

Nguyen Trinh Thi

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

Concept: I started with the idea that landscapes are important witnesses to history. During my search for photos that express such ideas, I came upon hundreds of images in which anonymous persons were portrayed in landscapes – and always in the same position, pointing to indicate a past event, the location of something gone, something lost or missing. We are left knowing nothing about the people, their specific thoughts or feelings, only with their repetitious sameness – always indicating, pointing to ‘evidence’ of something. Together they seem to be showing direction to a traveler in a fictional journey.

With the postcard series, I want to explore a different medium/format of showing and distributing works. My thinking is that the postcards might have the potential of interacting with the audience in ways that film and photography do not.

Synopsis: As the journey starts, wide empty landscapes make one wonder what one is looking for. A mysterious object? A crime scene? Something horrifying? The scenes are getting more and more specific, but they do not lead to any concrete solution – only an injury in place of a metaphor.

Artist Biography

Nguyen Trinh Thi Vietnam

Independent Filmmaker/Moving Image Artist; Founder/Director of Hanoi Center for the Moving Image (Hanoi DOCLAB)

Education

- Master of Pacific International Affairs, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), 2005. Full-Merit Scholarship. Special interest: Ethnographic Film and Media Methods.
- Master's Degree in Professional Journalism, University of Iowa, Iowa, 1999. Special interests: Photography and Visual Communications.
- Bachelor of Arts in Russian and English, Hanoi Foreign Studies College, Hanoi, 1994. Full-Merit Scholarship.

Professional Experience

- 2011-2012 Asian Public Intellectual (API) Fellow Research on documentary, experimental films and video art in Japan and Thailand
- 2009-Present DOCLAB, Hanoi - Founder, Director, Course Trainer, Hanoi DOCLAB is a Center for the Moving Image
- 2007-Present Independent Filmmaker/Video Artist, Hanoi
- 2007 Hanoi Independent Documentary & Experimental Film Forum (Hi-DEFF) – Founder
- 2005-2006 Documentary Filmmaker/Film Instructor, Los Angeles
- 2000-2003 Reuters America, New York – Staff Journalist

Recent Screenings/Exhibitions

- 2013 Unsubtitled, Singapore Biennale 2013
Landscape #1, Jakarta Biennale 2013
Media/Art Kitchen- Reality Distortion Field, Touring exhibition of Media Art from Japan and ASEAN
A Window to the World, Hiroshima City Contemporary Art Museum
Collecting Counter-Memories, San Art, Ho Chi Minh City
SOLO for a CHOIR, solo video installation, Goethe Institut Hanoi
Move on Asia: Video Art in Asia 2002 to 2012, ZKM Karlsruhe, Germany
Current Films ji-om Asia, KINO DER KUNST, Munich, Germany

Yebisu International Festival of Art & Alternative Visions, Tokyo Metropolitan Museum of Photography, Tokyo

- 2012 Women in Between: Asian Women Artists 1984-2012, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Okinawa Prefecture Art Museum, Tochigi Prefecture Art Museum of Fine Arts, Mie Prefectural Art Museum, Japan TRACES, an art exhibition reinvestigating Social Memory in Southeast Asia, Jim Thompson Art Center, Bangkok
Artist Film International: Season 4, Whitechapel Gallery, London
Jo Ha Kyu, a photography and film installation, Japan Foundation, Hanoi International Competition, Oberhausen
International Short Film Festival Screening, Bangkok Experimental Film Festival, Bangkok
- 2011 SUMMER EXHIBITION, video installation, Den Frie Centre of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen
'Skylines without Flying People', Rory Gill Fine Art Gallery, London
UNSUBTITLED, screening, Corpo Plumhill Playhouse, Tokyo
Screening, DMZ International Documentary Film Festival, Korea
- 2010 UNSUBTITLED, solo video installation, NhaSan Studio, Hanoi 'PLUS/ Memories and Beyond – 10 Solo Exhibitions by 10 Asian Artists', Kuandu Biennale, Taipei
'No Soul For Sale 2', Tate Modern, London
'The City in Art' Part 3, Goethe Institut, Hanoi

Filmography

- SOLO for a Choir video installation, various loops, HD, color (2013)
- "Landscape Series #1": single channel installation, 5 minutes, video, color (2013)
- "Que Faire ": video installation, various loops, HD, color (2012)
- "Jo Ha Kyu": experimental film, 10 minutes, HD video, color (2012)
- "I Died for Beauty": experimental film, 7 minutes, HD video, color (2012)
- "Scenes from the Heart": video, 5 minutes, found footage, color (2012)
- "Rain, Poems, Toilet Paper": documentary, 70 minutes, video, color (in production) "Song to the Front": experimental film, 5 minutes, B&W (2011) (#1 in project "Vietnamese Classics Re-Cut Series")
- "Unsubtitled": video installation (various loops), HD video, color (2011)

"Chronicle of a Tape Recorded Over": experimental documentary, 30 minutes, video, color (2011)

"Spring Comes Winter After": experimental video, 4'30 loop, color (2009)

"93 Years, 1383 Days": experimental documentary, 30 minutes, video, color (2008) "Imagine the City", "Terminal", "24", "Coming Going": shorts (2008)

"Love Man Love Woman": documentary, 52 minutes, video, color (2007)

"A Chungking Road Opening": documentary, 20 minutes, video, color (2005)