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UOB invites Southeast Asian artists to share their artistic vision and creative talent in its annual Painting of the Year Competition

New UOB Art Gallery to showcase artworks by the Painting of the Year alumni

Singapore, 24 June 2014 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) is inviting artists from Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand to share their artistic vision and creative talent in the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year competition.

The UOB Painting of the Year competition, now in its 33rd year, is divided into two categories - *Emerging Artist* and *Established Artist* – to reflect the natural progression of an artist’s career. These categories were introduced last year to ensure the competition remains attractive and relevant to creative talents of different backgrounds, from experienced artists with a strong portfolio of works to aspiring artists who are taking their first steps to a career in art.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and CEO of UOB said, “The UOB Painting of the Year competition has discovered and recognised many outstanding local art talents over the last three decades. The passion shown by these artists and their ability to create works that can both enrich the minds and inspire the community are the main reasons that we continue to invest in the promotion of arts across Southeast Asia.”

The artists with the best works in the competition this year will be selected for their creativity, technique and expression of ideas. They will have an opportunity to win from a regional prize pool of more than US\$200,000, one of the largest cash awards among art competitions in Southeast Asia. In addition, the Painting of the Year Award winner in each country – Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Singapore – will have a chance to compete for a month-long residency programme at the prestigious Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (FAAM).

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Last year's winner for both the Singapore and Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Awards¹ was Ms Stefanie Hauger. Her mandala-inspired painting was created by using physical movements to manipulate paint. Mr Gan Tee Sheng, the Painting of the Year Award winner from Malaysia, was the winner of the month-long residency programme at FAAM. His painting *Old Man* put the spotlight on the social problems that arise when there is a lack of elderly care.

These two artists join an illustrious Painting of the Year alumni which include many who are now recognised names in the regional art community such as Mr Goh Beng Kwan, the inaugural winner of the competition in 1982. Following his win, Mr Goh went on to make his mark in the world of painting and was awarded the Singapore Cultural Medallion in 1989.

New UOB Art Gallery to display the latest artworks by the Painting of the Year alumni

As part of UOB's ongoing efforts to raise the awareness and appreciation of Southeast Asian artists and arts, the Bank is inviting the UOB Painting of the Year alumni to exhibit their latest artworks at the recently refurbished UOB Art Gallery.

The 108 square-metre UOB Art Gallery was set up initially to display art pieces from the Bank's 1,500-strong art collection. Following its upgrade, a space in the UOB Art Gallery is now reserved for artworks produced by past winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competition.

The first Painting of the Year artist to exhibit at the new UOB Art Gallery is Stefanie Hauger. The exhibition, titled *New Horizons*, is Ms Hauger's first solo show since winning the 2013 Singapore and Southeast Asian UOB Painting of the Year Awards and in many ways represents a new beginning in her journey as an artist.

The UOB Art Gallery is located at the lobby of UOB Plaza One and is open to the public from Monday to Friday, 9 am to 6:30 pm and on Saturday, 9 am to 2 pm.

¹ The UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award was introduced in 2013 to commend the best painting of the competition and to elevate the profile of Southeast Asian art. This US\$10,000 award is given to the most outstanding of the four UOB Painting of the Year winners from Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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Appendix

How to enter the 33rd UOB Painting of the Year competition

The UOB Painting of the Year competition is open to citizens and residents of Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Thailand. Artists are invited to submit original paintings that have been created within the last two years. There are no entry fees.

Artists in Singapore who wish to take part in the competition must submit their artwork and entry form between 10 to 12 October 2014, 11am to 5pm daily, at Helu-Trans (39 Keppel Road, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, Singapore 089065). Further details on the conditions of entry and entry forms can be found at www.uobpoy.com. The entry forms are also available at all UOB branches in Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

Announcement of Winners

Shortlisted artists in Singapore will be notified by phone by 19 October 2014. Winners will be announced at an awards ceremony in Singapore this November.

About United Overseas Bank

United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB) is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of more than 500 offices in 19 countries and territories in Asia Pacific, Western Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. In Asia it operates through its branches and representative offices as well as banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

UOB plays an active role in the community, focusing on the arts, education and children. For three decades UOB has organised the prestigious UOB Painting of the Year Competition and Exhibition. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the ninth consecutive year in 2013. UOB also encourages its employees across the region to be involved in its regular volunteer activities. This includes the annual UOB Heartbeat Run which is held in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and mainland China.

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