
NEWS RELEASE

The 24th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition and Exhibition

*16-year old Alvin Ong clinches the coveted UOB POY award,
the youngest winner in the Competition's history*

16 July 2005, Singapore - The 24th UOB Painting of the Year Award this year went to 16-year old Alvin Ong Liang Jie, who has the distinction of being the youngest participant to win the prestigious award since the competition started in 1982. Alvin's work, titled *The Window*, so impressed the panel of judges that although he participated in the Junior Section, the judges felt that it deserved the competition's highest accolade. He received a S\$20,000 cash prize and a trophy for his winning work, which explores the issue of dictatorship. His painting features an open window, with a view of cold and synthetic buildings, which the artist feels is "overpowering and dispels any hope of escape" - a direct contrast to what a window traditionally signifies - freedom and liberty.

He said, "The first question I asked myself was 'Can this be true?'. I really feel honoured to receive such an award. The school, my parents, my art teachers, my friends and George Orwell's 1984 really created the input for the painting, and this work is dedicated to them."

In the Junior Section, 16-year old Roger Teo Chee Yih received the Most Promising Young Artist Award and a S\$1,000 cash prize. His winning work titled *Aspirations* depicts two children playing with their toys, while the imposing figure of their sleeping father is in the background. He is taking a well-deserved nap after a hard day's work, providing for his family.

"I feel pleasantly surprised and encouraged to receive this prestigious award. I wanted to portray a whimsical aspect of the aspirations of the working class. This work is dedicated to my father and the two children of my Art Elective Programme teacher of Hwa Chong Institution (High School), Mr Tan Siang Yu, whom I painted."

Please refer to [Annex 1](#) (PDF: 125KB) for the full results.

The year's competition drew an overwhelming response of 940 entries, one of the highest in the competition's history. The competition consists of an Open Section and a Junior Section. The Open Section has four categories - Abstract, Representational, Traditional Chinese and Photography.

Minister for Health, Mr Khaw Boon Wan, presented the prizes and certificates to winners in an awards presentation ceremony held this morning at the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. UOB gave away a total of S\$51,000 in cash prizes, as well as trophies and certificates of distinction to winners of the competition.

Said Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and President of UOB, who is also the Chairman of the UOB Group Art Committee, "We are encouraged by the overwhelming response to this year's competition. In particular, the exceptional quality of the entries submitted by participants under the age of 18 is a strong indicator of the potential of young local artists. The year's Painting of the Year winner has shown great talent despite his youth and I am glad to see that this competition has served its objective in nurturing and supporting budding local artists."

The UOB Painting of the Year Competition is part of UOB's efforts to recognise and nurture local art. UOB has been supporting the local art scene for over three decades by acquiring the works of local artists. The UOB Group Art Collection now consists of more than 1,500 artworks, proudly displayed at our offices worldwide.

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition is an extension of UOB's patronage of the arts. Since the inaugural competition was held 24 years ago in 1982, the competition has grown in scope and prestige and has come to be regarded as a major art competition and a key arts event in Singapore and the region.

The 24th UOB Painting of the Year Exhibition

The 15 prize-winning entries and 27 highly commended entries from this year's competition will be on display at the 24th UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition from 17 July to 5 August 2005. Accessible to the public, the exhibition will be held at the Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay (The

Jendela and The Tunnel) and will be open from 11.00am to 8.30pm daily.

From 8 to 14 August 2005, the recent works of last year's Painting Of The Year Award winner, Ms Kit Tan, will be on display at The Jendela, Esplanade – Theatres on the Bay. Kit Tan is a two-time winner of the UOB Painting of the Year Competition, having won the Competition in 1997 as well.

For more information on the response and panel of judges for the 24th UOB Painting of the Year Competition, click [here](#). (PDF: 177KB)

For more information on the UOB Painting of the Year Competition, click [here](#). (PDF: 91KB)

For further information, please contact:

Vivian Song
Group Communications Division
Phone: 6539 3990
Email: Vivian.SongKY@UOBgroup.com

Lee Sin Yee
Group Communications Division
Phone: 6539 3970
Email: Lee.SY@UOBgroup.com