



Press Release

31 July 2012

YOUTHS “AIM” FOR GREATER HEIGHTS

- The 4th CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award 2012 Discovers Promising Gems

Winners of the 4th City Developments Limited (CDL) Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA) were unveiled today at a prize presentation ceremony held this evening at the National Museum of Singapore, graced by Guest-of-Honour Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Minister for Information, Communications and the Arts. Mr Andrew Yee, a 23-year-old, third year Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information undergraduate at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), emerged as the overall winner for the Youth Category.

Held biennially since 2006, CDL SYPA - a nationwide photography competition, aims to discover and nurture young photographic talents between 13 and 25 years old. 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 four-fold, hitting 1,643 this year. This is also a 50% increase from the 1,100 entries received in 2010 – a reflection of the rising interest in photography amongst Net Generation that is actively engaged in photo-sharing social media platforms. Moreover, the quality of work received has also improved significantly.

For overall winner Andrew, his winning submission included a mix of landscape and portraiture that were highly commended by the judging panel for its depth in composition and unique evocative style. The self-taught shutterbug picked up photography as a hobby, but later became serious about his craft. To improve, he learnt from photographers whom he admired and traveled widely to explore new shooting opportunities. Finding beauty, especially in nature, people and form are aspects of the art that resonates within every human being. “My photographs seek to pursue and represent the true beauty of life in several ways and I hope that my images can touch the hearts of many across the world,” he said.

SYPA is the brainchild of Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director of CDL, who is an avid and well-respected photographer. Committed to elevating the status and standard of photographic art, Mr Kwek believes that Singapore, though small, has great potential to be developed into a regional and even international hub for visual arts.

The 11-member judging panel (Annex 1) comprising industry professionals and veteran photographers, chaired by Mr Kwek, had to review nearly 10,000 prints. The panel was unanimously impressed with the sophistication as well as the creativity and competency displayed in the participants' works.

Mr Kwek shares, “Since its launch in 2006, I am glad to see that SYPA has grown by leaps and bounds. The quality of the submissions has improved tremendously over the years. My fellow judges and I are truly impressed by the vast pool of budding, young photographic talents, who have exhibited their artistic flair through the images that they capture. As we continue our commitment to nurturing more talents and raising the standard of photography, we are definitely seeing a transformation of photographic art in the visual arts scene in Singapore.”

As part of a growing trend, CDL SYPA has also noticed that younger participants are coming forward to take part in the competition. Clinching the top spot in the Junior category is 17-year-old Mr Dion Lim from Temasek Polytechnic, who took up photography to see the world from a different angle. Drawing inspiration from his loved ones, the works by Dion are of a whimsical nature and exhibit deep appreciation for his surroundings. In the Young Architectural Photographer Award category, 17 year-old Mr Koh Chaik Hong of Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts (NAFA) came up tops and has aspirations of becoming a professional photographer one day.

The introduction of the two new categories to SYPA this year – the Young Nature Photographer Award and the “Themed Body of Work Award” – also drew strong interest from the young shutterbugs. Over 400 submissions were received for the Nature and “Themed” categories.

Nicholas Chew, a 20-year-old student from James Cook University took the honours in the Nature category with his images capturing our natural landscapes and birds. 25-year-old Joanne Pang currently studying her Masters of Fine Arts in Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Copenhagen titled her “Themed” works as “BREATH”. “It captures the poetics of humanity and environment in today’s world where pollution becomes byproduct of the case towards modernity, where man is the consumer and Nature is the victim,” describes Joanne.

Dr Yaacob also officially opened the exhibition of the winning works, which will be on display at the National Museum of Singapore from 31 July to 2 September 2012. In addition to winning works, the exhibition also features the masterpieces of this year’s judges, including Mr Kwek.

The SYPA Overall Winner of Youth and Junior categories received prize money of S\$5,000 and S\$3,000 respectively; while the winner of categories like the Young Architectural Photographer Award, Young Nature Photographer Award, and “Themed Body of Work” will each receive S\$3,000. All merit winners receive S\$1,000. Apart from the cash prizes, the overall winners also earned for themselves mentorship opportunities with experienced photographers.

For more information, please refer to:

- Annex 1 - List of judges
- Annex 2 - List of winners
- Annex 3 - Selected artworks of the winners
- Annex 4 – SYPA Fact Sheet

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Annex 1:

The 4th CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award Judging Panel

- Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director, City Developments Limited
- Mr John Clang, Photographer
- Mr Chow Chee Yong, Senior Lecturer, Temasek Polytechnic, School of Design
- Mr Lee Tiah Khee, Chief Photographer, Lianhe Zaobao
- Mr Darren Soh, Photographer, Full Frame Photos
- Mr Graeme Guy, Nature Photographer
- Ms Ho Hui May, Photographer & Lecturer
- Ms Wang Hui Fen, Deputy Picture Editor, The Straits Times
- Mr Alex Soh, Photographer, Alex Soh Photography
- Mr Bob Lee, Photographer & Lecturer
- Mr Zhao Renhui, Artist, The Institute of Critical Zoologists

Annex 2:**The 4th CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award
List of Winners**

	Category Top Winner	Category Merit Winners
Youth Category	Andrew Yee Zi Han, 23 Student, NTU, Singapore	Goh Tong Jit, 19 Student, University College London Stefan Tan Jin Yang, 23 Student, NTU, Singapore
Junior Category	Dion Lim Wei Qiang, 17 Student, Temasek Polytechnic	Li Xichen, 17 Student, Hwa Chong Institution Kevan Chew Jun Kiat, 15 Student, Hwa Chong Institution
Young Architectural Photographer Award	Koh Chaik Hong, 17 Student, NAFA	Mo Zhuang Ze, 25 Freelance Photographer Tang Jun Hao, 19 Student, NTU, Singapore
Young Nature Photographer Award	Nicholas Chew Ken Min, 20 Student, James Cook University	Vivian Leow Hwee Teng, 20 National University of Singapore Ong Zhen Quan, 25 Freelance Photographer
“Themed Body of Work” Award	Joanne Pang Rui Yun, 25 Student, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen	Koh Wei Ling, 23 Contract Teacher Nadia Binte Mohd Kamil, 24 Student, St. Cloud State University

Annex 3:

**THE 4TH CDL SINGAPORE YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER AWARD (SYPA)
SELECTED WINNING WORKS**

Overall Winner of SYPA 2012 - Youth Category Winner

Andrew Yee Zi Han, 23
Student, NTU, Singapore

SYPA 2012 - Junior Category Winner

Dion Lim Wei Qiang, 17
Student, Temasek Polytechnic

Young Architectural Photographer Award

Koh Chaik Hong, 17
Student, NAFA

Young Nature Photographer Award

Nicholas Chew Ken Min, 20
Student, James Cook University

“Themed Body of Work” Award

Joanne Pang Rui Yun, 25
Student, Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen

YOUTH

Category winner &
Overall winner of SYPA 2012

Name: Andrew Yee Zi Han

Age (as at 22 April 2012): 23

Vocation: Student, NTU (Wee Kim Wee School of
Communication & Information)



JUNIOR

Category winner

Name: [Dion Lim Wei Qiang](#)

Age (as at 22 April 2012): [17](#)

Vocation: Student, Temasek Polytechnic



ARCHITECTURE

Category winner

Name: Koh Chaik Hong

Age (as at 22 April 2012): 17

Vocation: Student, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts



NATURE

Category winner

Name: Nicholas Chew Ken Min

Age (as at 22 April 2012): 20

Vocation: Student, James Cook University



THEMED BODY OF WORK

Category winner

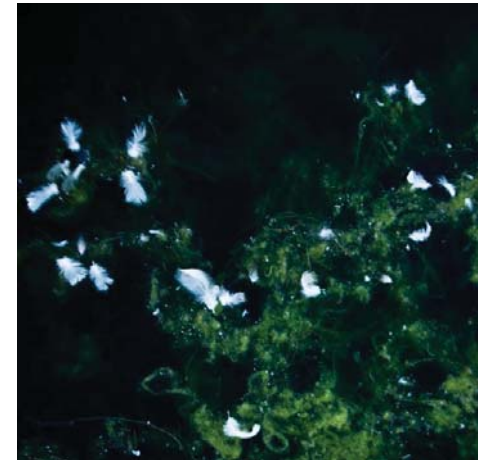
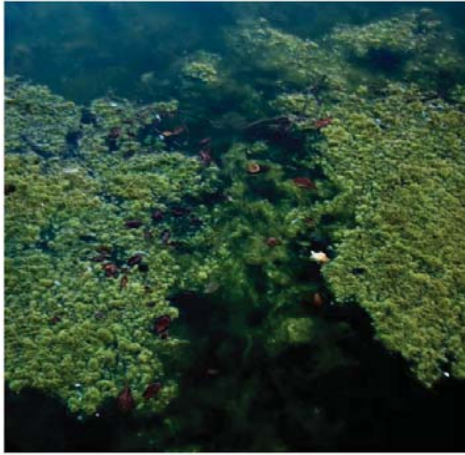
Name : Joanne Pang Rui Yun

Theme Title : Breath

Description : BREATH captures the poetics of humanity and environment in today's world where pollution becomes by product of the chase towards modernity, where man is the consumer and Nature is the victim.

Age (as at 22 April 2012): 25

Vocation: Student, MFA in Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Denmark Copenhagen



Annex 4:



FACT SHEET

About CDL Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA)

Initiated by Mr. Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director of City Developments Limited (CDL), SYPA is an extension of the photo tribute *To Singapore with Love* that celebrated Singapore's 40th birthday in 2005. SYPA was first launched in 2006 as a nationwide photography competition with the support of the local photographic community, Singapore Arts Museum, and the National Youth Achievement Award. Its target audience are youths between 13 and 25 years of age. This biennial Award is now into its fourth year.

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.

History and Development

The first, second, and third SYPA held in 2006, 2008 and 2010 respectively yielded many memorable pieces of photography, as well as revealed numerous young talents.

Organised by CDL, the structure of SYPA has changed this year with the addition of two new categories. In previous years, there were only two categories: the Singapore Young Photographer Award and the Young Architectural Award.

For the fourth SYPA, there are two new categories added: the Young Nature Photographer Award and the 'Themed Body of Work' Award. The Young Nature Photographer Award is organised in conjunction with the National Parks Board's "City in a Garden" Photography Competition.

Interest in SYPA has been steadily increasing with the number of entries received each year: 500 (2006); 850 (2008); 1,100 (2010). This year's SYPA saw an all-time high of 1,643 submissions; a testament to the popularity of photography amongst the youths.

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 22 April 2012).

(b) Junior Category

Open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are born between 13 and 18 years old (as at 22 April 2012).

The **Young Architectural Photographer Award**, **Young Nature Photographer Award** and **“Themed Body of Works” Award** are open to Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents residing in Singapore who are between 13 and 25 years old (as at 22 April 2010).

Prizes

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

Judging Panel

Judging is conducted by a panel of 11 judges comprising of veterans and industry professionals. They are:

- Kwek Leng Joo, Managing Director, City Developments Limited
- John Clang, Photographer
- Chow Chee Yong, Senior Lecturer, Temasek Polytechnic, School of Design
- Lee Tiah Khee, Chief Photographer, Lianhe Zaobao
- Darren Soh, Photographer, Full Frame Photos
- Graeme Guy, Nature Photographer
- Ho Hui May, Photographer & Lecturer
- Wang Hui Fen, Deputy Picture Editor, The Straits Times
- Alex Soh, Photographer, Alex Soh Photography
- Bob Lee, Photographer & Lecturer
- Zhao Renhui, Artist, The Institute of Critical Zoologists

Supporting Organisations

- 2902 Gallery
- AVS Printing Pte Ltd
- Ministry of Education
- National Museum of Singapore
- Pico Art International Pte Ltd