



Hoang Duong Cam, *Lightning in U Minh Forest VII*, 2011, acrylic on canvas, 189.5 x 240 cm

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

May 31, 2016

Galerie Quynh is delighted to present *Between Two Mysteries*, an exhibition featuring new and rarely seen work by Ho Chi Minh City-based artists Hoang Duong Cam and Truc-Anh. Two ambitious canvases from Hoang's *Lightning in U Minh Forest* series will be shown publicly for the first time since 2011 alongside Truc-Anh's ongoing *Ink Kingdom* project.

Taking inspiration from a vast flooded woodland in the southernmost part of the country, Hoang Duong Cam's *Lightning in U Minh Forest* paintings vividly portray their namesake across colliding layers of myth and history, conceptualization and sensory exploration, external landscape and internal state of mind. Seemingly arranged in organized chaos, abstract shapes and colorful blobs enshroud a macabre undertone suggestive of the folklores and disconcerting past lives that haunt at the heart of the forest, where once roamed near-mythological giant snakes, pirates, Chinese dissidents, outlaws, and Communist guerrillas. Rife with narrative traps, hidden imagery and barely-there stories, the *U Minh Forest* paintings function almost as playful jigsaw puzzles,



depicting scenes from parallel realities, inviting to be made sense of, instilling in viewers an eerie awareness of the Unknown and the Other.

If Hoàng's *U Minh Forest* can be read as a metaphor for the confused – the name *U Minh*, literally translating as 'a place without light', also denotes a mind not-knowing – then Truc-Anh's work represents the microscopic instants when flashes of lightning strike the forest, when the shapes in the dark reveal themselves, and the mind stares at its deepest fears in the eye. Curated from the artist's hugely ambitious *Ink Kingdom* project (to consist of 888 drawings when complete), these works on paper reveal varying degrees of clarity and grotesqueness as well as a breadth of techniques and influences. The works reference a host of fantastical figures and images from world history, popular culture, fiction, and imagination – some images more recognizable than others, some to be felt, the reference turned on its head, perhaps not to be analyzed. Indeed, as with the *U Minh Forest* works, at play here is an element of mischief (whether hinted at through a deliberate tear across *Striptease*, or through the esoteric *Christobalt* and *Julie* painted on drink coasters), working to counter the nocturnal mood and inject a welcoming dynamism. Paired with Hoàng's work, Truc-Anh's drawings suggest a certain enlightenment and lucidness that is found even in the most nightmarish visions, the longest nights, the most impenetrable mysteries. As the artist poignantly states, "There is more to see in things we don't want to see. It's here, at the edge of our possibilities, that we have to open our eyes wide."

## ABOUT HOANG DUONG CAM

One of Vietnam's most daring conceptual artists, Hoang Duong Cam (b. 1974, Hanoi) completed his studies at the Hanoi University of Fine Arts in 1996. As a multidisciplinary artist, Hoang has participated in numerous exhibitions and biennales in Asia, North America and Europe. Notable exhibitions include *Eagles Fly, Sheep Flock: Biographical Imprints – Artistic Practices in Southeast Asia*, curated by Khim Ong for Art Stage Singapore 2015: Southeast Asia Platform; *Electronic Pacific*, SOMArts, San Francisco; *VideoZone 5*, the 5th International Video Art Biennial, Tel Aviv, Israel; Daegu Photo Biennale, Daegu, South Korea; *Arts and Cities*, Aichi Triennale, Nagoya, Japan; *Connect: Art Scene Vietnam*, ifa Galerie Berlin and Stuttgart, Germany; *Fluid Zone*, Jakarta Biennale, Indonesia; *Post-Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; the 3rd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum, Guangzhou, China; *Migration Addicts* (Mogas Station), a collateral event of the 52nd Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy; *Thermocline of Art. New Asian Waves*, ZKM | Museum of Contemporary



Art, Karlsruhe, Germany; and *Belief* (Mogas Station), Singapore Biennale 2006. In 2009 he held a residency at the acclaimed Tokyo Wonder Site, Japan. Hoang Duong Cam has been living and working in Ho Chi Minh City since 2001.

### ABOUT TRUC-ANH

Born in 1983 in Paris, Truc-Anh studied at École Boulle, École Supérieure des Arts Appliqués, Paris; ECAL, Haute École d'Art et de Design, Lausanne, Switzerland; and La Cambre, École Nationale Supérieure des Arts Visuels, Brussels, Belgium. Throughout his career, he has worked in a variety of media, including painting, photography, video, drawing, sculpture and performance.

Truc-Anh has exhibited in numerous exhibitions in Europe, most notably in *30 ans du Mai-Photographies* curated by Claire Bresson, and *White Spirit Part 1 and 2* curated by Tania Nasielski. Recent solo exhibitions include *Ink Kingdom* at Galerie Sator, Paris (2015); *Archipel*, at Galerie Albus Lux, Roosendaal, The Netherlands (2015); and *oNiReaKHoWaRiGNoRaLiSMe*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (2014). Truc-Anh's work has also been featured in *Sounds of Silence* (De stem van de stilte) at Museum CODA, Apeldoorn, the Netherlands (2014), and showcased in some important art fairs: Art Stage Singapore (2016), Drawing Now, Paris (2015 and 2014), Solo Project Art Fair, Basel, Switzerland (2014), and Delhi Photo Festival, New Delhi (2013).

Truc-Anh lives and works between Ho Chi Minh City, Paris and Los Angeles.

### 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. 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 founded the non-profit educational initiative, Sao La. Spearheaded by Ho Chi Minh City-based artists Tung Mai and Nguyen Kim To Lan, Sao La's public programs include exhibitions, film/video screenings, workshops and lectures with local and international partners.

[www.galeriequynh.com](http://www.galeriequynh.com)



GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

Artists: Hoang Duong Cam and Truc-Anh

Exhibition Title: *Between Two Mysteries*

Exhibition Dates: June 3 – July 9, 2016

Opening Reception: 6 – 8 pm, Friday, June 10

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

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