

The 26th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition

(A) Response (number of entries)

This year's competition closed on Sunday, 24 June 2007. The detailed breakdown of the entries received is:

Total number of entries received: 1,146

Total number of participants: 795

Open Section

- Abstract Category: 123 entries
- Representational Category: 182 entries
- Traditional Chinese Category: 28 entries
- Photography Category: 243 entries

Junior Section

- Total: 281 entries

Youth Section

- Total: 289 entries

(B) Judges

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

Professor Robert Ely (*Chief Judge*)

President & CEO, LASALLE College of the Arts

Mr Pierre Emmanuel Jacob

Executive Director, Alliance Francaise du Singapour

Dr Chew Kim Liong

Dean (Academic) and Principal Lecturer of Fine Art, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

Visiting Professor of Art and Design, Loughborough University and University of Huddersfield, UK

Mr Chua Soo Bin

Renowned Singapore Photographer and
Cultural Medallion Recipient for 1988

Mr Simon Birch

Contemporary Artist based in Hong Kong
Winner of 2004's Schoeni Asian Art Award

26th UOB Painting Of The Year Competition Judges' Profiles

Emeritus Professor Robert Ely FRSA (Chief Judge)

President & CEO, LASALLE College of the Arts

Born in Scotland in 1955 and educated in Manchester, England, Professor Robert Stephen Ely was originally a Consultant Engineer and Draughtsman. He trained as a teacher and worked in Schools, Colleges and Universities in the United Kingdom, in Australia and in Singapore for over thirty years. Professor Ely now lives in Singapore with his wife and two teenage children. The family are citizens of the United Kingdom and Australia, where they have a second home.

A graduate of the Manchester Metropolitan University, he undertook postgraduate studies at the University of Salford and completed his PhD in Education at Edith Cowan University in Australia. In 2006, Professor Ely was awarded a medal in Australia for his Research in Education.

Professor Ely has occupied Senior Management roles in big organisations as Senior Curriculum Manager, Director of Marketing, Director of International Operations, Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning and Director of Higher Education. In addition, Professor Ely served on numerous Boards, Committees, Charities, Trusts, and acted as a consultant in the University Sector on the validation of vocational degree programs.

In 1984, Professor Ely was invited to develop an Alternative Curriculum Strategy for United Kingdom institutions for Down syndrome adults and, again for young people excluded from schools for violent behaviour. In 1988, he created a new entity – the Arden School that delivered courses to Masters level.

In addition, a change management process was under way in Manchester, with nine colleges being merged into two. Professor Ely played a crucial role in that change, leading the formation of a new Faculty of Arts.

At the age of 37, Professor Ely was appointed Principal and Chief Executive of Rose Bruford College London, a University Sector College, from 1993 to 2000, creating the most comprehensive provision in theatre education in Europe. Professor Ely pioneered the introduction of Vocational/Professional Degrees in the University Sector, in Practice-based Arts, particularly Performing Arts and in the application of the Drama to Therapeutic Programmes.

In 1995, he introduced the first Degrees and Higher Degrees in Opera and in Theatre Arts in the United Kingdom, delivered by Distance Learning to a global market.

He was Chair of the Higher Education Quality Council in Estonia, Eastern Europe in 1998 and was appointed as a National Assessor for the Arts by the Institute of Learning and Teaching in 2000. Between 1994 and 1999 he was a member of the International Validation Committee at the University of Manchester. He served on the National Steering Committee of Create Australia, on the Development Board of the new Arts High School in Singapore and was recently appointed as a lead assessor for the Singapore Higher Education Quality Council.

He was also, Head of School, and Director for a time, at the Western Australia Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) at Edith Cowan University in Perth where he was a member of the Senior Management, Academic Board and Professoriate. He was invited to join LASALLE-SIA (now known as LASALLE College of the Arts) in Singapore as President and CEO in March 2003 to transform the institution into a new University of the Arts, with a \$210 million capital programme. The project involved a new city centre campus for 4,000 students and student residence for 820 postgraduate students. The design featured as the centrepiece at the Venice Architectural Biennale in 2004. Since April 2004, 51 new degrees and 22 higher degrees have been developed, making the institution the largest provider of arts degrees in Asia.

LASALLE will be an International Network University, spearheading a US\$3 billion development of six campuses throughout the MENA region for completion by 2012.

He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and became a Member of the Institute of Directors in 1995.

In 1996, a Professorial Committee of United Kingdom Vice Chancellors, met at the Institute of Directors to confer the title of *Professor* in recognition for: An outstanding, innovative and sustained contribution to Arts Education over a twenty-year period.

In 1997, he became a Distinguished Honorary Professor of Stephen F. Austin State University, Texas. This was the first such award in the long history of the University. In the same year, under the governorship of George W Bush, he was awarded the Freedom of the State in recognition for his contribution to Education in the State of Texas. In August 2005, Professor Ely addressed an audience of 15,000 graduates in Texas as the Guest-of-Honour.

On leaving the United Kingdom in 2000, Professor Ely was awarded the permanent title, Emeritus Professor.

Professor Ely has worked professionally in the 1970s as an actor, director and scenic designer in both theatre and film. Today he is a painter, filmmaker; and a prolific writer and photographer. In 2004, he became Chief Judge of the UOB Painting Of The Year Competition in Singapore. He also oversees the Institute of Contemporary Art, which is an international exhibition arm of LASALLE.

Recent publications (2004 to 2006) by Professor Ely, include two novels, three photography books, a collection of short stories, a collection of paintings and an academic work on new universities.

Simon Birch

Artist and Curator

Born in Brighton in 1969, Birch began painting at a very early age under the guidance of his parents. His mother is an accomplished painter and art teacher and his father is a graphic and interior designer. Birch moved to Hong Kong in 1996 where he eventually took up a professional career as an artist. He is now well established as a leading Hong Kong contemporary artist who is fast building a reputation internationally as both a painter and a multi-media artist with his finger on the pulse of street culture.

Selected as the winner of 2004's Schoeni Asian Art Award by the Sovereign Group, Simon is known for his painting, in particular his portraits, which have drawn much attention due to a number of high-profile commissions. He has also held a series of extremely successful solo exhibitions in the past few years and even set aside time to curate one of Hong Kong's largest group shows with over 30 artists involved. He has equally become a target of speculation with his graffiti projects around the city of Hong Kong, and his exciting collaborative works with designers and photographers.

His current projects include curating the inaugural exhibition at the new 10 Chancery Lane Warehouse space in Hong Kong, and a large-scale collaborative project with photographer Wing Shya and Japanese fashion brand Evisu – a solo exhibition with a substantial number of commissioned works.

Dr Chew Kim Liong

Dean (Academic) and Principal Lecturer of Fine Art, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Singapore; Visiting Professor of Art and Design, Loughborough University and University of Huddersfield, UK

With a first degree in Science, Dr Chew Kim Liong extraordinarily became the first recipient of an earned PhD in Fine Art (Research) from Goldsmiths College, awarded by the University of London. He returned to Singapore in 1997 as an art professor at the Nanyang Technological University and in 2002, he became the Dean of the School of Visual Arts at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

With 20 years' managerial experience in the educational environment, he is currently taking on an enlarged portfolio as the Dean (Academic), supervising all academic affairs related to both visual and performing arts. A principal lecturer of Fine Art, he is also a visiting professor of Loughborough University and the University of Huddersfield, UK, and has just finished serving as an external examiner of the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

A scholar with broad intellectual interests, Dr Chew is also an artist, arts consultant, visual arts resource panellist of many organisations including the National Arts Council, and a judge in numerous national and international art and design competitions. He has exhibited in solo shows and his artworks are frequently featured in curated art exhibitions as well as collected by public organisations and private bodies worldwide.

His most recent research papers include "Future Trends of Animation and the Training of Professionals in the Context of the Research and Development of Interactive Digital Media in Singapore and the Region" (presented in China, 2007), "Buddhas in Dim Light: The Art of Dunhuang Grottoes" (presented in UK, 2006), "Nudescape Discourse: A Creative Dialogue between Picasso's Nude and the Chinese Landscape" (presented in UK, 2005), and "Calligraphic Art: Writing→ Painting→ Non-Calligraphy→ Performance/Installation" (published in Singapore, 2005). His recent consultancy engagements include Art Specialist Panel Chairman for Singapore's Cultural Medallion and Young Artist Award 2007, Advisory and Selection Panel Member for Singapore Art Exhibition 2007, and Judge of Philip Morris' Singapore Art Awards 2005.

Chua Soo Bin

Professional Photographer

Renowned Singapore photographer, Chua Soo Bin, was born in 1932. His interest in art and photography began at a very young age. He studied at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts in 1950. Active in the arts field during the 1950s and '60s, he won a number of outstanding accolades, including Associate of the Royal Photographic Society of England (ARPS) and Honorary Excellence International Federation of Photographic Art (HON EFIAP).

Chua's career took off in 1972, after he got involved in advertising work and became a distinguished photographer of international repute. In 1985, his photographs for Singapore Airlines won a top prize for Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Award and a Singapore Creativity Award in 1986. He has since won many awards in various photography events. Especially noteworthy was the Cultural Medallion award conferred on him by the Singapore government in 1988.

In his subsequent years till 1992, he held several solo photography exhibitions. The inaugural exhibition of *Liuzhen: Portraits of Excellence* was displayed at Singapore National Museum in 1989. In conjunction with the publication of a photo book, the show later travelled to several major Chinese cities like Hong Kong, Taipei, Beijing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Hangzhou, Xi'an and Guangzhou.

Pierre-Emmanuel Jacob

Executive Director, Alliance Française de Singapour

Pierre-Emmanuel Jacob was born in Pau, France in 1969. He moved to Singapore in 2005 to take up his current post of Executive Director of Alliance Française de Singapour.

Pierre-Emmanuel has been active in arts and cultural immersion since 1995, when he held the position of Director of Alliance Française in Macao from 1995 to 1997.

From 1997 to 2001, he was the Executive Director of Alliance Française in Bombay. During this period, he organised the “French Avant-garde” exhibition at the National Gallery of Modern Art of Bombay.

As Executive Director of Cultural Affairs and Heritage in the cities of Yerres-Essonne in 2002 to 2004, Pierre-Emmanuel took charge of the rehabilitation and the set-up of the Gustave Caillebotte’s Park and the Foundation for the promotion of fine arts and contemporary art. In addition, he managed the cultural programmes of the Salle André Malraux, a gallery for contemporary art. During this period, he defined and developed the cultural policies for five cities – Crosne, Brunoy, Epinay-sous-Sénart, Boussy-St-Antoine and Quincy-sous-Sénart – and co-ordinated various community projects for them.

Pierre-Emmanuel was the Executive Director of Cultural Affairs – Cultural Pole in the city of Noisy-le-Sec/Seine-Saint-Denis from 2004 to 2005. During his tenure, he developed the partnership between the Centre Pompidou, a museum of Modern art, and the Palais de Tokyo. He also managed five cultural institutions – Theatre of Bergeries, Library Roger Gouhier, La Galerie-National Centre for contemporary art, School of music and dance and the movie hall of Le Trianon – with a team of five Directors.

Pierre-Emmanuel speaks French, English and Bahasa Indonesia with a fair knowledge of Hindi and German. He received a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from the Institute of Political Studies of Aix-en-Provence in 1990 and a Master in Public International Law from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva.

