



Trong Gia Nguyen, *Family, Enid, circa 1982, 2014*, oil pastel on canvas, 145 x 208 cm

PRESS RELEASE

January 26, 2015

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *The Leavers* – an exhibition of new work by Brooklyn-based artist Trong Gia Nguyen. For his second solo exhibition at the gallery, Nguyen will exhibit a series of paintings informed by the artist's ongoing film project, *DONG*, an exploration of family history through the imperfect lens of memory.

The colorful and playful paintings belie a deep reflection on history, culture, and the psyche of those uprooted and transplanted to foreign lands. Sourced from old family photographs, the paintings depict coloring book images that have been filled in but with the black outlines removed, suggesting the skewed ways in which we remember, shape, and colorize the past. Nguyen asks of the viewer to mentally redraw the missing lines, to give definition to this fuzz. Employing oil pastels, a medium that never fully dries, Nguyen reiterates how memory is organic and ever shifting.



Driving stuffed together in a little Renault Dauphine from his uncle's house to the dock, the artist and his immediate family of 11, plus 3 relatives, fled on the last boat to leave Saigon on April 30, 1975, the day of reunification. Immigrating to the United States, they became assimilated in American culture and literally never spoke of those events again, moving on and leaving the past behind. This forgotten history is the starting point for Nguyen's documentary project *DONG*, in collaboration with artist, collector, and film producer David Raymond. Narrated through the unconventional lens of art, the film also enfoldes Nguyen's creative process for *The Leavers*, as it is specifically tied to the instability of memory, one that embellishes, misremembers, and forgets.

N.B. Trong Gia Nguyen will be giving an artist talk at the Goethe-Institut Hanoi on Monday, the 9 February. Please check back for details.

ABOUT TRONG GIA NGUYEN

Trong Gia Nguyen is a multi-disciplinary artist known internationally for his diverse body of works that often examines structures of power in their myriad forms, making attempt to scrutinize the soft foundation upon which contemporary life plays out, often behind the façade of fairness, sincerity, tradition, and civility. Nguyen's work includes everything from iPhone applications (Metaphysical GPS) to installation, film, painting, sculpture, performances, and web-based projects. Nguyen received his MFA from the University of South Florida, Tampa, Florida, USA. He has exhibited internationally in numerous solo and group exhibitions, and has received awards and residencies from the Museum of Arts & Design (New York), Artist-in-Residence in the Everglades, LegalArt Miami, Foundation for Contemporary Arts, Lower Manhattan Cultural Council, Harvestworks Digital Media Center, Bronx Museum of the Arts, and Puffin Foundation.

Trong Gia Nguyen lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

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 with diverse practices from around the world. In keeping with its mission to support education and



develop an infrastructure for the arts in Vietnam, the gallery regularly 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

Artist: Trong Gia Nguyen

Exhibition Title: The Leavers

Exhibition Dates: February 5 – March 28, 2015

Opening Reception: Thursday, the 5th of February from 6 to 8 pm

Venues: Galerie Quynh
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Hours: 10am to 7pm, Tuesday – Saturday and by appointment

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