

Tang Kok Soo

2026 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year (Regional Award)

2026 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
UOB Painting of the Year Award, Established Artist Category

2016 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
Gold Award, Established Artist Category

Tang Kok Soo is known for his distinctive exploration of geometry, repetition, light, and consciousness. Originally trained as a semiconductor engineer, Kok Soo made the decision to pursue art full-time after years in the corporate world. His artistic breakthrough came in 2016 when he won the Gold Award, Established Artist Category at the UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore). In 2026, he achieved the competition's highest accolade as the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year, in addition to being named the Top Winner, Established Artist Category at the UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore).

While his techniques and materials are rooted in Western art, Kok Soo draws his inspiration from Buddhism, Confucianism and traditional Chinese philosophy. Drawn to the relationship between emptiness and form, through his art, he seeks to express his continual journey towards inner refinement and spiritual understanding. He implores viewers to pause, look beyond appearances and discover that within what seems empty is a quiet presence of life.

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Lorain Kok

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
Gold Award, Emerging Artist Category

Lorain Kok is a Singapore-based artist who trained in architecture and worked professionally in both Singapore and London before returning to teach. She is captivated by states of mind, longings and memories, human relationships, the contrasts of evocativeness and delicateness - How these seemingly opposing states are linked? How do we give form and texture to memories? How do we reconcile dialectics?

During the Covid-19 pandemic, she found solace in art jamming with her children, reigniting her love for art - a fond childhood escape fuelled with experiments and nurtured by art mentors till her JC years. Since 2021, Lorain has submitted work annually to the UOB Painting of the Year competition, challenging herself to grow and evolve as an artist. Her practice draws inspiration from the everyday surroundings of Jalan Besar, capturing the neighbourhood's ongoing transformation and the shifting ways we see and remember.

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Valerie Ng

2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
Bronze Award, Established Artist Category

2004 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
First Prize, Abstract Category

Valerie Ng is a Singapore-based artist. Her abstract paintings are a gestural expression of mood and movement. Working on oil on canvas or in digital visuals, they are created through explorations of colour, light, depth, form and texture. Inspired by the natural world, Valerie's paintings invite viewers on sensory journeys through colour, mood and movement, reflecting her pursuit of balance and the transfer of energy through the act of painting.

She strives for a dynamic balance of energy and atmosphere through a unique transfer of marks in the action of painting. Inspired by the natural elements, hues, shapes and effects of the environment, the works invite you to wander along to experience the sensation of colour in abstract journeys. With an interest in paper and digital art, her artworks include artists' books, papier-mache, AR and generative projections.

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Jamie Teo

2018 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)
Silver Award, Emerging Artist Category

Jamie Teo is a Singapore-based artist whose practice investigates the sensory experience of colour and light. Her work moves fluidly between abstraction and representation, utilising colour, atmosphere and gesture to investigate perception as something shifting, embodied and continually unfolding.

Underlying her practice is an ongoing process of observation and experimentation. She is interested in how changes in light and environment shape the way colour is experienced and how painting can translate these ephemeral encounters into material form.

Through layering, surface, and chromatic relationships, she invites viewers into a contemplative experience to recall their own memories and experiences, allowing colour and form to become a shared emotional encounter.

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Tanyapat Manasarakul

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand)
Most Promising Artist of the Year, Emerging Artist Category

Tanyapat Manasarakul is currently studying at the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. She is recognised for her meticulous craftsmanship and commitment to technical excellence. In 2019, she won a national gold medal in the National Student Expo on Arts, Academics and Technology Competition.

Her artistic journey has also extended beyond Thailand. She participated in the Temasek Foundation Specialists' Community Action and Leadership Exchange (TF SCALE) programme in Singapore, where she engaged in cross-cultural exchange and collaborative learning. These experiences help to evolve her as an artist, blending refined technique with fresh, innovative ideas.

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Tudpong Outayamagul

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand)
Silver Award, Established Artist Category

Tudpong Outayamagul is a Thai-based artist who draws inspiration from everyday people and ordinary moments, transforming them into compelling visual narratives. His practice is grounded in storytelling, capturing the emotional depth and quiet complexity of lived experience.

Through his paintings, Tudpong transforms these observations and experiences into visual narratives that explore human connection, emotion and our relationship with the natural world. He continues to explore how art can preserve memory, reflect human connection, and uncover beauty of everyday life.

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Muhammad Shodik

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia)
Most Promising Artist of the Year, Emerging Artist Category

Muhammad Shodik is a transdisciplinary artist who explores the intersections of language, ecology and social structures through participatory and site-based approaches. He is a member of the Lembana Agroecosystem, a community-based art collective in Madura, East Java, that draws on local cultural knowledge to create socially engaged, site-specific artworks. Through his practice, Shodik examines how people relate to space and memory, using a collaborative and reflective approach.

He has exhibited at various exhibitions locally including Festival Kebudayaan Yogyakarta: Gelaran Olah Rupa, Indonesia in 2025 and Biennale Jogja 7: Titeni with Lembana Collective in 2023.

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Mutiara Riswari

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia)
Bronze Award, Established Artist Category

Mutiara Riswari is a visual artist based in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. Her practice explores the relationship between the body, memory, nature and consciousness through abstract gestures and materials such as earth, rubber, acrylic and pastel. Her work draws on the Javanese philosophy of Jagat alit (microcosm), treating the body as a vessel for absorbing experience, in particularly to femininity and personal transformation.

Mutiara has exhibited her work both locally and internationally. She held a solo exhibition in 2025 titled Tubuh & Tanah: Yang Menyerap, yang Menubuh, which presented the Earth as a maternal figure — an enduring force that nurtures and heals.

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Muhammad Arash Bin Ab Jabbar

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia)
Silver Award, Emerging Artist Category

Muhammad Arash Bin Ab Jabbar is an artist based in Shah Alam, originally from Johor Bahru, Malaysia. Working primarily with water-based colour pencil, Arash creates atmospheric drawings that reflect on suburban life in Malaysia—its architecture, objects, and overlooked rituals.

Rooted in observation, Arash draws from scenes and memories of his hometown in Johor and its surrounding areas. Rather than aiming for documentary realism, his work embraces distortion and blur, invoking how memories degrade over time. Through this language, Arash captures the quiet poetics of contemporary Malaysian life—its shifts, absences, and the emotional weight of what remains.

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Tran Viet Long

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Vietnam)
Gold Award, Emerging Artist Category

Tran Viet Long is a Vietnamese artist who specializes in lacquer art. Working primarily in a semi-abstract style, he combines traditional Vietnamese lacquer techniques with a contemporary approach to form and expression. He embraces the unpredictability of lacquer, experimenting with colour blending to expand its expressive potential

Drawing inspiration from natural elements such as forests, rivers and changing landscapes, Long uses these forms to explore personal origins, cultural inheritance and the inner movements of the human mind.. His works encourage a contemplative dialogue between material, perception, and the nature of existence, where tradition meets modernity in quiet, layered reflection.

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Cao Van Thuc

2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Vietnam)
UOB Painting of the Year Award, Established Artist Category

Cao Van Thuc is a visual artist based in Hanoi. His work reflects a strong sense of empathy and humanism, particularly towards labourers. He creates simple yet emotionally resonant imagery that captures quiet reflections of everyday life that carry enduring weight.

Van Thuc uses painting as a self-reflection and a dialogue with the external world. His practice explores states of mind through figures situated within distorted spaces, shifting proportions, colour and abstract forms. Rather than presenting a specific narrative, his works approach space as a theatrical setting where moments, emotions and psychological states can unfold

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