



Do Thanh Lang, untitled, 2015, acrylic on polypropylene paper, 28 x 47 cm

## **PRESS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2016

*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* – Galerie Quynh is delighted to present *Hopscotch*, a duo exhibition featuring new paintings by emerging artists Do Thanh Lang and Hoang Nam Viet. Belonging to the generation of young Vietnamese born at the turn of *Doi Moi* and coming of age into a brave new open-market economy, for their first ever collaboration with Galerie Quynh, Do and Hoang showcase two bodies of work that are markedly different from each other, and yet complementary in their shared themes of freedom and transgression.

Drenched in blazes of bold shapes and colors, Do Thanh Lang's paintings involve faceless figures and hypnagogic settings evocative of Italian giallo films. The situations and actions depicted range from being unsettling to downright grotesque, their significance not immediately obvious. In one work, bodily fluid floods out from a man's lower half, as a gun appears to be pointed at a scantily-clad woman. A bubbling tension can be clearly felt, while the use of polypropylene paper and a top layer of glaring plastic convey a crude physicality to the work adding to the intrigue and urgency of the scenes. In another, naked sleepers lie face-down on the floor, lined up in front of a lone figure seemingly of authority – a scene indicating protection and oppression in equal measure. Indeed, the



ambiguity at play throughout openly invites viewers to weave individualities into these psychedelic backdrops, at the same time hints at the inevitability of universal history repeating itself.

While Do's work is inhabited by mysterious characters, Hoang Nam Viet paints the friends around him and does so with an affection that only comes with tender familiarity. Spend enough time in the company of these earth-toned paintings, however, and one might start sensing an undercurrent of darkness. Here and there, curious gestures and odd, dream-like details conjure up a strange air of melancholy and begin to suggest that not everything is in its right place in the mundane surroundings. What first appear as portraits of loved ones are in fact laced with subtle symbolic meanings: as with Do's paintings, they deliver broader social messages, as well as contemplations on the nature of freedom. There might be a moving defiance and quiet determination to these youngsters, who are not without curiosity and dreams of change; and yet, faced with forces of the status quo, are they still too naked, ultimately powerless?

Nevertheless, Hoang has hope and empathy for his friends and other 'dreamers' to whom his series is dedicated, and this shows through the tiny but reassuring spark of optimism in his work. "Tomorrow is going to be a beautiful day," the artist states. In the meantime, let us get on with our game, one little hopscotch square at a time.

#### **ABOUT DO THANH LANG**

Born in 1986 in Ho Chi Minh City, Do Thanh Lang studied painting at the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts University. His work has been shown in a number of group exhibitions in Ho Chi Minh City, such as *Modern Wind* (HCMC Fine Arts Association, 2008), *My Eldest Sister* (San Art, 2010), *Fall* (Café Tram, 2011), *Out of Nowhere* (Sao La, 2014), and *Art Walk* (numerous venues, 2015). Do has also participated in *Spot Art Singapore 2014* (ARTrium @ MCI, Singapore) and undertaken the residency program *Brown Movement* at Hanoi's Heritage Space (2015). Do lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City.

#### **ABOUT HOANG NAM VIET**

A self-taught artist, Hoang Nam Viet (born 1985, Ho Chi Minh City) has honed his practice across various disciplines. He has participated in comic book workshops, worked in advertising (Saatchi & Saatchi Vietnam and Ogilvy & Mather, HakuHodo), and even founded a café which has become a popular gathering spot for the local intelligentsia. Called Hoang Thi, the café was also the venue for his first solo exhibition *Cuffed in Freedom* (2016). Hoang has participated in several group exhibitions in Ho Chi Minh City including *Chung* (Pongdang Gallery, 2014), *Out of Nowhere* (Sao La,



2014), *Art Walk* (numerous venues, 2015), and *The Primacy of Drawing* (Dia Projects, 2015). Hoang is based in Ho Chi Minh City.

## ABOUT GALERIE QUYNH

Established in December 2003, Galerie Quynh works 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)

Artists: Do Thanh Lang and Hoang Nam Viet

Exhibition Title: *Hopscotch*

Exhibition Dates: September 15 – October 29, 2016

Opening Reception: 6 – 8 pm, Thursday, September 15

Venue: Galerie Quynh  
Level 2, 151/3 Dong Khoi, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City

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

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