



NEWS RELEASE

13 August 2014

BUDDING TALENTS UNVEILED AT THE 5TH CDL SINGAPORE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD

- **Female photographers win 3 out of top 4 Awards**
- **Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, Lawrence Wong, to open Exhibition of winning works at National Museum**
- **19-year-old student clinches second consecutive win in the Architecture category**

Winners of the 5th 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 Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Second Minister for Ministry of Communications and Information, presented prizes to the 12 young, budding shutterbugs of the biennial photography competition.

The CDL SYPA is a nationwide photography competition that aims to discover and nurture local photographic talents between the ages of 13 and 25. Since its inception in 2006, the CDL SYPA has grown in both scale and stature. In all, over 1,500 entries were received from schools, youth organisations and photo clubs this year; representing a three-fold increase in participation rate since the competition started. Submissions from students between the ages of 13 and 18 increased significantly as well. In addition, for the first time in the competition's history, the number of female winners clinching top honours in the four categories outnumbered their male counterparts.

A nine-member judging panel, comprising industry professionals and esteemed photographers, reviewed nearly 10,000 images and were unanimously impressed by the overall sophistication and creativity displayed in the submitted works.

Mr Kwek Leng Joo, CDL Deputy Chairman shared, "Since its inception in 2006, CDL SYPA has grown by leaps and bounds. I am heartened to see so many young photographic talents with immense potential emerging in each edition of the competition. One interesting trend we have observed in this year's competition is the increase in the number of younger participants taking part, and who have exhibited their artistic flair through the images they captured. These trends show that photography as an art form is gaining a steady and significant presence in Singapore. Together with our partners, we hope to nurture a thriving community of local photographic talents and produce more quality artistic content that Singapore can be proud to call its own."

As part of a growing trend, CDL SYPA also recorded a shift in what used to be considered a male-dominated field, as female participants clinched three of the four top category awards this year.

Vanessa Lorraine Chea Yuen Leng, a 16-year-old Chemical Engineering student from Temasek Polytechnic, emerged victorious in the Junior category. Her winning submission was a mix of abstract, architecture, still life and night scene images, and received praises from the judging panel for its depth in composition. An avid photographer of three years, Vanessa's interest in photography was inspired by her father, who is also a keen photographer.

Twenty-three year-old Charmaine Yap Shu Hui took top honours in the Youth category with her images capturing various subjects such as nature, people at work and architecture. Her passion in photography was first ignited in 2004, but it was only during the Singapore Youth Olympics Games in 2010 that she began taking photos professionally. She picked up new photography skills and discovered her potential after meeting a mentor.

Koh Chaik Hong, a 19-year-old photography student at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, impressed the judges with his rendition of the Republic Plaza building at Raffles Place, and clinched the Young Architectural Photographer Award once again this year, after winning in the same category in 2012. His winning work, presented in monochrome, depicts the CDL-developed landmark building at the heart of Singapore's business district in stately solitude, under the clever interplay of light and shadow. Chaik Hong's talent in architectural photography is proven and he has won further plaudits with his even more impressive and thoughtful pieces this year.

Bernice Wong Shu Fen, 25, won the Themed Body of Work category with "The Last Frontier", a documentary work featuring the to-be-demolished Lim Chu Kang Jetty. Through her anthropology-centric photography essay, Bernice captured the myriad roles that the jetty represents – a sanctuary, a place for socialisation, and a venue for recreation.

The winner of the Youth category will receive prize money of S\$5,000 while winners of the other three categories will each receive S\$3,000. In addition, 8 merit award winners were also recognised and will receive S\$1,000 each.

The National Museum of Singapore has been a firm partner of the Award since 2008 and will once again be supporting this worthy art initiative by offering the museum as the exhibition venue for three weeks from 13 August to 7 September 2014. The exhibition will also feature a line-up of photo works by the SYPA panel of judges: Kwek Leng Joo, Chow Chee Yong, Lee Tiah Khee, John Clang, Darren Soh, Ho Hui May, Bob Lee, Sarah Choo and Robert Zhao.

For more information, please refer to:

Annex 1 – Judging panel

Annex 2 – List of winners

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Annex 1

Judging panel

1. Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Deputy Chairman, City Developments Limited
2. Mr Chow Chee Yong, Consultant & Senior Lecturer, Temasek Polytechnic, School of Design
3. Mr Lee Tiah Khee, Chief Photographer, Lianhe Zaobao
4. Mr John Clang, Photographer, Clang Photography
5. Mr Darren Soh, Photographer, Full Frame Photos
6. Ms Ho Hui May, Photographer; Lecturer, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, Department of Design and Media
7. Mr Bob Lee, Photographer & Lecturer
8. Ms Sarah Choo, Multidisciplinary Fine Artist
9. Mr Robert Zhao Renhui, Artist, The Institute of Critical Zoologists

Annex 2

List of winners

| | Category Top Winner | Category Merit Winners |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| Youth Category | Charmaine Yap Shu Hui 23, Director/ Producer, TriPeakImagery | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Darren Ng Wei Hong 23, Student, Singapore University of Technology and Design• Toh Xing Jie 19, Student, Singapore Polytechnic |
| Junior Category | Vanessa Lorraine Chea Yuen Leng 16, Student, Temasek Polytechnic | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaylor Tan Gao Zhen 18, Student, Pioneer Junior College• Tan Jun Han Ivan 17, Student, Ngee Ann Polytechnic |
| Architecture Category | Koh Chaik Hong 19, Student, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tan Yew Hui 19, Student, ITE College Central• Tang Jun Hao 21, Student, Nanyang Technological University |
| Themed Body of Work Category | Bernice Wong Shu Fen 25, Photographer, Bernice Wong Photography | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sasha Anjuli Kaur Gill 18, Student, The Cheltenham Ladies' College (UK)• Muhammad Noor Iskandar Bin Othman 24, Student, Nanyang Technological University |

Annex 3:

THE 5TH CDL SINGAPORE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD (SYPA) SELECTED WINNER WORKS

SYPA 2014 – Youth Category Winner

Charmaine Yap Shu Hui, 23
Director/ Producer, TriPeaksImagery

SYPA 2014 – Junior Category Winner

Vanessa Lorraine Chea Yuen Leng, 16
Student, Temasek Polytechnic

Young Architectural Photographer Award

Koh Chaik Hong, 19
Student, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts

“Themed Body of Work” Award

Bernice Wong Shu Fen, 25
Photographer, Bernice Wong Photography

YOUTH

Category winner

Name: Charmaine Yap Shu Hui

Age (as at 13 April 2014): 23

Occupation: Director/ Producer, TriPeaksImagery



JUNIOR

Category winner

Name: Vanessa Lorraine Chea Yuen Leng

Age (as at 13 April 2014): 16

Vocation: Student, Temasek Polytechnic



ARCHITECTURE

Category winner

Name: Koh Chaik Hong

Age (as at 13 April 2014): 19

Vocation: Student, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts



THEMED BODY OF WORK

Category winner

Name: Bernice Wong Shu Fen

Theme Title: The Last Frontier

Description: Increasingly devoid of space to call our own, Lim Chu Kang jetty, just across from Malaysia, represents many things to many different people. It is a reprieve from the sterile steel and harsh concrete of the city. A sanctuary to some, a place for socialisation or recreation to others. But even this last frontier, just by the border, is about to be demolished to make way for further developments - one replete with rules and rubric presiding over the place.

Age (as at 13 April 2014): 25

Occupation: Photographer, Bernice Wong Photography



Annex 4 – CDL SYPA fact sheet



ABOUT THE CDL SINGAPORE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD (SYPA)

Initiated by Mr. Kwek Leng Joo, Deputy Chairman of City Developments Limited (CDL), CDL SYPA is an extension of the photo tribute “To Singapore with Love” that celebrated Singapore’s 40th birthday in 2005. CDL 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. The target audience is youths between 13 and 25 years of age. This biennial award is now in its fifth edition 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.
- Raise the standard of photography in Singapore, injecting fresh, young, creative talents.
- Promote photography as a healthy hobby amongst the young.

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

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

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

This year’s CDL SYPA has three categories: the Singapore Young Photographer Award, the Young Architectural Photographer Award and the “Themed Body of Work” Award.

Since its inception, CDL SYPA has blossomed both in scale and stature. From receiving just 400 entries in 2006, the number of submissions has jumped more than three-fold, hitting over 1,500 this year.

ELIGIBILITY

The **CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award** comprises two categories:

(a) **Youth Category**

Open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 19 and 25 years old (as at 13 April 2014).

(b) **Junior Category**

Open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 13 and 18 years old (as at 13 April 2014).

The **Young Architectural Photographer Award** and **Themed Body of Work Award** are open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 13 and 25 years old (as at 13 April 2014).

PRIZES

| | Youth Category | Junior Category |
|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award | | |
| Top Winner | S\$5,000 | S\$3,000 |
| Merit Winner (2 Prizes per Category) | S\$1,000 | S\$1,000 |
| Young Architectural Photographer Award | | |
| Top Winner | S\$3,000 | |
| Merit Winner (2 Prizes) | S\$1,000 | |
| Themed Body of Work Award | | |
| Top Winner | S\$3,000 | |
| Merit Winner (2 Prizes) | S\$1,000 | |

SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS:

1. 2902 Gallery
2. AVS Printing Pte Ltd
3. National Museum of Singapore
4. Pico Art International Pte Ltd
5. Ministry of Education
6. NYAA Young Photographers' Network
7. ClubSNAP

Annex 5 – National Museum of Singapore fact sheet

N M
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National Museum
of Singapore

With a history dating back to its inception in 1887, the National Museum of Singapore is the nation's oldest museum with a progressive mind. It is custodian of ten National Treasures, and its Singapore History and Living Galleries adopt cutting-edge and multi-perspective ways of presenting history and culture to redefine conventional museum experience.

A cultural and architectural landmark in Singapore, the Museum hosts innovative festivals and events all year round – the dynamic Singapore Night Festival, visually arresting art installations, as well as amazing performances and film screenings – in addition to presenting thought-provoking exhibitions involving critically important collections of artefacts. The programming is supported by a wide range of facilities and services including F&B, retail and a Resource Centre.