

Fact Sheet

The UOB Painting of the Year Competition and Exhibition

Introduction

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition was first held in 1982. Organised on an annual basis, the event is now into its 24th year.

Objectives

The main objectives of the competition are to:

- Promote greater interest in local art;
- Further encourage local artists to persist in their creative endeavours; and
- Provide recognition for the best creative works.

History & Development

Since 1973, the United Overseas Bank (UOB) Group has been helping budding local artists by purchasing their works of art. Through this purchase-support programme, the Group has, to date, amassed a large collection of works of art totalling more than 1,500 pieces. These paintings are displayed in the Group's Head Office at 80 Raffles Place, as well as in its network of over 380 offices worldwide.

The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition is an extension of the Group's patronage of the arts. The first Painting of the Year Competition in 1982 was jointly organised by the UOB Group and the then Ministry of Culture (now called the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts.)

Since 1983, the competition became the sole effort of the UOB Group.

Structure of the Competition

Since its launch in 1982, the competition has undergone some changes in its format. These changes, recommended by the panel of judges from time to time, were introduced to enhance the quality and prestige of the competition.

The first competition was divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Young People's Section. In 1983, there was only one section - an Open Section.

In 1984, the Open Section was been divided into three categories - Abstract, Representational and Traditional Chinese to attract participation from the widest range of artists.

A new photography category was added to the existing three in 2003, bringing the total number of categories to four.

In 1991, the Junior Section was reintroduced to the competition for those who below 18 years old. The addition of the Junior Section reflects the UOB Group's objective in nurturing young talents. Participants in the Junior Section are eligible to compete in the Open Section.

Judges

Each year, the entries are judged by a panel of judges comprising renowned artists, art connoisseurs or art curators who are specially appointed by the UOB Group Art Committee. The panel also includes prominent personalities from overseas to ensure objectivity in the judging.

UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition

Each year, the award-winning and highly-commended paintings from the competition are displayed at the UOB Painting Of The Year Exhibition. The aim of the exhibition is to foster a higher level of art consciousness among the public.

Since 1985, the UOB Group has also concurrently staged a special exhibition featuring works by the winner of the preceding year's competition at the exhibition. The Group hopes to help local artists gain more recognition for their works and inspire them to achieve even higher standards through such sponsorships.

The success of the UOB Painting Of The Year Competition can be seen by healthy indicators such as the good response over the last 24 years, the high standard of styles and media adopted, the extensive publicity enjoyed by the winners, and the wide recognition gained by the participating artists as a result of winning the competition. Many past winners like Mr Goh Beng Kwan and Mr Chua Ek Kay, have gone on to gain greater recognition, both locally and internationally. The competition is also now regarded as a key arts event in Singapore.