Financial Group and INSEAD Business School. Her public art murals are also permanently on display at Stevens MRT Station in Singapore and at West Kowloon Station in Hong Kong.

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Best of 2023 UOB Painting of the Year

SINGAPORE | Established Artist Category



Highly Commended

Artist: William Goh
Title: *Everyday Tapestry*
Medium: Pigment on sandpaper
Size (cm): 140 x 174

Everyday Tapestry investigates the luminal space of the common void decks (open spaces on ground floors of public housings buildings in Singapore) and the mundane. Intendedly left empty, the artwork is an open void deck inviting the audience to think beyond the tangible elements and imagine activities within the space. The artwork is produced on recycled sandpaper with pigments sanded off objects collected by the artist around places of interest. The process of creating this artwork recognises the beauty of common spaces and the shared interactions.

About the artist
William Goh is actively involved in the arts scene. In 2020, he obtained his Bachelor in Arts (Education) from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. The artist is keen in exploring the process and materiality of art-making as well as creating artworks using both conventional and unconventional techniques.



Highly Commended

Artist: Wong Yee Heng
Title: *Beyond the Dancing Leaves*
Medium: Mixed media on paper
(Chinese ink and gold)
Size (cm): 100 x 180

Beyond the Dancing Leaves depicts a small beautiful city built on the strong foundation of harmony, tolerance, respect and love. Here, joyful little creatures in the artwork resemble happy ballerinas dancing, the fluttering leaves are like golden fireflies bringing well wishes, with animals running and birds flying freely among grasses swaying with the wind.

The bronze antique background bears a reminder to preserve nature for our future generations as the artwork depicts a luscious mix of greenery, nature and modern architecture transforming into a vibrant land of peace and harmony.

About the artist
Wong Yee Heng is an interior designer and has always enjoyed art-making. He has been participating in art competitions, specialising in Chinese ink, with his subject matters revolving around nature, reality and fantasy.

Yee Heng was awarded the Silver Award, Emerging Artist Category of the 2021 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore), and had his winning artwork selected as the cover of the 2021 UOB Annual Report. His artworks are also exhibited in China.



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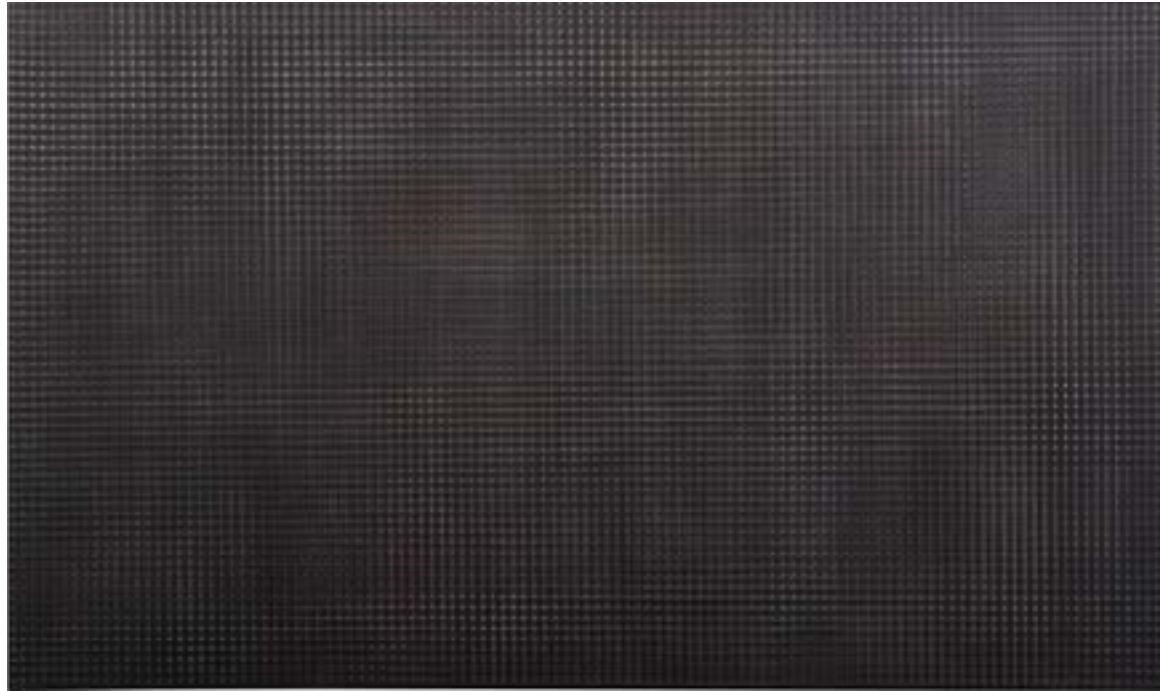
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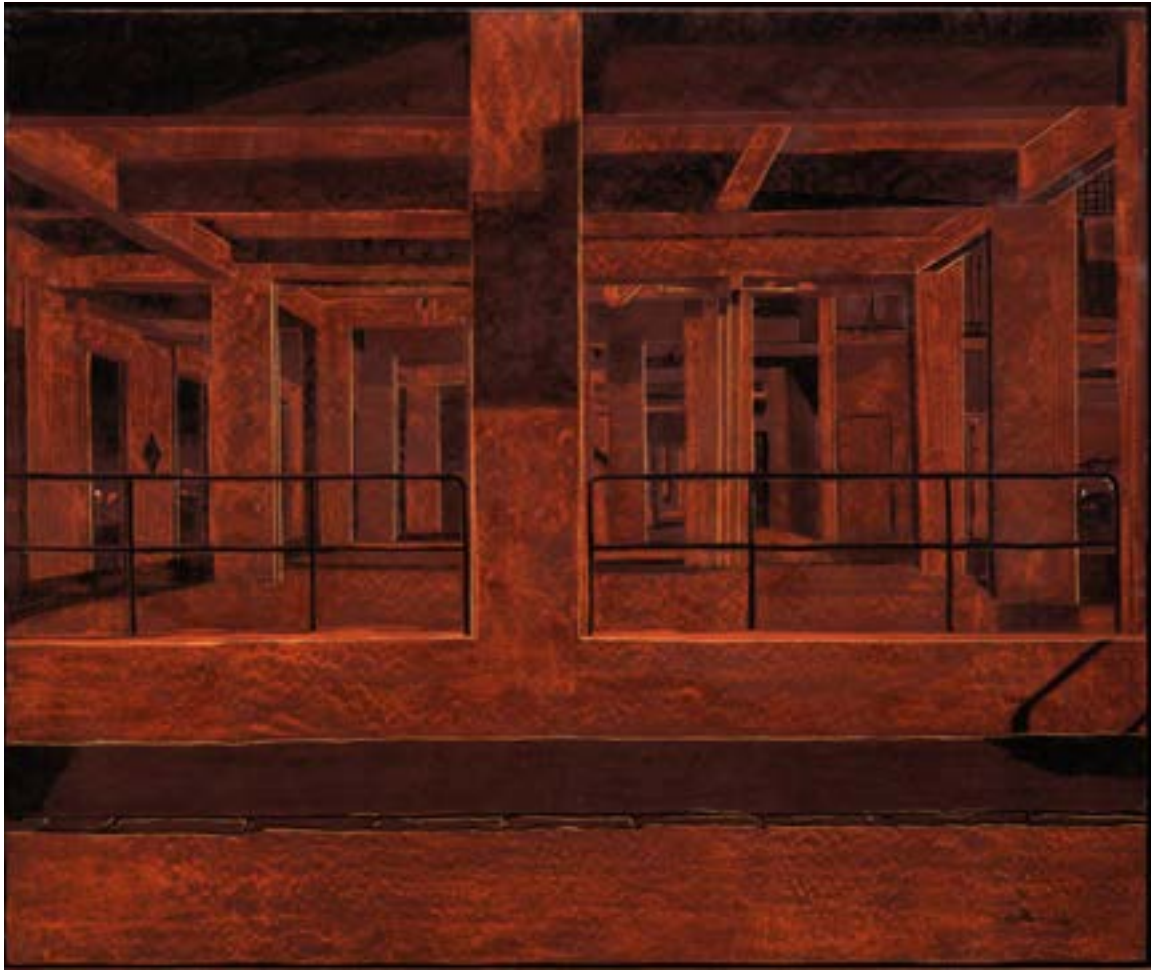
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SINGAPORE | Emerging Artist Category



2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year

Artist: Stephy Chien
Title: *Commuting*
Medium: Oil on linen
Size (cm): 100 x 120

Commuting depicts the symbiotic relationship between Singapore and Malaysia commuters and their connected journey across the Straits. Motorcycles have been woven into the fabric of daily life and its interweaving threads against bustling cityscapes form a vibrant tapestry that binds the two nations within close proximity together.

The vivid picture of motorcycles represents freedom, individuality and cultural fusion. This artwork invites viewers to consider their paths ahead towards sustainable transportation solutions while preserving the rich cultural heritage of our communities.

About the artist
Stephy Chien is a budding artist who works with images from her surroundings. Her keen observations have led her to look deeper into the subtle symbolisms around her. She is an avid artist who specialises in oil paintings.



Gold
Artist: Nurul Afiqah Binte Mohamad Suhaimi
Title: *Just Here and Counting*
Medium: Pen on paper
Size (cm): 100 x 120

Just Here and Counting is a working series that correlates time and memory through spaces. It serves as a reminiscing of the artist's growing years with her family. Using linear forms, this work presents an overlapped imagery of nature through time.

About the artist
Nurul Afiqah Binte Mohamad Suhaimi graduated with a Diploma in Western Painting at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore and a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at the School of Creative Arts and Media, University of Tasmania, Australia.

She is an atelierista (art teacher) and an art specialist at an international preschool in Singapore. Majored in painting, Afiqah's works play around with the subtlety of lines that constitutes the notion of temporality – the existence and perception of self and space in real time, capturing the memory and intimacy within the temporary.



Silver
Artist: Bong Chai Lee
Title: *Home*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 60 x 50

Home is inspired by an olive-backed sunbird's nest that was built outside a massive ongoing construction. Despite its size, the small fragile nest attracted the artist's attention, reflecting home and beauty in nature.

The artist likens sunbird to human – despite our differences, we share the same intention and hope in building our homes.

Using a combination of blue pea flowers (a vine plant commonly found in Singapore) and sunbird to authenticate *Home*, the artist also added typical materials of the nest like dried leaves, seed pots, and tree bark to illustrate construction and build the relation between her subjects.

About the artist
Bong Chai Lee graduated in 1995 with a Diploma in Graphic Design. Her strong passion for art prompted her to pursue a Bachelor in Fine Arts at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore.



Bronze
Artist: Choo Weilin
Title: *Balancing Act*
Medium: Pencil on rice paper
Size (cm): 138 x 64

Balancing Act reflects mounds of stones placed and stacked by hikers along a walking trail.

The act of stacking requires great patience and effort as a weight as light as a bird or small as an eraser can threaten it with collapse or change its shape. The artist uses a pencil to laboriously and meditatively illustrate the stacking structure physically, one stone on top of one another, while showing unease and tension experienced with our environment in the process.

About the artist
Choo Weilin is currently an art teacher in a local secondary school. She pursued an illustration course in Ecole Supérieure des Arts – Epinal and a foundation course at the Imperial Academy of Art in St Petersburg, Russia to establish a stronger foundation in academic art.

Weilin has previously held a solo exhibition *In Plain Sight (2021)* featuring scenes from Singapore and St Petersburg, Russia. The exhibited works were completed on site in Russia and Singapore.

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Highly Commended

Artist: Andrew Huang
Title: *Garden City #6*
Medium: Chinese ink on silk
Size (cm): 120 x 126

Garden City #6 illustrates the complexities of life in a city and constraints that city dwellers are subjected to in their dispositions.

With rampant consumerism and popular materialistic beliefs, life in a bustling city may lead to individuals' depreciating focus on the important human condition (life, death, emotion, morality etc). The intertwined figures and closely stacked structures symbolise our need for space within cluttered buildings while in search of purpose and direction.

About the artist

Andrew Huang graduated from School of the Arts, Singapore in 2022 and has works exhibited in both the Eastern and Western spheres. He won the Highly Commended, Emerging Artist Category in the 2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) and is also a strong advocate in championing social causes through his art with funds raised for local charities like the National Kidney Foundation, Tad Charity, and The Business Times Budding Artists Fund.

Andrew's works extend beyond traditional Chinese art-making. His paintings contextualise concepts of phenomenology and intentionality in Chinese ink painting into contemporary times, in search for meanings in everyday objects that revitalise lived human experiences.

His works encapsulate the inseparable relationship between Singaporeans and our urban environment, exploring how our surroundings may impact our subconscious mannerisms.



Highly Commended

Artist: Ng Swee Hua
Title: *Hanging Memories*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 122 x 91

Hanging Memories depicts a nostalgic childhood memory of the artist's grandmother religiously and meticulously hanging out fresh laundry in her backyard. A metaphor for preserving and cherishing memories, the simple and warm act of hanging laundry serves as a nostalgic reminder on the passage of time and stories woven into the fabric of our lives. Here, each piece of clothing represents a different memory and a unique moment frozen in time.

While celebrating the ordinary moments that make up the tapestry of our lives, the artist hopes viewers could reconnect with their own memories and experiences to find beauty in the simplicity of everyday life.

About the artist

Ng Swee Hua is an art director by profession with 30 years of experience in the advertising and design industries. He has participated and won the Chingay Float Design, amidst other renowned design awards such as the Apple Design Award.



Highly Commended

Artist: Kong Kai Keet
Title: *Then and Now*
Medium: Ink on canvas
Size (cm): 91 x 122

Then and Now illustrates the dynamic environment that is subjected to constant destruction and construction of new buildings in Singapore. The artist hopes to preserve the ethereal beauty of this process in his core memory.

About the artist

Kong Kai Keet graduated from Pathlight School, Singapore, and is currently undergoing training with the Employability and Employment Centre under Autism Resource Centre. Frequently spotted diligently drawing in his sketchbook, Kai Keet creates animal and cartoon figures and portraits with a very unique treatment. His signature style is to apply complex layers of texture and generous detailing. He enjoys drawing line art of Singapore scenes in pencil too.



Highly Commended

Artist: Cindy Wong
Title: *The Stable*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 60 x 80

The Stable depicts a common sight in the early years of the artist's hometown in Malaysia. Wanting to preserve her childhood to reminisce and to share with future generations, she captures great details of the smell of metal and grease in the good old days.

About the artist

Cindy Wong is an artist in training. She hopes to preserve memories and disappearing moments for future generations through her works.

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Highly Commended

Artist: Amanda Ye
Title: *Idle Hours*
Medium: Ink on rice paper
Size (cm): 105 x 68

Idle Hours is a self-portrait of the artist in her free time as she relishes in a cup of coffee, bread and Teochew png kueh (pink glutinous rice dumplings). While spending a carefree afternoon with her favourite kitten, she savours the warm breeze.

About the artist
Amanda Ye graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts, China in 1992. She won the First prize in the World Children's International Competition in Nibo, China when she was 12.



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Size (cm): 138 x 64



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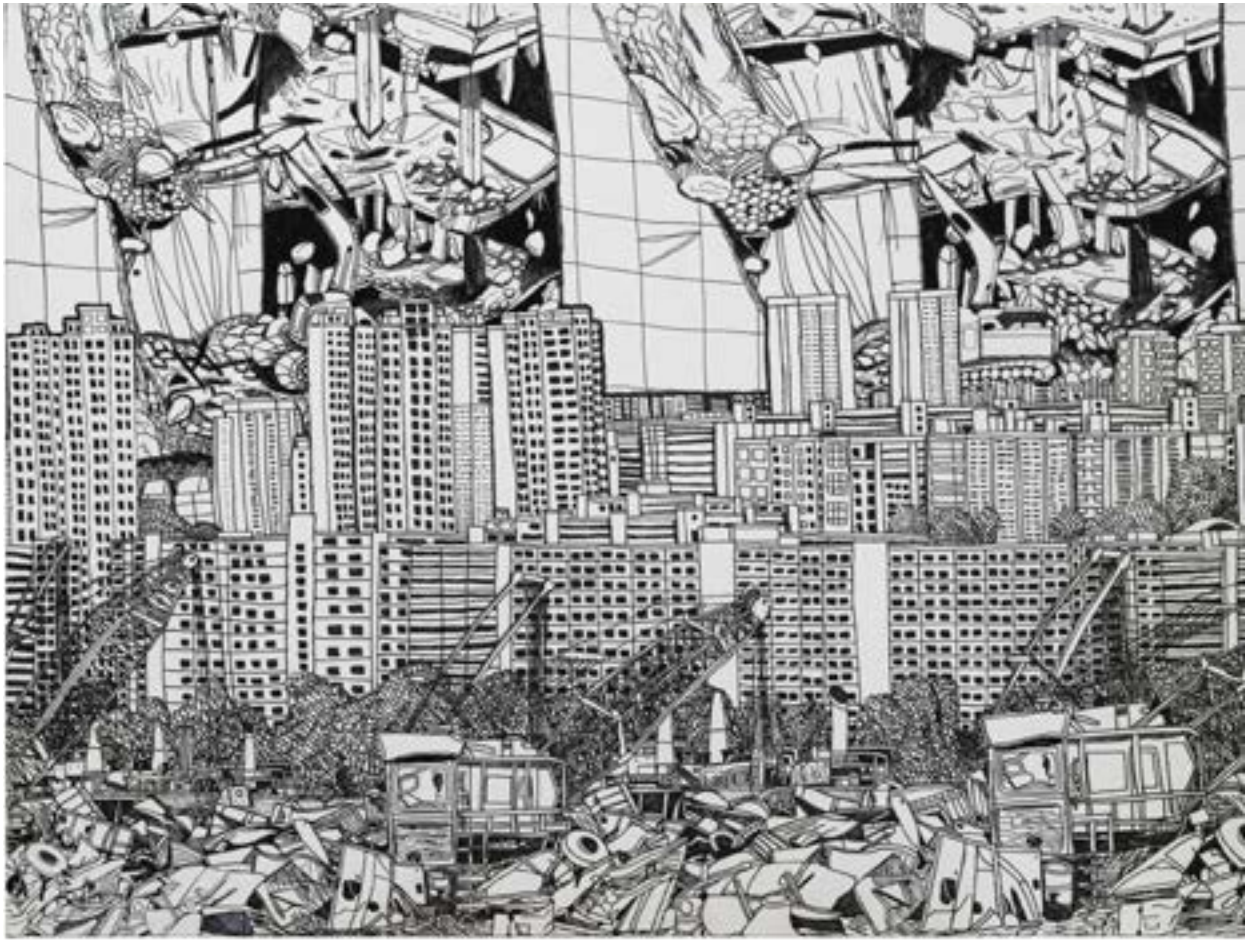
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INDONESIA | Established Artist Category



2023 UOB Painting of the Year

Artist: Ni Nyoman Sani
Title: *Tranquility*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Gesso acrylic, glue and marble)
Size (cm): 150 x 150

Tranquility is inspired by nature and the philosophy of Bhuana Agung (macrocosmos) and Bhuana Alit (microcosmos), a unity of the rhythm of human life with nature as a complete ecosystem.

Growing up in the Sanur coastal area of Indonesia, the artist documented natural materials she found and observed coral reef debris washing up on beaches leaving unique patterns that form naturally over a long period of time. She recognised a similar process in humans' bodies and souls against the natural cycles of space and time.

The artwork reflects this ecosystem of spirituality in humans, especially in the context of survival with nature and culture.

About the artist
Ni Nyoman Sani grew up in Sanur Bali, Indonesia and completed her Bachelor in Fine Arts Studies at Indonesian Arts Institute in 2001. Thereafter, she became a full-time artist and expanded her creative process into the world of fashion and photography.

She experimented with various mediums in the creative process and have works exhibited at the Leiden Museum in the Netherlands, at the Frankfurt Museum in Germany, and Jnana Museum in Ubud, Indonesia. In 2009, she was invited to a residency programme in Haarlem, the Netherlands and continued her creative process in Modena, Italy. She participated in the Bali-Darwin artists camp programme from 2014 to 2016. In recent years, she is exploring material experiments that represent contemplation.



Gold

Artist: Faisal Azhari Palito Perak
Title: *History Story #2*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 100 x 120

History Story #2 is inspired by the instant and constant pattern of information distributed on social media, illustrating how images are like writings or drawings on foggy glass, disappearing in an instant.

Social media have distorted our understanding of ourselves and others; something artificial can look very real or vice versa. Likewise, history can be real or just a factionary story. The artist believes that everyone can be a storyteller and create history, he repaints images of Wakidi's hazy iconic landscape to represent a vague history.

About the artist
Faisal Azhari Palito Perak graduated with a Bachelor in Fine Arts and Design at Institute of the Arts, Yogyakarta, Indonesia. After graduating from college, he actively participated in several art exhibitions at home and abroad, across Thailand, Singapore, China and Hong Kong. His solo exhibition titled *FAKE SMILE* was held in Yogyakarta, Indonesia in 2023.

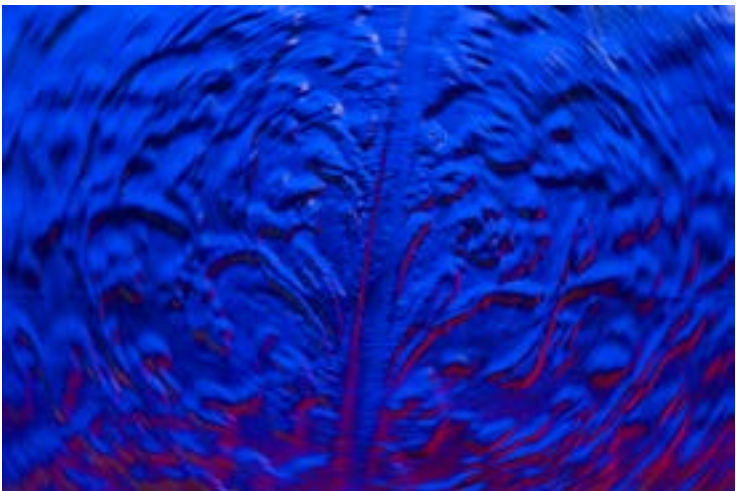


Silver

Artist: Anastasia Astika Pramesti
Title: *Somber Sentience I*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Watercolour and gouache)
Size (cm): 90 x 120

Somber Sentience I originates from a series of photographs of luxurious lamps that the artist found in streetside shops. As a migrant in a big city, the artist feels that hanging lamps or chandeliers have many connotations – a symbol of social status, luxury, and elegance. The process of observing objects, changing their colours and composition, then redrawing them using a simple medium on paper is her attempt to recognise, replicate and adapt into this foreign culture.

About the artist
Anastasia Astika Pramesti is a graphic designer who enjoys painting and showcasing her works. Her art is her attempt to document and define the reality in her surroundings and memories. For her, the fluid nature of ink and watercolour is part of the process of diving into the subconscious and of tracing subtle and complicated moments in her personal memories.



Bronze

Artist: I Gusti Agung Gede Jemana Murti
Title: *Phantasma 2*
Medium: Spray paint on PETG 3D Print
Size (cm): 100 x 150

Phantasma 2 explores cultural identity and its preservation. Many families in Bali, Indonesia, struggle with the difficult decision to sell their heirlooms and ancestral artifacts, such as ancient carvings, for survival.

The artist further questions about the future and implications of merely relying on machines that can reproduce these artifacts instantly. Balinese carvings that were previously hand-crafted on wood and stone have been now replaced by plastic printed using 3D printer machines and artificial intelligence (AI) programmes. The artist regards these artifacts as a contradict to the Balinese culture and a reminder of an undesirable future.

About the artist
I Gusti Agung Gede Jemana Murti completed his undergraduate education at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore in 2020. His artistic practice stems from his life experiences as a Balinese and observations in the religious aspects of Bali with creation consisting of paintings, sculptures and large-scale installations.

In 2019, he participated in the group exhibition, *The New Now 3: Convergence* by Gajah Gallery Singapore and the National Gallery of Singapore's Benefit Auction in 2022. Jemana's works are collected by private collectors in Singapore, London, and Indonesia. His works are also part of a permanent installation at the Raffles Maldives Meradhoo Resort, Maldives.

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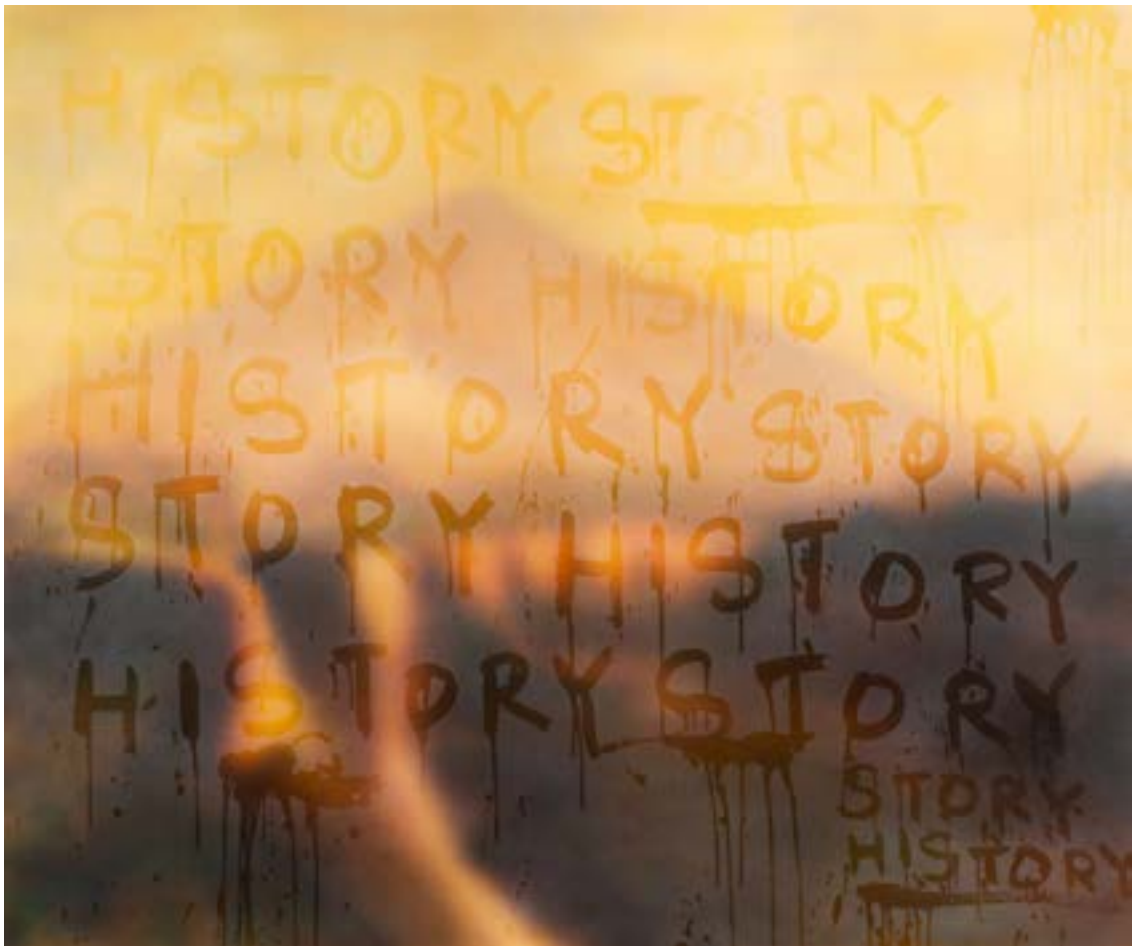
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INDONESIA | Emerging Artist Category



2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year

Artist: Begok Oner
Title: 7°49'03.3"S 110°21'00.2"E
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 120 x 120

7°49'03.3"S 110°21'00.2"E depicts the concept of space distortion in the virtual world. The shape of the canvas and depiction of objects in this artwork resemble images seen through a convex lens – a simple device that has been used for centuries to focus and magnify light.

As a metaphor, the lens refers to the idea of the media creating misperceptions. While human perception shapes sensory information into meaningful representations of experience, this representation is not perfect but distorted. The title of this artwork is the coordinates of a location in the city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia that the artist found on Google Maps. The view of these city walls are traces of urban culture in Indonesia in the 21st century that represents the authentic expression of its people.

About the artist
Begok Oner was born in Cilacap, Central Java, and now based in the city of Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Starting his career as a street artist, he began actively participating in exhibitions since 2017. Apart from working independently on the streets, he also actively participates in various fine art exhibition activities, including ARTJOG Expanding Awareness at the Jogja National Museum in 2022.



Gold
Artist: Nathaniel Pius Amaris Heru Brahmana
Title: Emosi Jiwa (Emotion of the Soul)
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, spray paint, acrylic-lacquer, gold leaf and crayon)
Size (cm): 100 x 100

Emosi Jiwa (Emotion of the Soul) is a visualisation of the pent-up anger and disappointment of a person with Schizoaffective, Bipolar, and Attention Deficit disorders. The artist describes the two figures as 'alter egos' of a person with a second self. Together, 'they' reflect one in anger – with the left representing a calmer side even though there is 'fire' around him.

The bright light above his head represents wisdom and promises that illuminate his mind; the orange rope represents the hope of achieving happiness. The figure holds a glimmer of light that keeps the artist alive – he dedicates this work as a therapy and support to patients and survivors in their mental health journeys.

About the artist
Since 2022, Nathaniel Pius Amaris Heru Brahmana have produced many works inspired by his personal mental health disorder with Schizoaffective, Bipolar and Attention Deficit disorders. He uses art as therapy and enjoys music and literature as well. He actively participates in various community activities as an advocate in the healing power of art. Amaris has participated in several national scale exhibitions, including the 2022 UOB Art exhibition titled At One Time.



Silver
Artist: Sultan Putra
Title: Dear Mothers
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 100

Dear Mothers depicts the figure of a mother holding a child as a metaphor for the relationship between humans, nature, and culture. For him, it is important for humans to maintain a balanced relationship with earth and everything else. This relationship can only be created through the values of compassion and nurturing behavior that are applied in everyday life, such as a mother who is never tired of looking after and caring for her child. Humans have a strong inner connection with nature.

In this work, he created a prayer mat or a carpet that is typically used for worship to underscore the meaning of spirituality in humans' obligation to protect nature on his canvas.

About the artist
Sultan Putra is an artist based in the city of Surabaya, Indonesia. He uses symbols in his works to highlight social narratives and local history. Apart from painting, he also creates installations, videos, texts, images, and site-specific relational aesthetics projects. Exhibitions and art projects that he has participated include the 2022 Indonesia Contemporary Art and Design 12 in Grand Kemang, Jakarta, Indonesia and 2022 Djin Diplomacy at the Kyushu Geibunkan Museum, Fukuoka, Japan.



Bronze
Artist: Zeta Ranniry Abidin
Title: Stay Alive with Knowledge
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic and oil)
Size (cm): 120 x 180

Stay Alive with Knowledge is inspired by a proverb on knowledge and wealth – knowledge protects you while you have to guard wealth. The artist firmly believes that knowledge is key; and lifelong learning and the pursuit of knowledge is vital to success. The three female figures are a representation of herself as a young woman preparing to explore the future, studying art as a science.

About the artist
Zeta Ranniry Abidin is passionate about art since high school. She won 1st place in her national high school painting competition in 2020 and started to pursue art as her career. In 2021, she won 1st place in the national Multiframe#3 Campus Fine Arts Competition. Her works have been showcased in several exhibitions in Surabaya, Yogyakarta, Bandung and Jakarta, Indonesia. In 2023, she was selected for the national fine arts event, ARTJOG Motif Lamaran at the Jogja National Museum, Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

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2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year
Emerging Artist Category
INDONESIA

Artist: Begok Oner
Title: 7°49'03.3"S 110°21'00.2"E
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 120 x 120



Gold
Emerging Artist Category
INDONESIA

Artist: Nathaniel Pius Amaris Heru Brahmana
Title: *Emosi Jiwa (Emotion of the Soul)*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, spray paint, acrylic-lacquer, gold leaf and crayon)
Size (cm): 100 x 100

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Silver
Emerging Artist Category
INDONESIA

Artist: Sultan Putra
Title: *Dear Mothers*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 100



Bronze
Emerging Artist Category
INDONESIA

Artist: Zeta Ranniry Abidin
Title: *Stay Alive with Knowledge*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic and oil)
Size (cm): 120 x 180

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M A L A Y S I A | Established Artist Category



2023 UOB Painting of the Year

Artist: Chong Kim Chiew
Title: *Malaya and British Borneo One Dollar 1953 (We look at the past, we look at the present)*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, paper with print, foil paper and lime plaster)
Size (cm): 180 x 180

Malaya and British Borneo One Dollar 1953 (We look at the past, we look at the present) features two identical banknotes from the British-Malaya era. The artwork evokes a sense of nostalgia for the time when the currency was in circulation across Malaya, Singapore, Sarawak, North Borneo, Brunei and the Riau archipelago from 1953 to 1967.

The upper banknote represents the past and its historical context. Its foil paper creating a mirrored surface that reflects the viewers' silhouette. The laterally-reflected lower banknote provides viewers a unique perspective of aligning themselves with the portrait and reflect on the changes in history. This juxtaposition symbolises the past and present, encouraging viewers to gaze into the present through the lens of history.

Through the artwork, the artist explores the relationship between money and art, as well as Malaysia's modern and historical narrative. This exploration prompts questions about the fluctuating value of

artists and their artworks over time. Just like an old bank note that appreciates in value over the years; who determines its value? It playfully challenges an artist's pursuit of commercial value in the art world.

About the artist
Chong Kim Chiew holds a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art (Oil Painting) from the Guangzhou Academy of Fine Art, China. He is an artist and curator who works with different mediums, methodologies and paradigms.

He has participated in numerous group exhibitions and held six solo exhibitions from 2005 to 2021. He has exhibited internationally in *Busan Biennale* (2022) in South Korea, *10th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art* (2021) in Australia, *ARTJOG 8* (2015) in Indonesia, *Open Sea in the Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon* (2015) in France and *Panorama: Recent Art from Contemporary Asia* (2012) in Singapore. His works are collected by the Singapore Art Museum and the Queensland Art Gallery.



Gold

Artist: Hasanul Isyraf Bin Idris
Title: *How to Disappear Under the Brightest Star*
Medium: Mixed media on paper
(Gouache and acrylic gouache)
Size (cm): 180 x 153

How to Disappear Under the Brightest Star draws inspiration from the artist's evening strolls, where serenity and darkness of the night envelops noises and traces of daytime chaos.

It is also in this space where the artist feels his creativity and imagination are heightened, leading him to a hobby of caring for nocturnal animals, particularly moths. Witnessing moths' metamorphosis ignited an existential contemplation in the artist. The artwork encapsulates the transformative power of the night, interweaving themes of mortality, existentialism and humanity's place in the universe.

About the artist
Hasanul Isyraf Bin Idris studied at the MARA University of Technology, Malaysia. His practice spans across various media, including painting, drawing, installation, video work and sculpture. His works typically manifest hybridity of fictional and surreal iconography drawn from personal invention and a mélange of cultural and literature references. His artworks have been exhibited in Malaysia, Jakarta, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan, New York and France. Public collection of his works are featured in the Singapore Art Museum, Galeri Z (Malaysia) and ILHAM Gallery (Malaysia).



Silver

Artist: Nik Ashri Bin Nik Harun
Title: *In the Quiet Whiteness, the Darkened Silence Resonates*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Charcoal and acrylic)
Size (cm): 163 x 160 (Triptych)

In the Quiet Whiteness, the Darkened Silence Resonates is a triptych inspired by an encounter with a blind masseur, whose contentment, despite lacking in sight, sparked an exploration of perception beyond the physical realm. It invites viewers on a journey of introspection and self-discovery, challenging conventional perspectives of perception and spiritual understanding.

The first panel features a veiled figure, blindfolded and draped, with hands clasping a walking stick and a bell. The blindfold serves as a poignant reminder of our reliance on vision, while the stick and bell represent alternate ways to navigate the world.

The second panel showcases an excerpt from Ibn Al-Khatir's Tafseer on Surah Al-Hajj: 46, with its meaning obscured by heavy redaction. The boldness of the obliterated text, contrasting with the preceding panel's silent imagery, compels viewers to seek meaning beyond the visible.

The final panel is a pure white canvas, embossed with braille that reads "God does not look at your forms and possessions but your hearts and deeds". This reiterates the motif of the blind masseur's wisdom, reminding us to view the world not merely with our eyes, but also with our hearts.

About the artist
Nik Ashri Bin Nik Harun is a self-taught artist that has been drawn to the arts since young. His art journey is inspired by the depth of Romanticism - expressed through charcoal and creating works that reflects his personal experiences. He is also multiple-times winner of the UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) - Gold Award, Emerging Artist Category in 2021; and Silver Award, Established Artist Category in 2022, showing his evolution as an artist. His artworks were also showcased in the Malaysian Emerging Artist Award 2022 and HOM Art Open 2023. He aims to connect deeply with viewers through his art, making every piece a shared emotional journey.



Bronze

Artist: Umibaizurah Binti Mahir Ismail
Title: *Uncharted Realm*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Clay soil, sand, stone and ceramic pigment)
Size (cm): 125 x 125

Uncharted Realm is a captivating blend of locally sourced clay soil, sand, stone, and ceramic pigment, representing the Earth's surface in intricate textures and colours. As time passes, the canvas transforms, mirroring the harsh impact of global warming and the destructive effects of globalisation, consumerism and materialism. The artwork is a call to reconsider our actions and responsibility towards nature, sustainability and endangered habitats.

About the artist
Umibaizurah Binti Mahir Ismail earned her Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design (Ceramic) from the MARA University of Technology, Malaysia in 2000. She is a ceramic sculptor who gives new interpretation to the conventional perceptions of her medium by expanding to sculptures and art installations.

Since 1997, she has showcased her work in exhibitions spanning across Asia and Europe. Notably, she represented Malaysia at the *Jakarta Contemporary Ceramic Biennale 1 and 2* in 2009 and 2012, as well as the *Cheongju Craft Biennale*, in 2011 and *Asia Ceramics Network 2008* in South Korea. Her innovative artworks have earned international acclaim and are collected by institutional and private collectors both locally and abroad.

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M A L A Y S I A | Established Artist Category



Highly Commended

Artist: Yap Chee Keng

Title: 破碎的荧幕与自由搏斗
(Broken Screens and Freedom Struggles)

Medium: Acrylic on canvas

Size (cm): 100 x 180

破碎的荧幕与自由搏斗 (Broken Screens and Freedom Struggles) depicts a symbolic representation of technology-related challenges and issues such as an over-reliance on technology. Broken screens represent our vulnerability and confusion when access to digital tools are lost. While technology has made life easier, it also causes us to neglect physical interactions and emotional connections. This artwork reminds us to cherish interpersonal communication and relationships.

Lines in the artwork are repeatedly stacked and extended horizontally without edges, forming images of alternating density. The stacking of countless coloured lines form colour combinations that symbolise culture and life.

About the artist

Yap Chee Keng obtained a Master of Fine Arts from Taipei National University of the Arts, Taiwan in 2020. During his time in Taiwan, he had held several solo exhibitions and received recognition from the 2022 Malaysia Contemporary Young Artists Competition (Jury Awards), the 2021 Next Art Tainan Awards and the 2020 Nanyang Awards (Western Media Category: Best Work). He achieved a Silver Medal in the Oil Painting Category at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts (National Art Exhibition) as well as the esteemed 2020 Creative Excellence Award from Taipei University of the Arts, Taiwan.



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M A L A Y S I A

Artist: Chong Kim Chiew

Title: Malaya and British Borneo One Dollar 1953
(We look at the past, we look at the present)

Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, paper with print, foil paper and lime plaster)

Size (cm): 180 x 180

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Gold

Established Artist Category

MALAYSIA

Artist: Hasanul Isyraf Bin Idris
 Title: *How to Disappear Under the Brightest Star*
 Medium: Mixed media on paper
 (Gouache and acrylic gouache)
 Size (cm): 180 x 153



Silver

Established Artist Category

MALAYSIA

Artist: Nik Ashri Bin Nik Harun
 Title: *In the Quiet Whiteness, the Darkened Silence Resonates*
 Medium: Mixed media on canvas
 (Charcoal and acrylic)
 Size (cm): 163 x 160 (Triptych)

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Bronze
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MALAYSIA

Artist: **Umibaizurah Binti Mahir Ismail**
Title: ***Uncharted Realm***
Medium: **Mixed media on canvas**
(Clay soil, sand, stone and ceramic pigment)
Size (cm): **125 x 125**



Highly Commended
Established Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: **Yap Chee Keng**
Title: **破碎的荧幕与自由搏斗**
(Broken Screens and Freedom Struggles)
Medium: **Acrylic on canvas**
Size (cm): **100 x 180**



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M A L A Y S I A | Emerging Artist Category



2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year

Artist: Mairul Nisa Binti Malek
Title: *Malek and Mariana*
Medium: Mixed media on wooden box frame
(Cement, washed cyanotype, film, wire mesh and acrylic container)
Size (cm): 56 x 96

Malek and Mariana is a glimpse into the remote regions of Sarawak, Malaysia (Kapit, Betong and Kabong), where the artist's father used to travel seven hours to serve as an educator two decades ago.

Moving to Peninsular Malaysia, she notices the privilege, accessibility and exposure city life has to offer. It makes her feel grounded and brings solace to her upbringing as a Sarawakian - of knowing who she is, where she comes from and what she has been through. These emotions and diaspora experience are reflected in her creative process where washed cyanotype on cement evokes tastefully imperfect aspects of her past and inverted film, an introspection of her memories.

About the artist
Mairul Nisa Binti Malek graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from the MARA University of Technology, Malaysia, in 2020 and is currently pursuing her Masters in the same institution. She is a multidisciplinary artist and is currently experimenting with different art disciplines, ranging from sculptures to installations.



Gold
Artist: Ahmad Syakir Bin Hashim
Title: *For the Love of Sweet and Bitter Truth*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Plastic bag and acrylic)
Size (cm): 122 x 122

For the Love of Sweet and Bitter Truth draws inspiration from contemplating the impermanence of life, caught in the tension between the worldly pursuit of happiness and acceptance of life's bitter truth - its transience. It encapsulates the paradox of relentless pursuit of happiness, even with the awareness that happiness itself is fleeting.

The artwork, which is created out of constructed and deconstructed durable plastic bags, conveys the longing for permanence. It portrays a man wrapped in a blanket seemingly gazing out of a window while yearning to witness the beauty of this external world.

About the artist
Ahmad Syakir Bin Hashim obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Art from the MARA University of Technology, Malaysia in 2008 and later pursued a Master's Degree in 2018. He currently works as a lecturer at INTI College. Ahmad Syakir has exhibited in many local art exhibitions. He also won the consolation prize for the "Waste to Art" competition in 2019.



Silver
Artist: Ooi Yong Hui
Title: *Scars of Love, Stain of Time II*
Medium: Burned incense stick on rice paper
Size (cm): 180 x 96

Scars of Love, Stain of Time II conveys a powerful message about the complicated and timeless connections between personal experiences and cultural heritage. It illustrates the tenacity of cultural identity and the wisdom that transcends generations. The artwork embodies the everlasting imprints of love and the indelible marks left by time, achieved using incense-burnt holes on rice paper. The damaged and stained surfaces which depict the Chinese cultural figures, invite viewers to reflect on the significant relationship between their own life stories and the broader tapestry of shared heritage.

About the artist
Ooi Yong Hui is pursuing a Degree in Fine Art at the University of Science (USM), Malaysia. She has exhibited at the Muzium and Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, USM. She is a visionary artist whose creative journey has been marked by an unyielding curiosity in exploring the vast possibilities of artistic expression through various materials. Born and raised in a culturally diverse city, her early exposure to different art forms ignited a profound interest in the interplay of textures, colours and shapes.



Bronze
Artist: Izhar Yusrin Bin Zainuddin
Title: *Escape from the Plot*
Medium: Mixed media on water colour paper and acrylic sheet
(Acrylic and spray paint)
Size (cm): 132 x 77

Escape from the Plot explores the concept of a predetermined fate or impending sense of predestined suffering that consistently haunts the artist, leaving him feeling vulnerable in the face of an uncertain future beyond his control. This internal conflict manifests as a divided focus, symbolised by the contrasting colours of red and blue. The red represents an insatiable curiosity for the illogical, while the blue signifies the need to find meaning in the irrational. This dissonance of red and blue conveys the ambiguous nature of fate.

About the artist
Izhar Yusrin Bin Zainuddin is a Bachelor of Arts in Fine Arts graduate from the MARA University of Technology, Malaysia. He participated in an art installation at the Kapallorek Art Space for *Antara 2.0* exhibition and won the Jury's Choice Award at the Spotlight 2021 art competition organised by Penang Art District.

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M A L A Y S I A | Emerging Artist Category



Highly Commended

Artist: Noor Zahran Bin Khizan

Title: *Not for Sale*

Medium: Ink on paper

Size (cm): 82 x 132

Not for Sale is a captivating artwork that challenges our obsession with social media validation. It portrays a fallen shopping cart strewn with blue hearts, symbolising the fleeting nature of online approval.

The abandoned cart represents the discarded pursuit of validation through superficial measures, leaving viewers to question the underlying meaning behind seeking "Likes" on social media. As the hearts lay scattered, the message becomes apparent: the value of "Likes" is ultimately hollow and purposeless. This artwork urges the viewers to contemplate the authenticity of their digital interactions.

About the artist

Noor Zahran Bin Khizan has a Diploma in Creative Media from Kolej Professional MARA Indera Mahkota, Malaysia. He won the Malaysia Emerging Artist Award in 2022. His artistic style blends realism and surrealism, focusing on figurative and still life subjects. He primarily works with ink as his medium of choice, utilising its versatility to create intricate and compelling artwork.



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M A L A Y S I A

Artist: Mairul Nisa Binti Malek

Title: *Malek and Mariana*

Medium: Mixed media on wooden box frame
(Cement, washed cyanotype, film, wire mesh and acrylic container)

Size (cm): 56 x 96

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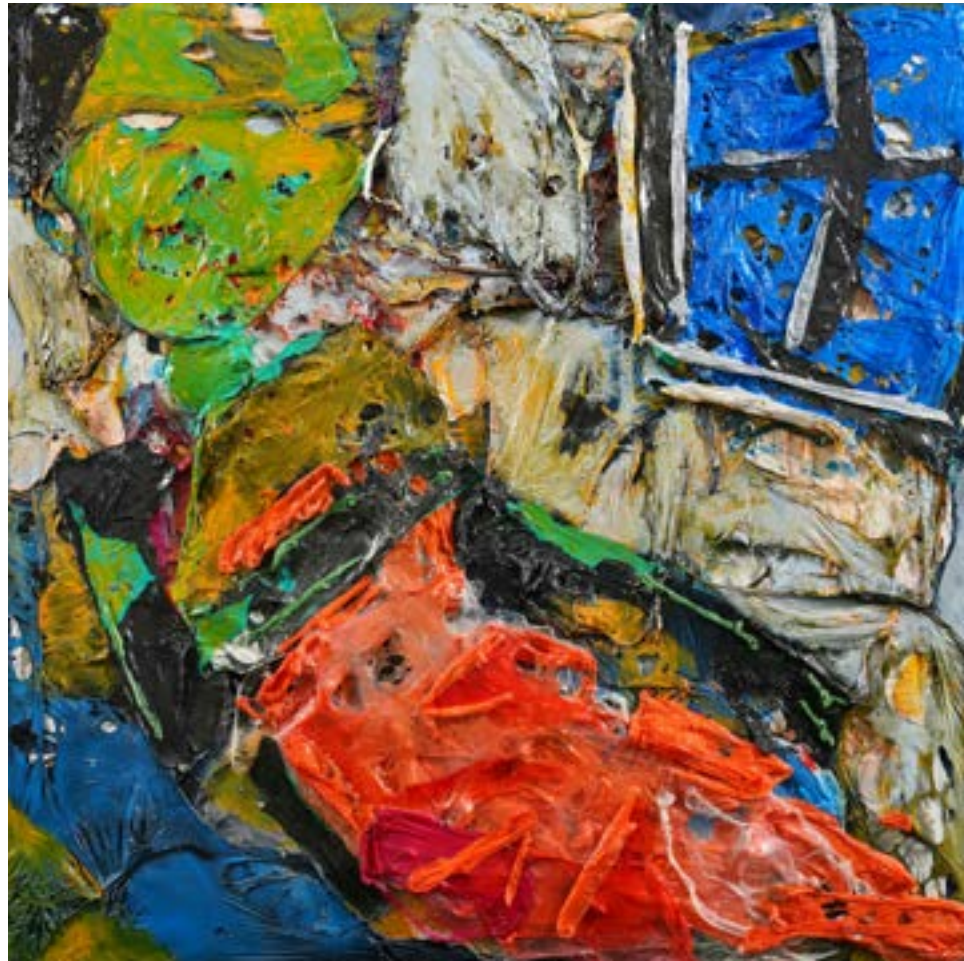
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Gold
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MALAYSIA

Artist: Ahmad Syakir Bin Hashim
Title: *For the Love of Sweet and Bitter Truth*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Plastic bag and acrylic)
Size (cm): 122 x 122



Silver
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Ooi Yong Hui
Title: *Scars of Love, Stain of Time II*
Medium: Burned incense stick on rice paper
Size (cm): 180 x 96

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Bronze
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MALAYSIA

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Title: *Escape from the Plot*
Medium: Mixed media on water colour paper and acrylic sheet
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Size (cm): 132 x 77



Highly Commended
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

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Title: *Not for Sale*
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THAILAND | Established Artist Category



2023 UOB Painting of the Year

Artist: Pratchaya Charenssook
Title: Chumphon Estuary
Medium: Mixed media on canvas (Microplastics)
Size (cm): 160 x 180

Chumphon Estuary reflects our ecological footprint. Pristine white-sand beaches have now become dump sites for disposed plastics that degrades into invisible microplastics; absorbing toxins, while at the same time polluting the environment and ecosystem.

The artwork is created using microplastics collected at the Sairee Beach near her hometown in Chumphon province, Thailand. The artist hopes her thought-provoking and innovative artworks will raise awareness of the hidden hazard of microplastics and the impact on our environment, future and human life.

About the artist

Pratchaya Charenssook is a rising talent in the Thailand art scene. She graduated with a Bachelor in Painting, Sculpture, and Graphic Arts in 2019 and a Master of Fine Arts (Visual Arts) in 2021 from the Silpakorn University, Thailand.

Pratchaya has earned several notable accolades, including the Silpa Bhirasri Gold Medal Award from the 38th Exhibition of Contemporary Art by Young Artists and the Silver Medal Award from the 68th National Exhibition of Art. She was also awarded the Gold Award, Established Artist Category of the 2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand).



Gold

Artist: Sakchai Uttitho
Title: The City
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 180

The City depicts the transformation of a urban society leading to prosperity. The river basin, a connector reflecting continuation, conservation, and development of the tribal ethnicity cultural and traditions.

This abstract artwork consists of visual elements such as overlapping lines, colours and an atmosphere woven together to represent the cultural structure made from water sources, economic centres, abodes and nature; all contributing to peaceful and virtuous way of life. By incorporating patterns inspired by traditional fabrics, the artist artfully showcases the ancient way of life, offering viewers an intriguing glimpse into the region's rich heritage.

About the artist

Dr Sakchai Uttitho, a native of Ubon Ratchathani province in North-eastern of Thailand, is an accomplished artist and respected art professor at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Mahasarakham University, Thailand. Currently serving as the President of the Isan Artist Association, he has also showcased his works in numerous group exhibitions both in Thailand and overseas.

He has earned recognition through various art competitions, including the Silver Medal Award at the 66th and 67th National Exhibition of Art and the Excellence Artist Award in the ASEAN Art Awards by Philip Morris. Additionally, he was also awarded the Bronze Award and Silver Award, Established Artist Category of the 2021 and 2019 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand) respectively.

His abstract artworks provide a captivating depiction of the ethnicity and cultural value of North-eastern Thailand.



Silver

Artist: Somrak Maneemai
Title: Hanging Tiger
Medium: Mixed media on canvas (Tarp, oil paint, pencil, strings and wires)
Size (cm): 130 x 180

Hanging Tiger is created by stretching used canvas materials, hung with cloth hangers and with legs bound in a subjugated manner.

The tiger is a unique animal which plays a pivotal role in the health and diversity of an ecosystem. While it is an apex predator at the top of the food chain and indicates the well-being of an ecosystem, the artwork illustrates how forests have been destroyed, much like how the tiger has been skinned. The artist hopes to raise awareness about sustainable practices and inspire others to make a positive environmental impact.

About the artist

Somrak Maneemai is an artist based in Phuket, Thailand. He obtained his Bachelor of Fine Arts in Painting in 1999, followed by his Master of Fine Arts in Painting in 2004 from the Silpakorn University, Thailand. Somrak is currently an esteemed member of the Phuket Art Village, where he has dedicated 13 years to creating artworks centred around recycling.

Throughout his career, Somrak has showcased his talent through numerous solo and group exhibitions both in Thailand and overseas. Having spent five years in Australia, he has also held many successful exhibitions there.

In recent years, his artworks revolve around issues of beach and construction waste materials. He is also passionate about repurposing used materials from construction sites in his artworks to share unique stories and narratives.



Bronze

Artist: Niroj Jarungjitvittawat
Title: 4th Apple (#2)
Medium: Tempera on wood
Size (cm): 150 x 150

4th Apple (#2) depicts an apple as a symbol with great significance in the atonement of original sin; the birth of modern scientific discovery; and the global transformation to the digital world.

Besides portraying the apple as an anticipation to the world's relentless development of technology and innovation, it also bears meaning of graciousness, beauty, health, joy and peace. This artwork is created from the skillful integration of various traditional Thai materials and ancient Thai “Lai Rod Nam” technique.

About the artist

Associate Professor Niroj Jarungjitvittawat is an eminent figure in the field of art as the Head of National Art Department at Poh-Chang Academy of Arts in Bangkok, Thailand. He has showcased his artistic prowess in numerous solo and group exhibitions, including notable displays at the Heming Gallery in China and the Thai-Turkish Mutual Arts Painting Exhibition in Turkey.

Associate Professor Jarungjitvittawat was awarded the Bronze Award, Established Artist Category of the 2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand). His recent accomplishments included a solo exhibition titled *Ratanakosin Samai* held at 333Gallery in 2022, and served as an artist in residence at The Peninsula Bangkok Hotel from October to December 2022.

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Artist: Pratchaya Charernsook
Title: *Chumphon Estuary*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Microplastics)
Size (cm): 160 x 180



Gold
Established Artist Category
THAILAND

Artist: Sakchai Uttitho
Title: *The City*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 180

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Artist: **Somrak Maneemai**
Title: ***Hanging Tiger***
Medium: **Mixed media on canvas**
(Tarp, oil paint, pencil, strings and wires)
Size (cm): **130 x 180**



Bronze
Established Artist Category
THAILAND

Artist: **Niroj Jarungjitvittawat**
Title: ***4th Apple (#2)***
Medium: **Tempera on wood**
Size (cm): **150 x 150**

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2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year

Artist: Santiphap Phengsuay
Title: Joy
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, cardboard, oil pastel and white board markers)
Size (cm): 164 x 180

Joy shares a glimpse of the artist's extraordinary journey as a trainee teacher at an "Educational Opportunity Extension School" where primary school-going children can overcome their learning abilities with learning aids in a supported environment.

Although available school art supplies were far from perfect, the artist curated enjoyable art activities using recycled materials to value-add in his students' aesthetics learning.

About the artist
Santiphap Phengsuay, resides in the Suphan Buri province in Bangkok, Thailand. He is currently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Art Education from the Faculty of Education at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

Santiphap's artistic journey began in high school when he won First Prize at the 69th National Students' Art and Craft Competition by Ministry of Education. His artistic inspiration comes from immersing himself in the subject matter and engaging in conversations.



Gold

Artist: Jenjira Phumdokmai
Title: The Suffering
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Oil and acrylic)
Size (cm): 180 x 130

The Suffering is a response to sexual abuse and its impact on victims and their families. Very often, victims have had to continue on with their lives through years of pain and healing.

The artwork manifests victims as crushed and mutilated flowers to evoke the resilience of their survival and perpetrators as venomous vermin. The artist taps on the power of her art to transform negative emotions into empowerment, raise awareness of the severe consequences of sexual abuse and extend support to affected communities in their healing and recovery.

About the artist
Jenjira Phumdokmai graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Decorative Arts from the Silpakorn University, Thailand and Master's Degree from the School of Architecture, Art, and Design, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Thailand in 2023. With a strong passion in children's art education, she is considering pursuing a career in this field.

Jenjira's works focused on social issues faced by women in today's world. Drawing inspiration from pain and sadness, she channels her emotions into her artistic creations. Through her art, she aims to raise awareness and conversations around these pertinent issues. By providing a voice to these suppressed emotions, she hopes to find relief and create meaningful connections with her viewers.



Silver

Artist: Natthawut Thammarueangrit
Title: Labour, Hope, Dream
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 170 x 170

Labour, Hope, Dream pays tribute to labourers and migrant workers, our pillars of support in driving the economy who are often overlooked. Hopes and dreams are their solace.

The artist depicts these silent heroes working tirelessly under oppressive situations through a delineation technique, varied thick lines and voids.

About the artist
Natthawut Thammarueangrit is a final-year Bachelor's Degree art student at the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture, and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Thailand. His artworks revolve around the imperfections of humanity, drawing inspiration from social issues and the environment. His art pieces are a result of meticulous research, as he spends 60 per cent of his time locating and studying the real-life settings of his subject matter. He takes photographs and uses them as references while painting. His preferred medium is oil painting, although he occasionally incorporates pencil drawings into his work as well.

Through his unique artistic style, perspectives, and attention to details, he hopes his work will continue to make a meaningful impact in the art world.



Bronze

Artist: Akeelah Samaae
Title: Wistful Longing 2
Medium: Embroidery on canvas
Size (cm): 140 x 160

Wistful Longing 2 spotlights on the old Thai way of life where people lived simply in harmony, love and laughter. A far cry from today's modern society where people are distanced by technology. The artist created this artwork using a patchwork technique from fabrics of used clothing to convey the good old childhood memories and warmth she reminisced.

About the artist
Akeela Samaae was raised in the Pattani province, Southern of Thailand. She graduated with a Bachelor of Education in Art Education from the Thaksin University, Thailand.

Akeela's artistry revolves around using cloth as her medium. Inspired by her mother's exceptional sewing skills, Akeela discovered that old, unused and leftover clothes could be transformed into beautiful pieces of art. She collects pieces of cloth and ensures the right colours and patterns are utilised to create her stunning pieces.

Her art reflects her everyday life, capturing moments and memories of her close-knit family. Through her work, she showcases her ability to find beauty in the simplest things and her appreciation for repurposing items.

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Artist: Santiphap Phengsuay
Title: *Joy*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Acrylic, cardboard, oil pastel and white board markers)
Size (cm): 164 x 180



Gold
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Artist: Jenjira Phumdokmai
Title: *The Suffering*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Oil and acrylic)
Size (cm): 180 x 130

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Artist: Natthawut Thammarueangrit
Title: *Labour, Hope, Dream*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 170 x 170



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2023 UOB Painting of the Year

Artist: Trinh Minh Tien
Title: *Thủy phủ (Water Palace)*
Medium: Airbrush paint on car bonnet
Size (cm): 138 x 164

Thủy phủ (Water Palace) represents an ethereal vision of St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hanoi, with rain on the car's windshield and hood. The Cathedral was built on the foundation of the destroyed Báo Thiên tower of Báo Thiên Pagoda. Two layers of covering, space within space, time within time – creating surrealism within realism.

This artwork contemplates and questions the clash of values in the course of history and society with a historical manmade structure in contrast to the impermanence of time and memory.

About the artist
Trinh Minh Tien has persistently pursued hyperrealism for many years. For him, painting is a natural and continuous act, much like how he paints with an airbrush starting from a single point and gradually spreading it until he finishes. The use of airbrush on automobile shells as canvas affirms his unconventional art practice.



Gold

Artist: Pham Tran Viet Nam
Title: *Họa chúng sinh #1 (Beings Painting #1)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 180

Họa chúng sinh #1 (Beings Painting #1) is the first of a trilogy of works. It depicts densely crowded webs of human faces, encroaching and suffocating under the pressure of urban developments. The artwork includes bruised faces in combats, children in wars, medieval beggars, coal miners and the innocents struggling to survive in a world filled with complexities.

About the artist
Pham Tran Viet Nam's compositions convey humanitarian messages from the depths of his compassion, the emotional resonance he feels toward societal situations and sufferings in the immediate world. He is drawn into contemplative thoughts about his time and his paintings are sculptural – he sews, embroiders, patches pieces of canvas together, and punches holes into his canvas before painting them.



Silver

Artist: Lai Dieu Ha
Title: *Hiện thực chậm lại (Decelerated Reality)*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Oil and ties)
Size (cm): 150 x 100

Hiện thực chậm lại (Decelerated Reality) is an expression of the artist's personal history, approach and creative process. This artwork portrays the artist's own performance play of the Extended North-Needle (Kim chỉ Bắc kéo dài) (2019) and created a new identity for her.

The painting is the result of a three-step creation: the artist as the subject, delving into the subconscious through psychological research, and finally translating it into a painting. It also depicts her life experiences of conflicts and chaos, and taking risks to go beyond the comfort zone.

About the artist
For over a decade, the public has identified Lai Dieu Ha as an extreme performance artist. After spending four years in retreat to research the method of psycho-dramatic therapy, she came back using painting as the next stage in examining what the boundaries of performing art truly entails while exploring society and humanity from the lens of performance references.



Bronze

Artist: Duong Ngoc Tuan
Title: *Thế giới (World)*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
(Oil and acrylic)
Size (cm): 100 x 100

Thế giới (World) employs an expressive and surreal visual language within an abstract and ambiguous space, with rich monochromatic brushstrokes. This artwork represents a significant departure in terms of the theme from the peaceful and realistic paintings that have long been associated with the artist's practice.

About the artist
Duong Ngoc Tuan has been practicing art for over 20 years with an ardent passion in painting. Throughout his journey, he has experimented with various materials, including oil, lacquer, acrylic, silk, and more.

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Artist: Trinh Minh Tien
Title: *Thủy phủ (Water Palace)*
Medium: Airbrush paint on car bonnet
Size (cm): 138 x 164



Gold
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Artist: Pham Tran Viet Nam
Title: *Họa chúng sinh #1 (Beings Painting #1)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 180 x 180

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Artist: Lai Dieu Ha
Title: *Hiện thực chậm lại (Decelerated Reality)*
Medium: Mixed media on canvas
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Size (cm): 150 x 100



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2023 Most Promising Artist of the Year

Artist: Ta Duy Tung
Title: *Trên con đường (Fly on My Way)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 40 x 30

Trên con đường (Fly on My Way) draws inspiration from the pair of shoes the artist used to wear during his days as a student with a holiday job. Only one shoe is drawn to illustrate how he has been overcoming odds and emerging stronger.

The untied lace signifies uncertain steps, yet the shoe taking flight and portraying how scattered elements could be extraordinary. Its background is reduced to a flat, dark space for the subject to be the focus and accentuate its surrealism.

About the artist

Ta Duy Tung's artistic inclination revolves around depicting the familiar in a realistic manner, serving as symbols for meaning within his conscious, subconscious and unconscious minds. In addition to painting, he is also passionate about martial arts and Eastern philosophy. Before starting to paint, he often meditates, much like preparing for a match. While painting, he always strives to achieve the best possible state of each brushstroke and shade.



Gold

Artist: Lam Phoi Dung
Title: *Qua tĩnh lặng (Through Tranquility)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 100 x 80

Qua tĩnh lặng (Through Tranquility) is a continuation of the artist exploring different forms of alternative spaces. It serves as a form of an escapade, welcoming viewers into familiar spaces that evoke a peaceful time one has had. The painting is a piece of memoir and memories of a person racing against time yet striving to slow oneself down.

About the artist

Lam Phoi Dung is a print designer and visual art practitioner. She enjoys exploring and creating alternate narratives of life within nature, matter, and colour that corresponds to her journey of self-exploration. She often uses storytelling and nature as an endless inspiration as the core of her practice - creating alternative spaces to escape for herself and the viewers.



Silver

Artist: Nguyen Anh Vu
Title: *Tĩnh Không / Śūnyatā (Emptiness)*
Medium: Oil pastel and cut-out
Size (cm): 42 x 30

Tĩnh Không / Śūnyatā (Emptiness) depicts a young man with red hair, carrying a hint of melancholy, gently glancing at the viewer or looking away in another direction. With this gaze, the viewer is no longer an audience but can start a conversation with the character. The young man's form is distilled into lines and colours, drawing the viewer's attention towards the motion and the gaze of the character, forging a lasting connection.

About the artist

Nguyen Anh Vu is a young graphic designer who specialises in simplicity and functionality. Besides design, he is also passionate about languages and the history of Fine Arts, which led him to art-making. His artworks marry graphic design, oil pastels and paper-cutting.



Bronze

Artist: Nguyen Huu Tang
Title: *Lạc lối (Lost)*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 80 x 170

Lạc lối (Lost) is a call for the end of animal cruelty practices in luxury fashion, which has thrived and gained importance to many. Despite growing awareness and a collective call for ethical practices, luxury brands still persist in ruthless pursuit of profit at the expense of innocent animals.

In this artwork, we see images of hunted animals, their fur cruelly stripped from their bodies, enduring emotional stress, deprivation of, and disruptions to biodiversity. Earth's natural balance can only be restored or preserved when all forms of life are valued and cherished.

About the artist

Nguyen Huu Tang is an independent artist who graduated from the Ho Chi Minh City University of Fine Arts, Vietnam. He specialises in lacquer painting, commercial and media works for many years. His style is influenced by comics and cartoons from his childhood. The themes of his creations aim to evoke a certain uneasiness in the (young) audience regarding contemporary societal issues.

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Artist: Ta Duy Tung
Title: *Trên con đường (Fly on My Way)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 40 x 30



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Artist: Lam Phoi Dung
Title: *Qua tĩnh lặng (Through Tranquility)*
Medium: Oil on canvas
Size (cm): 100 x 80

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Artist: Nguyen Anh Vu
Title: *Tính Không / Śūnyatā (Emptiness)*
Medium: Oil pastel and cut-out
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Bronze
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Artist: Nguyen Huu Tang
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Regional and Singapore Chief Judge
*Director, Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Art Galleries,
and Academic Advisor, Southeast Asian Arts
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts*

Asst Prof Dr Supachai Areerungruang
*Leading Thai Artist, Curator and Art Critic
Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculty of Decorative Arts,
Silpakorn University*

Ms Szan Tan
Head, Library and Archives, National Gallery Singapore

Indonesia

Ms Melati Suryodarmo
Indonesia Chief Judge
Leading Indonesian Artist

Mr Heri Pemas
*Creative Director
Founder, Art Jog*

Dr Agung Hujatnikajennong
*Curator
Lecturer, Faculty of Art and Design, Bandung Institute of Technology*

Malaysia

Ms Bibi Chew
Malaysia Chief Judge
*Art Advisor, Academician and Leading Malaysian
Contemporary Artist*

Mr Choy Chun Wei
Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist

Mr Ahmad Fuad Osman
Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist

Thailand

Mr Amrit Chusuwan
Thailand Chief Judge
*Thailand's National Artist
Consultant, Songkhla Old Town Foundation
Member and Secretary, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre
Foundation Committee*

Mrs Luckana Kunavichayanont
*Art Consultant and Curator
Acting Director, Bangkok Art and Culture Centre*

Emeritus Professor Kanya Charoensupkul
Leading Thai Artist

Vietnam

Mr Luong Xuan Doan
Vietnam Chief Judge
President, Vietnam Fine Arts Association

Ms Tia-Thuy Nguyen
*Leading Vietnamese Artist
Founder, The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre*

Mr Tran Luong
Leading Vietnamese Artist

Mr Kwok Kian Chow
Special Advisor to 1st UOB Painting of the Year (Vietnam)

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Iconic Award Trophy

Doing right by **our**
communities **through**
#ArtforGood

42nd UOB **Painting of the Year**
(Singapore) Launch

Established **Artist Category**
Singapore

Emerging **Artist Category**
Singapore

Established **Artist Category**
Indonesia

Emerging **Artist Category**
Indonesia

Established **Artist Category**
Malaysia

Emerging **Artist Category**
Malaysia

Established **Artist Category**
Thailand

Emerging **Artist Category**
Thailand

Established **Artist Category**
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Vietnam

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2023 UOB Painting of the Year ROLL OF HONOUR

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Singapore

1982
Goh Beng Kwan
The Dune

1983
Anthony Poon
Waves

1984
Wee Shoo Leong
Yuen (Affinity)

1985
Ng Keng Seng
Steps

1986
Sandy Wong Shin
Exhibit '86

1987
Baet Yeok Kuan
Man and Environment I

1988
Ang Yian Sann
One's Habitat

1989
Lim Tiong Ghee
From the Turtledove

1990
Lim Poh Teck
City

1991
Chua Ek Kay
My Haunt

1992
Soh Chee Hui
Blue Balloon

1993
Raymond Lau Poo Seng
Echoes of the Window (I)

1994
Hong Zhu An
Yi-Er-San (One, Two, Three)

1995
Tan Chin Chin
The Statue of Gods, 1995

1996
Chen Shi Jin
Root

1997
Kit Tan Juat Lee
Endless Love

1998
Chng Chin Kang
*She Loves Me
But She's Not My Mummy*

1999
Tan Kay Nguan
Trifling Matter

2000
Fan Shao Hua
They

2001
Erzan B Adam
It's Hip 2 B Square

2002
Gong Yao Min
*The Impression of Singapore,
Series Three, Colour Space*

2003
Luis Lee Jin Min
Packed

2004
Kit Tan Juat Lee
The World of Xi You Ji

2005
Alvin Ong Liang Jie
The Window

2006
Namiko Chan Takahashi
Charisse

2007
Hong Sek Chern
Aspects of the City II

2008
Joel Yuen Kong Chong
Anatomical Fantasies of Meat

2009
Zhao Ren Hui
*The Space
In Between #1, #6, #63*

2010
Bai Tianyuan
What

2011
Gong Yao Min
My Dream Land

2012
Esmond Loh Fah Rong
Just Let Me Sleep

2013
Stefanie Hauger*
Space Odyssey

2014
Om Mee Ai
N-PIN56L

2015
Benjamin F. Cruz
Building...

2016
Carey Ngai
Industry 2.0 III

2017
Sunny Chyun
Dyspraxia

2018
Khairulddin Bin Abdul Wahab
Rite of Passage

2019
Wong Tze Chau
War and Peace

2020
Zhang Chunlei
Art Stages Pasar 2020

2021
Keane Tan
A Dramatic Cinematic for Our Century

2022
Lester Lee
*A Painting about Nothing
and Everything*

2023
Jeremy Hiah
Gulliver's Travels

Indonesia

2011
Gatot Indrajati
Repacking

2012
Y. Indra Wahyu
Himne Sekolah (School Hymns)

2013
Suroso Isur
*Indonesian Artist's Studio
Ah Long*

2014
Antonius Subiyanto*
Old Stock Fresh Menu

2015
Anggar Prasetyo*
Exploitation of Fish

2016
Gatot Indrajati*
Right or Wrong My Home

2017
Kukuh Nuswantoro
Kegelapan (Darkness)

2018
Suvi Wahyudianto*
Angs't (ANGST)

2019
Anagard*
*Welcome Perdamaian, Goodbye Kedengkian
(Welcome Peace, Goodbye Hostility)*

2020
Prabu Perdana*
Isolated Garden

2021
Meliantha Muliawan
Even After Death, the Departed Lives Life

2022
Farhan Siki
*Build, Destroy, Rebuild
(The Modern Sisypheus)*

2023
Ni Nyoman Sani
Tranquility

Malaysia

2011
Ng Swee Keat
Portrayal of Development

2012
Mohd Azri Bin Abdullah
Ah Long

2013
Gan Tee Sheng
Old Man

2014
Minstrel Kuik Ching Chieh
16 Sept 1963

2015
Tiong Chai Heing
Stifling

2016
Yim Yen Sum
The Floating Castle

2017
Chok Yue Zan
I Thought, We Can Stay Strong Like Stones

2018
Cheong Kiet Cheng
Through the Eye of the Flower

2019
Cheng Yen Pheng
Tug of War: My Homeland

2020
Sabri Idrus
Silent Fortress

2021
Saiful Razman*
Walk in Silence, Don't Walk Away in Silence

2022
Seah Ze Lin
地皮 (Skin of Land)

2023
Chong Kim Chiew
*Malaya and British Borneo One Dollar 1953
(We look at the past, we look at the present)*

Thailand

2010
Pannaphan Yodmanee
Berg Fah Mai (Open New Sky)

2011
Suwannee Sarakana
Hug of Love From My Family

2012
Imron Yunu
Faith

2013
Aphiphol Techamangkhalanon
Hope on the Ruins No. 3

2014
Sinlapachai Chuchan
White Lines

2015
Thidarat Chantachua
Jamaah 2

2016
Jongjit Moolmat
Awaiting Enlightenment 2

2017
Sukit Choosri*
One Life

2018
Apiwat Banler
Persistent Problems

2019
Chaichana Luetrakun
Wastescape

2020
Thongmai Thepram
Super Strength in Unity

2021
Vachira Kornthong
Land of Happiness

2022
Chomrawi Suksom*
Dystopia

2023
Pratchaya Charernsook
Chumphon Estuary

Vietnam

2023
Trinh Minh Tien
Thủy phủ (Water Palace)

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* Winner of UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year

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UOB Art Collection

UOB started collecting paintings by Singapore artists in the 1970s to support local art. Today, we have more than 2,600 artworks in our four-decade old corporate art collection including paintings by Singapore's early masters such as the late Cheong Soo Pieng, Dr Chen Wen Hsi and Georgette Chen. Every year, the winning paintings from the UOB Painting of the Year competition are added to the UOB Art Collection.

The UOB Art Collection is currently displayed at the head office in Singapore as well as at its international network of over 500 offices worldwide.

UOB supports visual arts by cultivating awareness and appreciation among the public, including the acquisition of artworks and the exhibition of the works from the UOB Art Collection.

To raise the profile of our corporate art collection, we partner with art galleries and institutions, such as National Gallery Singapore, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts and ION Art Gallery to showcase selected artworks from our collection.



Bird by Fernando Botero
Singapore River Promenade



Homage To Newton by Salvador Dali
UOB Plaza Atrium



UOB Annual Report Series
UOB office



Vitalità by Anna Chiara Spellini
Singapore River Promenade



Right By You