



## News Release

6 September 2016

### **6<sup>TH</sup> CDL SINGAPORE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD ADDS FRESH ANGLE WITH NEW 'ON THE MOVE' CATEGORY**

- *New category taps on the rising popularity of mobile photography*
- *Minister for Social and Family Development Mr Tan Chuan-Jin opens exhibition of winning works at the National Museum of Singapore*
- *Winner of Youth category impressed judges with his photo featuring soon-to-be demolished Rochor Centre*
- *22-year-old National Serviceman clinches third consecutive win in the Architecture category*
- *Singapore's photo community pays tribute to the late Mr Kwek Leng Joo, the initiator of the Award*

Winners of the 6<sup>th</sup> City Developments Limited (CDL) Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA) were unveiled today at a prize presentation ceremony held at the National Museum of Singapore. Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development and an avid photographer, presented prizes to the 15 young, budding shutterbugs, with a new 'On the Move' category as the latest addition to the biennial photography competition. This new category taps on the rising popularity of mobile photography, and encourages more youths to unleash their creativity while capturing precious moments on the go.

The CDL SYPA aims to discover and nurture local photographic talents between the ages of 13 and 25. Since its inception in 2006, the nationwide competition has grown in both scale and stature reaching over 7,000 youth photographers. In all, close to 1,600 entries were received from schools, youth organisations and photo clubs this year; representing a four-fold increase in participation rate since the competition started.

Beyond a builder of living spaces, CDL firmly believes in being a developer of lives and communities. Initiated by its late Deputy Chairman, Mr Kwek Leng Joo, the CDL SYPA is part of its long-standing commitment to supporting Singapore's arts and youth development. This signature CDL initiative contributes towards enriching Singapore's cultural landscape and has continued to receive strong participation. This shows that photography as an art form is gaining a significant presence in Singapore, especially amongst the youth.

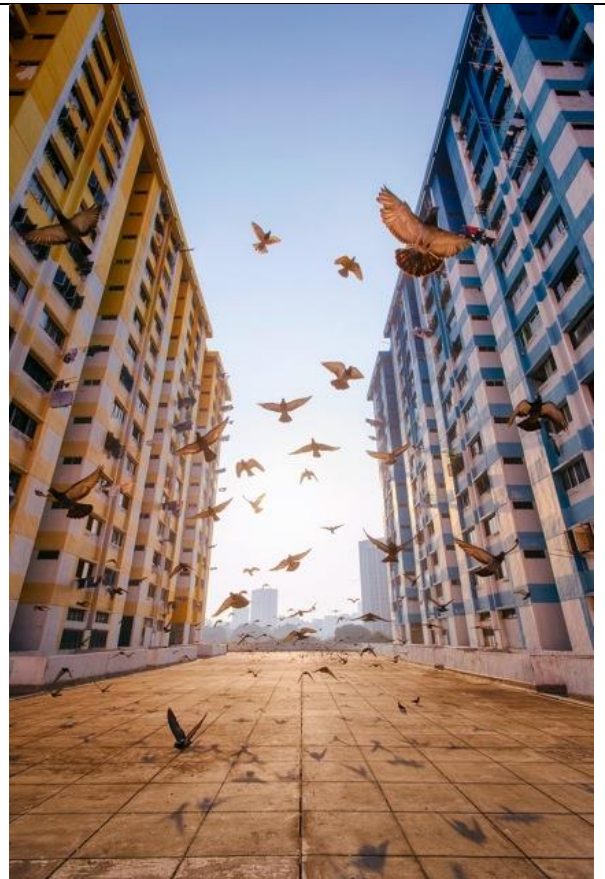
Mr Tan Chuan-Jin, Minister for Social and Family Development said, “Being a photographer, I am especially heartened to see platforms like SYPA empower our youths to further develop their talent and capabilities. We need more of such initiatives to encourage our youths to showcase their works and pursue their interests with passion.”

### **Winning Works**

A 17-member judging panel, comprising industry professionals and esteemed photographers, reviewed nearly 10,000 images and were unanimously impressed by the higher standard and quality of winning works, as well as the high level of technical competence.

#### **‘Youth’ category**

Cited as the most coveted category of the CDL SYPA, the ‘Youth’ category saw 26-year-old Jonathan Chiang Shun Jie emerge as the top winner. His work ‘Flight of Fancy’ showing a flock of pigeons taking off at the soon-to-be demolished Rochor Centre wowed the judges, alongside his signature shots of urban living in densely populated Hong Kong and Singapore. The winning shot of the pigeons was the result of hours of waiting to capture the perfect moment. Jonathan started his photography journey eight years ago in Junior College and took part in the nation’s largest youth arts platform Noise Singapore in 2013.



*‘Flight of Fancy’: This perfectly-timed shot captures a flock of pigeons taking off against the sunrise at the soon-to-be demolished Rochor Centre.*

**‘Junior’ category**

19-year-old Ching Ann Hui beat over 720 participants to emerge winner of the ‘Junior’ category. Her winning submission spoke the narrative of a thousand words in a single shot. The aspiring oncologist will continue to pursue photography – a passion she picked up at age nine when first taught how to use the camera. The budding photographer had also won a Junior Bronze Prize in the Royal Commonwealth Society photography competition in Secondary School.



*A poignant portrait capturing an intimate moment of the photographer’s father feeding her grandfather a month before he passed away.*

**‘Architecture’ category**

Koh Chaik Hong, a 22-year-old National Serviceman and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts photography graduate, emerged victorious as the consecutive third-time winner of the ‘Architecture’ category. He won the judges over with his rendition of the South Beach mixed-use development, owned by CDL and IOI Properties Group Berhad, juxtaposed against a cloudless sky. Presented in monochrome, the photos were taken during his “book out” time. The judges agreed that Chaik Hong’s talent in architectural photography is accentuated by his unique eye for composition, as well as his clever play of light and shadows.



*The photographer’s rendition of South Beach showed his talent in architectural photography, accentuated by his unique eye for composition, as well as clever play of light and shadows.*

**‘Themed Body of Work’ category**

This year’s top prize of the ‘Themed Body of Work’ category went to Lyn Low Yu Neng, a 24-year-old graduate in Fine Arts (Photography and Digital Imaging) from the Nanyang Technological University School of Art, Design and Media, and first-time participant of the CDL SYPA. Her winning works cast fresh perspectives on the everyday and show great depth of introspection. Having only started pursuing photography in university, she is already one of two recipients of the Kwek Leng Joo Prize of Excellence in Still Photography 2015 and had her works exhibited at the ‘Mountain and Expanse’ Winners Showcase at DECK, an independent, revolutionary local arts community space at Prinsep Street.



*Part of the series themed “The Quiet Voice, Inside” which illustrates the photographer’s abstract feelings and thoughts about the human condition, this photo shows a dying insect on a window ledge, left for the wind to blow it away.*

**‘On the Move’ category**

The winner of the new ‘On the Move’ category is 25-year-old freelance communication designer Clement Cher Jia Long. Also a first-time participant of the CDL SYPA, the Glasgow School of Art graduate impressed the judges with images taken using his mobile phone, that explore the concepts of nature intertwined with the human, and the boundlessness and wide expanse of mother nature.



*‘Boundless’: Captured through the photographer’s mobile phone, this photo taken at Uluwatu, Bali, portrays the boundlessness and wide expanse of mother nature.*

**Uncovering Young Photographic Talents**

SYPA nurtures young local talents and serves as a springboard for them to become career photographers. Some past CDL SYPA winners have even returned as judges. For example, Mr Raymond Phang, a judge for the ‘On the Move’ category and merit winner of the ‘Youth’ category in 2008, went on to win the top spot in the ‘Contemporary Wedding’ category at the Master Photography Awards in 2011, and is now a wedding photographer. Mr Hong Huazheng, a judge for the ‘Junior’ category and winner in the ‘Youth’ category in 2010, was conferred the Arts Supporter Award by the National Arts Council in 2014, and now runs his own thriving photography company. Mr Jonathan Yeap, also a judge for the ‘Junior’ category and merit winner of the ‘Youth’ category in 2006, is currently an award-winning photojournalist at Singapore Press Holdings.

## **Long-standing Partner**

The National Museum of Singapore has been a long-standing partner of the Award since 2008 and will once again lend itself as the exhibition venue for the winning works from 7 to 30 September 2016. The exhibition will also feature photo works by the SYPA panel of judges as well as pay tribute to the late Mr Kwek Leng Joo, whose generosity of spirit, legacy and lifetime commitment has helped to raise Singapore's standard of photographic arts and maximise the potential of young talents.

Please refer to the ANNEX for:

- Prizes
- List of Winners and Judges
- About SYPA: Objectives, Eligibility, History and Development
- About Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Initiator of SYPA

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## ANNEX

| <b>Award Category</b>  | <b>Prizes</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Youth</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Winner</li> <li>• Merit Winner (2 Prizes)</li> </ul>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$5,000</li> <li>• \$1,000</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Junior</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Winner</li> <li>• Merit Winner (2 Prizes)</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,000</li> <li>• \$1,000</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Architecture</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Winner</li> <li>• Merit Winner (2 Prizes)</li> </ul>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$3,000</li> <li>• \$1,000</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Themed Body of Work</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Winner</li> <li>• Merit Winner (2 Prizes)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nikon D7200 (AF-S 18-140mm VR DX Lens) Kit and Speedlight SB-700</li> <li>• Nikon D5500 (AF-S 18-55mm VR II DX Lens) Kit</li> </ul> |
| <b>On the Move</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Top Winner</li> <li>• Merit Winner (2 Prizes)</li> </ul>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iPhone 6s 64GB</li> <li>• \$500</li> </ul>  |

| <b>Winners</b>   | <b>Judges</b>  |
|--|--|
| <b>Youth Category</b>  |  |
| <u>Top Winner</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jonathan Chiang Shun Jie</b> 张舜杰<br/>25, Software Engineer</li> </ul> <u>Merit Winners</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Darren Ng Wei Hong</b> 黄伟宏<br/>25, Student,<br/>Singapore University of Technology<br/>and Design</li> <li>• <b>David Goh Zhao Xian</b> 吴兆贤<br/>23, Photographer</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Choo<br/>Multidisciplinary Fine Artist</li> <li>• Chow Chee Yong<br/>Consultant and Senior Lecturer,<br/>Temasek Polytechnic,<br/>School of Design</li> <li>• John Clang<br/>Photographer,<br/>Clang Photography</li> <li>• Lee Tiah Khee<br/>Chief Photographer,<br/>Lianhe Zaobao</li> <li>• Wang Hui Fen<br/>Deputy Photo Editor,<br/>The Straits Times</li> </ul> |

### Junior Category

#### Top Winner

- **Ching Ann Hui** 庄英汇  
18, Student,  
National University of Singapore

#### Merit Winners

- **Marcus Ng Wen Jie** 黄文杰  
18, Student,  
River Valley High School
- **Ava Kong Jia Ying** 江佳颖  
13, Student,  
Singapore Chinese Girls' School

- Ho Hui May  
Photographer and Lecturer,  
Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts,  
Department of Design and Media
- Hong Huazheng  
Artist/ Photographer
- Jonathan Yeap  
Photojournalist,  
Lianhe Zaobao

### Architecture Category

#### Top Winner

- **Koh Chaik Hong** 许泽弘  
21, National Serviceman

#### Merit Winners

- **Ahmad Faruq bin Rozali**  
23, Student,  
Temasek Polytechnic
- **Tan Ding Wei** 陈定纬  
20, Student,  
Temasek Polytechnic

- Bryan van der Beek  
Principal Photographer and Founder,  
BryanV Photography
- Rory Daniel  
Commercial Architectural Photographer
- Darren Soh  
Photographer,  
Full Frame Photos

### Themed Body of Work Category

#### Top Winner

- **Lyn Low Yu Neng** 盧裕能  
24, Avian Keeper

#### Merit Winners

- **Sara Ho Shi Ning** 何诗宁  
24, Student,  
Nanyang Technological University
- **Chen Hui Yi** 曾惠憶  
21, Student,  
Nanyang Technological University

- Edwin Koo  
Documentary Photographer
- Bob Lee  
Photographer and Lecturer
- Robert Zhao Renhui  
Artist,  
The Institute of Critical Zoologists

| <b>On the Move Category</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><u>Top Winner</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Clement Cher Jia Long</b> 徐嘉隆<br/>24, Freelance Communication Designer</li> </ul> <p><u>Merit Winners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jedidiah Lim Kang En</b> 林慷恩<br/>21, National Serviceman</li> <li>• <b>Tan Yan Zhi</b> 陈彦志<br/>20, National Serviceman</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hu Qiren<br/>Artist</li> <li>• Raymond Phang<br/>Wedding Photographer,<br/>Raymond Phang Photography</li> <li>• Triston Yeo<br/>Fine Art Travel Photographer</li> </ul> |
| <b>Technical Advisory Panel</b>   |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chow Chee Yong<br/>Consultant and Senior Lecturer, Temasek Polytechnic, School of Design</li> <li>• Gwen Lee<br/>Artistic Director and Co-founder, Singapore International Photography Festival and DECK</li> <li>• Desmond Yong<br/>Avid photographer and Special Assistant at the Singapore Management University, Institute of Southeast Asian Studies and S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies</li> </ul> |  |

### **About SYPA: Objectives, Eligibility, History and Development**

Initiated by the late Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Deputy Chairman of CDL, SYPA is an extension of the photo tribute *To Singapore with Love* that celebrated Singapore's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2005. SYPA was first launched in 2006 as a nationwide photography competition with the support of the local photographic community, Singapore Art Museum, and the National Youth Achievement Award. Its target audience is youths between 13 and 25 years of age. This biennial Award is now into its sixth year and is a highly-regarded competition amongst the photography community and youths.

#### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the Award are to:

- Recognise young photography talents and nurture their passion for the art form.
- Promote photography as a healthy hobby amongst the young.
- Enrich Singapore's art scene with fresh, young, creative talents.

SYPA also reinforces CDL's long-standing commitment in supporting the development of arts and youth in Singapore.



## **Eligibility**

1. The 'Youth' category is open to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 19 and 25 years old (as at 2 May 2016).
2. The 'Junior' category is open to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 13 and 18 years old (as at 2 May 2016).
3. The 'Architecture', 'Themed Body of Work' and 'On the Move' categories are open to Singapore Citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 13 and 25 years old (as at 2 May 2016).

## **History and Development**

The first five editions of SYPA were held in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 respectively. The competition yielded many memorable pieces of photography, as well as unveiled numerous young talents.

This year's SYPA has five categories: Youth, Junior, Architecture, Themed Body of Work and On the Move.

Since its inception, SYPA has blossomed both in scale and stature. From receiving just 400 entries in 2006, the number of submissions has jumped four-fold, hitting close to 1,600 in 2016.

Apart from attractive prizes totaling over \$22,000, winners will be invited to photography enrichment courses and activities.

## **About Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Initiator of SYPA**

The late Deputy Chairman of CDL, Mr Kwek Leng Joo, has been described as a philanthropist, environmentalist, and above all, a humanist.

Despite his many responsibilities, Mr Kwek continued to pursue his passion for photography relentlessly. While nature was a subject close to his heart, his range was versatile, covering architecture, people and street scenes. Over the years, he held a number of solo and group exhibitions including *Tracking Memories* (2011) and *Flora Exotica* (2012). He also authored a series of three photo art books, entitled *Heart Voyage*, featuring his works since 2004.

As an extension of well wishes to the Singapore Botanic Gardens (SBG) in its bid to become Singapore's first UNESCO World Heritage Site, Mr Kwek held an exhibition titled *Heritage in Green* showcasing the Gardens' beauty and heritage at SBG in November 2013, followed by a roving exhibition to promote community outreach of this national bid in 2014. This collection of photographs was published in a photo book titled *Embrace* following the Gardens' successful inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2015.

An advocate of social responsibility, Mr Kwek put his passion for photography to good use. He was patron and advisor to several major photo clubs and programmes in Singapore, and raised over S\$3 million through sales of his photo works and art books for various charitable and environmental causes over the years. He also firmly believed in the importance of preserving culture and heritage. His photographic skills were put to the test in promoting

such causes and this was evident in his exhibitions *Timeless Jiangnan* (2002) and *Tracking Memories* (2011).

In his last photo project, *Soul & Sensibilities*, he partnered master painter Lin Lu Zai and created a new art form combining photographic art with Chinese painting and calligraphy. The exhibition was held in October 2015 at the National Museum of Singapore. The sale of selected works and the commemorative art books raised \$550,000 for the President's Challenge 2015.

Committed to elevating the standards of photography in Singapore, Mr Kwek initiated the CDL SYPA in 2006, a biennial national competition which aims to promote photography and unearth young talents. In addition, his personal contribution, namely the *Kwek Leng Joo Prize for Excellence in Still Photography* established for the School of Art, Design and Media students of Nanyang Technological University, has provided both moral and financial support to deserving recipients since 2010. His efforts led to the discovery of a new generation of photographers who have since gone on to win numerous photography awards.

Mr Kwek was a strong supporter of the Singapore International Photography Festival since its inception in 2008, and contributed not only financial resources but also his time and expertise. His support was also integral to the construction of DECK, an independent, revolutionary arts space for the local community built with refurbished shipping containers.

Mr Kwek hoped that these initiatives would raise Singapore's standard of photography and put our nation on the world map of visual arts in the near future. He believed that given opportunities and proper grooming, many young talents would be able to maximise their potential and do well in their areas of interest, be it the arts, environmental conservation or community work.