



**PRESS RELEASE**

**January 13, 2013**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *One Planet*, an exhibition featuring new work by Nguyen Manh Hung – one of Vietnam’s most important young artists. *One Planet* is the artist’s first solo exhibition in Ho Chi Minh City. A multi-disciplinary artist widely known for his paintings depicting military fighter jet aircraft, Nguyen will present new sculptural installations in this major exhibition that expands on his previous two dimensional work.

Born and raised in one of the Soviet-style apartment blocks that characterized Hanoi’s urban housing from the 1960s to the 1980s, the artist likens this manner of vertical living to that of a complex, closely-knit ‘village’. Yet the experience of community living inevitably bears witness to conflicts, a proposition that is explored in *The Barricade*. Here, the artist has created an expansive vertical village, inclusive of exterior fixtures and illegal add-ons and adornments. On top of this nearly two-meter high installation, sandbags are piled as an improvised field fortification, waging an urban warfare, and turning each apartment into a fort unto itself.

Nguyen reflects on the idea of community, the conflicts that exist within and without constructed societies, and the complexities of civic development and individual responsibility. How is a community defined? Is the traditional idea of community just hollow rhetoric or an ideal that can evolve and adapt to modern day Vietnam? Nguyen confronts these issues with his trademark irony and humor highlighting the oftentimes absurdity of human behavior and endeavor.

Nguyen’s work is inspired by his direct experiences and observations of Vietnamese life. In *Going to Market*, a jet plane hurtles through the ground floor gallery, transformed from a high-tech war machine to a scaled-down and meticulously constructed sculpture, at once playful and harmless. Betraying the artist’s long-held fascination with militaristic images – his father was a fighter jet pilot – the surreal scene of a fighter plane carrying nylon bags laden with shopping goods humorously morphs a symbol of destruction with conduits of hope, benevolence and joy.

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  
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
tel: +84 8 3824 8284



In *Keep our Planet Clean*, a rock-like object supports unidentifiable riot police shown restraining and beating a pig against the ground. The apparent and ridiculous brutality, the overt oppression and the work's title combine to denounce violence rather definitively. Given the widespread occurrence since 2011 of mass public demonstrations worldwide and the forces unleashed to quell such activities, the universality of the work's message resonates well beyond the confines of national or geographical boundaries.

*One Planet* is generously supported by the Danish Embassy in Hanoi's Cultural Development and Exchange Fund (CDEF).



#### ABOUT NGUYEN MANH HUNG

Born in Hanoi in 1976 and one of Vietnam's most respected emerging artists, Nguyen Manh Hung has steadily gained international attention in recent years. His work is currently featured in the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Queensland Art Gallery | Gallery of Modern Art in Brisbane, Australia. Previous regional and international exhibitions include 'Living together in paradise' at the Goethe-Institut, Hanoi (2011); 'Tam Ta' at Sàn Art, Ho Chi Minh City (2010); 'Connect: Kuzstene Vietnam' presented by ifa Galleries, Berlin and Stuttgart (2009); 'Lim Dim: Young Vietnamese Artists' at Stenersenmuseet, Oslo (2009); 'transPOP: Korea Vietnam Remix' at ARKO Art Center, Seoul, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco (2007-2008); and 'Thermocline of Art. New Asian Waves' presented by ZKM Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe, Germany (2007). Hung currently lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City.

#### MAIN GALLERY

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## 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.

Exhibition Title: One Planet

Exhibition Dates: 17 January – 28 February, 2013

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

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

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