



GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

Landscape | Mindscape
Phong cảnh | Tâm cảnh

HÀ MẠNH THẮNG

OCTOBER 3 - NOVEMBER 2, 2019

GALERIE QUYNH
118 Nguyen Van Thu, Dakao
District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

+84 28 3822 7218
info@galeriequynh.com
www.galeriequynh.com

INTRODUCTION

Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *Landscape | Mindscape*, an exhibition of new work by Ha Manh Thang, one of Vietnam's most accomplished painters. This is Ha's third solo exhibition at the gallery.

Consisting of mixed media paintings on canvas, silk, and paper and inspired by the artist's extensive collection of Vietnamese antiques, the work evokes the change of the seasons, and the mixture of melancholia and awe experienced when viewing the remains of beautiful ruins.

Ha first began collecting antiques in 2002 while he was a student at the Vietnam University of Fine Arts, and he has never stopped, filling his light-bathed studio with exquisite lacquer and pearl-inlaid woodwork, glazed pottery, and ancient statuary from the antique shops of Hanoi. Ha's work has always approached traditional Vietnamese craft and culture with a contemporary sensibility and an expressionistic flare. While earlier series followed the visual logic of the architectural blueprint or the landscape, depicting whole buildings and lakes in their entirety, the new work follows the logic of the still life, depicting antique objects in toto, or focusing on particular motifs appearing therein.

Notably, the new series includes several studies of a lotus shaped pedestal – a specific item from the artist's

collection, carved in wood in the early 17th to the 18th century during the Le Dynasty. Time and again he painted this lotus pedestal, which once served as a support for a statue of the Buddha, yet which now remains vacant, symbolically evoking the material foundations of spiritual belief as well as the erosion of history with the passage of time. Rendered both on paper and on canvas, the works on paper start off fairly straightforward, showing the lotus petals around the edges, and the vacant socket in the center. However, these studies become increasingly abstracted with each iteration until, in the ultimate painting of this subject on canvas, the pedestal has been reduced to a dark and blurry shadow, a withered ghost of what once represented purity.

The lotus pedestal studies are the most obviously representational works in the show while other works drift deeper into abstraction, subtly evoking images of trees and waves, drawn from such sources as lacquer boxes and pearl-inlaid panels. Most of the paintings were rendered on canvas, but in a new development, Ha has introduced silk into some of his works. By letting his thick impasto brushwork subside over the silk portions, the light is allowed to pass through, casting shadows on the wall behind and drawing the viewer deeper into the paintings.

Moving from the external landscape to the internal mindscape, the starting points from which Ha paints fade into obscurity, and in their place, sensations arise. The chill of a Hanoi winter's night, or the morning light breaking through the trees in spring: these subjects are not depicted so much as evinced, inviting us to experience the perspective of an artist who paints not just what he sees, but what he feels: bittersweet beauty amidst decay.

ABOUT HA MANH THANG

Ha Manh Thang's work is a poetic meditation on the passage of time, memory and place. His paintings speak to viewers about mindfulness and the vicissitudes of life. Seeped through with a quiet lyricism informed by Ha's interests in Western jazz and classical East Asian poetry, and inspired just as much by chance encounters as elaborate conceptual starting points, his paintings are, in the artist's words, 'attempts to better understand oneself in relation to nature, and to express what one cannot grasp'. Born in 1980 in Thai Nguyen Province, Ha is one of Vietnam's most important painters. Ha has been featured alongside acclaimed artists such as Gerhard Richter, Marlene Dumas and Peter Doig in several international publications including 'Painting Now' (Thames and Hudson, 2015) and 'Painting Today' (Phaidon, 2009). Ha has held a number of notable regional and international exhibitions including *Pueblos*

en Resistencia, 1 Bienal del Sur, Caracas, Venezuela; *Instruments of Meditation: Works of Art from the Zoltán Bodnár Collection*, Reök Palace, Budapest, Hungary; *Connect: Kunstzene Vietnam*, ifa Galleries, Berlin and Stuttgart, Germany; *The rain and the small stream* presented by Ernst & Young's Asean Art Outreach program, Singapore; and *Post-Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, Singapore Art Museum. Ha Manh Thang's work is in public and private collections around the world including the National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China; Singapore Art Museum, Singapore; Post-Vi Dai Collection, Geneva, Switzerland and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam; and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam. Ha currently lives and works in Hanoi.

EXHIBITION VIEWS













WORKS



Fading morning #2 | Buổi sáng lụi tàn #2

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, gold leaf and oil on canvas

290 x 150 cm



Midnight #9 | Nửa đêm #9

2018

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, gold leaf and oil on canvas

290 x 150 cm



Fading winter #1 | Mùa đông phai tàn #1

2018

acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas

70 x 176 cm



Winter night #2 | Đêm mùa đông #2

2019

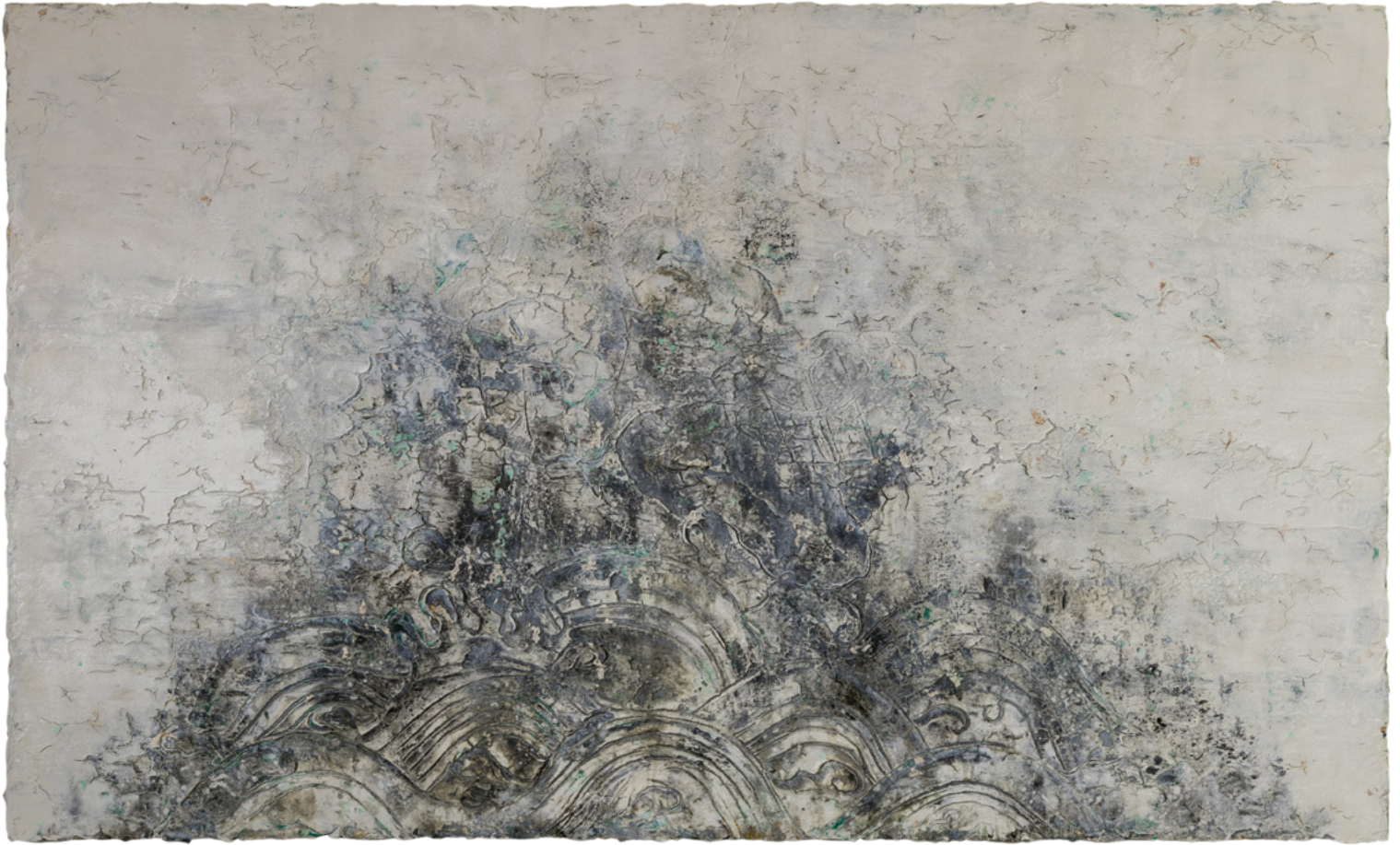
acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, and oil on canvas and silk

118 x 70 cm



Pure morning #2 | *Buổi sáng tinh khiết #2*
2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas
48.5 x 70 cm



The waves #1 | Cơn sóng #1

2018

acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, gold leaf and oil on canvas

100 x 165 cm



Spring rain #1 | Mưa xuân #1

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer and oil on canvas and silk

100 x 50.5 cm



Spring rain #2 | Mưa xuân #2

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer and oil on canvas and silk

100 x 50.5 cm



Midsummer | Trưa hè

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer and oil on canvas

30.5 x 45 cm



Autumn rain | Mura thu

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas and silk

54.5 x 40 cm



Winter midnight #6 | Đêm đông #6

2019

acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas and silk

96 x 70 cm



Blue night #3 | Đêm màu xanh

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, gold leaf and oil on canvas and silk

54.5 x 40 cm



Winter midnight #16 | Đêm đông #16

2019

acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, gold leaf and oil on canvas

165 x 120 cm



At midnight #14 | Nửa đêm #14

2019

acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas and silk

60.5 x 45 cm



Winter midnight #2 | Đêm đông #2

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on canvas and silk

60.5 x 45 cm



Fading Morning #1 | Buổi sáng lụi tàn #1

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, gold leaf and oil on canvas

100 x 195 cm



Lotus Pedestal #6 | Bệ sen cỏ #6

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal, lacquer, gold leaf and oil on canvas

165 x 165 cm



Lotus Pedestal #7 | Bệ sen cổ #7

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on paper

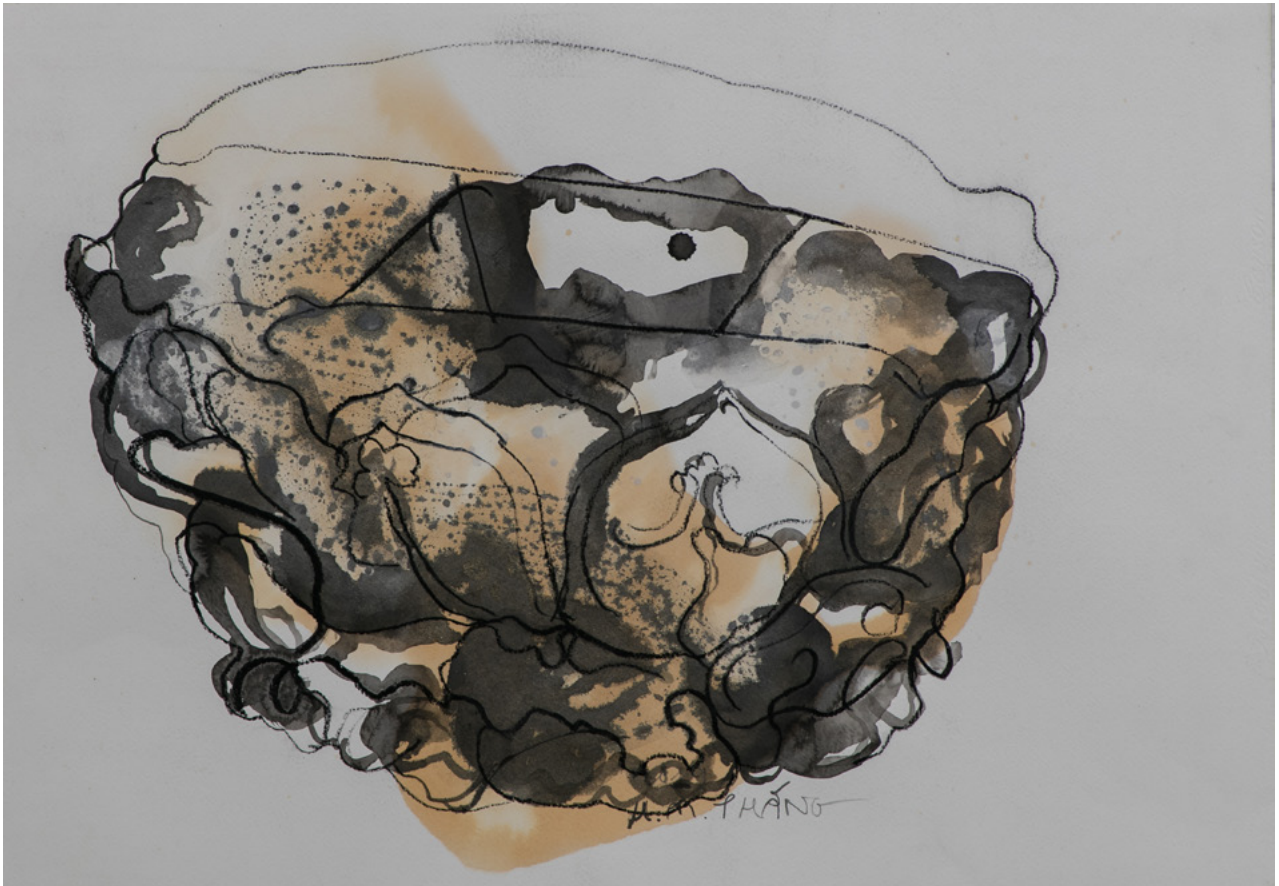
78.5 x 110 cm (90 x 121.5 x 9 cm framed)



Lotus Pedestal #8 | Bệ sen cổ #8

2019

acrylic, acrylic medium, charcoal and oil on paper
78.5 x 110 cm (90 x 121.5 x 9 cm framed)

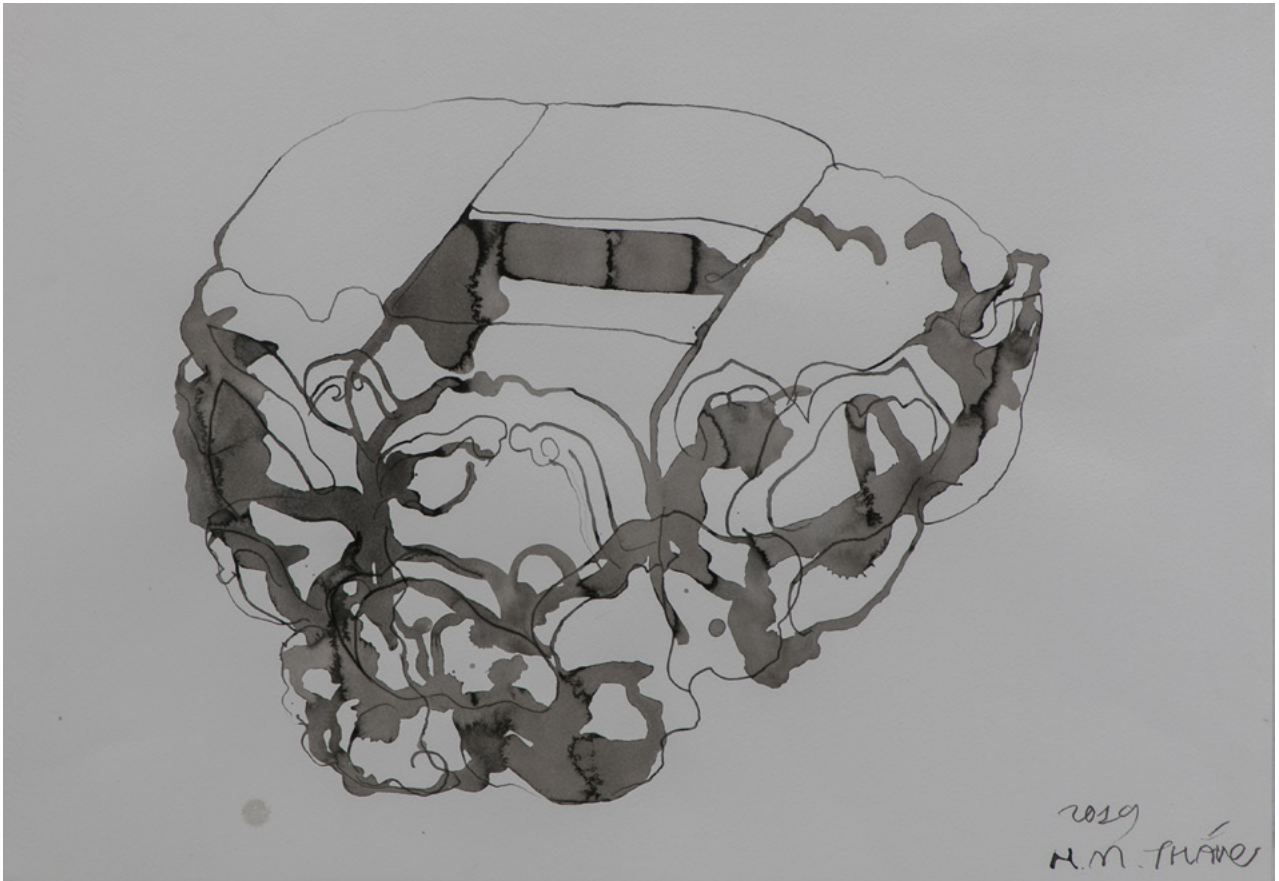


Lotus Pedestal Study #2 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #2

2019

charcoal and ink on paper

41.5 x 60 cm (57 x 75.5 x 4.5 cm framed)

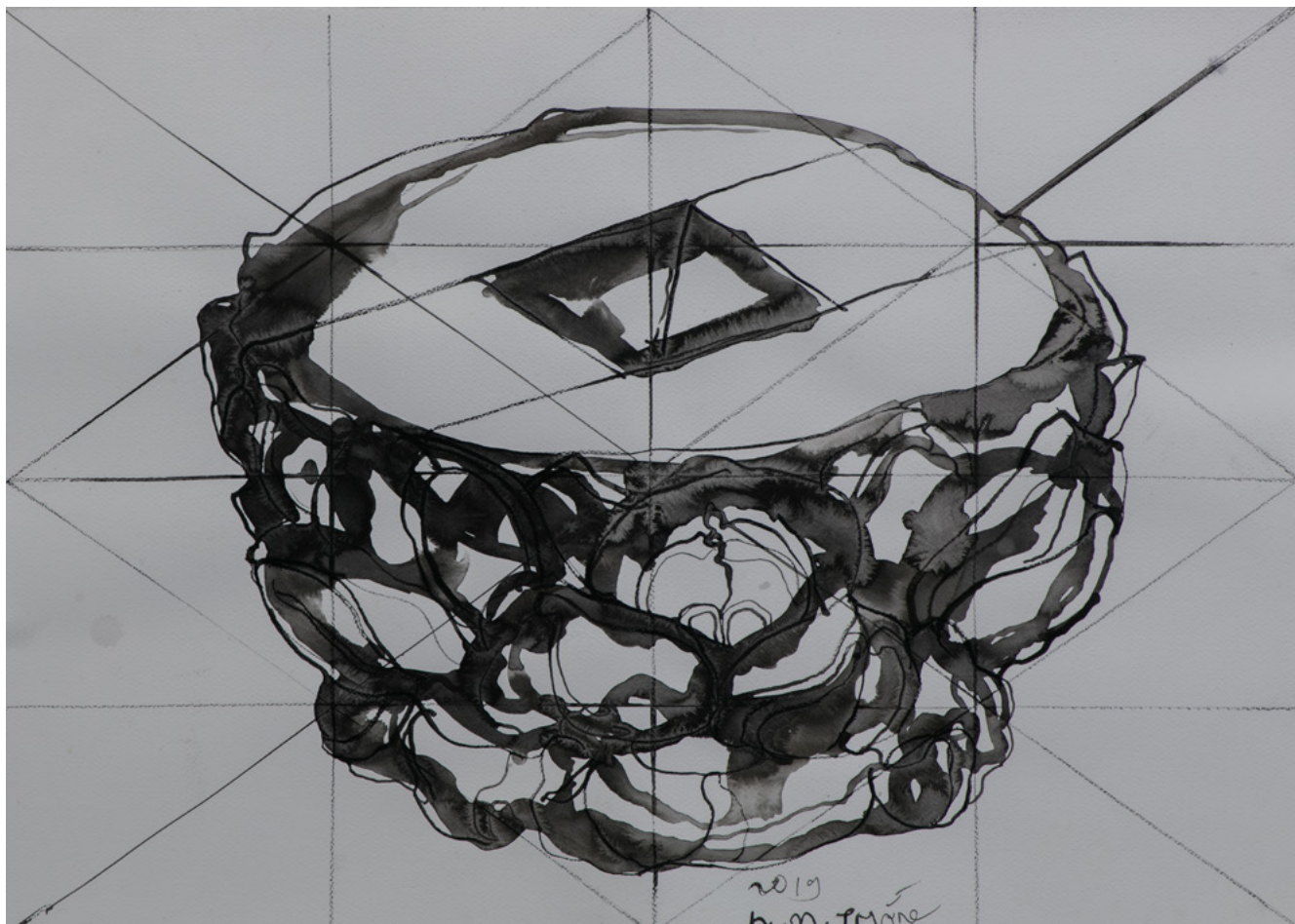


Lotus Pedestal Study #4 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #4

2019

charcoal and ink on paper

41.5 x 60 cm (57 x 75.5 x 4.5 cm framed)

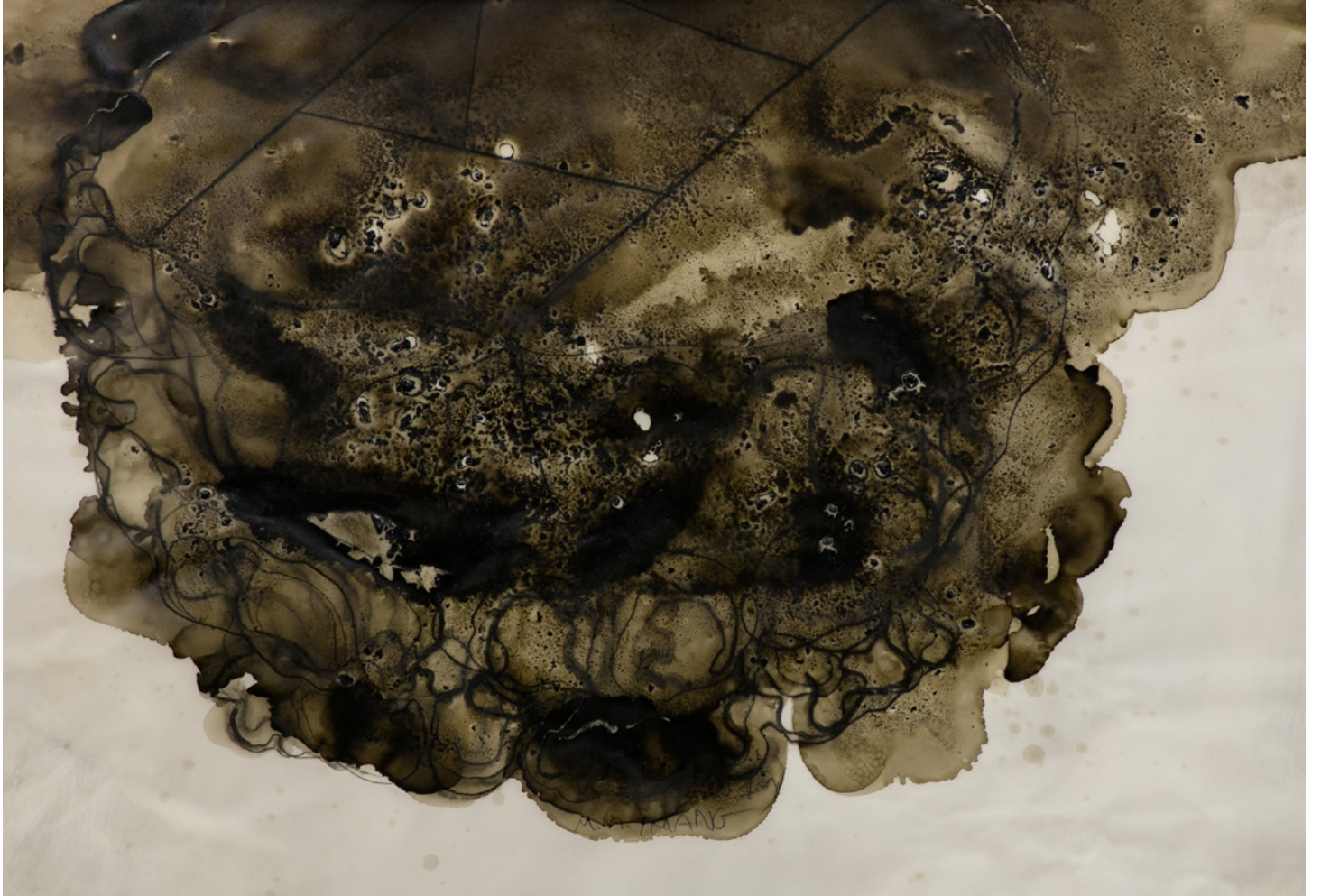


Lotus Pedestal Study #5 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #5

2019

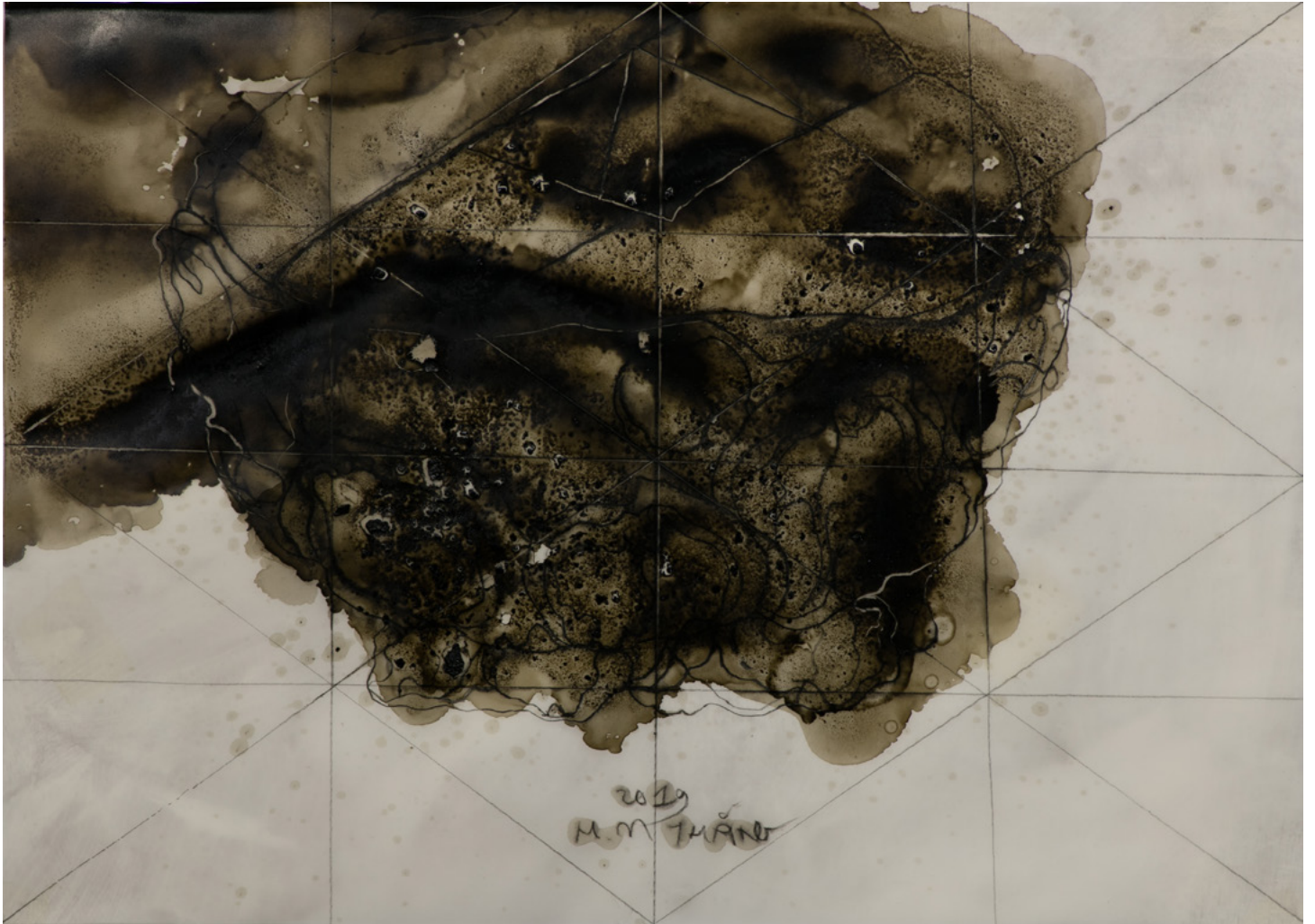
charcoal and ink on paper

50 x 70 cm (66 x 85.5 x 4.5 cm framed)



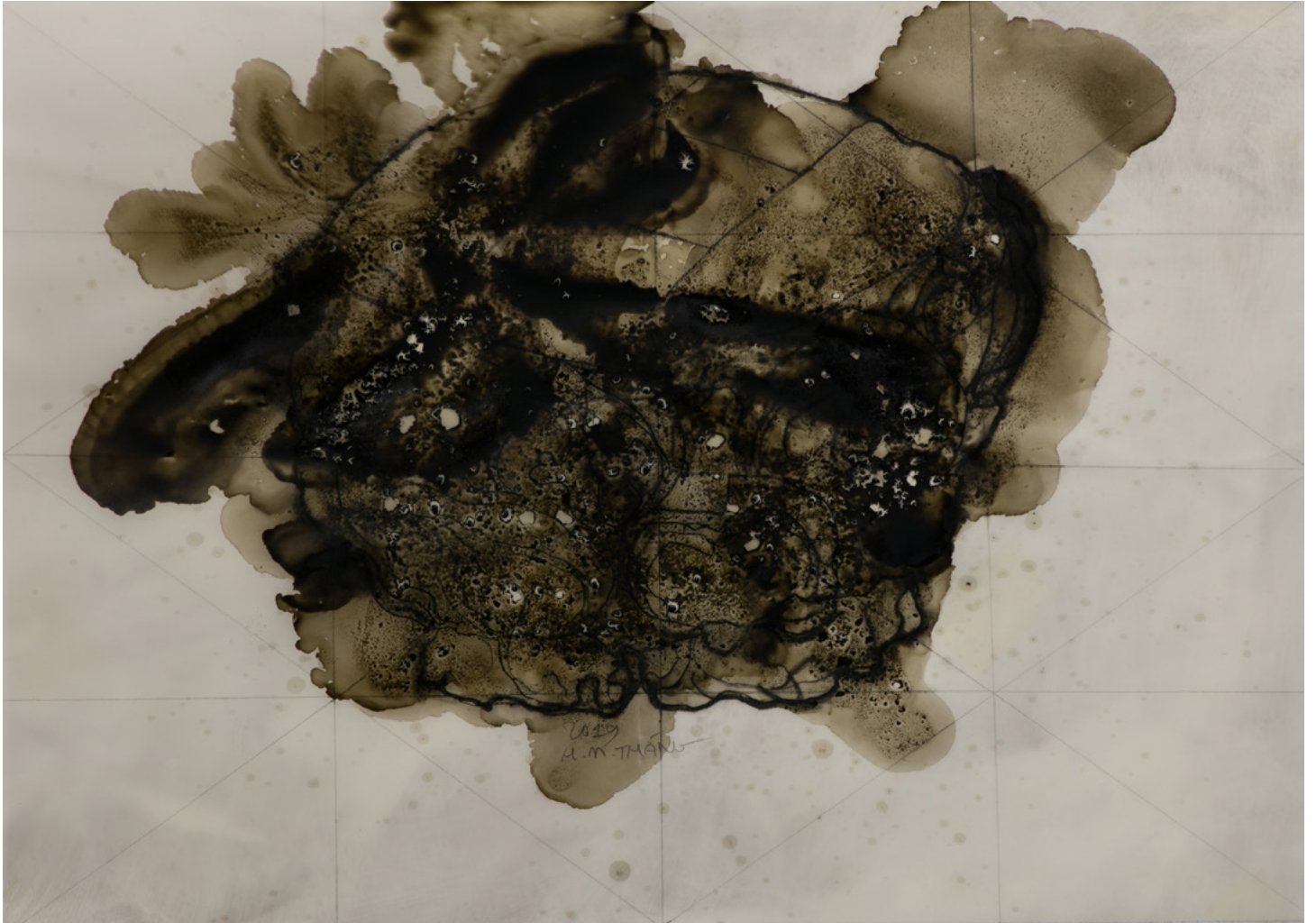
Lotus pedestal study #6 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #6
2019

charcoal, lacquer and ink on paper
60 x 84 cm (77 x 101 x 4.5 cm framed)



Lotus Pedestal Study #7 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #7
2019

charcoal, lacquer and ink on paper
60 x 84 cm (77 x 101 x 4.5 cm framed)



Lotus Pedestal Study #8 | Nghiên cứu bệ sen cổ #8

2019

charcoal, lacquer and ink on paper

60 x 84 cm (77 x 101 x 4.5 cm framed)

BIOGRAPHY

HA MANH THANG

Born in 1980 in Thai Nguyen Province, Vietnam

Lives and works in Hanoi, Vietnam

EDUCATION

2004 Graduated from the Hanoi Fine Arts University

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 *Landscape | Mindscape*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2018 *Ellipses*, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2017 *Passage of Time*, Affinity Art, Hong Kong
- 2015 *Far in the North*, L'Espace, L'Institut Francais, Hanoi, Vietnam
KHÓI SÓNG, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2014 *Fading Dreams - Disintegrating Realities*, Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
- 2013 *HEAVEN IS A PLACE*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2010 *Not Memory*, Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2008 *The rain and the small stream*, Ernst & Young Asean Art Outreach, Singapore
- 2007 *Red Faces*, Dong Phong Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2008 *Beyond the Portrait*, Suffusive Art Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2019 National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
SQUARE, Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2018 *The Language of Images: Hungarian & Vietnamese contemporary paintings*, Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi; traveled to Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum
song of the cicada among the summer poppies, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Light & Colours: Art of Vietnam, Singapore & Malaysia, ION Art Gallery, Orchard Turn, Singapore
Alluvium, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2017 *The Foliage*, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
The Three-Cornered World, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- 2016 *Vietnam Eye: Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, Casa Italia, Hanoi, Vietnam
Dérive, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2015 *I Bienal del Sur: Pueblos en Resistencia*, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
- 2014 *Being Present*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
drop, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
in the shadow of appearances, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Onward and Upward, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2013 *Grapevine Selection, Vol 1*, Hanoi Fine Art Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2012 *REVEALED CONCEALED: ALTERED ICONS*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2011 *Instruments of Meditation: Works of Art from the Zoltán Bodnár Collection*, Reök Palace, Budapest, Hungary
- 2010 *The Armory Show*, Bui Gallery and Mendes Wood Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Ha Manh Thang and Le Qui Thong in the Bodnár Collection, NextArt Galéria, Budapest, Hungary
- 2009 *Connect: Kunstzene Vietnam*, ifa Galleries, Berlin and Stuttgart
Who do you think we are?, Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2008 *Post Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
SH3OOT, L'Espace, Centre Culturel Français de Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2007 *Hanoi: 5000 Hoan Kiem Lakes*, curated by Natasha Kraevskaia, Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
The Other Side, Maison des Arts, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2006 *Trading*, Suffusive Art Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2019 Uyen Ly and Nguyen Duc Tung, "Artist Ha Manh Thang depicts the beauty of 'imperfection' from artefacts," *Hanoi Grapevine*, Hanoi, February 17, 2019
- 2017 *The Circle of Time*, Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam
The Foliage, exhibition catalogue, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2016 Art Tapei 2016, exhibition catalogue, Taipei
Ardia, Mai, "AIA Vietnam Eye: Vietnamese contemporary artists in focus – in pictures," *Art Radar*, December 21, 2016
Vietnam Eye: Contemporary Vietnamese Art, ed. Serenella Ciclitira, Skira Editore, Milan, Italy
Bauer, Alice, "Derive, This is Your Brain on Urban," *Wall Street International*, 20 September 2016

- Corey, Pamela, "Vietnam," *Catalyst 1.0*, A publication by Art Stage Singapore, January 2016, Singapore
- Wilson, Catherine, "Vietnam," Almanac edition, *Art Asia Pacific*, Vol XI, January 2016, Hong Kong
- 2015 Hudson, Suzanne, *Painting Now*, Thames and Hudson, New York, NY, USA
- 2014 "Echoing Motifs through 2000 Years," & *Of Other Things*, July 2014, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Ardia, Mai, "Vietnam's 10 Best Contemporary Artists and Where to Find Them," *The Culture Trip*, July 2014
- Wilson, Catherine, "Vietnam," Almanac edition, *Art Asia Pacific*, Vol IX, January 2014
- 2013 Scott, Phoebe, "Is this Heaven? Monumentality and Doubt in New Works by Ha Manh Thang," *HEAVEN IS A PLACE*, exhibition catalogue, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- My Tran, "Ha Manh Thang's iconic monuments," *The Saigon Times*, April 27, 2013
- 2010 *Connect: Kunstszenen Vietnam*, exhibition catalogue, ifa-Galerie Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- 2009 Godfrey, Tony, *Painting Today*, Phaidon Press, London, United Kingdom
- Hardy, Godfrey Harold, "Collectivism and Individualism in Society and Art after Doi Moi," *Essays on Modern and Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Who do you think we are?*, exhibition catalogue, Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2008 *Post-Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, exhibition catalogue, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore



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