

Nguyen Trinh Thi

Artist Statement and Biography

Artist Statement

In this series, I explore possibilities for combining video installation with performance art, and possibilities of preserving differences of individuals while creating a sense of collective experiences.

Thematically, I continue to study the issues and reflect on the history and development of the role and position of the artist in the Vietnamese society. These issues relate to Vietnam's problems concerning censorship and artist freedom of expression. This personal interest also had led me to work on a long-term film project about Nhan Van-Giai Pham – the suppressed literary movement of the 1950s and the only instance of widespread intellectual dissidence ever to occur in North Vietnam - and its legacy of dissent in Vietnamese art over the past five decades.

The inspiration for the work in the series came from my own self-reflection and the reflections of other artists in our society.

In this series, I invited 19 Hanoi artists who made up the social constellation of Nha San (Hanoi's first alternative art space since 1990s) to face the camera, eat an item of food of their choice, then state their name followed by the name of the food they had just consumed. Individually, these are statements parodying the Maoist practice of self-criticism, interrogation sessions where the artist-in-question must unequivocally explain the intentioned meanings of his work.

Collectively, the chorus evokes a quiet protest against the long running methods of surveillance and intimidation that are still pervasive in Vietnam.

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	<i>Unsubtitled</i> , Singapore Biennale 2013 <i>Landscape #1</i> , Jakarta Biennale 2013 <i>Media/Art Kitchen- Reality Distortion Field</i> , Touring exhibition of Media Art from Japan and ASEAN <i>A Window to the World</i> , Hiroshima City Contemporary Art Museum <i>Collecting Counter-Memories</i> , San Art, Ho Chi Minh City <i>SOLO for a CHOIR</i> , solo video installation, Goethe Institut Hanoi
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Move on Asia: Video Art in Asia 2002 to 2012, ZKM Karsruhe, 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)