

UOB launches the UOB Art Explorer to bring Southeast Asian visual arts to homes around the world

The digital programme includes art therapy workshops, tutorials, resources and exhibitions

Singapore, 5 June 2020 – United Overseas Bank (UOB) has launched the *UOB Art Explorer*, an online visual arts programme designed to bring the benefits of art to everyone from children to adults in homes around the world. Against the backdrop of uncertainty and social isolation experienced by many people amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the *UOB Art Explorer* aims to connect all to new worlds and perspectives through its five art initiatives.

The *UOB Art Explorer* is part of UOB's broader global #UnitedForYou COVID-19 Relief Programme¹ which brings together the strength of the UOB network and our like-minded partners such as UOB Painting of the Year (POY) artist alumni to help see communities, customers and colleagues through to better times.

Ms Lilian Chong, Executive Director of Programmes and Partnerships, Group Strategic Communications and Brand, UOB said, "While the COVID-19 pandemic has kept most of us home, art has the power to release us into the openness of other worlds and experiences. By making art accessible to all, the *UOB Art Explorer* aims to promote mental well-being especially in this time of isolation and uncertainty. We also hope it will inspire creativity within the community. For this digital programme, we are drawing on the talent of Southeast Asian artists and their winning artworks in UOB's 38-year-old POY collection. By doing so, we also hope to showcase the richness and vibrancy of the region's art cultures to a global audience in the comfort of their homes."

Encouraging mental well-being through art

Beyond art appreciation, the *UOB Art Explorer* aims to promote mental well-being through the process of creating art. Sixteen art therapy sessions are being offered through its *Art as Therapy* initiative. These sessions were formulated with the 2016 UOB POY (Singapore), Most Promising Artist of the Year,

¹ Please refer to accompanying fact sheet for more information on UOB's relief assistance initiatives for communities globally.

Emerging Artist Category winner Ms Yoko Choi. Ms Choi, who holds a Master in Art Therapy, is also a registered art therapist and art educator.

“The process of creating art can help people practise mindfulness and encourage self-awareness. These in turn help manage stress and anxiety. During each of the 16 *Art as Therapy* sessions, participants will be encouraged to explore through the art making process a range of themes and causes that may be affecting their thoughts, emotions and actions so that they can understand themselves better in order to manage their mental well-being,” Ms Choi said.

Inspiring creativity through art

The *UOB Art Explorer* also enables people of all ages to create their own artworks through *Art at Home* which features tutorials led by POY winners on various art techniques using home-based materials such as coloured pencils and crayons. A new tutorial will be released every fortnight until December 2020.

For those looking to fill in their time by exploring their creativity, the programme’s *Art in Colours* initiative offers eight line art adaptations of artworks from the UOB POY art collection. These line art adaptations can be printed out or uploaded onto most digital colouring apps for aspiring artists to experiment with different colouring mediums and to define their own interpretation of the artwork through the colours they choose.

As part of making art accessible to everyone, UOB will also provide *UOB Art Explorer* starter kits, comprising drawing pads, watercolour pencil sets, paint brush sets and print-outs of *Art in Colours* to 500 children from disadvantaged families across the region.

Showcasing Southeast Asian art to the world

In line with UOB’s commitment to champion art in Southeast East Asia, the Bank will also continue to showcase selected artists and artworks from the region through this digital art programme. Viewers will be able to explore these works of art through *Art Virtually*, a series of virtual exhibitions displayed at the UOB Art Gallery and *Art in Story*, which features selected artwork from the UOB Art Collection every month.

By the end of the year, more than 60 Southeast Asian artworks will be featured on the *UOB Art Explorer*.

To take part in the five initiatives of the *UOB Art Explorer*, namely *Art as Therapy*, *Art at Home*, *Art in Colours*, *Art Virtually* and *Art in Story*, please visit www.UOBandArt.com.

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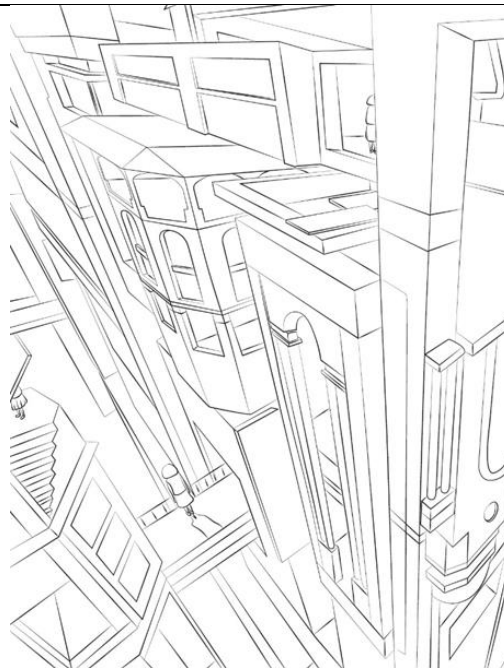
Appendix 1

An example of an Art In Colours artwork:



2017 UOB POY (Singapore)
Most Promising Artist of the Year,
Emerging Artist Category

Title: *Three Worlds*
Artist: Yang Kaiwen



Note to media:

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 2,400 artworks, made up primarily of paintings from established and emerging Southeast Asian artists.

UOB also plays an active role in communities across the region, most notably through our long-term commitment to art. As part of this, the Bank has led a wide range of visual arts programmes, partnerships and outreach initiatives across the region.

Our flagship art programme is the UOB POY Competition, which was started in 1982 to recognise Southeast Asia's budding artists and to offer them the opportunity to showcase their works to the wider community. The competition was extended to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in subsequent years with the aim of uncovering the next generation of great Southeast Asian artists.

The competition has cultivated and advanced the careers of many artists. 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 have 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 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.

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

In 2015, UOB became a founding partner of the National Gallery Singapore. In recognition of the Bank's long-term commitment to art, UOB was presented with the National Arts Council's Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award for the 15th consecutive year in 2019.

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, Europe and North America. Since its incorporation in 1935, UOB has grown organically and through a series of strategic acquisitions. 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. In Asia, UOB operates through its head office in Singapore and banking subsidiaries in China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, as well as branches and representative offices across the region.



Over more than eight decades, generations of UOB employees have carried through the entrepreneurial spirit, the focus on long-term value creation and an unwavering commitment to do what is right for our customers and our colleagues.

We believe in being a responsible financial services provider and we are committed to making a difference in the lives of our stakeholders and in the communities in which we operate. Just as we are dedicated to helping our customers manage their finances wisely and to grow their businesses, UOB is steadfast in our support of social development, particularly in the areas of art, children and education.

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