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Thailand's painting of the year

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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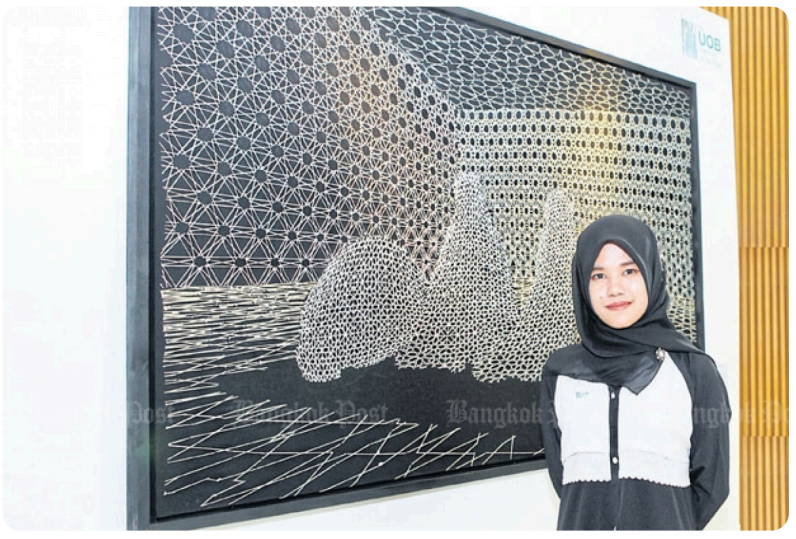

Thidarat Chantachua with her painting Jamaah 2.

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Last week local art and business communities converged at the Bangkok Art and Cultural Centre (BACC). They wanted to see who would win the coveted prizes of the United Overseas Bank of Thailand Painting of the Year Competition.

Thidarat Chantachua said she was speechless after receiving the UOB Painting of the Year Award for her embroidery piece titled Jamaah 2, which shows people praying together in an empty room, rather than a place of worship.

"Praying together as a group is stronger," she said. The 23-year-old student sought to demonstrate that people can unite through spirituality in any [illegible] their differences.

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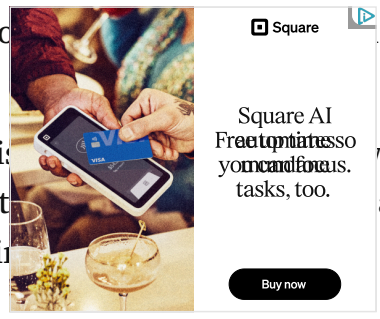
She won 750,000 baht for her submission into the established artist category and will go forth to represent Thailand at the Regional UOB competition to face winners from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore for US$10,000 (354,000 baht). A

Thai artist has yet to [illegible] Painting of the Year Award.

In the emerging artist [illegible]vannarakul received the Most Promising Artist of t[illegible]aht, for her work titled Body and Mind, Change of Mi[illegible]



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Inspired by observations of society, she used paper cuttings and oil painting to portray the medley of vice and virtue that exists within the subconscious of an individual.

The concept behind the art is one of the most crucial aspects of the competition and everything else then follows, said panel judge Amrit Chusuwan, eminent artist and Dean of Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts at Silpakorn University.

Professor Precha Thaothong and Professor Vichoke Mukdamanee, both national artists, were also part of the panel that selected the winners of the gold, silver and bronze monetary prizes in the established and emerging categories, in addition to Thidarat and Napat's pieces.

Initially, the UOB competition began in Singapore in 1982 before expanding to Thailand in 2010 and then Malaysia and Indonesia in 2011.

Submissions from the 20 short-listed Thai competitors [illegible] the BACC until Oct 31.

Napat Kangwannarakul with Body and Mind, Change of Mind.

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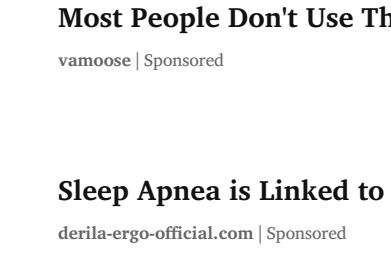

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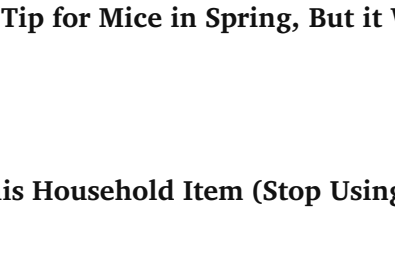

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