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Indonesian Artist Antonius Subiyanto Wins UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award

Singapore, 20 November 2014 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) today presented the 2014 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award to Indonesian artist Antonius Subiyanto for his acrylic painting titled *Old Stock Fresh Menu*.

Mr Subiyanto's piece was among the four winning entries from the 2014 UOB Painting of the Year country competitions held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand. His work focuses on the destructive nature of hedonism and is portrayed through the image of consumer products being burnt in a large wok. The panel of regional judges was impressed with his layering technique and ability to convey a sombre message in a subtle yet playful way.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB Group, said, "When we first ran the UOB Painting of the Year competition in 1982, we wanted to draw out hidden artistic talent in Singapore and open up opportunities for them to express their creative ideas. As art is most meaningfully enriched with exposure to a wider community and different cultures, we took the programme regionally five years ago. Today, we are delighted to see how the Painting of the Year has contributed to greater awareness and appreciation of art and deeper understanding of the cultural influences across Southeast Asia."

Mr Subiyanto, UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year winner said, "My inspiration is based on life experiences in a village in Yogyakarta. My artwork is about a culture of tolerance and empathy. It is inspired by the day-to-day life in Yogyakarta, where I find that there is excessive consumption. I used charcoal and pencil to draw the foundation before layering it with oil paint and finally, gold acrylic for the outlines. I used gold because it reflects an attitude of excessive consumption. This is the complete opposite from my life in the village."

The regional panel of judges comprised representatives from each of the four participating countries: Mr Edwin Rahardjo, founder of Edwin's Gallery from Indonesia; Malaysian contemporary artist Mr Ivan Lam; Dr Bridget Tracy Tan, director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Arts and Art Galleries, Nanyang

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Academy of Fine Arts in Singapore; and Professor Vichoke Mukdamanee from the Department of Painting, at Silpakorn University in Thailand.

Established Artist Category: Ms Om Mee Ai wins UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award for her sophisticated technique

UOB also presented the UOB Singapore Painting of the Year award to Ms Om Mee Ai for her oil-on-canvas artwork titled *N-PIN56L*. The judges were impressed with Ms Om's advanced technique of taping, layering and wiping, which she has honed over her 12-year career. The painting of a starry night sky appears monochromatic from a distance but reveals a detailed structure of small skeletal white squares when viewed up close.

Emerging Artist Category: Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore) Award goes to 17-year-old student Ms Lee Jia Zhen for her painting on school life

In the Emerging Artist category, 17-year old Ms Lee Jia Zhen won the Singapore 2014 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year award. Ms Lee's oil-on-canvas piece titled *Let's Have A Burger* shows how students turn to comfort food, such as burgers, to cope with stress. Ms Lee started honing her drawing skills from the age of seven when her father, himself passionate about art, enrolled her in drawing classes. The judges appreciated Ms Lee's composition skills, attention to details and sensitivity to her environment.

The winners from the four participating countries received their awards at an award ceremony held at Red Dot Museum in Singapore. The Guest of Honour was Singapore's Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education.

All winning paintings will be exhibited at the atrium of UOB Plaza 1 at 80 Raffles Place, from 2 December 2014.

– Ends –

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Winners of the 33rd UOB Painting of the Year competition

2014 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award: Mr Antonius Subiyanto, *Old Stock Fresh Menu*

2014 UOB Painting of the Year, Indonesia: Mr Antonius Subiyanto, *Old Stock Fresh Menu*

2014 UOB Painting of the Year, Malaysia: Minstrel Kuik Ching Chieh, *16 Sept 1983*

2014 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore: Ms Om Mee Ai, *N-PIN56L*

2014 UOB Painting of the Year, Thailand: Mr Sinlapachai Chuchan, *White Lines*

Established Artist Category (Singapore)

2014 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore: Ms Om Mee Ai, *N-PIN56L*

Gold Award: Ms Hong Sek Chern, *Wait at Terminal 21*

Silver Award: Mr Chua Say Hua, *Wall of Inscriptions*

Bronze Award: Ms Cristene Chang Hoei, *Weave, Unweave*

Emerging Artist Category (Singapore)

Most Promising Artist of the Year, Singapore: Ms Lee Jia Zhen, *Let's Have a Burger*

Gold Award: Mr Brendan Mayle Kor Chong Li, *Seek*

Silver Award: Mr Yu Loon Ching, *Six Faithful Dogs*

Bronze Award: Mr Lukas Lee You Jie, *Grandeur Colours*

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. It has, over more than three decades, held the longest-running art competition in Singapore, the UOB Painting of the Year. In recognition of its contributions to the arts, UOB was conferred the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the tenth consecutive year in 2014. 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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