



Nguyen Quang Huy, *Hmong girl*, 2018, oil on canvas, 90 x 160 cm

### PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* – Galerie Quynh is thrilled to present *an everyday day* – a solo exhibition of new work by Hanoi-based artist Nguyen Quang Huy. Considered one of Vietnam’s pioneering artists following the Doi Moi reforms initiated in 1986 (a period of economic liberalization marked by increased artistic experimentation), Quang Huy will be showing a suite of oil paintings depicting Hmong women and misty mountainscapes created with hazy brushworks in his distinctive muted palette of blue-grey grisaille. Acclaimed for his versatile practice including video and installation, Huy focuses only on painting for this show – a medium that has remained central to his practice for over two decades.

Much of the artist’s work is inspired by the northern highlands of Vietnam, which he began to visit during his days at the Hanoi Fine Art University with one of his professors who led yearly excursions to sketch in the mountains. On these trips he was accompanied by his classmates Nguyen Van Cuong and Nguyen Minh Thanh with whom he exhibited extensively throughout the 90s, their troika constituting an influential node in the Hanoi art scene during this progressive period. Since graduating in 1996, Huy has continued to make a pilgrimage to the mountains every year, where he photographs the winding roads disappearing into the fog, and the stoic Hmong



women who walk those roads wearing traditional dress with massive burdens upon their backs, before returning to his studio in Hanoi to process the experience.

Dissatisfied with traditional photorealism, Huy developed his own unique voice as a painter – characterized by the use of intentional blurring and a minimal almost monochromatic color scheme, borne out of his search for a more evocative means of capturing the spiritual essence of his subjects. Influenced equally by Buddhist philosophy and the animistic worldview of the Hmong, which maintains that there are spirits inhabiting all animals, plants, rocks and places, Huy sees both his landscapes and his portraits as representations of living registers upon which the history of the people and the land are imprinted, if not visible to the naked eye. Just as the limestone cliffs of Halong Bay have witnessed countless generations come and go like the constant waves that have shaped them, so might the soul of a single woman have recorded the history of an entire people across a succession of lifetimes. It is this subtle quality which Huy strives to convey in his quiet and pensive, ethereal paintings.

The exhibition title is inspired by Quang Huy's poem 'Gặp' – a collection of poignant memories recounted like a chant or a prayer, and a zen-like meditation on the fleeting encounters between men and women, mountains and mist.

Artist:	Nguyen Quang Huy
Exhibition Title:	<i>an everyday day</i>
Exhibition Dates:	December 7, 2018 – January 30 , 2019
Opening Reception:	Thursday, 6 December from 6:30 – 8:30pm
Venue:	Galerie Quynh 118 Nguyen Van Thu, Dakao, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City
Contacts:	Ms. Celine Alexandre – <a href="mailto:celine@galeriequynh.com">celine@galeriequynh.com</a> Ms. Nguyen Khanh Huyen – <a href="mailto:huyen@galeriequynh.com">huyen@galeriequynh.com</a>
Telephone:	+84 28 3822 7218
Hours:	10am – 7pm, Tuesday – Saturday, and by appointment



### **ABOUT NGUYEN QUANG HUY**

Nguyen Quang Huy was born in 1971 in Ha Tay, Vietnam and graduated from the Hanoi University of Fine Arts in 1996. He belongs to the first generation of experimental Vietnamese artists who emerged following the Doi Moi reforms initiated in 1986. Quang Huy has exhibited extensively since the 90s. He has held solo exhibitions in Vietnam, France, the UK and Germany and participated in numerous group shows in Asia, the US, Australia and Europe. Notable exhibitions have been held at the Vietnam Fine Art Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam; EunAm Museum of Art, Gwangju, Korea; ifa galleries, Berlin and Stuttgart, Germany; Stenersenmuseet, Oslo, Norway; and Pavillon des Arts, Paris, France. He has held residencies at Casula Powerhouse Art Center, Sydney, Australia; Pacific Bridge Gallery, Oakland, CA, USA; and Artist Unlimited, Bielefeld, Germany. Quang Huy's works can be found in international collections such as the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, Japan; Andaman Cultural Study Center, Thailand; Post-Vi Dai Collection, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Geneva, Switzerland; and the World Bank, Washington, DC, USA. Quang Huy lives and works in Hanoi, Vietnam.

### **ABOUT GALERIE QUYNH**

Recognized as Vietnam's leading contemporary art gallery, Galerie Quynh has been promoting contemporary art practice in the country for almost two decades. The gallery is known internationally for its consistently focused programming and educational initiatives. 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 develop a sustainable ecosystem for the arts in Vietnam, the gallery collaborates with artists, curators, museums 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. Currently spearheaded by Ho Chi Minh City-based artists Nguyen Kim To Lan and Nguyen Duc Dat, Sao La comprises a young, diverse group of passionate creatives working loosely as a collective.

A new chapter began in December 2017 when the gallery moved to a 600 sqm space in Dakao, District 1. Spread over four floors, the gallery is able to produce more ambitious programming and play an even more vital role in the cultural community in Vietnam.

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

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