



**PRESS RELEASE  
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**Singapore Young Photographer Award (SYPA) Unearths Gems Amongst Young Photographers**

Since SYPA's launch in February this year, many photo buffs amongst our youths have been discovered. Though there is still some time before the submission deadline of 15 June 2006, this dynamic lot has already been up and about, preparing their entries. They display such deep passion & great potential for photography that many of them set up their own photo websites or post their works on the Internet just to share them with a wider audience. SYPA, to these young photo enthusiasts, is a long-awaited national-level platform for them to develop their passion & showcase their works. Indeed, these youngsters yearn to learn, share, improve and be seen.

"I bring my camera everywhere I go," says Daniel Lee, 15, a student of Raffles Institution. Having had a penchant for photography since primary school, he is a member of his school's photo club. His insatiable appetite for all things photography sees him mentoring the junior members, teaching them about photography equipment and how to take good photos. He even uploads his works online.

Some youths started photography in their early teens & have since developed a unique style. A few of them even proved their mettle by winning some photo competitions at the school and national level.

Sam Chin, 19, a recent polytechnic graduate, once worked every weekend selling printers just to feed his desire for photography gadgets. But he later stopped, concluding, "I came to realize that I have neglected photography in my pursuit for equipment. I have learnt that owning all the equipment in the world does not make you a better photographer." Today, Sam's works are an eclectic collection of colour and black-and-white images.

Another promising young photographer is Kong Chong Yew, 19, also a recent polytechnic graduate. A down-to-earth young man, Chong Yew is persuaded that photography teaches him to see things in new perspectives, teaching him to be more appreciative and aware of his surroundings. He prefers black-and-white photos as he thinks that "without colours, these shots 'distract' less, and so other elements such as nuances in tones and lighting as well as picture composition tend to stand out more."

Just as fervent is Hairulnizam Juniram, a 24-year-old Ngee Ann Polytechnic student. His forte is street photography and his works have a uniquely calm and unhurried flavour to them. Hairul believes that "even if photography is just a hobby for a person, it is a form of self-expression." Like Daniel, he too uploads his works online.

Many schools have been forthcoming in their support of SYPA. Raffles Institution, Meridian Junior College, Singapore Polytechnic and Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts, for instance, indicated that their students, mainly photo club members, will be submitting entries. These schools have also been hosting Epson's EpBUS roadshow at their premises.

So, all young shutterbugs between 13 and 25 who have yet to pick up your camera, do so now! Submit your photos before 15 June 2006 and stand a chance to be the first Singapore Young Photographer! For entry form and rules and regulations, log on to [www.sypa.org.sg](http://www.sypa.org.sg).

### Background information

SYPA aims to recognize young photography talents and nurture their passion for the art form. Launched in February this year, it is projected to be given out biennially. Apart from winning attractive prizes of up to \$5,000 cash, winners will be entitled to free photography enrichment courses and mentorship by experienced photographers.

This Award is an extension of the *To Singapore with Love* photo tribute celebrating the nation's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday last year. All winning entries, as well as works of Steven Yee, Darren Soh, Russel Wong and Lee Tiah Khee will be displayed during the prize presentation and photo exhibition opening ceremony in July.

Some fringe activities implemented include "A Peek at Photojournalism", a talk organized by Lianhe Zaobao of SPH on 8 April and "Photography – Endless Discovery", a talk by Steven Yee, Honorary Secretary of The Photographic Society of Singapore, held on 29 April. Throughout the months of April and May, Epson's EpBUS has been holding roadshows in various secondary schools and tertiary institutions.

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