

PRESS RELEASE

An exhibition by Ly Hoàng Ly

As part of the on-going project '0395A.DC'

Curated by: Bill Nguyễn

Exhibition: 10 August – 17 September, 2017

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre is delighted to present Ly Hoàng Ly's first solo exhibition and most comprehensive presentation of her work to date, as part of her on-going project '0395A.DC'. This multimedia, collaged body of work will showcase the artist's ongoing inquiry into the epic story and continuous struggle of human (im)migration, whilst highlighting the contested nature of the memorisation, documentation and circulation of history.



Ly Hoàng Ly, *Ashes* (detail) 2013, hybrid of cow bone ash & remnants, iron, ceramic

Respected at home and abroad as one of the most critically acclaimed artists of her generation, and constantly extending what is locally considered traditional and experimental, Ly's diverse oeuvre brings together poetry and performance, text and sculpture, sound and public art – to name a few. Between 2011 and 2015, Ly relocated to the US to further her education – a change that greatly reoriented her artistic commitment and critical approach, providing the conceptual framework for this exhibition.

In the centre of the gallery space, a structure stands monumentally, its scale remarkable, its design elegantly minimalist, its intention poetic. Built with twelve intricately designed steel configurations and weighing a total of 21 ton, this sculpture provides passage as we enter the 'in-between-worlds' of '0395A.DC'; a kind of steel entrance connecting us with the past and present, the remembered and forgotten, the known and un-learned. Its illuminating surface reflects the shapes and sounds of the various

media that make up the other components of the exhibition: two multi-media installations warning of the possible danger of losing connections to our own history, and a sculptural installation alongside a series of paintings pointing to the power of repetition and recalling memory.

Throughout the exhibition, particular visual elements – such as a boat, a house or water - are repeated (made transparent); their sizes enlarged (made significant), then shrunk (made minor); while others – such as names of people, landmarks or countries – are left in places away from the eyes (made opaque), or completely covered-up (made hidden). This disruptive, even violent act of scaling up/scaling down, magnifying/softening, crossing out details/giving them more attention, visualising the not-yet-seen/de-visualising the can-not-be-seen, becomes the apparatus with which we use to navigate ‘0395A.DC’. It is out of absolute necessity that Ly Hoàng Ly de-links the visual, the can-not-be-seen and can-not-be-spoken. By obscuring this information, thus revealing her own act of concealment, she sharply points to the memorising and circulating of history - breaking it up, turning it back on itself, flipping it inside out.

Ly Hoàng Ly’s public sculpture, ‘boat home boat’ - a monumental structure, will be given a permanent home in a public space in Vietnam following this exhibition.

This exhibition is initiated, and organized by The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre, proudly co-sponsored and -supported by the artist and:



HCMC FINE ARTS ASSOCIATION



Special thanks to:

Bio-chem International J.S. Company Ltd., Chi Anh Med Tech Co., Ltd, VIANCO Vietnam Spices, The Five & Partners architecture firm and Người Đô Thị magazine for sponsoring and supporting the fabrication of the public sculpture ‘boat home boat’

THACO Truong Hai Auto Corporation for fabricating the public sculpture ‘boat home boat’

The Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association, Finewines, Macallan and Ong Décor for sponsoring and supporting the exhibition

For further enquiries, please contact: art@factoryartscentre.com | +84 (0)283744 2589

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre, 15 Nguyen U Di, Thao Dien Ward, District 2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Notes for editor:

Ly Hoàng Ly (born 1975 in Hanoi, now based in Ho Chi Minh City) is one of the most critically and internationally-acclaimed artists of her generation. Graduating from the Ho Chi Minh City University of Fine Arts in 1998, she received a Fulbright Scholarship in 2011, earned her MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC) in 2013 and spent a year interning at the Joan Flasch Artists' Book Collection (SAIC). Approaching art in a multidisciplinary manner, Ly's practice raises questions about the general human condition; the critical state of society; the fluctuating nature of identity and history; and our shared issues of division and union, adaptation and acceptance. Ly Hoàng Ly has exhibited widely in and outside of Vietnam: 'Identities vs. Globalisation' (National Gallery, Bangkok; Chiang Mai University Art Museum, Thailand; and Dahlem Museum, Berlin, Germany, 2004), 'Transpop: Korea Vietnam Remix' (Arko Art Center, Seoul, Korea; Yerba Buena Center For The Arts, San Francisco, USA; and Sàn Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, 2007), 'Connect: Art Scene Vietnam' (ifa Gallery, Berlin & Stuttgart, Germany, 2009), 'People vs. Space' (Richard Gray Gallery, Chicago, USA, 2012), 'Faithfully Flat' - in collaboration with Fields Medal winner Prof. Ngô Bảo Châu (Vietnam Institute for Advanced study in Mathematics, Hanoi, Vietnam; Joan Flasch Artist Books Collection, SAIC, Chicago; and North Branch Projects, Chicago, USA, 2014). In 2016, Ly Hoàng Ly participated in two of the most distinguished exhibitions of the year in Vietnam: 'Open door - Art through the 30 years of Renovation (1986-2016)' and 'Vietnam Eye' (Hanoi, Vietnam).



Ly Hoàng Ly, 3D rendition of the public sculpture *boat home boat*, 2017, SS400 steel, within The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre

Bill Nguyễn is an artist-curator interested in researching and developing an alternative, locally-driven method and platform for curation in Vietnam. Currently Curatorial Assistant at The Factory, Bill is also the co-founder and -curator of Manzi (Hanoi) and guest curator of Nha San Collective (Hanoi). Select recent projects include: *Skylines With Flying People 3*, various artists, Nha San Collective, Hanoi (2016); *Into Thin Air*, various artists, Manzi, Hanoi (2016). He is an alumnus of the 8th Berlin Biennial Young Curators Workshop, and the CuratorsLAB initiated by the Goethe Institut South East Asia.

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre (**‘The Factory’**) is the first purpose-built space for contemporary art in Vietnam, established April 2016. As an independent private initiative, it creates and hosts interdisciplinary activities in order to introduce and expand knowledge of art and cultural trends, both past and present, in and beyond Vietnam. As a social enterprise, The Factory also offers a publicly accessible reading room of art educational resource; workshop and co-working space; replete with café, bar and restaurant. All profit from sale of art and business on-site supports the running costs of its Arts Centre. <http://www.factoryartscentre.com>