

Tang and Tranquillity

TANG KOK SOO

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About

Tang Kok Soo

Mr Tang Kok Soo won the Gold Award, Established Artist Category in the 2016 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) for his work, *Elephants Crossing the Water*.

Mr Tang has been an avid painter since his teenage years, when he first started exploring with watercolour and oil on canvas. A former engineer, Mr Tang made the move to become a full-time artist in 2013.

He has since participated in many art exhibitions, including the Art Stage Singapore 2017 and Affordable Art Fair 2015. Mr Tang is also a member of the Singapore Watercolour Society.





Elephants Crossing the Water 香象渡河

2016 UOB Painting of the Year, Singapore
Established Artist Category, Gold

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

Mr Tang Kok Soo's *Elephants Crossing the Water* is the design inspiration for this year's Annual Report. The abstract painting of a herd of elephants crossing a river received the Gold Award for the Established Artist Category in the 2016 UOB Painting of the Year (Singapore) Competition.

With each step forward, the steady and strong-willed elephants make their journey as one, advancing with purpose and determination whatever the terrain. *Elephants Crossing the Water* symbolises strength in unity, and celebrates the focus and wherewithal needed to stay the course. The artwork belongs to the current Stone Series and now comes under the UOB Art Collection.



Elephants Crossing the Water was selected to be featured on the 2016 UOB Annual Report cover. This painting is created mainly by using pencil, charcoal, watercolour and Chinese ink on paper.

About the Exhibition

Tang and Tranquillity

“Art has infinite possibilities to impact and change society in a positive way.” - Tang Kok Soo

Mr Tang Kok Soo believes that an artist's work is capable of influencing the external environment. Aptly titled Tang and Tranquillity, the exhibited artworks convey messages of hope, courage and contentment amid the noise and expectations of society.

The Stones Series is a journey of perseverance and faith for Mr Tang Kok Soo. Having left his engineering job to pursue a career as a full-time artist in 2013, Mr Tang's determination in focusing and honing his creative ideas bore fruits when *Elephants Crossing the Water* won the Gold Award at the 2016 UOB Painting of the Year competition, Established Artist Category.

The Memories series in watercolour is a sharp contrast from the Stone Series. Through the artist's memories of spaces and places, he illustrates nostalgic scenes from imagination. The watercolour series showcases Mr Tang's adaptability across different techniques and conceptualisation when applying his ideology, focus and beliefs in his creative process and expression.

Mr Tang seeks to convey and bring a glimmer of hope and encouragement to his audiences and collectors when looking at his artworks.

Artworks are available for sale, except *Elephants Crossing the Water*.



Thriving 欣欣象(向荣)

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

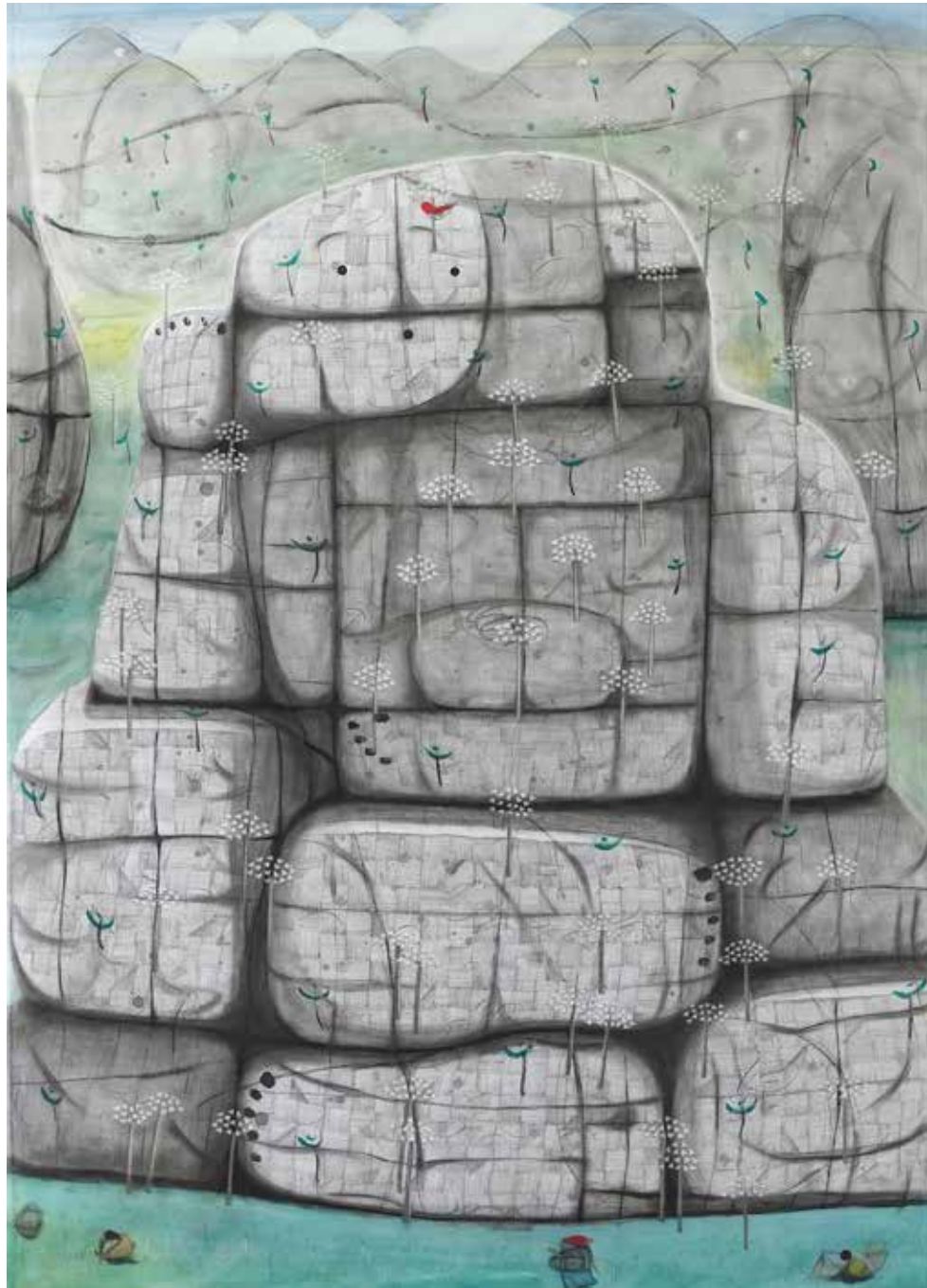
Where the water flows is where prosperity will flourish. In *Thriving*, the family of elephants are seen near a riverbed, forming a united fortress in a safe and vibrant environment.

Observation 观

Mixed Media
160 x 120 cm

Observation comes from being still; and reflecting on one's actions and intentions.

The practice of stacking stones were found to be used as a form of worship in Buddhism; where each stone represents a particular wish or individual in which good fortune is sought to be bestowed on.





Tenacious Wish 石愿

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

Determination has to be complemented by hard work in order to realise our wishes, goals and dreams.

It is also about being united, steady and firm – much like these stones which are stacked high and tight to avoid losing its footing.



On Higher Grounds 登高望远

Aim high so that you can go far, but stay sharp so that you can always be agile and adaptive.

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

Tip-Top 绝顶

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

Staying tip-top requires efforts and foresight. How are you keeping yourself in top form?

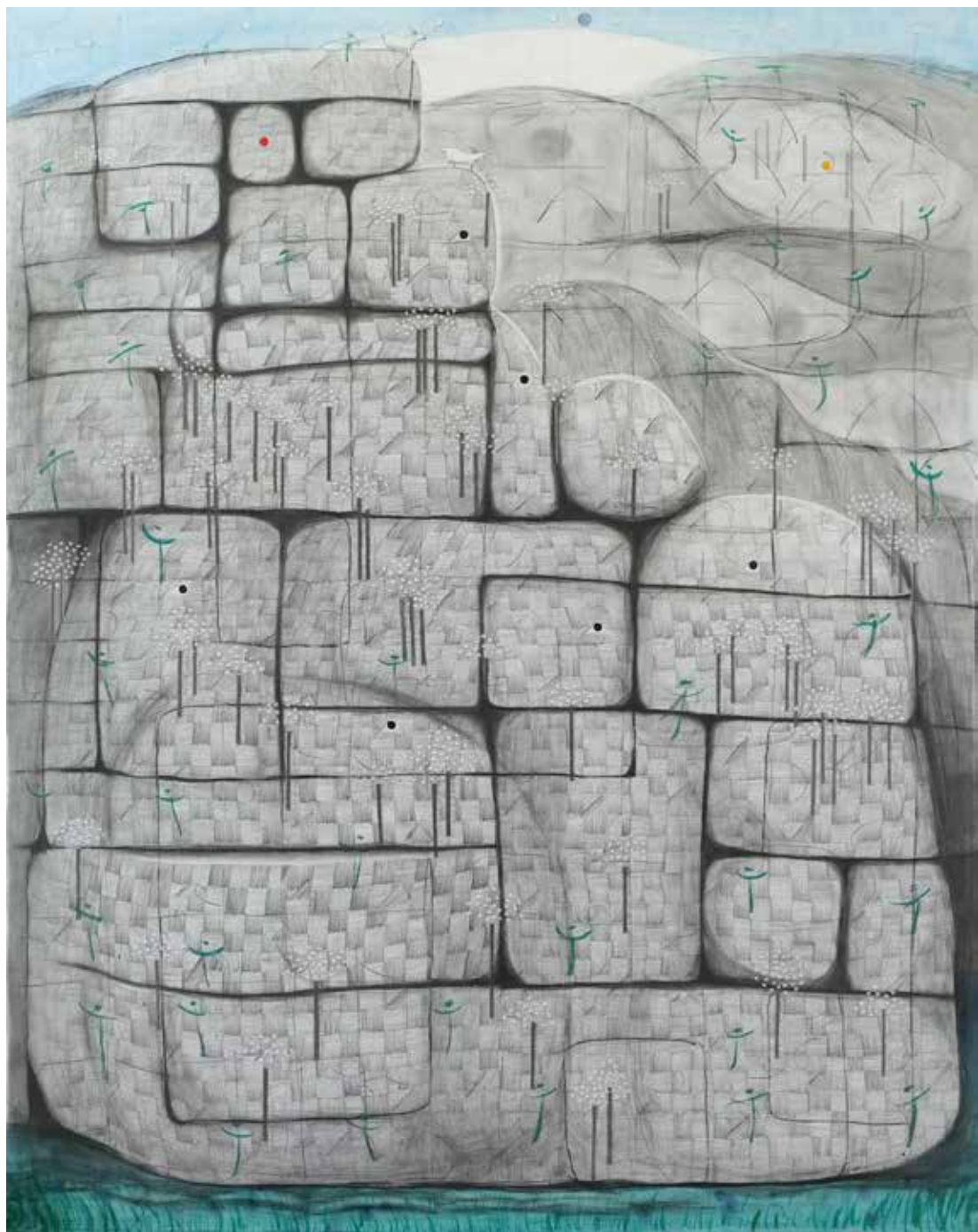


Gazing At 凝望

Mixed Media
172 x 132 cm

How often do you look back,
and wish for a different future?

Look ahead – because the
future is in your hands.
Let the past stay behind.

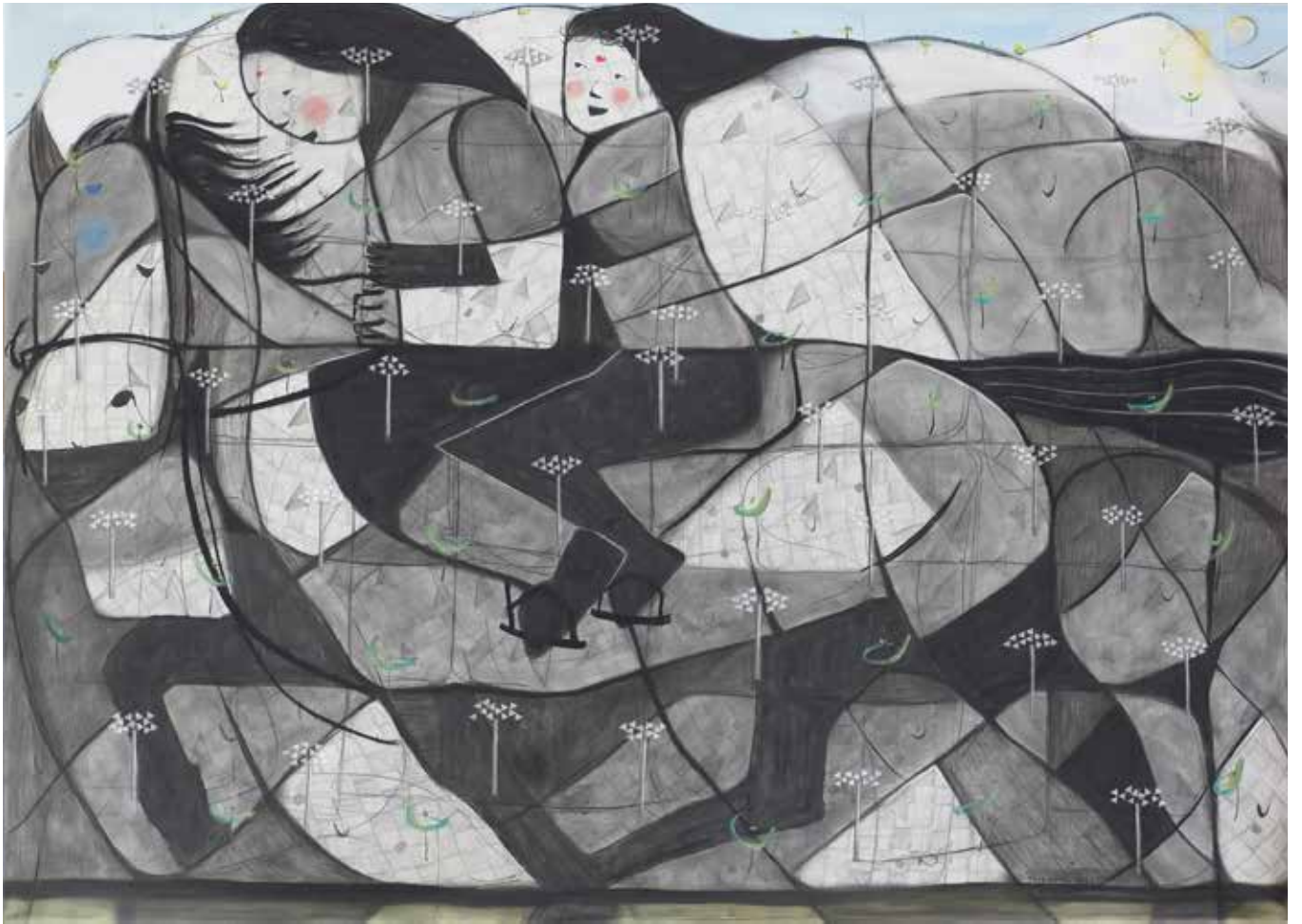




Brave 勇

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

We are bound to face many challenges in life. Moving into the unforeseeable future, we may often choose to retreat before these challenges hit us. However, if we have the courage to fight for what is right, we will be sure to overcome the challenges before us.



One Heart 同心

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

This painting depicts unity. By staying united, we are sure to reach our destination and goals, no matter how arduous or treacherous the environment.



Happy Family 美满幸福

Mixed Media
130 x 130 cm

A happy family is the foundation of a strong social fabric. How are you contributing to the happiness of your family?



Harmony 合

Mixed Media
120 x 160 cm

Harmony is when a group aligns and moves in the same direction.
In elephant herds, the matriarch will lead her family into safety during
the long journeys of migrating.



Memories 1 记忆一

Watercolour on paper
80 X 98 cm



Memories 2 记忆二

Watercolour on paper
80 X 98 cm



Memories 3 记忆三

Watercolour on paper
80 X 128 cm



Port of Call 繁忙的港口

Watercolour on paper
94 x 128 cm



Convergence 会聚

Watercolour on paper
128 X 94 cm



A Colourful World 缤纷世界

Watercolour on paper
128 X 94 cm



At the 2016 UOB Painting of the Year Award Ceremony: UOB Deputy Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Mr Wee Ee Cheong (middle) flanks Mr Tang Kok Soo on the left while Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth is on the right. On the left are Ms Lilian Chong and Ms Nicolette Rappa from UOB Group Strategic Communications and Customer Advocacy.

UOB
Painting
of the Year
Winners' Series