



Nguyen Huy An, *1120 Steps KN*, 2012, paper, 45 x 80 x 27 cm

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 16, 2014**

*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *78 rhythms* – a solo exhibition by Hanoi-based artist Nguyen Huy An. Known for his quiet performances of transforming the most mundane and familiar of materials into simple and poetic artworks, Nguyen Huy An is among the most innovative artists of his generation. While focusing on new and recent work, the artist's first exhibition at the gallery will also include the acclaimed work 'The Roads' (2007), presented in Ho Chi Minh City for the first time.

Whether measuring the streets of Hanoi's Old Quarter with black thread, collecting dust on the Vinh Tuy Bridge, condensing the monstrous structure of a skyscraper into a humble stack of paper, or obsessively painting the same village pond for over a decade, Huy An creates a personal visual archive of memories and histories that relate to the social and political contexts of the sites he records. The artist states, "In the context of a growing economy, it is important to look at and realize how modernity, and by extension the passage of time, casts shadows on our existence and engenders zones of darkness in our collective psychology." Negotiating the tension between a nostalgia for nature and the inexorable juggernaut of human progress, Huy An resorts to measuring

### MAIN GALLERY

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### DOWNTOWN

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as a means of self-contraction – as an act of reifying memories and ideas, and relocating, re-contextualizing and reducing concrete structures, creating forms that appear more humanistic.

Nguyen Huy An has an artistic predilection for dark materials: the melancholic color of dark and moody spaces where the artist has lived, the black color of clothes and hair, the sadness of his grandmother, his mother, his sisters and other women in his life. Huy An's work is, in an intricate and profound way, the color of night like the nostalgic shadows hanging over life's ordinary objects.



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

#### ABOUT NGUYEN HUY AN

Born in 1982 in Hanoi, Nguyen Huy An is among the most dynamic and innovative artists of his generation. He has participated in a number of exhibitions and performance art festivals including *Disrupted Choreographies*, Carré d'Art – Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nimes, France (2014); *If The World Changed*, Singapore Biennale (2013); *sounds of dust (somniloquy)*, 943 Studio Kunming, China (2011); *Anatomy of an assembly line with an error*, Nha San Studio, Hanoi, Vietnam; *Lim Dim*, Stenersen Museum, Oslo, Norway (2009); *Tam Ta*, San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2009); and the Nippon International Performance Art Festival (NIPAF), Tokyo, Japan (2007).

In 2010 Huy An co-founded with artists Vu Duc Toan and Hoang Minh Duc the performance art collective The Appendix Group (Phu Luc). The group has performed in festivals in Vietnam, Singapore and China.

Nguyen Huy An lives and works in Hanoi, Vietnam.

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## ABOUT GALERIE QUYNH

Established in December 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 with diverse art practices. 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. In May 2014, the gallery launched Sao La - a non-profit educational initiative at the HCMC Fine Art Museum. The project space serves as a platform for exhibitions, film/video screenings, workshops and lectures as well as an informal space for young Vietnamese artists to experiment, challenge and develop their creative practices. [www.galeriequynh.com](http://www.galeriequynh.com)

Artist: Nguyen Huy An

Exhibition Title: 78 rhythms

Exhibition Dates: October 30 - November 22, 2014

Opening Reception: Thursday, October 30 from 6 to 8pm

Venue: Galerie Quynh  
65 De Tham Street, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City  
10am - 6pm, Tuesday to Saturday and by appointment

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