



Picture/ CHUA PUAY HOE

BY TEH JEN LEE

jenlee@sph.com.sg

HE HAS set five world records as part of the US Paralympic swimming team. But when Mr Gregory Burns (above), who got polio as a toddler and lost the use of his legs, gave a talk about his life, he showed a video of him coming second in a race.

The 47-year-old explained: "We're not all meant to win, all the time. But instead of just trying to be better than others, we should strive to be the best that we can be with what we have."

With what he has, Mr Burns is a swimmer, an artist and a writer.

His paintings are being exhibited at the American Club and with his Singaporean fiancée, he recently published his first book, entitled *Painted Journey*.

Mr Burns is also involved in an art competition and fund-raiser called *Journeys*, organised by Very Special Arts Singapore (VSA). Over the June school holidays, 33 able-bodied and disabled children aged between 7 and 12 did a painting on their favourite country after doing research on it.

Each submitted one artwork and two winners were picked according to how each young artist personalised the destination.

PAINTING ICONS

The panel of judges included Mr Burns, Ms June Yap from the Singapore Art Museum, Ms Cecilia Ong of Christie's auction house and Mr Didier von Daeniken of Credit Suisse Singapore, VSA's corporate partner.

The winners went last month with Mr Burns on a week-long trip to Sydney to

Try to be the best it's okay being No