



GALERIE QUYNH CONTEMPORARY ART

the reflection đối cảnh

Hà Mạnh Thắng

December 14, 2021 - January 8, 2022

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the reflection

Galerie Quynh is pleased to present *The Reflection*, an exhibition of new work by Hanoi-based artist Ha Manh Thang. This is the artist's fourth solo exhibition at the gallery and showcases his most experimental and introspective works to date.

As Ha Manh Thang witnesses the erosion of time across the surfaces and in the details of ancient paintings and objects, he admits the tendency towards abstraction comes naturally through his own research and discovery of the works' images, colors and multilayered meanings. His continuous exploration of Vietnamese heritage and culture, and love of antiques from lacquer panels and folding screens, to carvings and reliefs seems to parallel with his continuous contemplation upon the landscapes present in both the antiquities and in the natural world.

The belief in *am* and *duong* (yin and yang) plays a significant role in Vietnamese society where the spiritual is connected to everyday life. In Ha's paintings, the tension that exists in this duality – between the spiritual and the physical world – is essential in creating a harmonious balance in his work. This is most evident in his current works, some of which include copper sheets left outside to the elements for years. Time is an important theme in Ha's practice and even serves as a medium. Ha's canvases are treated as organic and living; they will transform over time as the copper continues to oxidize. The work's association to human life is not lost on viewers – copper being a trace mineral essential for human survival.

In a seamless reality enabled by the omnipresent flow of time, any interruption (or intervention) can neatly act as a spatiotemporal, and mental, medium of reflection. With Ha Manh Thang, his scenes are the depiction – thus reflection – of a landscape, whether actual and taken from particular images of the outside world, or imagined and originating from one's inner psyche. Within the same painted space or context, these seemingly opposing forces indeed form up pairs of parallels that complement each other in harmony, through layers unto layers, of images and meanings, and through visual and textual motifs. As time permanently punctures through each and every layer of imagery, new spaces are created.

The exhibition title "The Reflection," though deceptively simple, is deeply nuanced. Are we looking at a landscape or its shadow? Where does its exterior end and its interior begin? Is it situated in the past or extended to the present? In a recent interview with the artist, Los Angeles-based artist and curator Brian Doan states, "*The Reflection* is perceived to carry a sense of absence, where the particularities of time and space are erased and even blended into one another." To Ha, there are two modes of seeing in these works - one stemming from the emotional and mental state of the observer; the other arising as the scenery being observed enters into a mutual dialogue with the onlooker. With each painting in the series there are two different surfaces: the upper half painted on silk and the lower on canvas, therefore two different techniques, and thus, two different effects – the balanced with the

transitory, the vigorous with the poetic, and the eternal with the ephemeral. Such limitless viability of reflection is enabled only when one views life as a seamless, ongoing existence, trailing indefinitely across the passage of time. Ha Manh Thang states, “My artistic journey is a way for me to understand, appreciate and grasp what life is about. A life that’s not just meant to be experienced and embraced, but also left behind and forgotten; a life projected back onto ourselves.”

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 *Shared Inspiration*, National Art Museum of China,

Beijing, China; *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 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.

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14.12.2021 - 8.1.2022





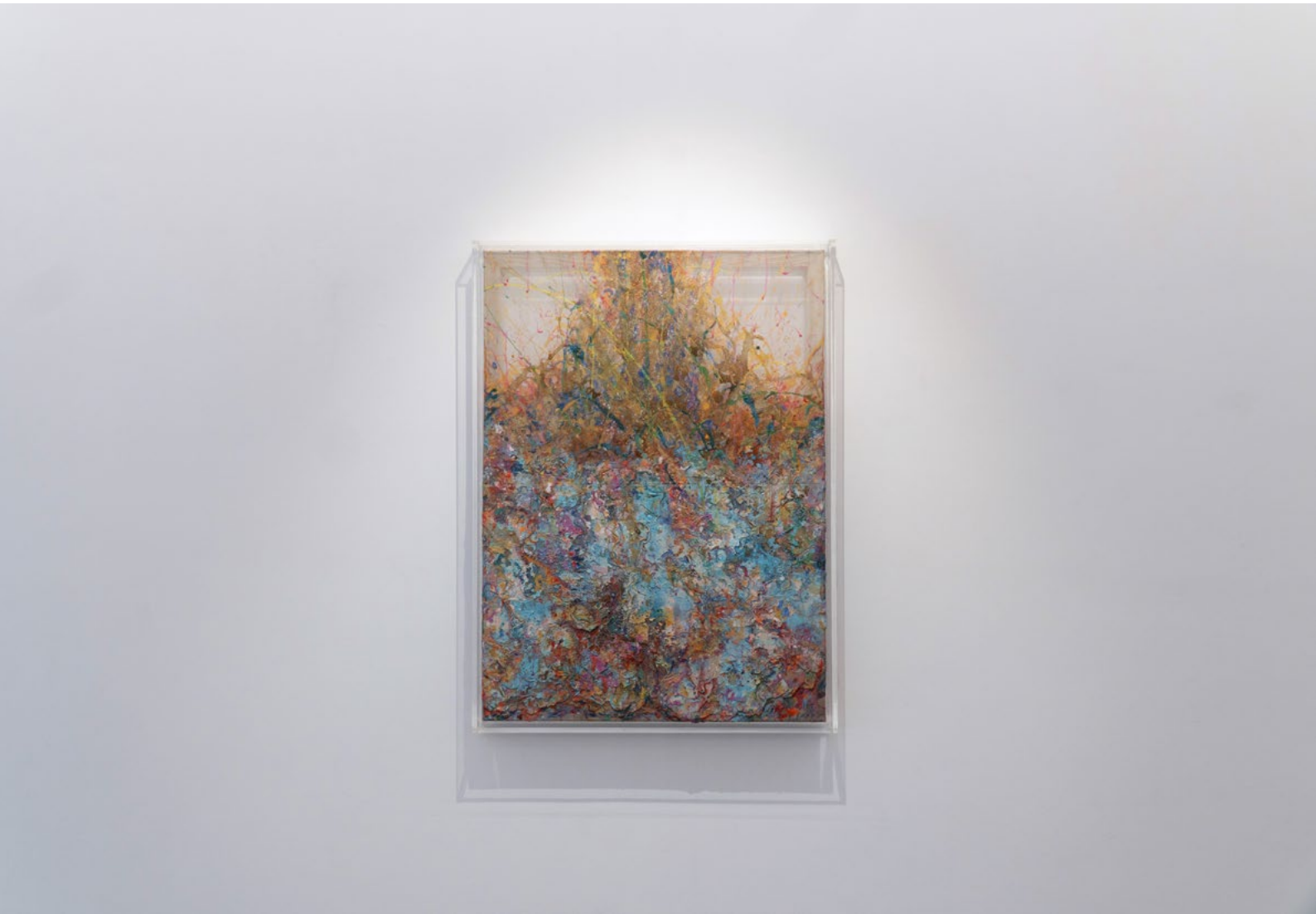












Works

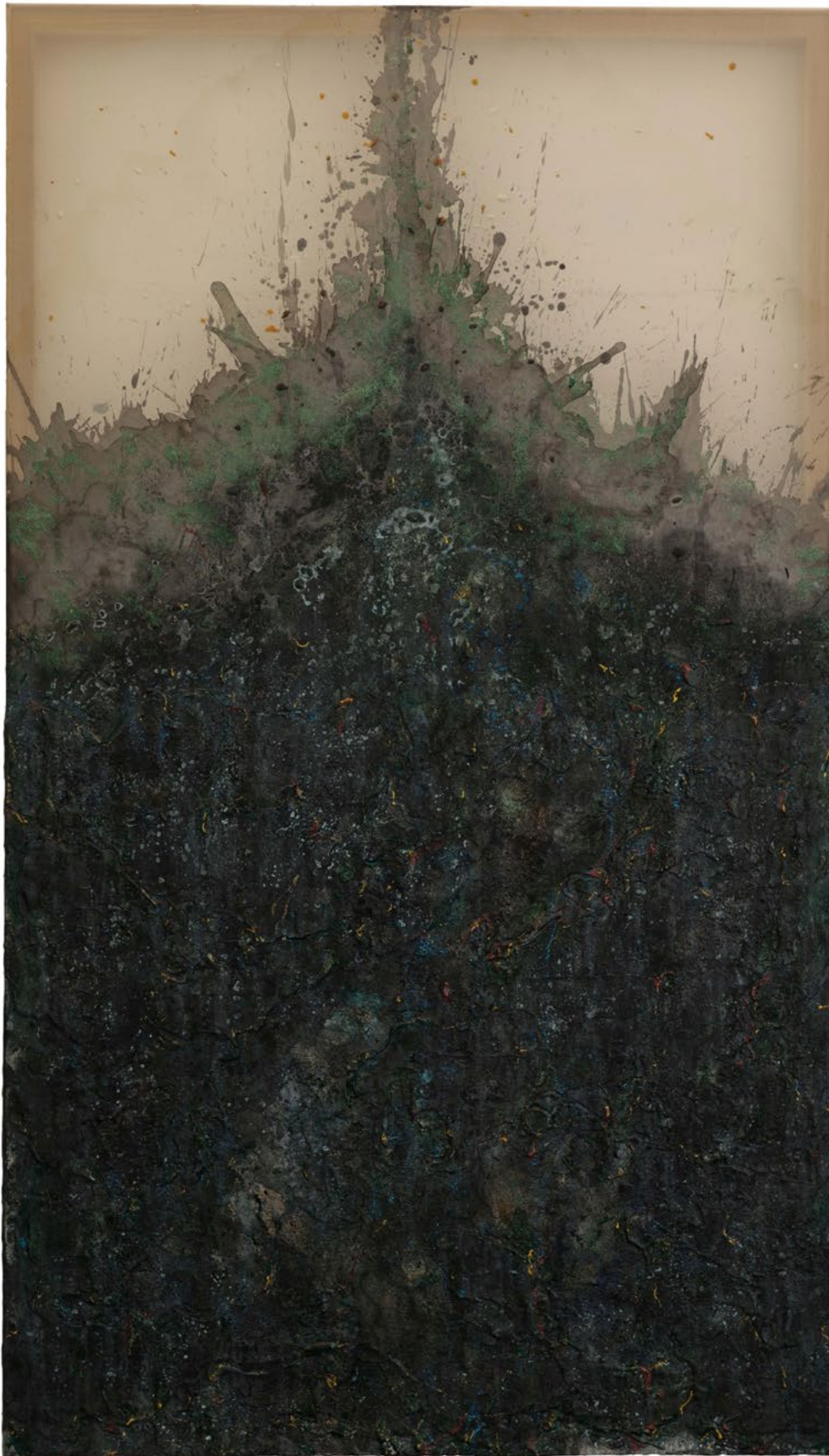


How has the Northeast Moonsoon passed by #1

2021

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

175 x 100 cm

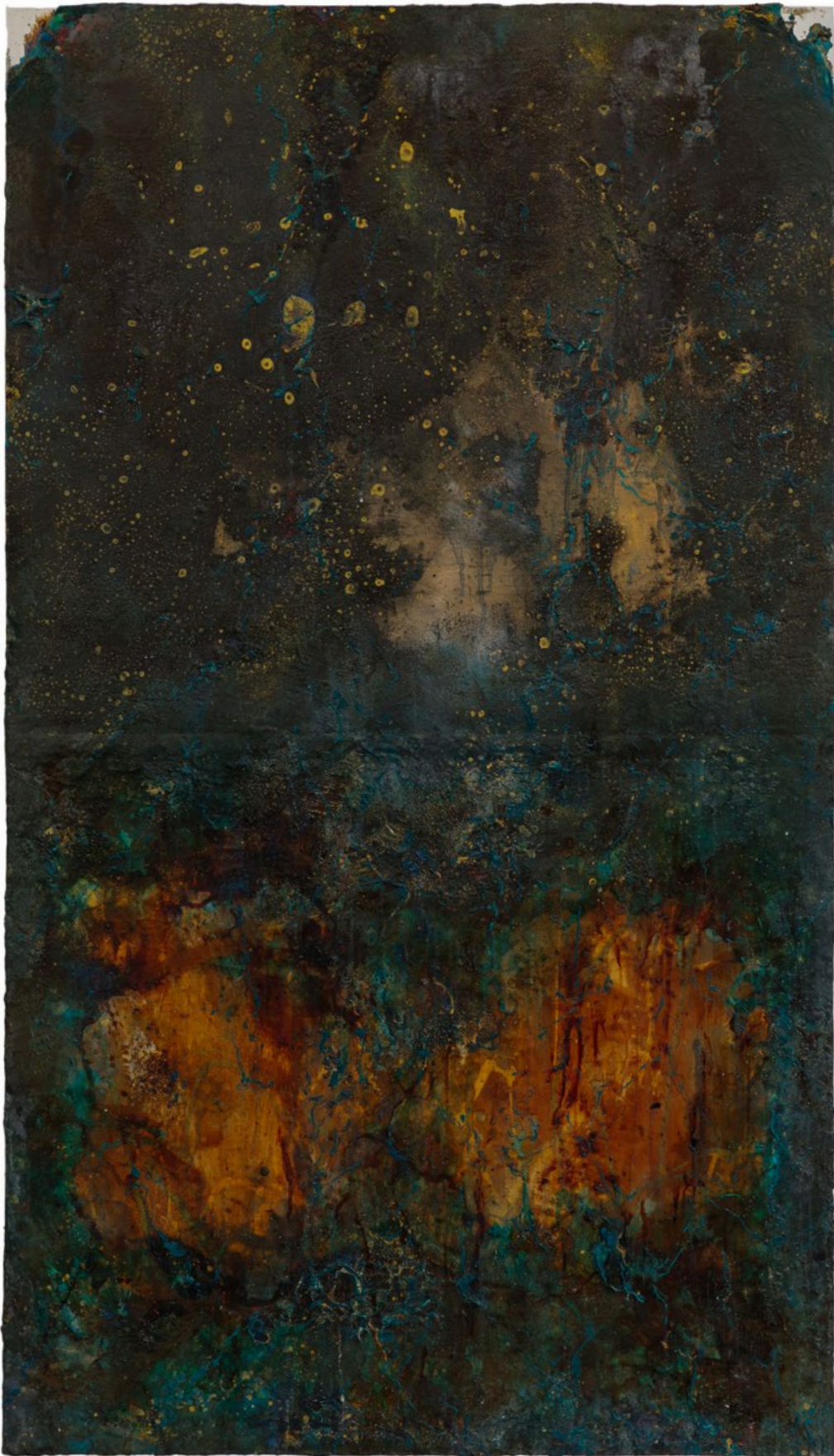


How has the Northeast Moonsoon passed by #2

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



How has the Northeast Moonsoon passed by #3

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



Pure Autumn #12

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



Pure Autumn #13

2021

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

96 x 70 cm

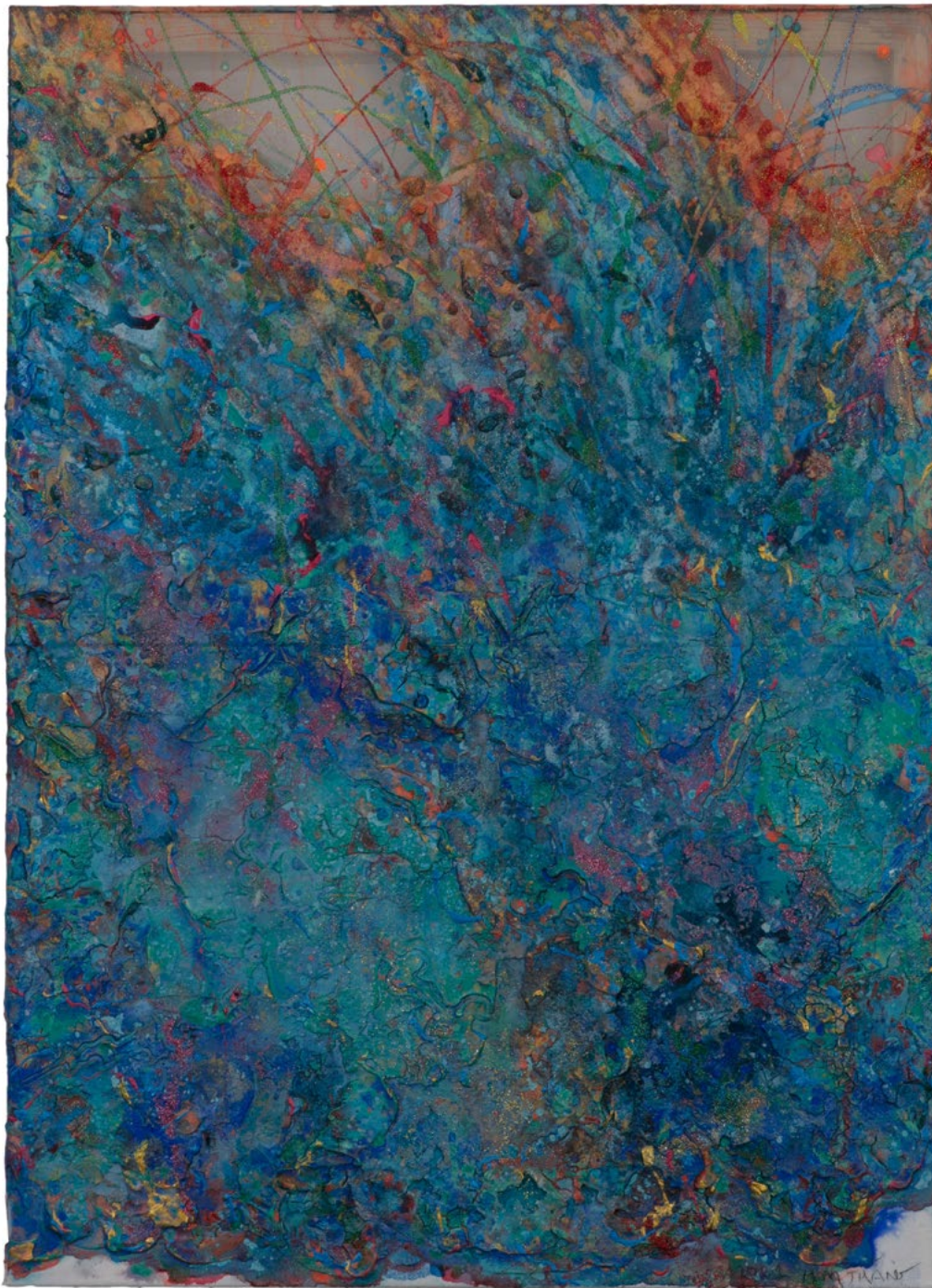


Pure Autumn #14

2021

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

175 x 100 cm

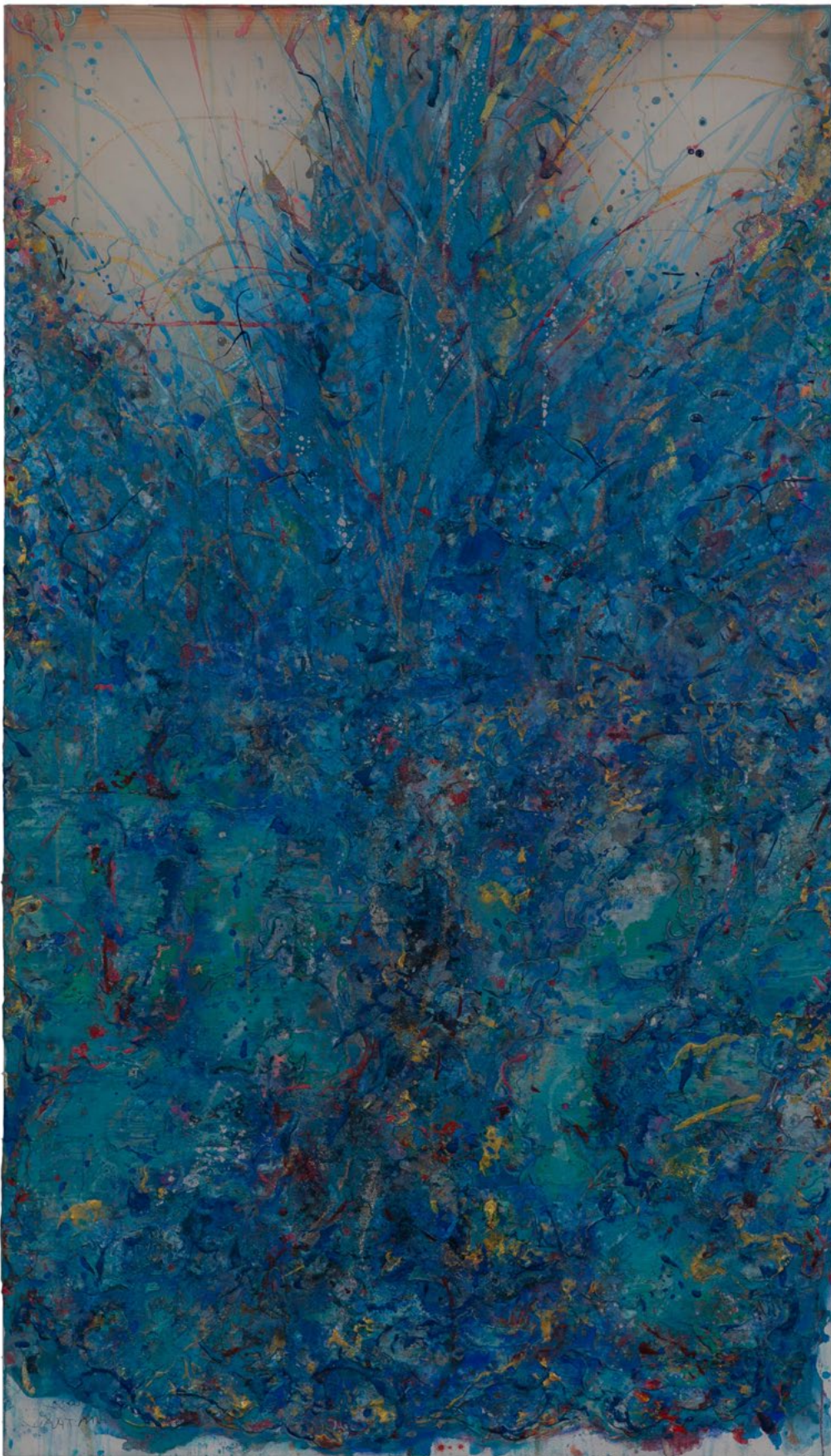


Pure Autumn #15

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



Pure Autumn Morning After The Rain #2

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



How has the pure Autumn passed #2

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



How has the pure Autumn passed #3

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



How has the pure Autumn passed #4

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



Late Autumn Afternoon #1

2021

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

140 x 45 cm

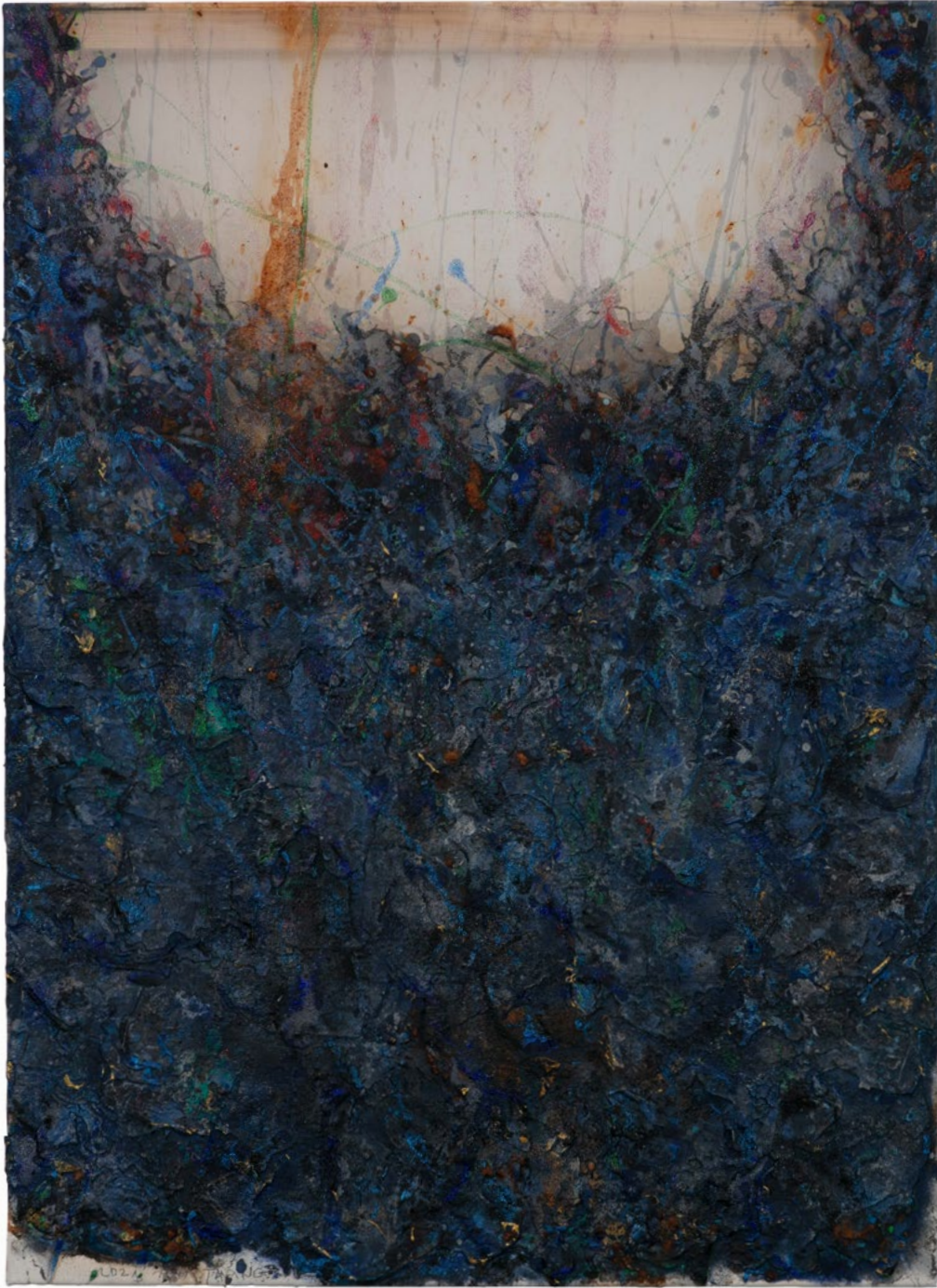


Early Winter Morning #1

2021

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

140 x 45 cm

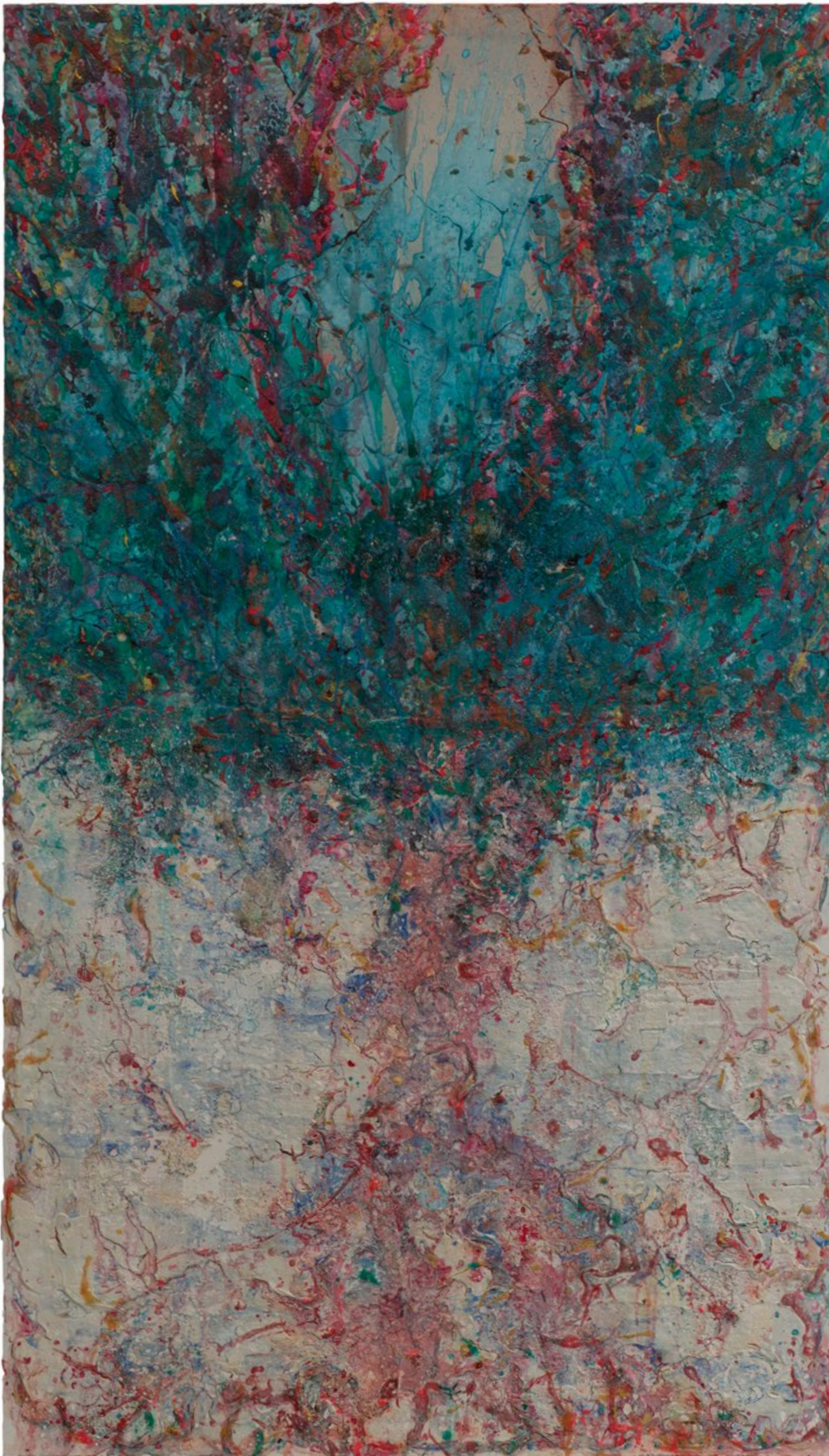


Rain In Early Winter #1

2021

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

96 x 70 cm



How has the pure Spring passed #1

2021

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

175 x 100 cm

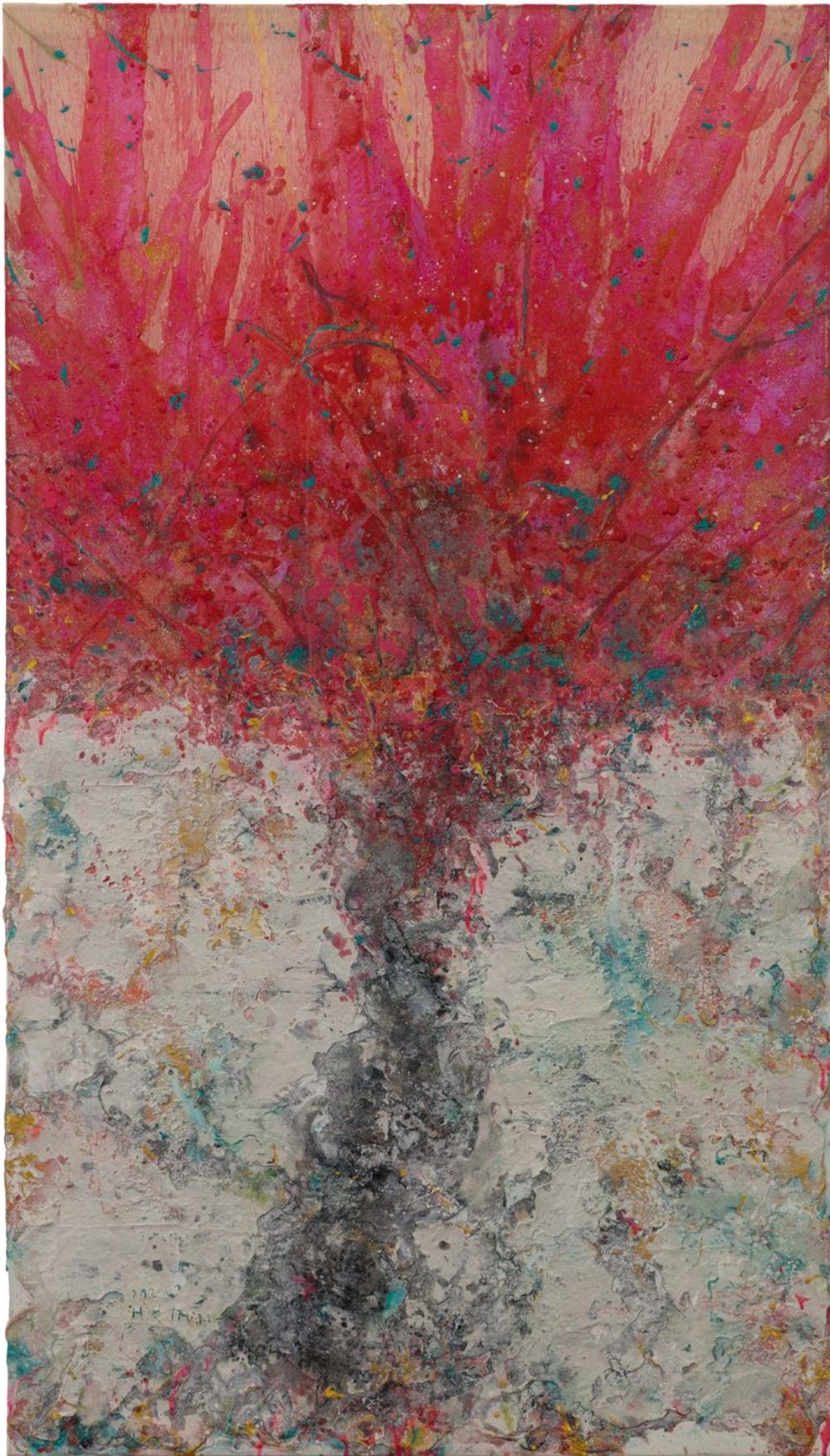


How has the Summer passed #3

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



How has the Summer passed #4

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



How has the Summer passed #5

2021

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

96 x 70 cm

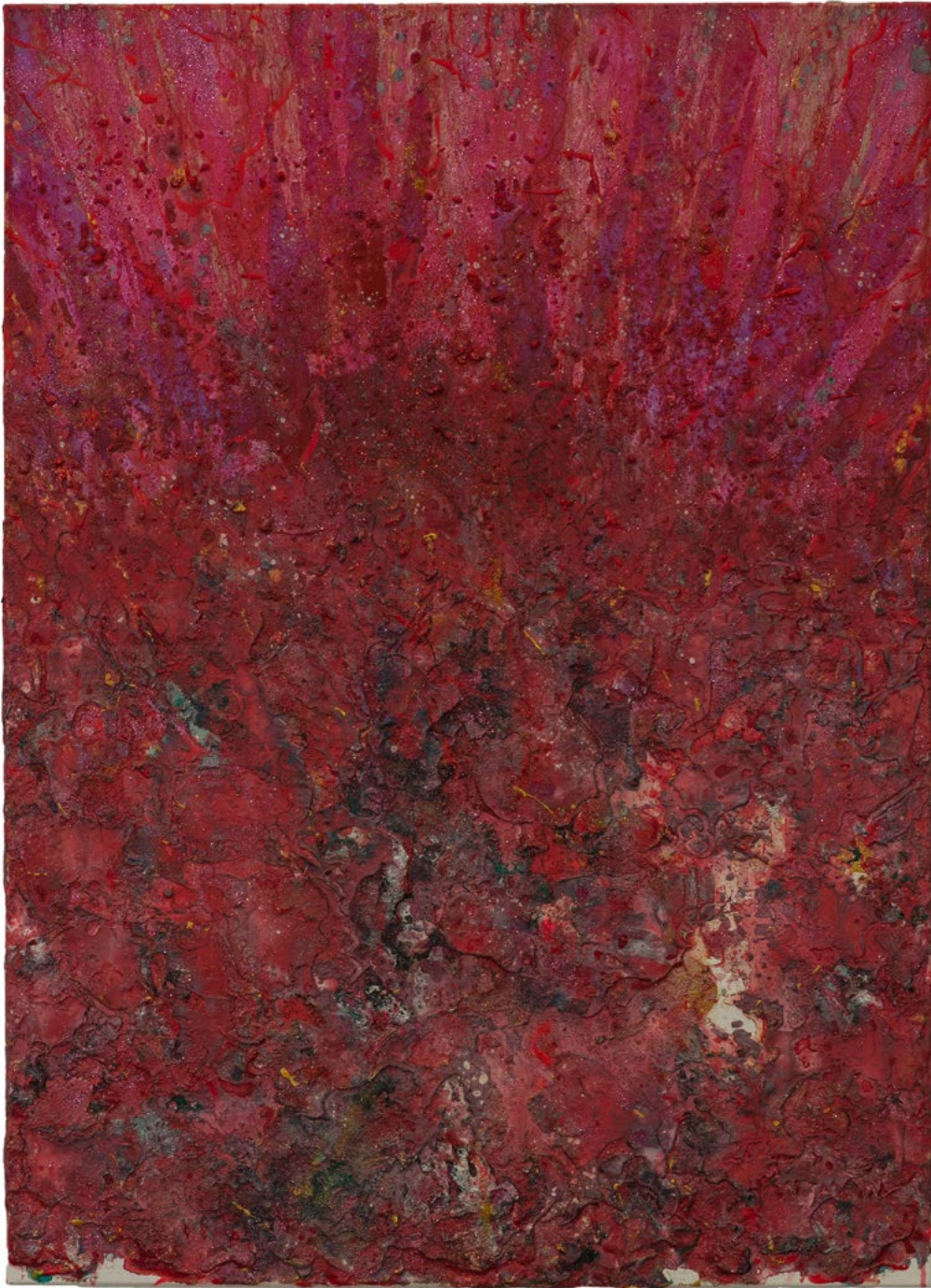


How has the Summer passed #6

2021

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

96 x 70 cm

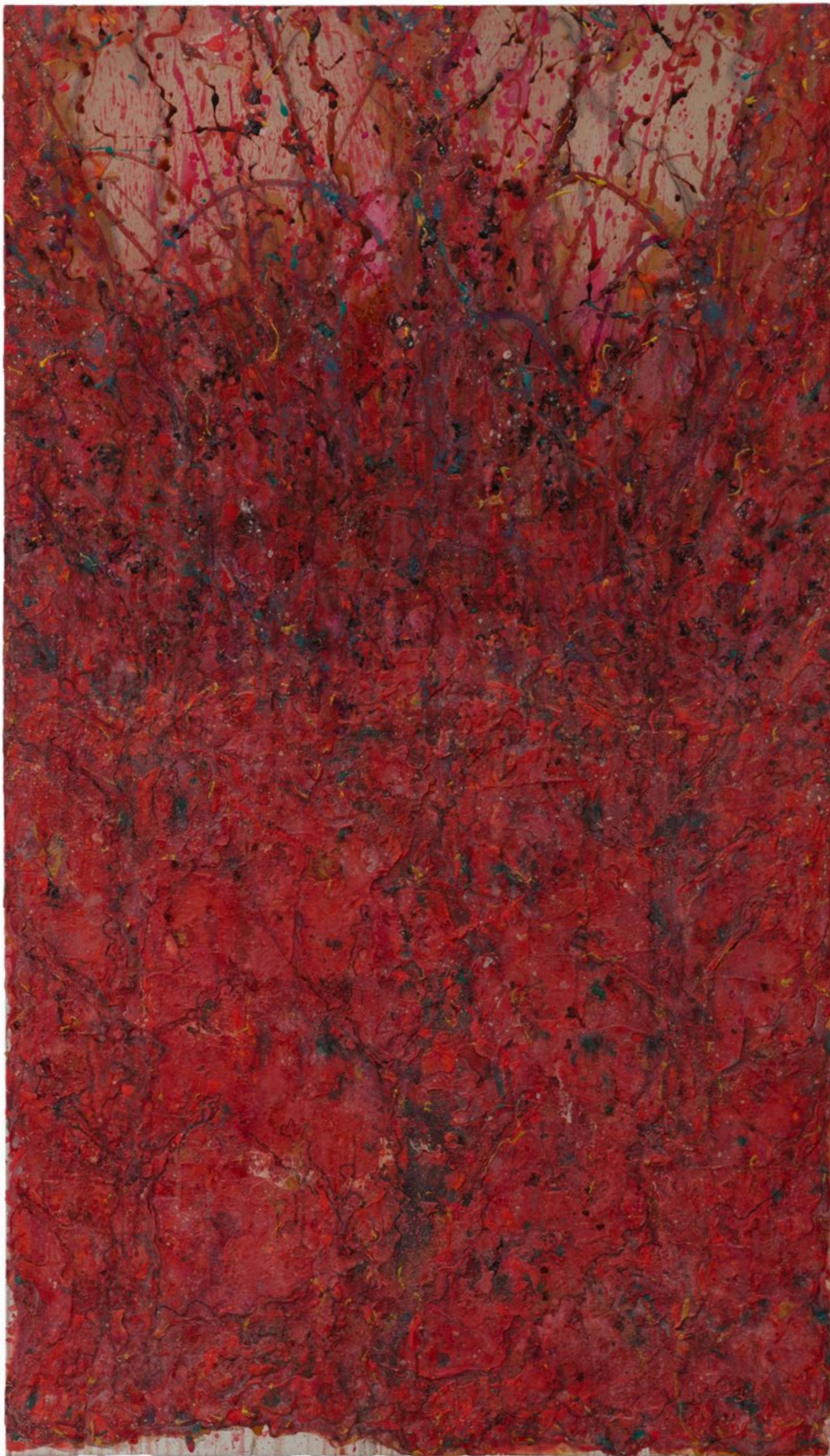


How has the Summer passed #7

2021

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

96 x 70 cm

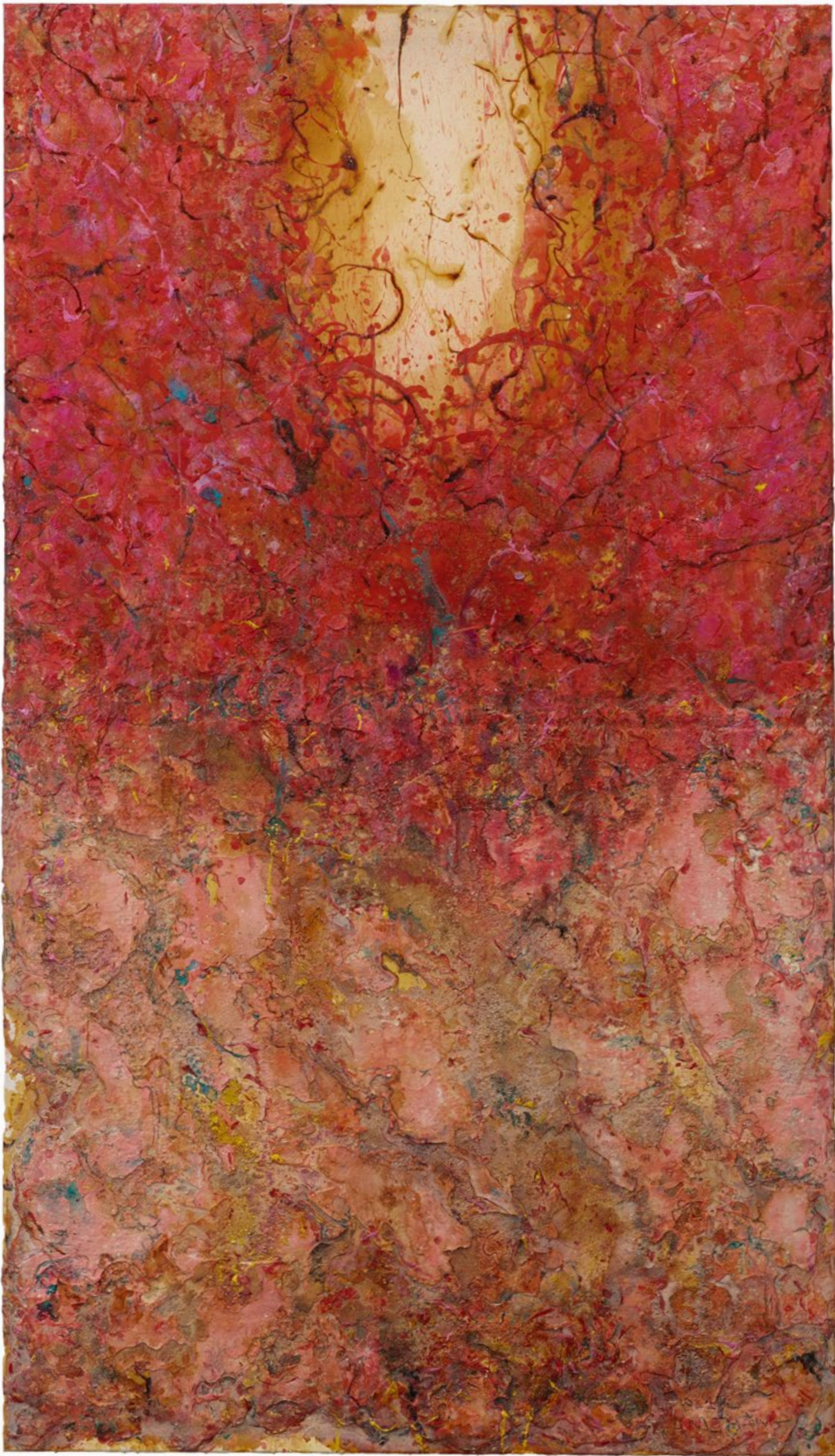


How has the Summer passed #8

2021

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

175 x 100 cm



How has the Summer passed #9

2021

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

175 x 100 cm

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, Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *The Reflection*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 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 Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2016 *The Lake*, Affinity Art Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
- Rhetorical Landscape*, Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 2015 *Far in the North*, L'Espace, Institut Français, Hanoi, Vietnam
- KHÓI SÓNG*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Winter Hues*, Dong Phong Art Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2014 *Fading Dreams - Disintegrating Realities*, Thavibu Art 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
- 2005 *Beyond the Portrait*, Suffusive Art Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *NO RAIN WITHOUT CLOUDS: Preserving Vietnamese Arts for the future*, Vietnamese Women's Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- BEYOND*, Affinity Art Gallery, Geneva, Switzerland
- 2019 *SQUARE*, Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- Shared Inspiration - Asian Art Exhibition*, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
- Art Central*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- Art Fair Philippines*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Philippines
- 2018 *Visual Language: Hungarian - Vietnamese contemporary paintings*, Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum and

- Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Vietnam
- LINES*, Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- 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, Singapore
- Art Central*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- Alluvium*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2017 *CONTEXT Art Miami*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Miami, FL, USA
- Art In The Forest 2017*, Flamingo Contemporary Art Museum, Phuc Yen, Vietnam
- The Foliage*, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Confluence and Diversities in Southeast Asian Art*, ION Art Gallery, Singapore
- CONTEXT New York*, with Affinity Art Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- Art Central 2017*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Hong Kong
- The Three-Cornered World*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2016 *Vietnam Eye: Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, Casa Italia, Hanoi, Vietnam
- CONTEXT Art Miami*, with Affinity Art Gallery, Miami, FL, USA
- START Art Fair*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK
- Dérive*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Art16*, with Affinity Art Gallery, London, UK
- 2015 *I Bienal del Sur: Pueblos en Resistencia*, Museo de Bellas Artes, Caracas, Venezuela
- Watercolor*, Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 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*, Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Current (His) Stories*, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, 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, Germany
- 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 National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam
- The Other Side*, Maison des Arts, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2006 *Trading*, Suffusive Art Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam

ARTIST TALKS

- 2021 Exhibition Walkthrough/Artist Talk, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2019 Artist Talk, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
Artist Talk, Galerie Quynh, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- 2017 Artist Talk, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2021 Dong, Ha Nhuan, "On ephemerality in Vietnamese Contemporary Art," *Art Republik Vietnam*, Issue 03, 2021
- 2020 Nhat Minh, "Hanoi hosts exhibition on Vietnam Festival of Creativity & Design 2020," *Hanoi Times*, November 07, 2020
Hoang, Ngoc, "Digitising art and culture in Vietnam," *RMIT University Vietnam*, August 13, 2020
Tran, Duy Hung, "Weathering: A Conversation with Michal Teague & Emma Duester," *VFCD*, November 05, 2020
Art In The Forest 2015 - 2019, Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2019 Dang, Thu, "Space / Time & The Light," *Forbes*, December 2019
Nguyen, Nhu Huy, "The Art of Ha Manh Thang in the exhibition Landscape | Mindscape," October 2019
SLN, "Ngam phong canh, tam canh cua Ha Manh Thang tai Sai Gon," *Harper's Bazaar Vietnam*, October 02, 2019
"Trien lam Phong canh | Tam canh của Ha Manh Thang tai Galerie Quynh," *Barcode*, October 02, 2019
Cicognini, Diana, "The contemporary art market in Vietnam - Galerie Quynh," *Canale Arte*, May 20, 2019
Shared Inspiration - Asian Art exhibition, exhibition catalogue, National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China
Thuy Trang, "An tuong tranh my thuat cua hoa si tre," *Nguoi lao dong*, March 16, 2019
Xu, Tina, "TOP 10 Asian Artists to watch," *Blouin Modern painters*, March 2019
Uyen Ly, and Nguyen, Tung, "Artist Ha Manh Thang depicts the beauty of imperfection from artifacts," *Hanoi Grapevine*, February 17, 2019
"Two solo exhibitions at VCCA," *The Saigon Times*, January 10, 2019
- 2018 *The Language of The Images*, exhibition catalogue, Exhibition of Contemporary Art from Vietnam and Hungary, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
Nguyen, Quy Duc, *Layering time & light*, exhibition catalogue, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
ICI Vietnam Festival, exhibition catalogue, Paris, France
"Tho ca va hoai niem voi xe dap oi va Vong tron / Thoi gian," *Dep*, 2018
Van Phat, "Hoa si Ha Manh Thang, Thu Van Tran dong to chuc trien lam tranh duong dai," *VnExpress*, December 11, 2018
- 2017 *The Circle of Time*, Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam
Art In The Forest Vol #3, exhibition catalogue, Flamingo Contemporary Art Museum, Phuc Yen, Vietnam
The Foliage, exhibition catalogue, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2016 *Art Tapei 2016*, exhibition catalogue, Taipei, Taiwan
Ardia, C.A Xuan Mai, "AIA Vietnam Eye: Vietnamese contemporary artists in focus - in pictures," *Art Radar Journal*, December 21, 2016

- Ciclitira, Serenella, *VIETNAM EYE: Contemporary Vietnamese Art*, exhibition catalogue, Skira, Milan, Italy
- Bauer, Alice, "Derive, This is Your Brain on Urban," *Wall Street International*, September 20, 2016
- Westall, Mark, "Top 9 stands STARt Art Fair 2016," *FAD magazine*, September 16, 2016
- Corey, Pamela, "Market Reports Vietnam," *Catalyst 1.0*, exhibition catalogue, Art Stage Singapore, Singapore
- Wilson, Catherine, "Vietnam," *Art Asia Pacific*, Vol XI, January 2016
- 2015 Hudson, Suzanne, *Painting Now*, Thames and Hudson, New York, NY, USA
- Kieu Hanh, "Trien lam tranh Phuong Bac xa khuat cua Ha Manh Thang," *ELLE*, December 12, 2015
- KTV, "...7th... Beguiled by the Mists of Ha Manh Thang at L's Espace," *Hanoi Grapevine*, December 07, 2015
- Pham, Thu Huong, "Di san qua ngon ngu hoi hoa cua Ha Manh Thang," *An Ninh Thu Do*, December 04, 2015
- Tam Luc, "Di tim Phuong Bac xa khuat trong tranh Ha Manh Thang," *Song Moi*, December 03, 2015
- Yet Kieu, and Da Tuong, "Nguoi Viet binh tranh Viet: Ve buc tranh ve long bao cua Ha Manh Thang," *Soi*, October 18, 2015
- Lam Thu, "Trien lam Phuong Bac xa khuat tai hien hinh anh dinh, chua co," *VnExpress*, November 30, 2015
- KTV, "The Poetic Hues of Winter at Dong Phong," *Hanoi Grapevine*, January 26, 2015
- KTV, "A Wondrous Costumed Experience at Goethe," *Hanoi Grapevine*, January 22, 2015
- 2014 Nguyen, Nhu Huy, *Fading Dreams - Disintegrating Realities: Two Strange Paradoxes in Ha Manh Thang's Painting*, exhibition catalogue, Thaivibu Art Gallery, Bangkok, Thailand
- Diem Anh, "Ha Manh Thang voi Mong - Tan - Phai - Sac," *Doanh Nhan Plus*, July 31, 2014
- KTV, "Acrylic, Oil and Charcoal Dreams and Disintergrations," *Hanoi Grapevine*, July 31, 2014
- "Echoing Motifs through 2000 Years," *& Of Other Things*, July 2014
- 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
- KVT, "The Southern Journals ... Part nine Ha Manh Thang at Galerie Quynh," *Hanoi Grapevine*, May 21, 2013
- Tran, My, "Ha Manh Thang's iconic monuments," *The Saigon Times*, April 27, 2013
- "Hoa si Ha Manh Thang: Khac biet chinh la bat dau tu nhung thu binh thuong nhat," *Vietnam Design Magazine*, July 01, 2013
- "Heritage-Based Contemporary Art from Vietnam," *Camello*, January 07, 2013
- 2010 Haig, Aggi, *Not Memory*, exhibition catalogue, Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Lenzi, Iola, "Of emperors, soldiers and poetry - the recent painting of Ha Manh Thang," *Not Memory*, exhibition catalogue, Bui Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- Connect: Kunstszene Vietnam*, exhibition catalogue, ifa gallery, Berlin, Germany
- Kremmer, Christopher, "Vietnam: a Vibrant Art Scene in Hanoi," *DestinAsian*, August 07, 2010
- Nguyen, Hoang Dieu Thuy, "Hoa si Ha Manh Thang: Sao khong ke mot cau chuyen thoi thuong," *Doanh nhan Sai Gon*, April 20, 2010
- Vu, Lam, "Not Memory: su doi dien ca nhan voi ky uc tap the," *Soi*, April 15, 2010
- 2009 Godfrey, Tony, "Post- Feminism," *Painting Today*, Phaidon Press, London, United Kingdom
- Kraevskaia, Natasha, "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

Voelkner, Thomas, "Contemporary Vietnamese art in Berlin gallery," *DW Akademie*, 2009

2008 Fan, Joyce, and Tan, Siuli, *Post-DoiMoi: Vietnamese Art After 1990*, exhibition catalogue, Singapore Art Museum, Singapore

The Rain and the Small Stream, exhibition catalogue, Ernst & Young Asean Art Outreach, Singapore

"Nghe thuat Viet Nam trong boi canh toan cau hoa," Fine Art Publishing House, Hanoi, Vietnam

Kin, Hui, "Ha Manh Thang [SAM]," *nghuikin*, August 05, 2008

2007 Drummond, Lisa, "Hanoi 5000 Hoan Kiem Lakes: Using Art to Involve Young People in Urban Futures," *Children's Geographies*, Routledge, England, UK

COLLECTIONS

National Art Museum of China, Beijing, China

Singapore Art Museum

Vietnam National Fine Arts Museum, Hanoi, Vietnam

Zoltán Bodnár, Budapest, Hungary

Salon Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Post Vidai, Geneva, Switzerland and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

RMIT University Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam

Nguyen Art Foundation, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam



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