

## News Release

### **Enhanced 2024 UOB Art in Ink Awards (Mainland China) awarded two Most Promising Talents of the Year**

Finalists' and winners' artworks to be exhibited at the FutureLab and UOB Art Gallery in Shanghai

**Shanghai, 1 November 2024** – UOB China announced the winners of 2024 UOB Art in Ink Awards (Mainland China) today at the Art and Design Education FutureLab (FutureLab). The UOB Most Promising Talent of the Year Award was awarded to two artists, Ms Chu Jia and Mr Xia Kaixi, who both stood out for their innovative use of the ink art medium. Ms Liu Yi was honoured with the UOB Emerging Artist of the Year for her unique creative style.

As UOB's flagship art programme in Greater China, this year's Awards has been enhanced in Mainland China, by introducing a new Emerging Artists Category and broadening the artwork mediums accepted. This move aims to further spark inspiration and vitality of creation while unearthing more talents in Chinese ink art.

Mrs Christine Ip, CEO of Greater China and Head of Group Strategic Communications and Brand, UOB said, "This year's upgraded Awards is timely as we celebrate UOB China's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and I am excited to see more outstanding, promising and creative young artists being recognised for their talents. As a leading patron of the arts in Asia, UOB is devoted to paving the way for more artistic talents, advancing the growth and appreciation of the local art scene. This is also part of our commitment to play an active role in the communities we operate in, anchored by our long-term involvement in art. With heartfelt congratulations to all the finalists and winners, we hope their works will inspire younger generations in their search for new expression in art by combining traditions with modernity."

The judging panel for this year's Awards comprised Professor Zhang Zikang, Gallery Manager, Curator, Artist and PhD advisor; Mr Chen Tong, Teacher, Artist, Publisher and Critic; Mr Qiu Anxiong, internationally renowned contemporary artist; Ms Wu Wei, Publisher, critic and curator; and Mr Lorenz Helbling, Founder of ShanghART Gallery, who was also the key advisor for the Awards. FutureLab remains as UOB's strategic partner for the Awards, offering

professional support in preparation of competition, collection of artworks, judging, exhibitions and more.

### **Campus Talent Category**

Under the Campus Talent Category, submissions from across China and foreign countries and regions underwent a five-month process of artwork collection, public voting, and professional judging. Among all the artworks received, five students were honoured with this year's Awards. Ms Chu Jia, a graduate student from the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Mr Xia Kaixi, a graduate student from Guangzhou University, won the UOB Most Promising Talent of the Year Award for their understandings of ink art and innovative methods of expression. *(For a complete list of winning artists, please see the appendix).*

Ms Chu Jia's triptych painting "*Candana sea – Unsurpassed Tranquility*" features the magnificent scenery of the Feilai Peak Grottoes opposite to Lingyin Temple in Hangzhou. The unique rock formations and trees around Feilai Peak, along with the ladies from various dynasties in the landscape convey a peaceful and serene mood. The artwork's composition demonstrates the artist's understanding of traditional culture and her re-creation of natural scenes.

Mr Xia Kaixi's mixed-media work "*Talk in One's Sleep*" boldly combines traditional and modern materials. Taking the two paintings by the renowned Chinese landscape painter Fan Kuan as the theme, he adopts cement as the main medium of expression and reproduces the ancient paintings through the technique of chiseling. The work produces a unique expressive power and tension in the contemporary context while expressing his thoughts and reflections about contemporary society.

### **Emerging Artist Category**

Finalists in the Emerging Artist category were nominated by the judging panel. Ms Liu Yi was highly regarded by the judging panel and honoured with the UOB Emerging Artist of the Year for the profound artistic connotation and innovative expression of her multimedia work "*The*



*Earthly Men*". The artwork is inspired by the Tanka people in southern China, a unique community of fishermen dwelling on the boat. As they had been living on the bottom-edge of society throughout history, wandering is not only a choice of life, but also a reflection of their minds. With this artwork, the artist contemplates on marginalised groups in modern cities, calling attention to the challenges of cultural and social integration arising from urbanisation and migration.

Judge Ms Wu Wei said, "Ms Liu Yi's artwork skillfully integrates traditional ink painting techniques with contemporary art concepts. By extensively exploring diverse media materials and modern art language, she strengthens her work with a rich sense of depth and expressiveness. This shows her delicate emotions and deep insights into contemporary life."

From 1 November 2024, *A New Real of the Ink Art*, the 2024 UOB Art in Ink Awards finalists' artwork exhibition will be open to the public at UOB Art Space at FutureLab, followed by the UOB Art Gallery. In addition to the exhibition, the finalists stand a chance to exhibit their artworks at partner galleries/premises and events across Asia. The winners will also have opportunities to attend art residency programmes, be commissioned for art projects, and get coaching from art experts. Ms Liu Yi will receive a sponsorship to hold a solo exhibition at UOB Art Gallery in 2025.

### ***A New Real of the Ink Art* - the 2024 UOB Art in Ink Awards finalists' artwork exhibition**

Venue: The 5<sup>th</sup> Art and Design Education FutureLab, Pavilion N, West Bund Art Center

Date: 1 November – 10 November 2024

Venue: UOB Art Gallery, Shanghai

Date: 18 November 2024 – 17 January 2025

The public can scan the QR code below or search for the "UOBandArt" WeChat mini programme for more information about the exhibition. Entry is free.





- Ends -

## Appendix 2024 UOB Art in Ink Awards (Mainland China) Winners

Campus Talent Category		
The Most Promising Talent of the Year	Ms Chu Jia	<i>Candana Sea – Unsurpassed Tranquility</i>
The Most Promising Talent of the Year	Mr Xia Kaixi	<i>Talk In One's Sleep</i>
Gold	Mr Huang Kehan	<i>The Overlap of the Art Garden</i>
Silver	Mr Chen Wei	<i>Thundering Dragon</i>
Bronze	Mr Liu Junliang	<i>There is no Weather Forecast and the Signature has no Edges or Corners</i>
Emerging Artist Category		
Emerging Artist of the Year	Ms Liu Yi	<i>The Earthly Men</i>



## About UOB and Art

UOB's involvement in art started in the 1970s with its collection of paintings by Singapore artists. Today, the UOB Art Collection has more than 2,600 artworks, made up primarily of paintings from established and emerging Southeast Asian artists.

UOB plays an active role in communities across the region, most notably through its long-term commitment to art. As the leading patron of the arts in Asia, the Bank continues to make art accessible to a wider audience through a diverse range of visual art programmes, partnerships and community outreach across the region.

The UOB Painting of the Year is UOB's flagship visual art programme that aims to uncover and nurture local artistic talent. Launched in 1982 in Singapore, the programme has been held in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, and Vietnam. This annual art competition is the longest-running in Singapore and one of the most recognised in Southeast Asia. UOB also collaborates with the winning artists to organise art workshops that enable children from underprivileged backgrounds or with special needs to learn painting knowledge and skills.

Building upon the solid foundation of UOB Group's corporate social responsibility, the UOB Art Academy was established in 2015 in Hong Kong with the aim to make art more accessible, to nurture local artistic talents and to rejuvenate cultural heritage through art outreach programmes, annual art competition and various art collaborations.

In November 2018, UOB launched the purpose-built UOB Art Gallery at UOB Plaza Shanghai. The Gallery is the first dedicated space established by a foreign bank in China to connect with the local community through art. Apart from exhibitions, UOB also hosts cross-cultural dialogues and artist residency with regional award winning artists.

## About UOB China

United Overseas Bank (China) Limited (UOB China) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of United Overseas Bank Limited (UOB). Headquartered in Shanghai, UOB China was incorporated in the People's Republic of China on 18 December 2007. UOB China is rated 'A+' by Fitch Ratings and rated AAA by China Chengxin International Credit Rating.

UOB China has adopted a customer-centric approach to create long-term value by staying relevant through its enterprising spirit and doing right by its customers. Then Bank is focused on building the future of ASEAN – for the people and businesses within, and connecting with ASEAN.

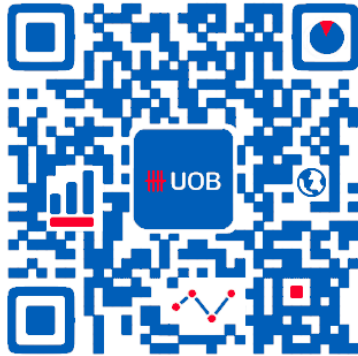
UOB China connects businesses to opportunities in the region tapping UOB Group's unparalleled regional footprint and leverages data and insights to innovate and create personalised banking experiences and solutions catering to affluent customers' unique needs and evolving preferences. UOB China is also committed to help businesses forge a sustainable future, by fostering social inclusiveness, creating positive environmental impact and pursuing economic progress. UOB China believes in being a responsible financial services provider and is steadfast in its support of art, social development of children and education, doing right by its communities and stakeholders.





For more information about UOB China, please visit

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