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Co Reg. No. 193500026Z

Thai artist's portrayal of a world with tensions and challenges wins 2022 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year

Singaporean artists Lester Lee and Dillon Poh clinched top awards in the 41st UOB POY (Singapore) competition. The Bank also launched its first foray into the metaverse, 'SkyArtverse by UOB', presenting all 2022 winning UOB POY artworks.



Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law, and Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, with winning artists at UOB Painting of the Year Award Ceremony

Singapore, 3 November 2022 – Thai artist Mr Chomrawi Suksom, 28, won the 2022 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year (POY) award for his artwork titled *Dystopia*. His piece was chosen from among the country winners of the 2022 UOB POY competitions held in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand.

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*2022 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year
Dystopia by Chomrawi Suksom*

Composed with acrylic, oil, and gold leaf on canvas, Mr Suksom's artwork took one year in the making, and explores how the constant developments and changes experienced by our society today can lead to social tensions. The piece not only conveyed a strong message by bringing attention to pertinent human struggles in a complicated world, the great techniques used and intricate details portrayed in the artwork were simply outstanding. He shared, "We are forced to constantly learn and adapt to keep up with life, due to issues such as global conflicts, pandemics and natural disasters, and I wanted *Dystopia* to capture that loss, chaos, and tension felt by the people."

Mr Suksom is a professional artist who has won many art competitions in Thailand from 2015 till date, with his artworks showcased in many renowned exhibitions in the country. He and the other three country winners will stand a chance to attend a one-month residency programme at the renowned Fukuoka Asian Art Museum in Japan.

The judging panel for the 2022 UOB Southeast Asian POY comprised of the Chief Judges from each of the four participating countries: Dr Bridget Tracy Tan (Regional and Singapore Chief



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Judge), Dr Agung Hujatnikajennong (Indonesia Chief Judge), Ms Bibi Chew (Malaysia Chief Judge) and Mr Amit Chusuwan (Thailand Chief Judge).

The 41st UOB POY Awards Ceremony was held at Victoria Theatre today and livestreamed on UOB YouTube. The awards ceremony was graced by Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Law.

As the world emerges from the pandemic, the competition entries this year reflected not just resilience and unity in the face of adversity, but also the people's hopes and dreams for the future. This year's entries provided a glimpse into artists' interpretation of pertinent themes like environmental sustainability and global tensions.

Mr Wee Ee Cheong, Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, UOB, said, "Art inspires and connects people, reflecting culture, identity and aspiration. Guided by our Purpose of 'Building the future of ASEAN', we are committed to doing right by the art community in the region, uncovering and nurturing talents, and providing them with opportunities to showcase their creativity. Our partnership with the National Arts Council Singapore to foster a thriving art ecosystem in Singapore, and the expansion of UOB POY competition to Vietnam next year, are part of our continuous efforts to enable artistic talents in the region to scale greater heights."

Veteran Singaporean artist wins the top award for 2022 UOB POY (Singapore), Established Artist Category



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*2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore), Established Artist Category – Top Winner
A Painting about Nothing and Everything by Lester Lee*

Singaporean artist Mr Lester Lee, 58, was awarded Top Winner in the Established Artist Category in UOB POY Singapore for his painting “*A Painting about Nothing and Everything*”. He is a three-time award recipient¹ of UOB POY (Singapore).

Mr Lee’s painting used a juxtaposition of everyday items to illustrate how there is “no preconceived idea or concept” in his artwork, and to depict the importance of being present. He said, “We live in a fast-paced world where stillness and rest are hard to come by. My artwork is an invitation for viewers to live more mindfully, to be fully present and to appreciate what is truly important.”

Joining the six winning established artists were six aspiring artists recognised in the Emerging Artist Category of the 41st UOB POY (Singapore) competition. In addition to the Singapore winning artists, regional winners from Malaysia, Indonesia and Thailand also attended the award ceremony and showcased their winning artworks.

¹ Mr Lester Lee has also won the Gold Award, Established Artist Category in 2021 and 2013 UOB POY (Singapore).



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Young artist wins 2022 UOB Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore) award



*2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore), Emerging Artist Category – Top Winner
Most Promising Artist of the Year, Greying by Dillon Poh*

19-year-old Mr Dillon Poh, the youngest winner of UOB POY (Singapore) this year, bagged the Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore) award. His monochromatic artwork, *Greying*, highlights the plight of those who go unnoticed in society. Mr Poh said, “The winning artwork is a commentary on the fast-paced society we live in, where the elderly tends to get neglected. My purpose is to lend a voice to the voiceless. The mundanity of the work is reflective of the loss of identity and lack of attention given to the greying population.” At the award ceremony, Mr Poh’s trophy was received on behalf by his father as he was serving National Service overseas.

Doing right by the art community

Over the past four decades, UOB remains steadfast in doing right by the art community, championing Southeast Asian art and artists across the region. In recognition of our long-term support for visual art in Singapore, UOB has been conferred the Distinguished Patron of the Arts Award by the National Arts Council (NAC) Singapore for the 18th time this year.

UOB and NAC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) last month to form a strategic partnership to develop financial and business competencies of the Singapore arts community, and



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to support the development of a vibrant arts scene in Singapore. UOB and NAC will co-fund \$240,000 for acceleration programmes² to benefit 150 artists and 60 arts groups over three years, achieving three areas of social impact that include growing the value of the arts, expanding its outreach to new audiences and promoting the wellness of art.

Launched 'SkyArtverse by UOB' in the metaverse

To elevate forward thinking in visual art, UOB will showcase all 2022 UOB POY winning artworks (see Appendix) from the four markets on the metaverse – 'SkyArtverse by UOB', which was launched in Decentraland at the 41st UOB POY Award Ceremony today. This is UOB's first foray into the metaverse via an immersive art theme park, where visitors will be able to view all 37 winning artworks and hear the artistic journeys of the UOB POY artists. Through this initiative, UOB hopes to present a differentiated virtual art experience for the public to broaden our engagement with them, while providing new opportunities for UOB POY artists to share their artworks globally. The public will be able to access SkyArtverse via a link on UOBandArt.com from 3 November 2022.

The 2022 winning artworks will also be exhibited at the UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza 1, Ground Floor from 5 November 2022 to 19 February 2023, as well as on UOBandArt.com.

- Ends -

² Under the MOU, UOB's innovation accelerator, The FinLab, will be running the UOB-NAC Acceleration Programmes for the Arts to equip arts organisations and artists with skills in business finance, business management and development and digital marketing.



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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 2,600 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 and Thailand. It is now the longest running art competition in Singapore and one of the most prestigious in Southeast Asia.

Over the past 41 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 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.



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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 18th consecutive year in 2022.

About UOB

UOB is a leading bank in Asia with a global network of around 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.

For 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 the social development of art, children and education, doing right by our communities.

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APPENDIX: Winners of the 2022 UOB Painting of the Year competition

Established Artist Category (Regional) – UOB Painting of the Year Award

2022 UOB Southeast Asian Painting of the Year	Chomrawi Suksom , <i>Dystopia</i>
2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Indonesia)	Farhan Siki , <i>Build, Destroy, Rebuild (The Modern Sisyphus)</i>
2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia)	Seah Ze Lin , <i>地皮 (Skin of Land)</i>
2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)	Lester Lee , <i>A Painting about Nothing and Everything</i>
2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Thailand)	Chomrawi Suksom , <i>Dystopia</i>

Established Artist Category (Singapore)

2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore)	Lester Lee , <i>A Painting about Nothing and Everything</i>
Gold Award	Guan Ming , <i>Tingxiemon (Spelling Monster)</i>
Silver Award	Pateo Chang , <i>Gliding Down Ann Siang Hill Road</i>
Bronze Award	David Chan , <i>The Grand History</i>
Highly Commended	Hong Sek Chern , <i>Yellow Mist</i>
Highly Commended	Karina Delicia Simon , <i>Tree</i>



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Emerging Artist Category (Regional) - Most Promising Artist of the Year Award

2022 Most Promising Artist of the Year (Indonesia)	Revaleka , <i>Make A Wish II</i>
2022 Most Promising Artist of the Year (Malaysia)	Wooi Ki Xiong , <i>Mandi Bunga (Flower Bath)</i>
2022 Most Promising Artist of the Year (Singapore)	Dillon Poh , <i>Greying</i>
2022 Most Promising Artist of the Year (Thailand)	Nawin Ponpong , <i>Rural Lifestyle 1</i>

Emerging Artist Category (Singapore)

2022 Most Promising Artist of the Year	Dillon Poh , <i>Greying</i>
Gold Award	Lim Teck Seng , <i>Orange Garden</i>
Silver Award	Chen Shicai , <i>An Inhumane War</i>
Bronze Award	Nikki Yamaguchi , <i>Transforming</i>
Highly Commended	Joy Liu , <i>Self</i>
Highly Commended	Andrew Huang , <i>Garden City</i>

