



Right By You



2022
UOB
Painting
of the Year



Message from the Chief Executive Officer of UOB Malaysia

Change is the only constant thing and yet, it has a bittersweet, if not, devastating feeling that might linger. Inspired by the wonders and worries of the changes in our topography and environmental sustainability, this year's main winning artwork, '地皮 - Skin of Land' is a manifestation of the artist's admiration and lamentation of the ever-changing landscape due to human behaviour which causes ripple effects to ecology. At UOB, we share the same sentiment and we are committed to engage our stakeholders to help them expand responsibly in order to forge a sustainable future for generations to come.

Discovering homegrown talents like this has been the motivation of why we hold the UOB Painting of the Year annually. It is not only to discover homegrown talents, but to also provide them with a platform to showcase their craft and mastery.

This competition has provided a space for creativity and allowed artists to showcase their talents while telling us a story of what inspires them. It is to our delight to be receiving a wide range of submissions; artworks inspired by the artists' introspection of life experiences and observations of the world, along with messages of hope and progress.

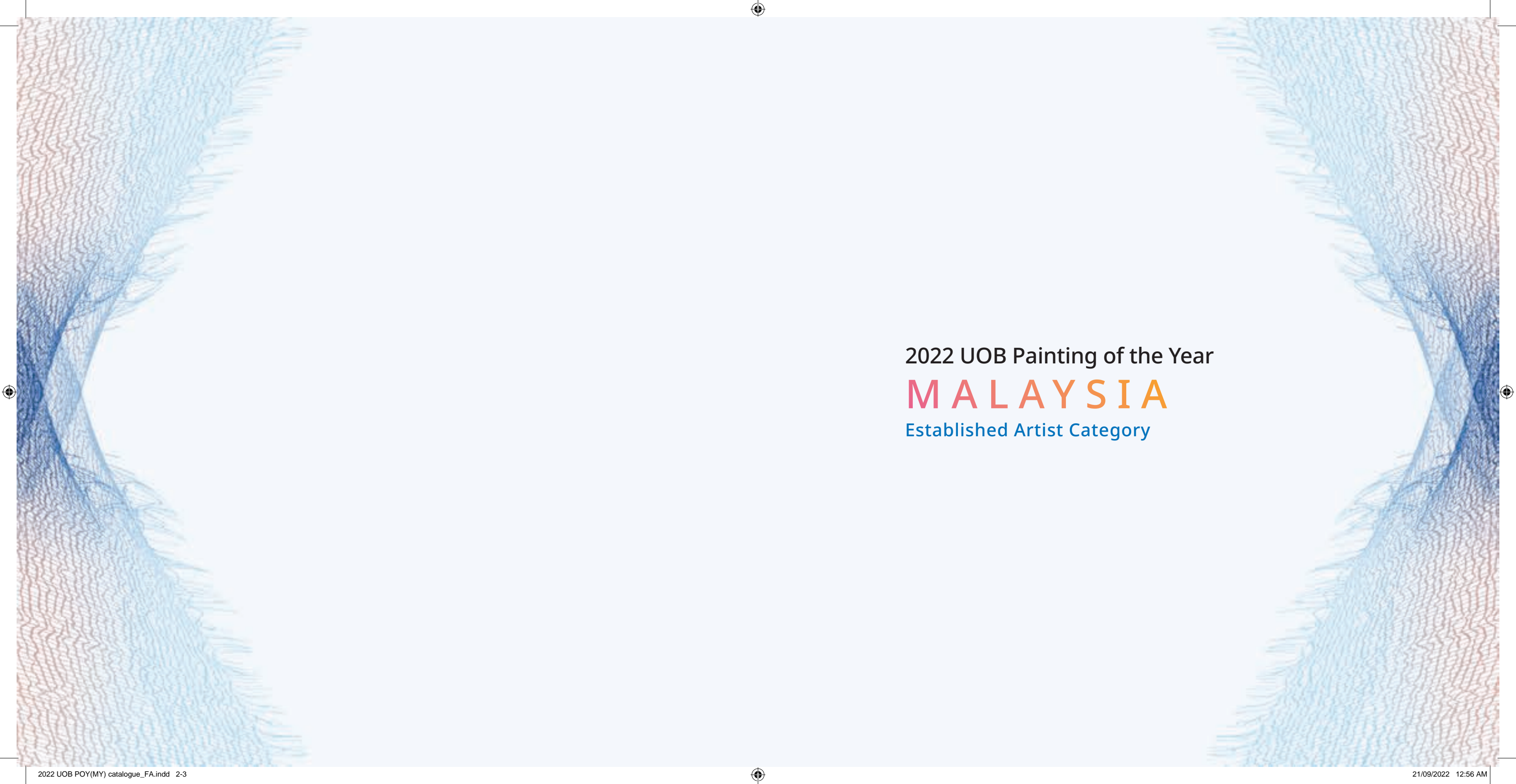
Congratulations to all our winners and I could never say this enough - to be able to witness their talents has been nothing but a huge honour and privilege. I thank each and every one of them for not only sharing their craft, but also their inspiring visual stories through the UOB Painting of the Year art competition. I would also like to thank our distinguished panel of judges for your passion and commitment to evaluate and nominate the winning artworks for this year.

Change is, like it or not, a part of life and we all go through growing pains to adapt. The key is to focus on moving forward and learn from the lessons we acquire throughout the journey. The stories told through these winning artworks are timeless - stories of aspirations, ambitions and perseverance. It is in this hopeful exciting time that we are all moving forward and progressing towards a better future.

Ms Ng Wei Wei

Chief Executive Officer
UOB Malaysia





2022 UOB Painting of the Year

MALAYSIA

Established Artist Category

Best of 2022 UOB Painting of the Year



2022 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) Award Winner
Established Artist Category

MALAYSIA

Artist: Seah Ze Lin

Title: 地皮 – *Skin of Land*

Medium: Burnt and washed topography maps
on wool felt and synthetic fiber

Size (cm): 135 x 102

The term *地皮 – Skin of Land*, is often used in Chinese to describe a commercially valuable site. Here, the artist extended it to refer to the exhausted natural resources in a form of a map, shaped as an animal hunted and killed for its skin.

Many things that are not visible to the naked eye, such as contour lines, varying symbols and colours mark the map. These artificial symbols shape the framework of human society. The artist admires the way topography is recorded but also laments the change in the landscape due to human development.

The final product is a 'skin' that has undergone cutting, burning and washing, with all the identifiable words burnt; symboling that there is no distinction between human dwellings and nature. The only thing that is clear is the endless burnt holes that appear like city lights or dapples of a beast. The gap in the middle is a primeval forest behind the artist's house that will soon make way for development. The artist isolated the 'animal skin' like an island with a mix of animal hair and synthetic fibre as boundaries. This work is dedicated to the animals, including humans, who are forced to stray and wander in between.

Mr Seah graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Central England. His works are part of the art collection in Ilham Gallery, Singapore Art Museum, National Art Gallery Malaysia and the University of Central England. He has exhibited internationally, including at The National Art Center in Japan, Saatchi Gallery in United Kingdom, Art Stage Singapore, and Cammin Castle in Germany. Mr Seah had participated in several residency programs including Southeast Asia Exchange Residency, AIR Frankfurt and Residenz Cammin. His awards include The Jury's recommended works at the 14th Japan Media Arts Festival in 2011, The Young Guns Awards Malaysia in 2013, and the Silver award under the Established Artist category for UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia) both in 2016 and 2017.





Gold Award Winner
Established Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Mohd Al Khuzairie Bin Ali
Title: *Prayer Flag: On a Mission of Hope*
Medium: Patchwork, embroidery, acrylic, oil pastel, transfer image and rope on wood frame
Size (cm): 135 x 102

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, a collective despair was felt across the world. In *Prayer Flag: On a Mission of Hope*, the artist creates a collage of small flags that symbolise expressions of hopes, fears, dreams and prayers for a better future as well as the culmination of strength to move forward. The artwork not only represents the spectrum of emotions experienced by people across the world, but also communicates a message of hope and optimism. The artist's choice to use multiple techniques such as patchwork, embroidery, prints, sketches and stencil deepens the intentions and positive message of this artwork.

Mr Khuzairie graduated from University Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam with a Bachelor of Arts in Art and Design (Ceramic). He was one of the winners of the Malaysian Emerging Artist Award (MEAA) in 2009 and his works have been collected by various institutions and private collectors including the National Art Gallery of Malaysia. He has exhibited both locally as well as internationally in South Korea, Japan, Germany and Netherland.





Silver Award Winner
Established Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Nik Ashri Bin Nik Harun
Title: *These Remind Me of Her*
Medium: Acrylic, charcoal,
random objects on canvas
Size (cm): 176 x 174

These Remind Me of Her is a nostalgic recollection of the artist's mother and his childhood. Upon seeing his own children play, the artist recalls his own memories, mostly of his mother tirelessly taking care of him and his brothers as they were growing up. The three-panelled artwork commemorates his mother's strong but ever comforting presence in helping with his growth and learning, as well as their affections for one another. While some memories might have faded over time, the artist's feelings to his mother remain true till this day.

Reluctant to call himself an artist, Mr Nik Ashri is a self-taught talent who mostly shared his work on social media platforms before officially pursuing art in his 30s. He first had a taste of the professional arts scene back in 2006, when he exhibited in the Pameran Seni Lukis Pulau Pinang. However, his love for art had to take a back seat soon after and was put on hold for 12 years before he participated in the 2018 Akademi Seni Budaya dan Warisan Kebangsaan (ASWARA) group exhibition. His passion for art was reignited after winning the Gold award under the Emerging Artist category in the 2021 UOB Painting of the Year (Malaysia).





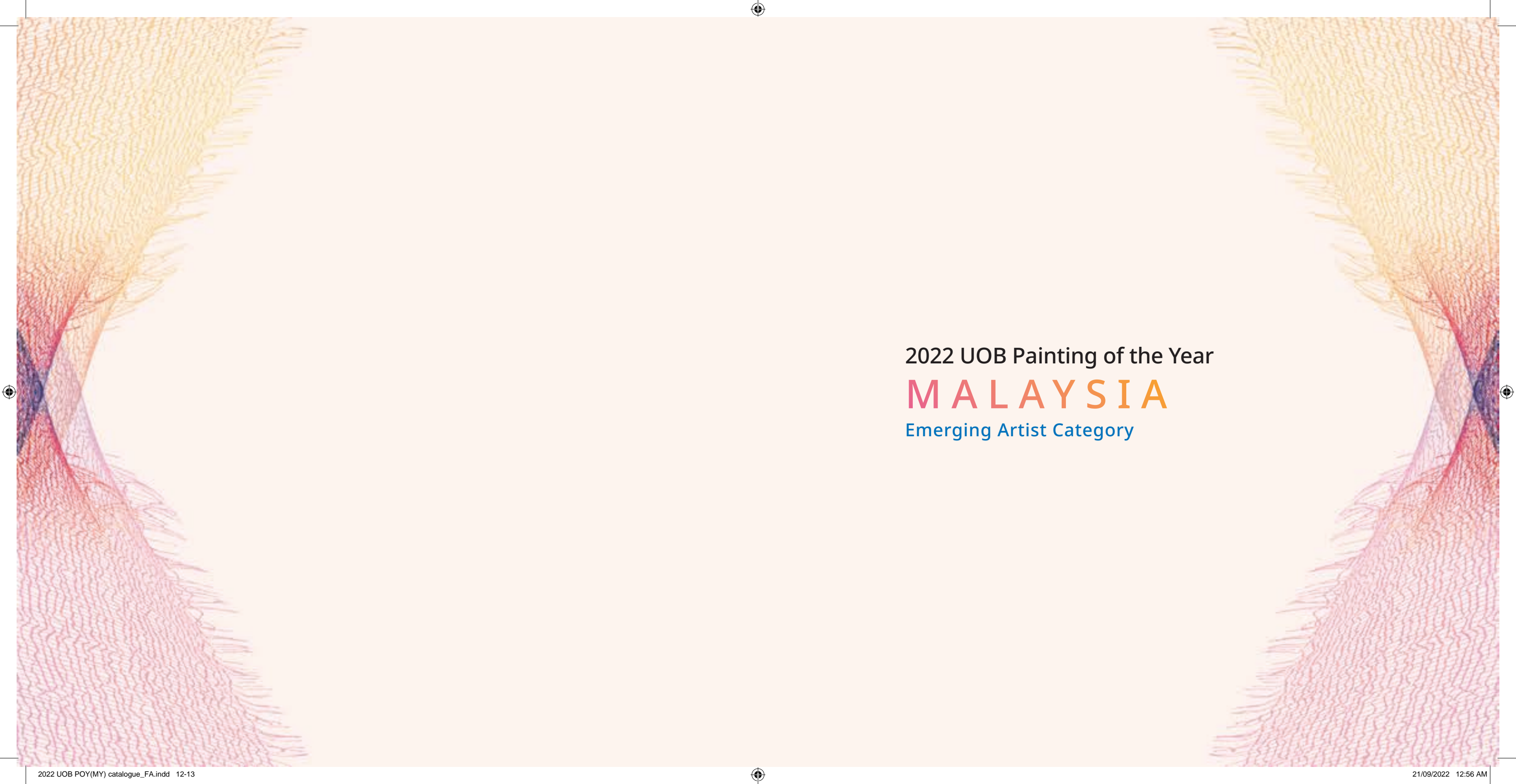
Bronze Award Winner
Established Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Ng Kok Leong
Title: *Dividing Line*
Medium: Mixed media on jute
(acrylic and rubber)
Size (cm): 130 x 162

In *Dividing Line*, the artist expresses the complexities of artificial and natural divisions of land. In this artwork, a land is artificially divided into infinitely small pieces symbolising structures, institutions and mechanisms built up in layers and resulting in an intricately aggregated unnatural landscape. The artist decided to use rubber because it used to be something he played with as a child. Therefore, rubber is a material he is familiar with and is practical due to its high elasticity.

Mr Ng graduated from the Beijing Film Academy in 2001 and kick started his professional career by participating in various art shows since 2015. His first work was featured in the 'Hikmah - 21 Tahun' series at the Pelita Hati Gallery, Kuala Lumpur. He has exhibited his work locally as well as in Taiwan.





2022 UOB Painting of the Year

MALAYSIA

Emerging Artist Category



Most Promising Artist of the Year Award Winner
Emerging Artist Category

MALAYSIA

Artist: Wooi Ki Xiong

Title: *Mandi Bunga*

Medium: Mixed media on canvas (acrylic, structuring paste, aluminium foil, blue malachite and amethyst)

Size (cm): 110 x 170

Mandi Bunga (flower bath) is inspired by the flower bath cleansing ritual practised across South East Asian countries to 'buang suay' (purify oneself from negative vibrations and bad energy). The artwork represents the artist's innocent wish for the nation to prosper once again, after enduring a turbulent time during the pandemic. The textured paint portrays the ingredients commonly used in the cleansing ritual such as ylang-ylang, white and yellow jasmine, red rose and kaffir lime. The artwork is predominantly white, which symbolises purification while the black peels signify layers of impurities.

Mr Wooi is an aspiring self-taught artist. A visit to an art exhibition 4 years ago reignited Mr Wooi's childhood passion for art. Since then, he has been taking various art lessons to hone his skills. The loss of two of his close friends during the pandemic due to cancer and COVID-19 made him realise that time is of the essence, and he should pursue what his heart calls for before it is too late. Since then, he set up his own basic studio in 2022 while juggling his day job. Mr Wooi graduated with a Bachelor of Business from the Auckland University of Technology.



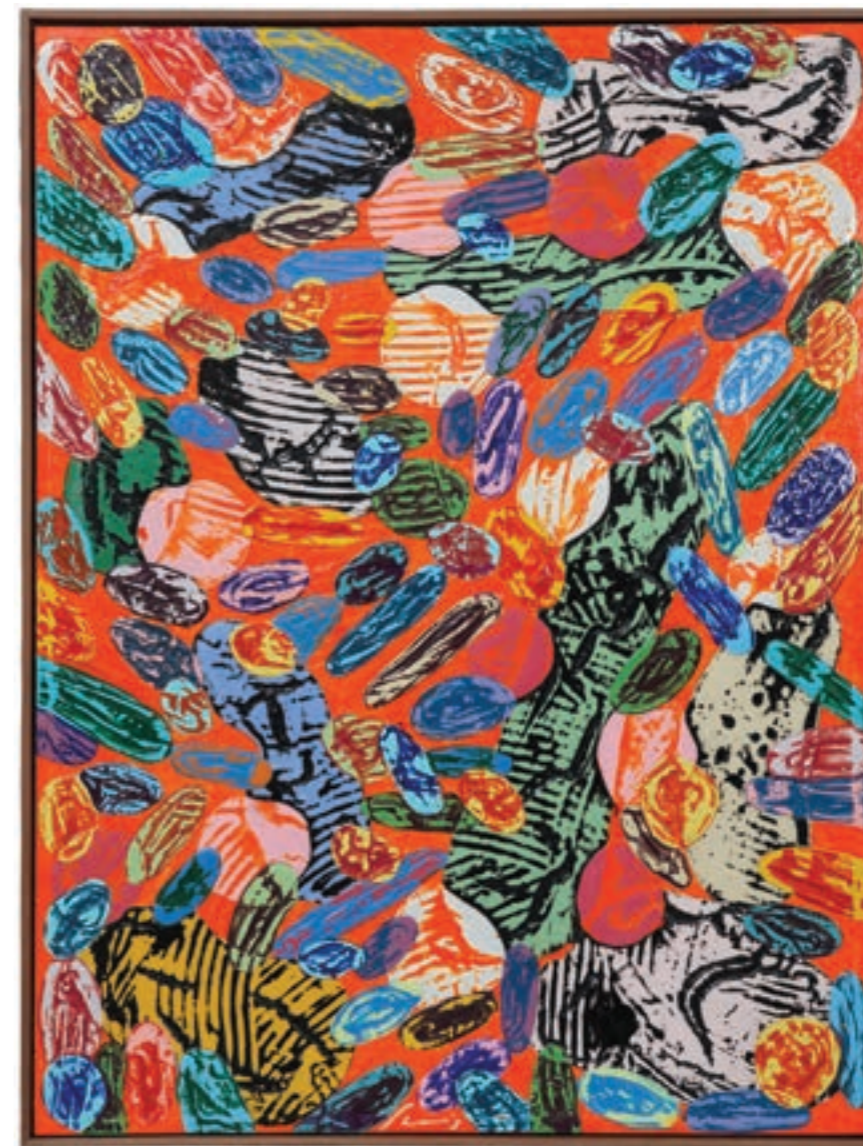


Gold Award Winner
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Mohd Faris Ridzwan Bin Che Abdul Malek
Title: *Sun-Blinded-Monkey's Footprint I*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas
Size (cm): 112 x 91

Imagining himself like a sponge, the artist draws inspiration from life experiences and introspections. *Sun-Blinded-Monkey's Footprint I* was influenced by the Quranic verse in Surah Al-Alaq verses 1 and 2 which narrate the beginning of human creation from a clot of blood; which inspired the artist to incorporate blood-cell like manifestations as his subject matter. The artwork also signifies the birth of something new and the occurrence of opportunities that allows progress.

Mr Faris Ridzwan graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts from Universiti Teknologi MARA, Seri Iskandar. His works are the embodiment of his collective experiences and how he makes sense of beauty, transformation, and enlightenment that is inspired by diagrammatic elements and subconscious patterns.





Silver Award Winner
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Yong Hong Wooi
Title: *Unexpected*
Medium: Mixed media on wood
(plastic sack, charcoal, acrylic)
Size (cm): 57 x 75

Unexpected was inspired by the current economic situation; reflecting the financial pressures faced by a family's breadwinner. The artist incorporates elements of the local currency (Ringgit Malaysia), calendars, charts, charcoals and his father's photo to symbolise the heaviness and chaotic nature of the situation amidst uncertainty.

Mr Yong believes that it is an achievement to be able to put a vision into a painting. He won the third prize at the 2014 Troyes-France International Plastic Art Competition. He was also selected as the winner of Jury's Choice Awards in Spotlight, a youth art competition by the Penang Art District in 2020, and subsequently won a consolation prize in the same competition in 2021.



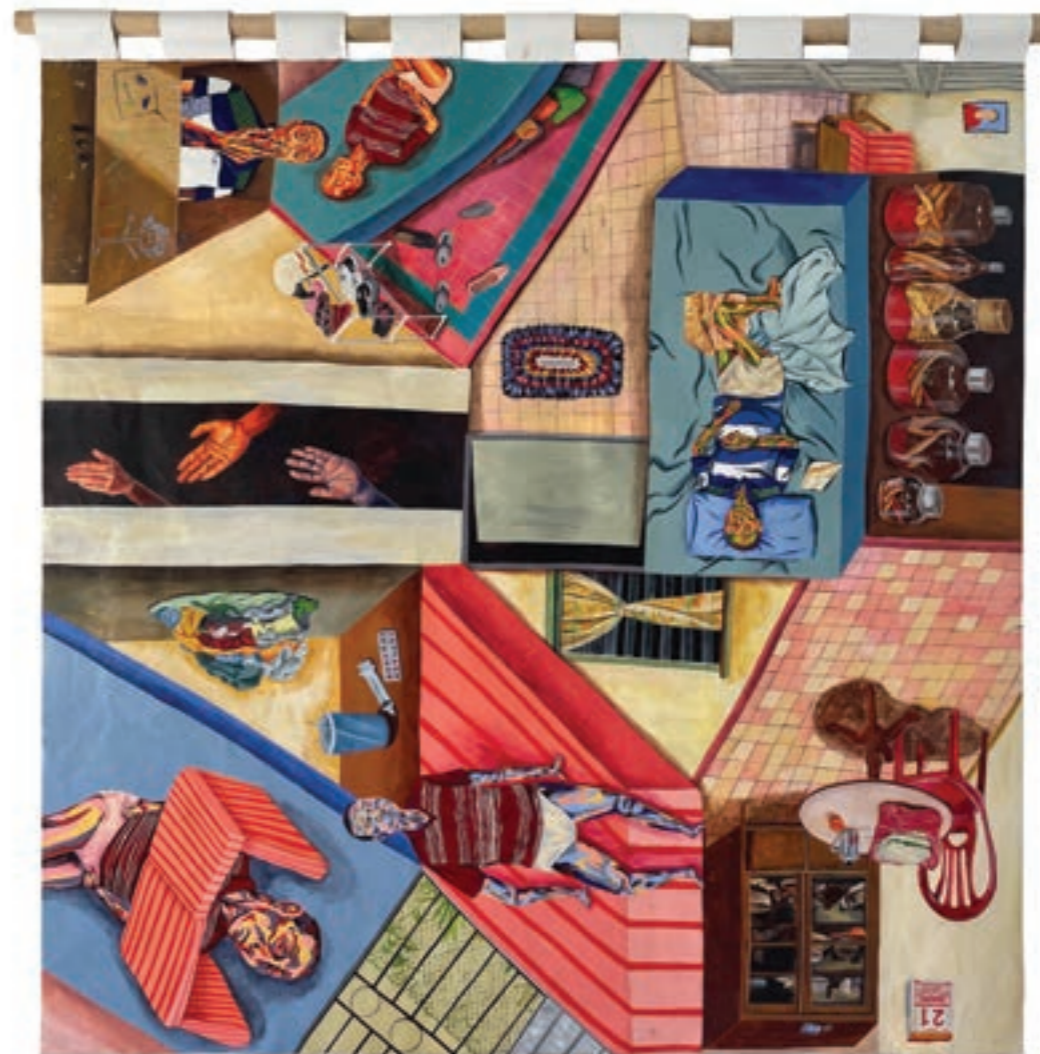


Bronze Award Winner
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Ong Pei Yee
Title: *Wai Gong*
Medium: Acrylic on canvas and wood stick
Size (cm): 150 x 150

In *Wai Gong (Maternal Grandfather)*, the artist expresses her experience of witnessing and caring for her grandfather who suffers from Alzheimer's disease. The artist witnessed her grandfather deteriorate from the beginning of the disease until recently, when he no longer remembers anything. The artist finds solace in this dire situation, and the artwork intends to showcase highlights of her memories with her grandfather. The curtain-like patterns are not only representations of the barriers between her grandfather and his ability to live a normal life, but they also symbolise the family's sense of protectiveness towards him. The colourful rendering is intended to put these difficulties in a more hopeful and cheery perspective with the hopes of providing her grandfather some happiness.

Ms Ong is currently studying Fine Arts at Universiti Sains Malaysia. She is based in Selangor and commonly practises on figures and texture with acrylic and oil paint as a medium.





Highly Commended Award Winner
Emerging Artist Category
MALAYSIA

Artist: Abdul Rashid Bin Mohd Noor
Title: *Commitment*
Medium: Paper on plywood board
Size (cm): 171.5 x 126.5

Influenced by the versatility of paper as a material, *Commitment* is the artist's exploration on the wide range of paper's characteristics, usability and textures. The artist is influenced by paper's materiality and the artwork includes the artist's work in progress materials to convey that the process is just as important as the final outcome.

After graduating with a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Mr Abdul Rashid decided to pursue Fine Arts at Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam in 2019 and majored in painting with the intention to improve his painting and critical thinking skills.



2022 UOB Painting of the Year
Panel of Judges

Bibi Chew

Art Advisor, Artist and Academician

Choy Chun Wei

Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist

Ahmad Fuad Osman

Leading Malaysian Contemporary Artist