

Fact Sheet

The 24th UOB Painting of the Year Competition

Response (number of entries)

This year's competition closed on Saturday, 9 July 2005. The detailed breakdown of the entries received is:

Total number of entries received	940
Total number of participants	578

Open Section

- Abstract Medium 135 entries
- Representational Medium 188 entries
- Traditional Chinese Medium 30 entries
- Photography Medium 308 entries

Junior Section

- Total entries 279 entries

Judges

The panel of judges specially appointed by the UOB Group Art Committee for this year's competition are:

- Mr Choo Thiam Siew (*Chief Judge*)
President, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts
- Mr Ian Findlay-Brown
Editor, Asian Arts News and World Sculpture News
- Ms Parvathi Nayar
Artist/Arts Correspondent, The Business Times
- Ms RaYoung Hong
Deputy Director, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art
- Mr Thomas Yeo
Artist

Please refer to Annex 2 for detailed profiles on the judges.

Mr Choo Thiam Siew (Chief Judge) 朱添寿
President, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Mr Choo Thiam Siew is the President of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA), a leading arts institution established in 1938. It has expanded in the region and now plays an important role in the development of the Singapore art scene. NAFA aims to be a “World-Class Institution” and to achieve this, NAFA commits to providing excellent arts education and training for the region’s young budding artists.

Prior to this, Mr Choo was the Chief Executive Officer of the National Arts Council, Singapore from 1997 to 2003. The Council is responsible for furthering Singapore’s goal as a global city of the arts. It does this by concentrating on the development of artists, audience, arts programmes, design and the creative industries. His leadership resulted in a much higher profile for the Council.

He first entered public service with the then Parks & Recreation Department in 1976, and was the Deputy Commissioner till 1995, and later the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the National Parks Board. He played a pivotal role in shaping Singapore into a garden city.

Mr Choo is a keen enthusiast of both eastern and western classical music, paintings, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese classical poetry and antiques.

Mr Choo serves as a Board Member of the Singapore Symphonia Company Limited, the Singapore Chinese Orchestra Company Limited and the Singapore Art Museum. He is also a member of the Arts Education Council of the Ministry of Education, Vice President of Xin Hai Calligraphy Society and Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Parks & Recreation (Singapore).

Mr Ian Findlay-Brown
Editor, Asian Art News and World Sculpture News

Mr Ian Findlay-Brown has had a long career as a writer, journalist, critic, editor and publisher. He was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1947. He received his undergraduate and postgraduate education in England, the United States, Taipei, Shanghai, and Mexico City. He graduated BA (Honours) in Chinese and Spanish, Language and Literature. Although he has travelled widely in the Asia-Pacific region, he has been mainly resident in China and Hong Kong since the mid-1970s.

During the past thirty years, his work as a journalist and writer has appeared in a wide range of magazines and newspapers, including the Far Eastern Economic Review, the Asian Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time, and the Christian Science Monitor. Since 1991, in particular, his articles, interviews and reviews on modern and contemporary Asian art and artists have appeared regularly in Asian Art News and World Sculpture News. He also has written numerous catalogues on Asian artists.

In 1991, as an independent publisher and editor, he founded the first international English-language art magazine to specialise in modern and contemporary Asian art. This year Asian Art News celebrates its 15th anniversary. In 1995, World Sculpture News appeared. This was the first international English-language specialising in sculpture and other three-dimensional art forms to be published in the Asia-Pacific region. Both magazines are now well established and are now distributed in some sixty countries worldwide.

Ms Parvathi Nayar
Artist /Arts Correspondent, The Business Times

Ms Parvathi Nayar is a practising visual artist and arts writer, who has exhibited in Singapore, London, India and Jakarta. She has recently returned to Singapore after graduating with an MA Fine Art (Painting) from Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, on a Chevening Scholarship from the British government.

Ms Nayar's visual practises have a critical engagement with two distinct media: drawing and painting. Conceptually, she explores ideas of the daily narrative of our lives through fragmentary, familiar and unfamiliar perspectives. An obsessive attention to technique and execution is an integral part of how her concepts are resolved into artworks.

In Singapore, her art has been exhibited in group shows such as Pulp Friction (2001) at the Singapore Art Museum, joint shows such as Zodiac: A Confluence of East and West (2003) with cultural medallion winner Tan Siah Kwee and solos such as Woman and Her Elements at Temasek Polytechnic (1994), where she was an art instructor. In London her exhibitions include Location/Locality (2005) and popular art: from nehru's democracy to the network multitude (2005) that she co-curated. In Jakarta she has had solos such as Art of a Woman (1996) and Journey (1998). Ms Nayar and her works have been featured in a number of publications such as The Straits Times and Asian Art News, on TV shows such as Arts Central and on Singapore radio. She has given talks on art and culture at the former National Museum of Singapore. In 2003, a richly illustrated coffee-table book on her art, Passages, with an essay by TK Sabapathy, was launched at the Asian Civilisations Museum.

As arts correspondent for The Business Times, Ms Nayar has contributed in a consistently significant manner both to the development of, and critical debate in, the burgeoning arts scene in Singapore. She has interviewed artists of international stature such as Frank Stella and James Rosenquist as well as contemporary Asian artists such as Heri Dono. She was selected as the only Singapore journalist to be sent to the Olympics Arts Festival, Sydney, by the Australian High Commission (2000). Her writings have appeared in periodicals such as the Jakarta Post as well as publications such as Singapore Women Re-Presented (2004) and the creative anthology, Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover (2003).

Parvathi has been selected as the only artist to represent Singapore at the CP Biennale II in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Ms RaYoung Hong
Deputy Director, Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art

Ms RaYoung Hong joined Samsung Museum of Art in 1995 as a General Manager in the Museum Planning Department. She was promoted to Deputy Director in 2000. She has been responsible for exhibit planning of the contemporary-modern art division. During this time she has featured numerous creative exhibitions including "Ono Yoko", "The World's of Nam June Paik", "Contemporary American Photography 1970-2000" and Korean artist Lee Bul's solo exhibition. Since the opening of the new museum, Leeum in 2004, she has assumed the role of its Deputy Director General, responsible for its overall management.

Ms Hong played a major role in the building of Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, working in collaboration with world famous architects Mario Botta, Jean Nouvel and Rem Koolhaas. The project took eight years and was inaugurated on 13th October 2004. Leeum, Samsung Museum of Art, is composed of three major facilities: Museum 1, for Korean Traditional Art, Museum 2 for Contemporary and Modern Art from Korea and around the world, and Samsung Child Education and Culture Center. All three buildings, with their diverse materials and construction methods, express the creativity of the respective architect.

Ms Hong has also held various positions in international museums as an international coordinator. They include the Museum of Modern Art and Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York from 1996 to 1998. In addition, she has served actively on various committees including the National Contemporary Art Museum Committee and as vice chairman of ICOM Korea. Her extensive and influential roles as a committee member have contributed to the Korean art world and enriched the Korean culture. On May 16, 2005, Korean President Rho awarded her the Presidential Prize in recognition of her contribution to 2004 ICOM SEOUL Conference and the opening of Leeum.

She specialised in Art Administration at Steinhardt's Department of Art and Art Professions of New York University in 1996. She is also a graduate of Ewha Womans University earning a Bachelor's and Master's degree in French Language and Literature in 1984.

Mr Thomas Yeo 姚照宏
Artist

After graduating from the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 1960, Mr Thomas Yeo continued his art education at Chelsea School of Art and Hammersmith College of Art & Architecture. While in London, he held two one-man exhibitions, taught art and travelled.

Mr Yeo began his artistic career drawing and painting, developing what can be regarded as a “classical” education in art. Today, after four decades, he is a well-respected second-generation artist who stands at the helm of Singapore art as primarily a painter.

His work has been shown in New York, Paris, London, Tokyo, Australia (where he has given nine one-man shows), Germany, Austria and South-east Asia. He has participated in more than 100 exhibitions.

Mr Yeo’s work is highly-acclaimed and he has been the recipient of many awards. Amongst his many accolades are the Cultural Medallion Award conferred by the Singapore Government in 1984; the Heineken International Art Award from Holland in 1989; the SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals Golden Circle Award from the United Kingdom in 1991; and the Pingat APAD in 1995, awarded by Angkatan Pelukis Aneka Daya for his dedication and creative contribution to the development of visual arts in Singapore.

Mr Yeo has served as a juror for international art competitions over the past ten years. He also acts as an adviser for the Asean Art Awards, Asia International Art Show, Modern Art Society and National Arts Council. He was the Chairman of Shell Discovery Art for almost two decades and a Fine Arts consultant for Nanyang Technological University.