



GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

breeze on the river gió trên sông

a solo exhibition by **Trần Văn Thảo**

19.03.2022 - 29.04.2022

GALERIE QUYNH

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INTRODUCTION

Extracted from the essay 'Field, Filament, Frame: Tran Van Thao's Abstraction'

by Professor Pamela Corey, Fulbright University Vietnam

Thảo's most recent series of paintings, *Breeze on the River*, achieving new ambitions in scale and a continued engagement with palimpsestic method, reflect even stronger intentionality and systematic process. Inspired by our psychological interactions with nature, and the calming effects of riverine currents of air and water, the paintings allude to the flitting images, memories, and sensations that become more lucid and find order when the mind is stilled. The paintings seem to register this state of transition, of agitation finding resolution, auguring tranquility. His recurring fields of white and blue tints become pure expanses of space and sensation – color fields, yes - but they refuse total absorption. This is by virtue of Thảo's choosing to evacuate small, singular areas of the top layers of paint to expose and frame unexpected forms that emerge from the underpainting, which in some instances are further accentuated with scrawls and symbols. These figures and frames interrupt immersion and a fixed distance between viewer and surface, necessitating an investigative, mobile, sometimes forensic perusal. The paintings thus provide numerous sites and scales of interaction: from the layering of colors and forms through the canvas's geological space; to the search beyond the frame for the worldly references that have inspired the motifs and expanses of hues within; to the sharing of ambience and radiance between viewers and the large-scale canvases that produces immersive relations. In his distinctive engagement with abstraction over the last thirty years, Trần Văn Thảo thus continues to mine abstract painting for its accommodation of paradox and possibility.

If, after the Great War, the heavens of literature and philosophy shined with stars like Sartre, Camus, Clement Rosset, Robbe-Grillet, etc., then there are not just a few flickering stars in the sky of painting, but a whole galaxy of stars throughout the scope of the arts, extending from the cold climates of snow and ice to the dry heat of the tropics. Thoughts and ideas link and connect every city, every road, every corner of philosophical thinking about the value of every living creature that exists between eternity and each flickering blink of an eye, every last breath. ... The magnitude of abstract painting no longer resigns us to limited shapes and sizes ... but it extends into infinity. Standing before an abstract painting, viewers find themselves in self-reflection, as though they confront eternity, there, a complexity no longer restricted to the canvas.

- Tạ Tỵ, "Nổi xao xuyến của hội họa trừu tượng," ("The Upheaval of Abstract Painting")
Nghệ Thuật 65, October 16-23, 1965, p. 10.

ABOUT TRAN VAN THAO

Tran Van Thao (b. 1961, Saigon), one of Vietnam's foremost abstract painters, is recognized for his individual markings, rich colour fields and compositions that convey a sense of harmony and balance through a contemplative atmosphere that invites introspection and mindfulness. For Tran, inspiration comes from the humble yet dynamic experience of everyday life, as well as the immediacy of his surroundings.

Tran Van Thao belongs to an influential group of painters who rose to prominence in the 90s following the 1986 Doi Moi economic reforms. Part of the historic Group of 10 artists that catalysed the process to recognise abstraction as a legitimate genre of the visual arts in Vietnam, Tran was one of the group's most prominent members.

Tran graduated from the Ho Chi Minh University of Fine Arts in 1986, and has since held numerous exhibitions across Asia, Europe, and the U.S. Selected international exhibitions include *Out of Context*, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, California, USA; *Art Festival for World Peace*, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea; *ASEAN Art Awards*, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; *On the Horizon*, Pacific Bridge Contemporary Southeast Asian Art, Oakland, California, USA; *L'Anima*

Soffocata, Museo Biblioteca Archivio, Bassano del Grappa, Italy; *Paris, Hanoi, Saigon: The Adventures of Modern Art in Vietnam*, Pavillon des Arts, Paris, France; *The Finest Collection from Sister Cities*, Busan Metropolitan Art Museum, Busan, Korea; *Man and Woman*, H&S Gallery, Brussels, Belgium, travelled to Paris, Tokyo, San Francisco, Singapore; *From the Red River to the Mekong: The New Trend in Vietnamese Art*, Centre Wallonie-Bruxelles, Paris, France; *A Winding River: The Journey of Contemporary Art in Vietnam*, Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C., USA, travelled to various venues in the United States; *11th International Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition*, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines; *Vietnamese Art After Doi Moi*, Fujita Vente Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan; *10th International Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition*, National Museum Art Gallery, Singapore; and *Contemporary Vietnamese Art Exhibition*, Tropical Museum, The Hague, Holland. In 2002 he was the recipient of the Asian Cultural Council's Starr Foundation Fellowship and spent four months as an artist-in-residence in New York.

EXHIBITION VIEWS





breeze on the river
gió trên sông
Trần Văn Thảo
16.02.2012 - 19.04.2012



















Breeze on the river #2 | Gió trên sông #2

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #3 | Gió trên sông #3

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #4 | Gió trên sông #4

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

100 x 140 cm



Breeze on the river #5 | Gió trên sông #5

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #6 | *Gió trên sông #6*

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #7 | Gió trên sông #7

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

141 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #8 | Gió trên sông #8

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 300 cm



Breeze on the river #9 | Gió trên sông #9

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #10 | Gió trên sông #10

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

141 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #11 | Gió trên sông #11

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm

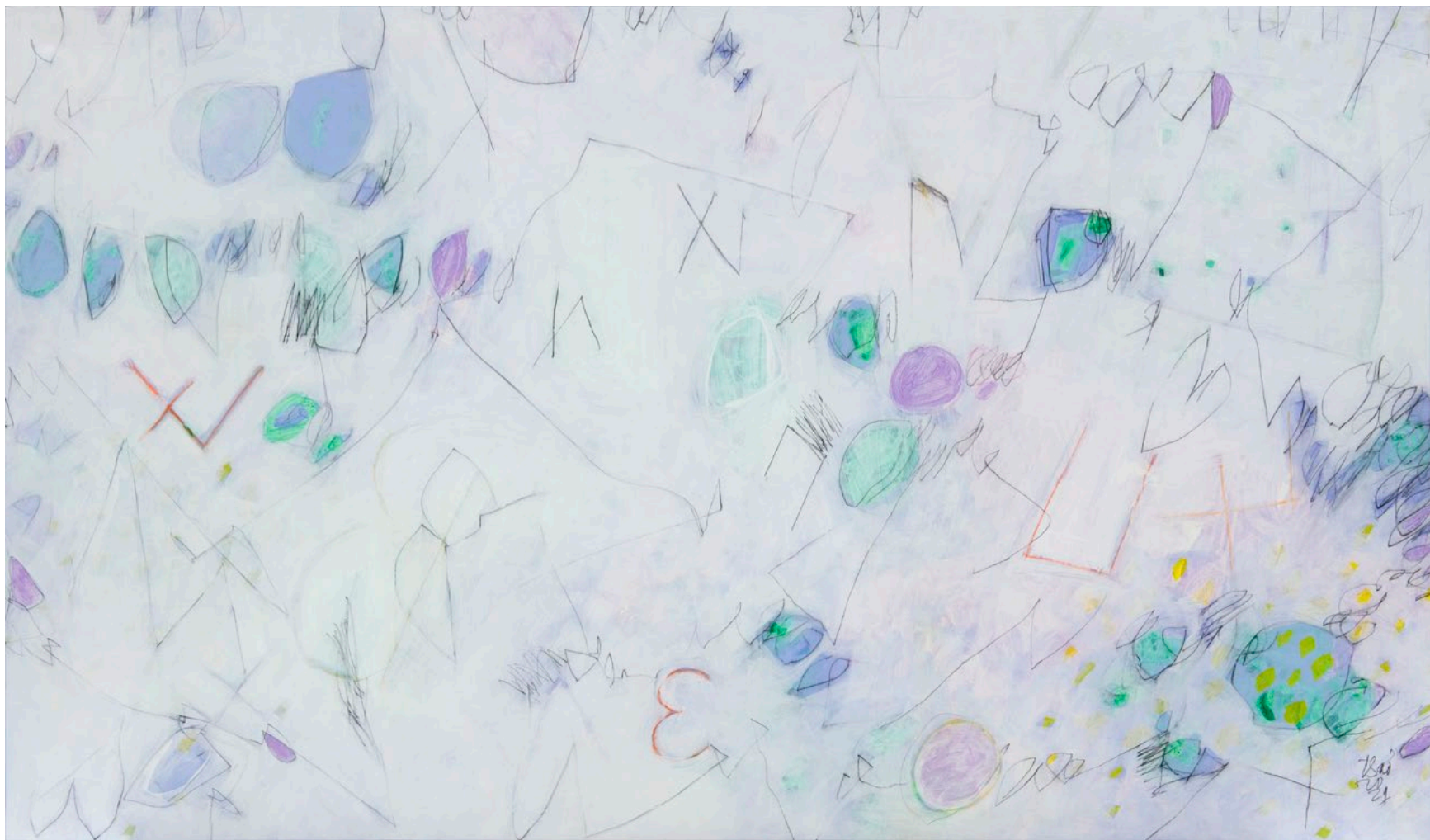


Breeze on the river #12 | Gió trên sông #12

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #13 | Gió trên sông #13

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #14 | *Gió trên sông #14*

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #15 | Gió trên sông #15

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 240 cm



Breeze on the river #16 | Gió trên sông #16

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

140 x 225 cm



Breeze on the river #17 | Gió trên sông #17

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

100 x 140 cm



Breeze on the river #18 | Gió trên sông #18

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

120 x 90 cm



Breeze on the river #1 | Gió trên sông #1

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

90 x 120 cm



Breeze on the river #19 | Gió trên sông #19

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

60 x 80 cm



Breeze on the river #20 | Gió trên sông #20

2021

acrylic, oil, charcoal, oil pastel on canvas

60 x 80 cm

BIOGRAPHY

TRAN VAN THAO

Born in 1961 in Saigon, Vietnam

Lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

EDUCATION

- 1986 Graduated from the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1981 Graduated from the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts College, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Breeze on the river*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2017 *the line*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2013 *Immersion*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2012 *Sea's Slow*, Saigon Domaine, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2007 *Blue Skies & Fairy Tales*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2004 *April*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2001 *Undulations*, Moco Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2000 *Origins Revisited*, City Exhibition House, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1993 Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2019 *in between days*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2017 *The Foliage*, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2016 *The Three-Cornered World*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Local-liti*, curated by Sao La, Dia Projects, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Mo Cua, Vietnam National Fine Art Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam

Dérive, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2015 *olio. v2*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

March: Art Walk, curated by Sao La, Freeland, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2014 *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

2012 *collisions of clamor and calm*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2011 *vis-à-vis*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Composition | Construct, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2010 *8+8 in HCMC*, Vietnam-Japan Contemporary Art Exhibition 2010, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

of reveries and obsessions, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2008 *olio. the year end show*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

2005 *Out of Context*, Huntington Beach Art Center, Huntington Beach, CA, USA

2000 *Art Festival for World Peace*, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul, Korea

KOA Gallery, Kapiolani Community College, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

1999 *Recent Works 8th Annual Exhibition*, City Exhibition House, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

ASEAN Art Awards, National Art Gallery, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Vietnam Art Awards, Vietnam National Fine Art Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam

An exhibition of work realized at a workshop of Vietnamese and French artists in Bao Loc, City Exhibition House, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

1998 *On the Horizon*, Pacific Bridge Contemporary Southeast Asian Art, Oakland, CA, USA

Afternoon Tea and Chillies, Gallery Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

L'Anima Soffocata, Museo Biblioteca Archivio, Bassano del Grappa, Italy

- Paris, Hanoi, Saigon: The Adventures of Modern Art in Vietnam*, Pavillion Des Arts, Paris, France
- The Finest Collections from Sister Cities*, Busan Museum of Art, Busan, Korea
- An exhibition of work realized at a workshop of Vietnamese and Thai artists in Dalat, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1997 *Man and Woman*, H&S Gallery, Brussels, Belgium. Traveled to Paris, Tokyo, San Francisco, Singapore
- From the Red River to the Mekong: The New Trend in Vietnamese Art*, Wallonie Brussels Center, Paris, France
- A Winding River: The Journey of Contemporary Art in Vietnam*, Meridian International Center, Washington, D.C., USA. Traveled to various venues in the United States
- All the Rivers are Running: Vietnamese Contemporary Fine Art*, Trang An Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 1996 *11th International Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition*, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Manila, Philippines
- Vietnamese Art after Doi Moi*, Fujita Vente Art Museum, Tokyo, Japan
- April Colours*, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1995 *Dalat Dialogue*, an exhibition of work realized at a workshop of Vietnamese and Dutch artists in Dalat, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 10th International Contemporary Asian Art Exhibition*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Ito Yama Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
- 1994 *Asian Friendship Exhibition*, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Traveled to Tokyo, Japan
- Spring*, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Art Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1993 *Contemporary Vietnamese Art Exhibition*, Tropical Museum, The Hague, Holland
- Espace NK Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- New Space*, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

- 1992 *Abstract Painting*, Hoang Hac Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1990 – 1996 *Recent Works*, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2020 Tran, Duy Hung, "Weathering: A Conversation with Michal Teague & Emma Duester," *VFCD*, November 05, 2020
- Hoai Ngoc, "Chiem nguong tac pham cua 19 hoa si duong dai hang dau Viet Nam," *The thao & Van hoa*, August 08, 2020
- Tee, Ian, "Conversation with Arlette Quynh-Anh Tran," *Art and Market*, May 18, 2020
- 2018 De Rouvray, Pip, "THE LINE Belongs to Artist Tran Van Thao," *Vietnam Heritage Magazine*, Vol. 8, No.1, February - March 2018
- 2017 *The Foliage*, exhibition catalogue, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- My Huyen, "Trien lam tranh truu tuong cua Tran Van Thao," *The Saigon Times*, December 25, 2017
- "Duong ke cua Tran Van Thao," *Home Decor Plus*, December 24, 2017
- 2016 Bauer, Alice, "Derive, This is Your Brain on Urban," *Wall Street International*, 20 September 2016
- Nguyen, Quan, "Hoi hoa truu tuong 100 nam," *Chung ta*, April 11, 2016
- 2013 De Rouvray, Pip, "Art to feed the emotions in full public view," *Vietnam Heritage Magazine*, Vol. 3, No. 9, October 2013
- Van Bay, "Hoa si Tran Van Thao: Hanh trinh tu huu hinh den vo hinh," *The thao & Van hoa*, October 27, 2013
- Nhu Hoa, "Tranh truu tuong cua Tran Van Thao," *Doanh Nhan Plus*, November 05, 2015
- 2009 Levasseur de la Motte, Patricia, "Transmission of Abstraction in Vietnamese Painting," *Essays on Modern and Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Bui, Nhu Huong, "Modern Vietnamese Art: Process and Identity," *Essays on Modern and Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

- 2008 *Post Doi Moi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, exhibition catalogue, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Hagemans, Helene, *Voices of Vietnam*, exhibition catalogue, Fortyfive Downstairs, Melbourne, Australia
- 2007 Fyfe, Joe, *Blue Skies & Fairy Tales*, exhibition catalogue, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2001 Bui, Nhu Huong, and Tran, Hau Tuan, "New Vietnamese Art in the 1990s," Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2000 Pham, Quynh, *Origins Revisited*, exhibition catalogue, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1999 Cheng, Scarlet, "Beauty and Politics in Eye of Beholder in A Winding River," *Los Angeles Times*, June 27, 1999
- 1998 *L'Aventure de L'Art Moderne au Viet Nam*. Paris Hanoi Saigon, exhibition catalogue, Pavillion des Arts, Paris Musées, Paris, France
- L'Anima Soffocata*, exhibition catalogue, Museo Biblioteca Archivio, Bassano del Grappa, Italy
- Afternoon Tea and Chillies*, exhibition catalogue, Gallery Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 1997 Rufino, Maria Victoria, "Beyond Brushstrokes: ASEAN harmony: An artistic language," *BusinessWorld*, September 22, 1997
- Contemporary Vietnamese Painting: Art After Doi Moi*, exhibition catalogue, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Nguyen, Sy Bach, and Nguyen, Xuan Tiep, *All the Rivers are Running: Vietnamese Contemporary Fine Art*, exhibition catalogue, Trang An Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 1996 *11th Asian International Art Exhibition*, exhibition catalogue, Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Philippines
- 1995 Taylor, Nora, "Recent works by Ho Chi Minh City's Group of Ten," *My Thuat*, 1995

ARTIST RESIDENCY

- 2002 Starr Foundation Fellowship, Asian Cultural Council, New York, NY, USA

COLLECTIONS

- Singapore Art Museum, Singapore
- Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- RMIT University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam
- Post Vidai, Geneva, Switzerland and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Nguyen Art Foundation, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



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