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Singapore Artist Stefanie Hauger Wins UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award

Singapore, 26 November 2013 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) has awarded the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award to Singapore artist Ms Stefanie Hauger for her abstract piece of a healthy planet as seen from space. Titled *Space Odyssey*, the painting was chosen from among the national winners of the UOB Painting of the Year competition winners held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

A renowned panel of artists, established curators and influential art critics from around Southeast Asia chose Ms Hauger's piece based on its unconventional technique and timely message. Ms Hauger created the piece by pouring paint onto the canvas in layers. She then manipulated the paint in the image of a *mandala*, the concentric circular diagrams used to help one focus during meditation. It is by meditating on a healthy planet that Ms Hauger hopes to instil in the audience a desire to care for the planet and to repair the damage being done to it.

Ms Hauger's piece was also announced the winner of the 2013 Painting of the Year (Singapore) competition.

On winning the awards Ms Hauger said, "Winning such a prestigious award as the UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year is an affirmation that I made the right decision to become a full-time artist, one of the most fulfilling professions there is but which is not without risk. An artist pursues their passion for the love of the craft and the freedom to express their innermost soul. To be recognised and supported by UOB in this is the ultimate inspiration to continue."

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB Group, said, "We see art as a common language that can connect people across cultures and generations. It can inspire innovation lift the human spirit and has an important role in strengthening a community.

"The UOB Painting of the Year is one of our ways of engaging the community. We believe in supporting and encouraging those who have the passion, talent and drive. Over the decades, the UOB Painting of

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the Year competition has helped to launch the careers of many budding artists and provided a platform for emerging and established artists to share their works with a wider audience. I would like to congratulate the winners of the competition and to encourage all artists to continue to pursue their passion and develop their potential.”

UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore) Award

UOB also announced 17-year-old Mr Lim Quan Zhao as the winner of the 2013 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year, Singapore, award for his piece titled *The Transcendence of Love*. Inspired by a late-night journey home, Mr Lim captured the quiet beauty of a father caressing his young son’s head on a public train.

Judges of the Singapore competition were Mr Chua Soo Bin, gallery owner and Singapore Cultural Medallion recipient, Mr Mok Kim Chuan, Head of Sotheby’s Southeast Asian Paintings department and Dr Susie Lingham, Director of the Singapore Art Museum.

The UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year award was judged by the Singapore panel of judges together with Ms Lim Wei-Ling, the founder of the two leading art galleries in Malaysia, Professor Preecha Thaothong from the Thai Art Department, Silpakorn University, Thailand and Mr Amir Sidharta, the Director of Sidharta Auctioneer in Indonesia.

The awards ceremony was held at the 72-13 Gallery. Guest of Honour, Acting Minister for Culture Community and Youth and Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Communications and Information, Mr Lawrence Wong, together with Mr Wee, presented the awards.

UOB Painting of the Year exhibition – 27 November to 7 December, 72-13 Gallery

All 2013 Painting of the Year winning paintings will be on display at a public exhibition at 72-13 Gallery until 7 December. The paintings will then be housed at the UOB Art Gallery at the lobby of UOB Plaza 1. Admission is free for both exhibitions.

– Ends –

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Winners of the 32nd UOB Painting of the Year competition

Southeast Asian Painting of the Year Award: Ms Stefanie Hauger, *Space Odyssey*

2013 UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia): Mr Suroso Isur, *Indonesian Artist's Studio*

2013 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia): Mr Gan Tee Sheng, *Old Man*

2013 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand): Mr Aphiphol Techamangkhalanon, *Hope on the Ruins No 3*

Established artist category (Singapore)

2013 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore): Ms Stefanie Hauger, *Space Odyssey*

Gold Award: Mr Lester Lee Ngai Sing, *Digital Vertigo*

Silver Award: Mr Tan Rui Rong, *Gazing “山”*

Bronze Award: Ms Hannah Tan Cheng Hoon, *Enshrouded in Myopia*

Emerging artist category (Singapore)

2013 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore): Mr Lim Quan Zhao,
The Transcendence of Love

Gold Award: Ms Lim Wan Ying, *O\$P\$*

Silver Award: Ms Ong Xing Hong, *Silent Life*

Bronze Award: Ms Ang Cheng Hui, *Strength*

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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