



**PRESS RELEASE**

**June 24, 2008**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *Quiet Shiny Words/Cultural Doppelgangbangers* by Tuan Andrew Nguyen in collaboration with young Vietnamese rapper Wowy. This is Nguyen's first solo exhibition at the gallery.

Since returning to Vietnam, a country where 40% of the population is under 30, Nguyen has been making art about Vietnam's youth subculture. In this new body of work, Nguyen is interested in "how Vietnamese youth create and imagine America through this American subculture of rap music, and in turn, how America creates and reiterates, perhaps perpetuates particular ideas of Vietnam through the same language. This body of work is about sound, rhythm, correspondence, connection, and disconnection; it is 'pop culture' struggling to exist in the context of Vietnam and becoming redefined as the 'underground' in its process of cultural infiltration."

*Quiet Shiny Words/Cultural Doppelgangbangers* comprises three sets of work. In "Letters from Saigon to Saigon," Nguyen will present large photographs of the handwritten letters of aspiring Vietnamese rapper Wowy to American rapper Saigon. The work is humorous, touching and profound, revealing both Wowy's hopes and respect for Saigon, who ironically adopted the name as a reminder of racial oppression of blacks in the US. While doing jail time, Saigon came across the Wallace Terry book *Bloods: Black Veterans of the Vietnam War: an Oral History*, which chronicles the experiences of black men who felt they were fighting, in addition to a foreign enemy, racial tensions with their white American soldiers.

A second set of work entitled, *Hip Hop History Sampling Hip Hop History: The Red Remix* features a mix of a compilation of over 60 rap songs containing references to Vietnam blasting from a custom-built glossy red speaker placed on the back of a bicycle. A group of 8 photographs documenting Wowy and the bicycle navigating the streets of Ho Chi Minh City will also be exhibited. A video of the performance is forthcoming.

In *Take Cover, Take Care* Nguyen worked with a Vietnamese artisan to engrave two sewage drain covers. One manhole cover, engraved with lyrics from Tupac Shakur's /

MAIN GALLERY

65 De Tham Street, District 1  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
tel/fax: +84 8 3836 8019

DOWNTOWN

Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi Street, District 1  
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tel: +84 8 3824 8284



*Don't Give a Fuck* from his album *2Pacalypse Now* will be exhibited face down in the gallery on a metal frame. A mirror at the base of the frame allows viewers to read the text inverted. Having switched the old drain cover outside the gallery's door with a cover engraved with Wowy's own lyrics, Nguyen will also exhibit a photo of the moment just before he laid the new cover down into the ground, hidden forever from the public.

#### ABOUT TUAN ANDREW NGUYEN

Born in 1976 in Vietnam, Nguyen immigrated to the US in 1978. After obtaining his MFA from Cal Arts in Valencia in 2004, he returned to Ho Chi Minh City where he currently lives and works. Nguyen's work has been shown in numerous exhibitions internationally including the 5<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial and Koeln Show2. His videos and films have been screened widely at international film festivals in Rotterdam, Tokyo, Singapore, Bangkok, Los Angeles and Chicago. Along with artists Ha Thuc Phu Nam, Tiffany Chung and founder Dinh Q. Le, Nguyen also runs San Art ([www.san-art.org](http://www.san-art.org)), a non-profit space in Ho Chi Minh City that cultivates contemporary art through exhibitions, exchanges, workshops and lectures.

#### ABOUT GALERIE QUYNH

Established in 2003, Galerie Quynh is the leading contemporary art gallery in Vietnam. Working with a select group of emerging, mid-career and established Vietnamese artists, the gallery also exhibits the work of distinguished artists from around the world allowing visitors access to a diverse range of contemporary art practice. In keeping with its mission to support education and develop an infrastructure for the arts in Vietnam, the gallery collaborates with artists, curators and art spaces locally and internationally to organize talks and lectures as well as to produce publications in English and Vietnamese.

[www.galeriequynh.com](http://www.galeriequynh.com)

A PDF of works in the exhibition is available upon request. Please contact the gallery for further information and images

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GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

Special thanks to Ha Thuc Phu Nam, Zoe Butt, Alan Hayslip and Nguyen Uy Vu.

Exhibition Title: Quiet Shiny Words / Cultural Doppelgangbangers

Location: Galerie Quynh, 65 De Tham Street, District 1, HCMC, Vietnam

Gallery Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10am - 6pm  
Closed on Sundays and Mondays

Contact: Quynh Pham  
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