



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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*Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam* – The Dogma Prize is pleased to present *Encounter*, a group showcase of fourteen artists applying various media to self-portraiture: from paintings, sculptures, installations to moving images and animation. *Encounter* seeks to reveal the deeper layers of personal stories and self-inquiries. The artworks, both presented as an artistic craftsmanship and a means of self-expression, call for the spectators to observe and actively engage in the exploration of the *self* that are concealed beneath the oftentimes-disguised façade.

In order for the artists to uncover, understand and give insights to their personal identity and inner world, *Encounter* attempts to set a stage where the artists, as individual subjects, observe personal and deep-rooted inner objects through the means of *reflection*, bringing forth a multitude of duality and unavoidable paradoxes between internal and external realities. The artworks show tensions between growth and destruction, as in the case of Nghia Dang's installation, exposure and hiding in Dang Viet Linh's painting, societal discipline and freedom in Tran Quoc Giang's found objects, or rationality and emotions in Pham Hong's soft sculpture.

*Encounter* also encourages reactions through the meeting between the artist and the reality of which he has to cope with, a condition that enables Giang Nguyen's interdisciplinary artwork to open up and pose questions to the external world, the advance of technology into

our future in particular. Through the work, collective visions can be seen yet personal voices can still be heard.

In Truong Minh Quy's short documentary, he searches for his own identity amidst an extended, larger realm of collective memories, which crosses borders geographically and psychologically. Phan Hoai Nhi and Pham Nguyen Anh Tu use animation and video art to unravel inner thoughts, emotions and experiences of millennial city dwellers in the rat race of urbanisation and the omnipresent information age.

When confronted with their own realities, painters Nguyen Van Bay, Nguyen Minh Chau, Nguyen Tan Phat and Vu Ngoc Vinh choose an existential angle – that is individualism versus conformity and the daily struggle of being an artist and being apart of an immediate family, of a societal rigour, or mortal survival amidst the turning of nature's course.

Looking at the self from the metaphysical perspective, Vu Quang materialised the philosophical abstraction into a sculpture that poses as both a result of craftsmanship and conceptuality.

It is worthy to notice a spectrum in the choices of medium, tone, form and technique among all the artists. Ultimately, this is a process in which *Encounter* invites the artists to merge and unify the different parts, leading to an intergenerational pondering on the revelation of the *self*. In recognising an effort from younger artists to move away from the traditional application of self-portraiture vis-à-vis painting, one should also consider the fact that artistic expression on canvas is indeed still a prevalent practice in the country. Hence, the resulting showcase aspires to offer a view on a current landscape in which Vietnamese artists from all walks of life celebrate the spirit of creating self-portraiture.

At the other end of the gaze, spectators are encouraged to pose as equal in a capability of inventing their own translations. Free and unattached to any biased or privileged artistic medium, it would invite all to appropriate works for themselves and make use of these in ways that their artists might never have imagined...in this *Encounter*.

*The Dogma Prize would like to thank Galerie Quynh for generously hosting and providing logistical support for "Encounter".*

## **About Dogma Prize**

The Dogma Prize was established in 2009 and is funded by the independent Dogma Collection. The Prize occurs every two years, and the Dogma Prize 2019 is the sixth edition. The purpose of the Prize is to encourage and promote Vietnamese artists, whether resident in Vietnam or overseas, through a focus on Self-portraiture in all disciplines. Self-portraiture has a long and distinguished history throughout human civilization, and involves those practised in self-expression providing their views on themselves, as a metaphor for the cultures and societies in which they live. This is the spirit of the Prize.

The Dogma Prize 2019 is honoured to have a well-rounded panel of artists-jurors consisting of: Dinh Q. Le, Le Thua Tien and Dinh Thi Tham Poong. These appointments highlight the Prize's recognition of the vast array of artistic practice ranging from experimental to figurative in Vietnamese contemporary art.

## **About Galerie Quynh**

Galerie Quynh has been a progressive champion of contemporary art practice in Vietnam for close to two decades. The gallery is recognized for its consistently focused programming and educational initiatives. In keeping with its mission to build 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 artists Nguyen Kim To Lan and Nguyen Duc Dat, Sao La comprises a young, diverse group of passionate creatives working loosely as an independent collective.

A new chapter began in December 2017 when the gallery moved to a 600 square-meter 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)