



PRESS RELEASE

March 25, 2011

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *mise-en-scène* – a group exhibition of works by Thierry Bernard-Gotteland, Nadège David, Hoang Duong Cam, Sandrine Llouquet, Nguyen Phuong Linh, Tuan Andrew Nguyen and Bruce Yonemoto.

Whether subverting established narratives, challenging existing clichés and stereotypes or creating imaginative roles, all the works in *mise-en-scène* contain an element of theatricality and performance. The seven artists in this exhibition each use elements of *mise-en-scène* through deliberate manipulation of their characters, ‘sets’ and costumes. In the photographic series *NSEW* (2007) Bruce Yonemoto ponders tradition and history, acknowledging Asian soldiers who have been omitted in the annals of the American Civil War. The models in this Hollywood-like staged production remind us that race and ethnicity do not necessarily coincide with cultural and national identity. Also on display is a selection of images from *NSEW* presented in vintage daguerreotype cases. The color portraits of the handsome Asian models in Civil War regalia are all the more curious when viewed in these 19th century frames.

In *Hip Hop History Sampling Hip Hop History: The Red Remix*, Tuan Andrew Nguyen uses frenetic, present-day Ho Chi Minh City as his stage. These eight photographs document Wowy, a Vietnamese rapper and graffiti artist, navigating a rustic bicycle through the streets of Ho Chi Minh City. A custom-built glossy red speaker on the back of the bicycle blasts a compilation of over 60 rap songs containing references to Vietnam. Dressed in a red cap and baggy pants, Wowy personifies the youth of Vietnam today – full of hope with dreams of being part of the global world – and subverts the clichés of a country often readily associated with war and trauma.

Nguyen Phuong Linh also challenges clichés. Her set irritates viewers, physically and visually. Comprising 5 kilograms of glimmering nails, Nguyen’s *Allergy* appears to float in space, suspended by transparent fishing string. The provocative and menacing work, constructed to resemble women’s lingerie, challenges the idea of the beautiful and feminine.

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



Nadège David's drawings appear with a high precision on white rice paper. David plays with the unpredictability of ink to draw Asian figures where reality meets fiction. Naïve but violent, with human expression but alien faces, her work is disturbing and tender at the same time. Her figures are playful at first, then devious on closer inspection. These characters are playing a double-role on 'do' paper.

This duality between sweetness and violence, these double roles and costumes are also at the heart of Sandrine Louquet's practice. Her imaginative drawings communicate disjointed narratives that seem to have no beginning or end.

Thierry Bernard-Gotteland's painting *untitled [Pit Stop & Go to Hell]* is dark and shiny, crumbling and geometric. The paint seems almost animated; it interferes with one's perception of what is in movement and what is static. This work belongs to a larger series called *A Physical Obedience of a Certain Geometry* to be shown at the gallery in July.

Hoang Duong Cam's *The Bathers* recreates a 'screen' where the characters appear as masks. Inspired by photo essays from North Korea, the work communicates a kind of confusion through the news recounted by journalists. *The Bathers* borrows its title from Michelangelo's unfinished fresco of the Florentine army, nude after a dip in the river, hastily preparing for battle against Pisa. Commissioned at the same time for the Palazzo Vecchio in Florence as Leonardo's *Battle of Anghiari*, the work calls to mind the competitiveness between these two Renaissance giants. Hoang found the story quite apt to his own *Bathers*, which reflects the ongoing tensions between North and South Korea.

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

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GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

organize talks and lectures as well as to produce publications in English and Vietnamese.

www.galeriequynh.com

Please contact the gallery for biographies on the individual artists.

Exhibition Title: mise-en-scène

Exhibition Dates: March 25 – April 7, 2011

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

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10 AM – 6 PM
Closed on Sundays and Mondays

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