



LIVINWONDR - STARS IN OUR EYES: CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE – Artist Submissions

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 20, 2016

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – Galerie Quynh is thrilled to launch the community-art project *Livinwondr* initiated by Hung Viet Tran. The gallery will host a 9-day fundraising exhibition from the 6th to the 14th of May.

Comprising a sculptural structure made up of stainless-steel (inox) tubes that can be arranged in various permutations, *Livinwondr* is an interactive project, taking on configurational transformations in direct response to public surroundings. The shape-shifting nature of *Livinwondr* is not unlike how the name itself – and thus its meaning – can be deliberated upon along multiple avenues: the states of being immersed in wonder and beauty; of living with curiosity and an open mind; of recognizing living wonders – miracles or spectacles that are alive.

Notwithstanding variations in outward appearances, a constant at the heart of *Livinwondr* is its commitment to communities and collective actions. A manifestation of the interconnectedness of our modern world, for each *Livinwondr* project any member of the (global) population can contribute, via an online platform, their artistic interpretation of a theme previously set. Curated by Tran, the submissions are varied in expression and discipline such as fine art, design, photography, illustration, sonic arts, comics, calligraphy, etc. – ‘anything that sparks imagination’). Celebrated artist Tiffany Chung, veteran photographer Thong Van Nguyen and comic book artist But Chi are among the 17 contributors to the project thus far. Submissions are engraved upon the inox tubes and woven into the fabric of an all-encompassing whole. Once finished, the pieces function as public platforms for communal exchanges and connection and can be employed towards



exhibition and performance purposes. Within the framework of each individual *Livingwondr* project, workshops and other participatory events are organized to engender the exploration of the (hi)stories behind the artworks, which can also be experienced via disembodied, digital mediums.

The first *Livingwondr* incarnation – under the theme *Stars in Our Eyes: Creating a Sense of Place* – has been conceived to unfold in Vietnam. Here, through an open call for submissions, the public is invited to (re)imagine the country's past and future and to find its place within an ever-evolving present; to take back collective memories fading away with each passing generation; and to create a sense of beauty for everyday life.

As of April 2016, *Stars in Our Eyes* has received 25 submissions from Vietnam and beyond. Making use of this content, two *Livingwondr* structures have been assembled and displayed (in November 2015 at Saigon Holiday Market and Huflit University – both in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam). For this upcoming fundraising exhibition and the consequent sojourn at Galerie Quynh, the 25 inox tubes are to be arranged in another new configuration, featuring a diverse range of engravings: from mythology-based comics, recreations of traditional phoenix motifs, photographic snapshots of moments historic and everyday, to cartographic drawings, musical notations, or handwritten experimental poetry.

Galerie Quynh believes in *Livingwondr's* potential, which extends beyond artistic and creative circles. Through this fundraising exhibition and associated activities, we endeavour to assist Tran to carry this ambitious project through its next progression. There are a number of ways through which you, too, can support this collective dream: by purchasing merchandise items (posters) and individual inox pieces of the structure (or the whole structure), by sharing your stories and creations with the *Livingwondr* team, or simply by spreading the word about the project or visiting the display site.

ABOUT HUNG VIET TRAN

Hung Viet Tran (b. 1973, Saigon, Vietnam) is a transmedia artist and filmmaker who works through multiple channels – covering web-based media, video, installation, performance, architecture, sculpture, photography, and drawing – to create interactive, transformative art that lives in public spaces. Most often, Tran's work engages the general public as participants and collaborators who contribute to the creation of artworks. Through this open creative process, Tran hopes to transform the public's relationship with art into one based on spontaneous experiences, wherein responses to the artworks can highlight personal choices in embracing or rejecting historical, political, and social issues in their communities.



Tran's work has been exhibited nation-wide and internationally, including in New York, Los Angeles, Miami, and Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam). His public and participatory projects have taken shape throughout the United States and Asia. He has also held solo exhibitions at ACME. and PØST galleries in Los Angeles, and has had his films screened at the Pacific Asia Museum (Pasadena, California). Tran is a Co-founder and former Co-director of Crockett Rodeo – a contemporary art gallery in Seattle, Washington (1996-97). The artist has received grants and awards from the Black Rock Arts Foundation (2013), Denmark Embassy Cultural Development & Exchange Fund (2012), Long Beach Artist Fellowship (2009), and Skowhegan Artist Fellowship (1996). Tran splits his time between Los Angeles and Ho Chi Minh City.

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

Exhibition Title: LIVINWONDR - STARS IN OUR EYES: CREATING A SENSE OF PLACE

Exhibition Dates: May 6 – May 14, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, the 6th of May from 6 to 9pm

Venue: Galerie Quynh
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Hours: 10 am to 7 pm, Tuesday – Saturday and exceptionally from 10am – 5pm,
Sunday, May 8