The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition

Fact Sheet

1. **Introduction**

   The United Overseas Bank (UOB) Painting Of The Year Competition was launched in March 1982 and has been held annually since. The year 2006 marks the 25th anniversary of this premier art event in Singapore.

2. **Objectives**

   The main objectives of the Competition are:

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

3. **History & Development**

   Since 1973, the 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 500 offices worldwide.

   The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition is an extension of the Group's patronage of the arts. For its contribution to the arts, UOB was conferred "Distinguished Patron of the Arts" by the National Arts Council in 2005.

   The first Painting of the Year Competition - held 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 has been the sole effort of the UOB Group.

4. **Structure of the Competition**

   Since its launch in 1982, the Competition has undergone some changes to 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.

   - 1982: The first Competition was divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Young People's Section.

   - 1983: The Competition was reduced to one section - the Open Section.

   - 1984: The Competition was divided into three categories - Abstract Medium, Representational Medium and Traditional Chinese Medium - to attract participation from the widest range of artists.

- The UOB Painting Of The Year Competition And Exhibition – Fact Sheet

- 1991: The Competition was again divided into two sections - an Open Section and a Junior Section. The Junior Section was introduced for those 18 years old and below to build on the Group's objective of nurturing young talents. Participants in the Junior Section were eligible to compete in the Open Section.

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

- 2006: The Junior Section will be further expanded into two separate categories – the Youth Section for participants aged 13 to 18, and the Junior Section for those aged 6 to 12.

5.   Judges

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

6.   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.

7.   Premier Event Status

The success of the UOB Painting Of The Year Competition can be seen by such healthy indicators as the good response over the last 24 years, the high standard of styles and mediums adopted, the extensive publicity enjoyed by the winners, and the wide recognition gained by the participating artists as a result of winning the Competition. The Competition is also now regarded as a yardstick in judging the standard of their works.