

H15 |

DISABILITY AWARENESS

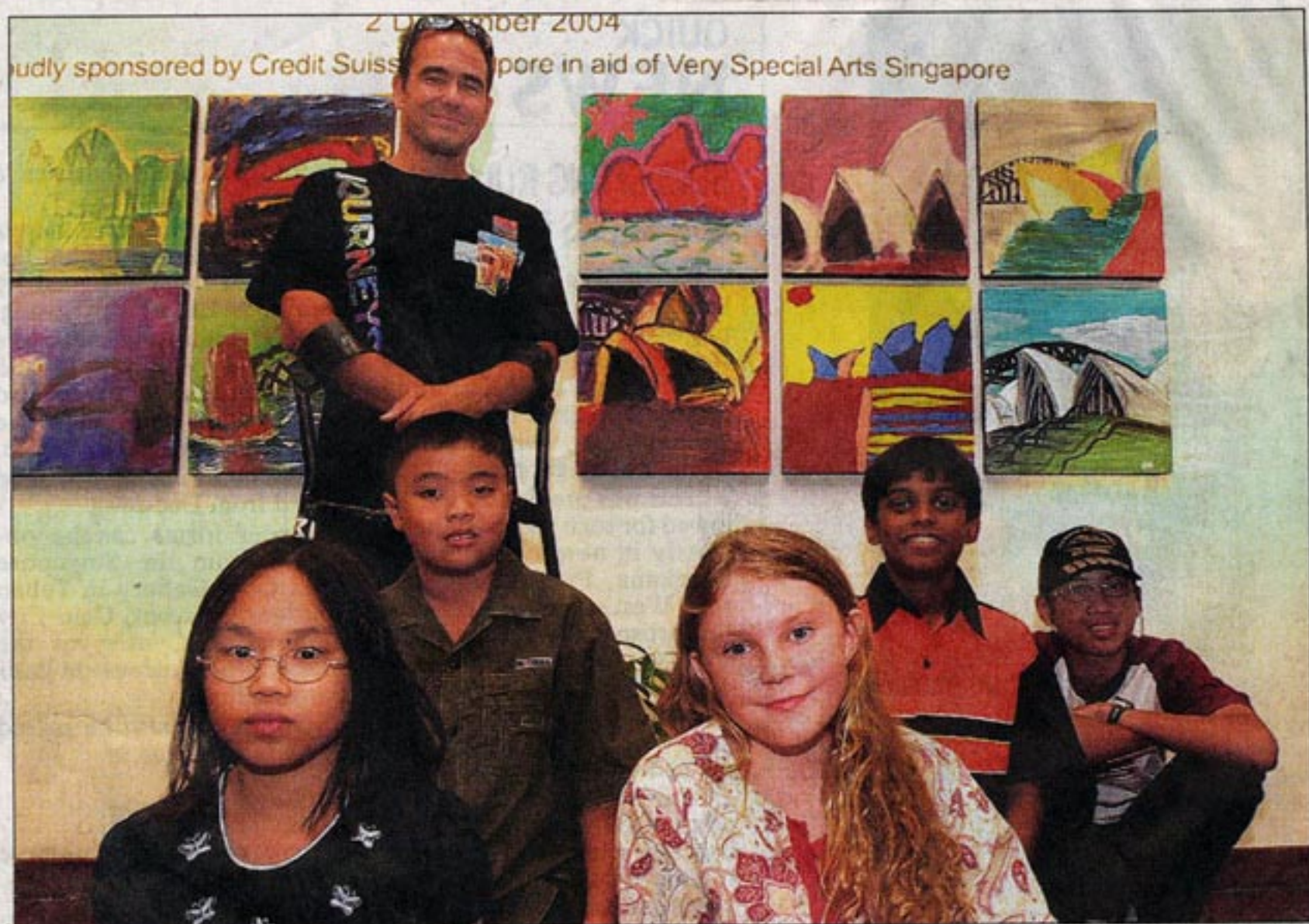


PHOTO: LIM WUI-LIANG

MONTAGE TAKES TOP BID: The six Sydney Opera House paintings by Mr Burns and his five pupils (from left) Sarah, eight, Mikael, nine, Cory, 10, Daren, 11, and Muhammad Noh, 12, went under the auction hammer for \$4,400.

Sale of children's art raises \$55,000

CHRISTIE'S Singapore raised \$55,312 for an arts group for the disabled at a charity auction of children's paintings last night.

The proceeds of the auction went to Very Special Arts (VSA), a non-profit organisation for people with disabilities that uses art to aid rehabilitation and social integration.

The collection of 50 artworks was produced by children aged seven to 12, many of whom have intellectual or physical disabilities.

The paintings in the collection, entitled Journeys, depict the artist's favourite destinations.

The largest bid, \$4,400, went to a montage of six paintings, entitled Sydney Opera House. It was painted by Sarah Khan, Muhammad Noh Arjuna, Mikael Chan, Cory Russell, Daren Leslie and their art teacher, Mr Gregory Burns.

One-third of the paintings on auction were produced during a week-long art trip the five children took to Sydney last month, under the mentorship of Mr Burns, a gold medal-winning Paralympic swimmer and VSA artist.

Credit Suisse and VSA organised the event, attended by 240 guests. Guest of honour, Minister of State (Community Development, Youth and Sports) Yu-Foo Yee Shoon, bought a painting named Dreamy Slope, by Natalie Oh, 11, for \$350.