



Publication: The Straits Times Life!

Date: Oct 31 2007

Headline: \$45,000 art prize up for grabs next year

\$45,000 art prize up for grabs next year

BY ADELINE CHIA
Arts Reporter

ARTISTS, take note: a new art prize is up for grabs from next year.

The Asia Pacific Breweries (APB) Foundation Signature Art Prize will be given out once every three years for the next 15 years.

The foundation, which is funded by the brewer of Tiger Beer, is donating \$2.25 million to the Singapore Art Museum (SAM) to fund the prize, making it the biggest cash donation the museum has received from a corporation so far.

The museum will organise the competition and exhibit the winning artworks, which could be paintings, sculptures new media or installation pieces.

The grand prize of \$45,000 will be given to the artist whose work represents a significant development in contemporary art.

There will also be three Ju-

ror's Choice Awards worth \$10,000 each, and a \$10,000 People's Choice Award.

Artists from these 12 countries where APB has breweries can take part: Cambodia, China, India, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

The artwork must be nominated by experts in each country and they will be judged by an international jury panel to be convened.

At the cheque-presentation ceremony at the museum yesterday, Mr Koh Poh Tiong, the trustee and chairman of the foundation's advisory committee, said: "I am confident that the prize will put Singapore on the regional, if not global, map for the arts."

The new APB art prize will be the biggest art prize in the region, surpassing the \$20,000 annual UOB Painting Of The Year competition.

Museum director Kwok Kian Chow said: "This is different from just a competition.



ST PHOTO: LIM WUI LIANG

BOOST FOR THE ARTS: A visitor views a painting entitled *Day And Night* by Nobel Laureate Gao Xingjian at the Singapore Art Museum's new show, *The Big Picture*. APB is donating \$2.25 million to the museum to fund the new art prize which will be given out once every three years for the next 15 years.

The artworks have to be nominated by experts, to recognise professionalism and critical discourse within contemporary art."

Dr Lee Boon Yang, Minis-

ter for Information, Communications and the Arts, said that he hoped the award would "stimulate and promote lively public discussion, and sometimes heated debate, on new

developments in contemporary art in Singapore and internationally".

The ceremony coincided with the opening of a new exhibition at SAM, *The Big Pic-*

ture Show, which features 26 mural-sized works by Asean artists.

Sourced from the museum's permanent collection and private collections

abroad, the works on show include *Day And Night*, a painting by Nobel Prize Laureate in Literature Gao Xingjian which he donated to the museum.