

News Release

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UOB launches UOB Artbeat to bring art closer to the community

*Festival provides platform for emerging artists to showcase works
and features exhibitions and hands-on workshops for the public*

Singapore, 25 August 2026 – UOB today unveiled UOB Artbeat, its inaugural art festival which aims to make art more accessible and engaging for the wider community. Taking place across two weekends from 29 August to 6 September 2026 at Artspace@Helutrans, Tanjong Pagar Distripark, the festival will provide a platform for emerging artists to showcase their works and offer visitors the opportunity to discover and engage with art through artist showcases, and interactive hands-on workshops.

A key highlight of the festival is the 2026 UOB Painting of the Year (POY) Emerging Artists Finalists Showcase, which for the first time, will present a selection of artworks by shortlisted finalists to the public, providing an opportunity for more emerging artists to gain visibility, recognition and connect with audiences. Visitors can also explore selected works from the UOB Art Collection, including artworks by Cultural Medallion award recipient and top winning artist from the first UOB POY competition, Mr Goh Beng Kwan, and participate in hands-on conservation workshops that offer insights into the care and preservation of art.

The festival will serve as a prelude to the 2026 UOB Painting of the Year (POY) Awards Ceremony and Exhibition in October, reinforcing the Bank's long-standing commitment to championing the arts and making art accessible to the wider community.

Ms Janet Young, Head of Group Channels and Digitalisation and Strategic Communications and Brand, UOB, said: "Art has the power to inspire, connect and enrich lives of everyone in our community. UOB Artbeat creates a new opportunity for emerging artists to showcase their work and connect with wider audiences. At the same time, it invites the community to discover the many facets of art – from creation and conservation, to the stories behind the works and artists themselves. Together with the UOB Painting of the Year competition, UOB Artbeat



reflects our long-standing commitment to nurturing artistic talent and fostering a deeper appreciation for art."

Spotlight on emerging artistic talent

As part of UOB's long-standing commitment to nurturing artistic talent, the festival will feature the *2026 UOB Painting of the Year Emerging Artists Finalists Showcase*, presenting a selection of artworks by finalists in the Emerging Artist category of the 45th UOB Painting of the Year competition.

The showcase reflects UOB's commitment to supporting the next generation of artists by extending exhibition opportunities beyond the UOB POY competition winners¹. For the first time, shortlisted finalists will have the opportunity to showcase their works to the public, giving more emerging artists greater visibility and recognition for their creative achievements.

UOB Art Collection presented from a new perspective

Another highlight of the festival is *UOB Art Collection: Beyond the Canvas*, an immersive showcase developed by BARC Labs, a leading Singapore-based art conservation studio headed by Dr Diana Tay, for UOB.

Visitors will be invited to explore 12 selected artworks from the UOB Art Collection through a different lens, to get an in-depth look at the creative process behind the artworks, the interesting materials used by artists and the techniques that challenge conventional notions of creating art.

These include five artworks from Mr Goh Beng Kwan, recipient of the Cultural Medallion award and top winning artist from the first UOB POY competition in 1982. Visitors will have the rare opportunity to view Mr Goh's artworks from the UOB Art Collection which includes *The Dune*, his 1982 UOB POY winning artwork, while gaining insights into his creative process and artistic journey. The seven other featured artworks are past years' winning artworks by UOB POY artists such as David Chan, Ho Tzu Nyen and Yong Wee Loon. More details of the artworks can be found in the [Appendix](#).

¹ Sixteen winning artworks will be on display at the 2026 UOB Painting of the Year (POY) Awards Ceremony and Regional Winners' Showcase in end October.



Deepening public understanding of art conservation through workshops

Recognising the importance of conservation in preserving cultural heritage for future generations, UOB has commissioned BARC Labs to conduct a series of interactive workshops aimed at raising public awareness and deepening understanding of art conservation.

The workshops include:

- *Filling In The Blanks* – Participants will learn basic techniques used by professional conservators to repair paint loss in artworks.
- *Hidden Images: Discovering Art Through Infrared* – Participants will discover how infrared imaging reveals hidden details beneath artworks and create their own hidden-message artwork.

Through hands-on learning and discovery, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the important work art conservators do to protect and preserve artworks for future generations.

Opening with Art After Hours

To mark the opening of UOB Artbeat, UOB is proud to co-present *Art After Hours* on 29 August 2026, a signature programme of Singapore Gallery Month 2026 which is organised by the Art Galleries Association Singapore (AGAS).

As part of the activation, galleries across Tanjong Pagar Distripark will remain open into the evening and offer a range of art experiences and fringe activities. UOB Artbeat will serve as a key highlight of the programme, with extended viewing hours for both the Emerging Artist Finalists' Showcase and the UOB Art Collection exhibition.

Visitors will also be encouraged to explore the wider arts precinct through a special "Art Passport" initiative, where they can redeem photos from an instant photo booth and UOB art merchandise upon completing designated activities. In addition, the first 50 visitors to complete their passports will get to attend a complimentary Flowerscape floral-arrangement workshop on the same day, conducted by Hullabaloo Studio, a social enterprise that supports the livelihoods of artists with disabilities.

UOB Artbeat will be held at Artspace@Helutrans at Tanjong Pagar Distripark, 39 Keppel Road, #01-05, Singapore 089065. More details on the festival and how to sign up for the workshops can be found at <https://go.uob.com/artbeat>.



**Dates:**

29 to 30 August 2026 (Saturday and Sunday)

4 to 6 September 2026 (Friday to Sunday)

Opening Hours

- 29 August 2026: 11.00am to 9.00pm (including Art After Hours)
- 30 August and 4 to 6 September 2026: 11.00am to 6.00pm



Appendix

Featured artworks for UOB Art Collection: Beyond The Canvas

Image	Details
	Goh Beng Kwan <i>The Dune</i> 1982 UOB Painting of the Year 1st Prize, Open Section Category Mixed Media and collage on board 150cm x 122cm
	Goh Beng Kwan <i>Untitled</i> Oil and collage on paper 122cm x 183cm
	Goh Beng Kwan <i>Geomancy</i> Collage on board 94cm x 82cm
	Goh Beng Kwan <i>Season's Greetings</i> Mixed media on canvas 121cm x 121cm
	Goh Beng Kwan <i>Festivities</i> Collage on canvas 366cm x 122cm (Triptych)

	Putra Aqmal Danish Bin Mohd Zuraimi <i>I Love You, Bearbear</i> 2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia), Most Promising Artist of the Year, Emerging Artist Category Acrylic on cardboard 126cm x 123cm
	Eddy Susanto <i>Kuasa Dalam Setera (Power in Equality)</i> 2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia), UOB Painting of the Year Award, Established Artist Category Mixed media on cowhide 138cm x 138cm
	Ian Tee <i>Cloud of Unknowing I</i> 2025 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award, Established Artist Category Mixed media on aluminum composite panel 180cm x 150cm
	Suvi Wahyudianto <i>Angs't (ANGST)</i> 2018 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award 2018 UOB Painting of the Year Award (Indonesia), Established Artist Category Mixed media on aluminum plate (Resin, plastic, enamel and pigment) 100cm x 150cm
	Ho Tzu Nyen <i>Entropy</i> 2001 UOB Painting of the Year Category Winner, Abstract, Open Section Category Mixed media on canvas (newspaper, acrylic, emulsion, lacquer, hair) 150cm x 120cm

	Yong Wee Loon <i>A Sip Through Time</i> 2024 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year and 2024 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Award, Established Artist Category Acrylic on canvas 100cm x 261cm
	David Chan <i>The Grand History</i> 2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Bronze Award, Established Artist Category Oil on linen 160cm x 280cm



About UOB

UOB is a leading Asian bank with a global network in Southeast Asia, Asia Pacific, Europe and North America. Operating through our head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, we have a global network of about 430 branches and offices in 19 markets.

Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. Today, UOB is rated among the world's top banks: Aa1 by Moody's Investors Service and AA- by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings.

For more than nine decades, UOB has adopted a customer-centric approach to create long-term value by staying relevant through its enterprising spirit and doing right by its customers. UOB is focused on building the future of ASEAN – for the people and businesses within, and connecting with, ASEAN.

The Bank connects businesses to opportunities in the region with its unparalleled regional footprint and leverages data and insights to innovate and create personalised banking experiences and solutions catering to each customer's unique needs and evolving preferences. UOB is also committed to help businesses forge a sustainable future, by fostering social inclusiveness, creating positive environmental impact and pursuing economic progress. UOB believes in being a responsible financial services provider and is steadfast in its support of education, children and art, doing right by its communities and stakeholders.

About UOB and Art

UOB's involvement in art started in the 1970s with its collection of paintings by Singapore artists. Today, the UOB Art Collection has more than 3,000 artworks, made up primarily of paintings from established and emerging Southeast Asian artists.

UOB plays an active role in communities across the region, most notably through its long-term commitment to art. As the leading patron of the arts in Asia, the Bank continues to make art accessible to a wider audience through a diverse range of visual art programmes, partnerships and community outreach across the region.

The Bank's flagship art programme is the UOB Painting of the Year competition, which was started in 1982 to recognise Southeast Asian artists and to offer them the opportunity to showcase their works to the wider community. The competition was extended to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and in 2023, to Vietnam. It is now the longest running art competition in Singapore and one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia.

Over the past 40 years, the competition has cultivated and advanced the careers of many artists in Singapore. Notable among them are Mr Goh Beng Kwan (1982 winner), and the late Mr Anthony Poon (1983 winner) and Mr Chua Ek Kay (1991 winner), who received the Singapore Cultural Medallion, Singapore's most distinguished art award.





The competition has also recognised talents from across the region through the UOB Southeast Asian POY award. Previous winners include Ms Jamilah Haji from Thailand in 2025, Mr Yong Wee Loon from Singapore in 2024, Ms Pratchaya Charernsook from Thailand in 2023, Mr Chomrawi Suksom from Thailand in 2022, Mr Saiful Razman from Malaysia in 2021, Mr Prabu Perdana from Indonesia in 2020, Mr Anagard from Indonesia in 2019, Mr Suvi Wahyudianto from Indonesia in 2018, Mr Sukit Choosri from Thailand in 2017, Mr Gatot Indrajati from Indonesia in 2016, Mr Anggar Prasetyo from Indonesia in 2015, Mr Antonius Subiyanto from Indonesia in 2014 and Ms Stefanie Hauger from Singapore in 2013.

Together with the UOB POY winning artists, UOB also runs art workshops for underprivileged and special needs children regularly. At these workshops, the young learn art techniques from art professionals and award-winning artists.

In recognition of the Bank's long-term commitment to art, UOB was presented with the Singapore National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 23rd time in 2025.

