



Media Release

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Faculty Gallery

Faculty of Art & Design

Art & Design Building

Monash University

900 Dandenong Road

CAULFIELD EAST

VIC 3145

Gallery Hours

9am-5pm Monday to Friday

1pm-5pm Saturdays

Admission: free

New Figuration in Vietnamese Painting and Sculpture

10 February – 10 March 2005

Painting and sculpture in Vietnam were under the influence of French Modernism and Soviet Socialist Realism for almost a hundred years. Historical influences came from Chinese painting and print-making, and the Vietnamese painter-poet tradition of landscape and figurative genre painting. A new exhibition at the Faculty Gallery, Monash University (Caulfield) entitled ***New Figuration in Vietnamese Painting and Sculpture*** demonstrates contemporary tendencies in Vietnamese art, from central and south Vietnam.

Co-curated by **Annette Van den Bosch**, School of English, Communications and Performance Studies, Monash University, and **Tran Thi Huynh Nga**, Director, Blue Space Contemporary Arts Centre, Ho Chi Minh City, this exhibition brings together the painting, sculpture and works on paper of five contemporary Vietnamese artists: Nguyen Thai Tuan, Nguyen Thanh Son, Do Hoang Tuong, Tran Anh Quan and Nguyen Minh Phuong.

“It is particularly important to exhibit new Vietnamese art in Melbourne, which has a large Vietnamese diaspora, because the interchange between the culture of origin and the culture of the diaspora is now one of the most interesting subjects in critical theory,” says Dr Van den Bosch.

“Artists in Vietnam have more restricted opportunities for showing new aesthetic tendencies or socially critical art than in most other countries.”

“The opportunity to exhibit the work of [these artists]...to a diverse audience of Australians and the Vietnamese diaspora is important to the artists involved, but also significant for the Australian art world.”

The exhibition will be officially opened at the Faculty Gallery by **Mike Zafiropoulos**, General Manager, SBS Melbourne, on Wednesday 9 February at 6:30pm.

For further information or images, contact Kirsten Freeman, Manager, Marketing & Communications on (03) 9903 1832.



(left) Nguyen Thai Tuan, *Untitled*, 2002, oil on canvas; (right) Nguyen Minh Phuong, *Untitled*, 1998, mixed media installation. Images reproduced courtesy of Blue Space Contemporary Arts Centre and the artists.