



Tran Van Thao, *Immersion IV*, 2013, oil and acrylic on canvas, 120 x 160 cm

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 17, 2013**

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present its third solo exhibition with leading abstract painter Tran Van Thao. Titled 'Immersion', the exhibition features new work by Tran inspired by his fascination with water, light, shadows and space. Referring to the astronomical phenomenon of the disappearance of a celestial body prior to an eclipse, 'Immersion' reflects on wider themes of mindfulness and subjectivity.

Tran states, "When we close our eyes, we see shadows of the infinite, disorientation, profound depth... not just the literal meaning of shadows. And when we open our eyes, we see many things: sun and wind, air, objects, people. An epiphany can occur at any time, in any mood, can 'catch' any subject and can recall any atmosphere."

Tran revels in the images, impressions and sensations of our daily life. There is a strong sense of place in Tran's work – not in geographical terms but rather an experience that fluctuates between the familiar and foreign. Tran's scribbles and marks are dynamic, ebullient forms yet his compositions also communicate calm, sensual spaces. That Tran is able to create this tension speaks to his creative talent and accomplished technical skill. At times the artist's forms appear suspended in space, floating in the picture plane. In other instances, most notably in the later works, the airy forms are deliberately anchored by more controlled lines.

### MAIN GALLERY

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### DOWNTOWN

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#### ABOUT TRAN VAN THAO

Born in 1961 in Saigon, Tran Van Thao graduated from the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts University. Regarded as one of Vietnam's most accomplished artists, Tran belongs to an influential group of painters who rose to prominence in the 90s following the introduction of *Doi Moi* (Vietnam's Open Door economic policy) in 1986. He has participated in numerous exhibitions around the world. Tran has received a number of awards and prizes including the Starr Foundation Fellowship from Asian Cultural Council where he spent four months as an artist-in-residence in New York. Tran Van Thao lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City.

#### 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)

Exhibition Dates:                    October 25 – November 22, 2013

Location:                                Galerie Quynh Downtown, Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi, District 1, HCMC

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