

# materialize

## PRESS RELEASE

'Muted Conversations' | Materialize #1  
A solo exhibition by Đạt Vũ

Exhibition: 10 August – 17 September 2017

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



Dat Vu *Muted Conversations* 2017 | Digital print on paper

'**Muted Conversations**' is an ongoing project by **Đạt Vũ** that explores the spirituality and superstitions surrounding rituals in Vietnam today. His photographic series includes both staged and candid images taken during his extensive travels across the country. These images reveal how local people, across diverse regions, perform rites and rituals in sacred spaces and in daily life; hinting at the subliminal differences between rural and urban life; between public and private space; between understanding ourselves as observers, voyeurs or provocateurs. This exhibition aims to address the significance of traditional cultural practices as Vietnam rapidly transitions into a new era of economic possibility. How do people adapt and incorporate these practices into different aspects of their life? What is their understanding towards the different system of beliefs and values that overlap with one another? And where do we find our identity in this flux of historical legacies and contemporary movements? While these questions refer to a collective mindset, the observations will be within Đạt's personal context.

This exhibition is the first in the series of '**Materialize**', a program that aims to provide exhibition opportunities for Vietnamese artists who have had little chance to create exhibitions of their art in Vietnam. Artists are challenged to extend their experimentation with concept and media beyond their training and general assumptions about art. This program is open for application to artists born and currently living in Vietnam and over the age of 25. Artists must submit specific information for consideration, which is assessed by an appointed jury. The next open call for applications takes place in November 2017.

For further enquiries, please contact: [art@factoryartscentre.com](mailto:art@factoryartscentre.com) | +84 (0)28 3744 2589 |  
The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre, 15 Nguyen U Du, Thao Dien Ward, District 2, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

This exhibition is initiated, and organized by The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre, with thanks to Indochina Arts Partnership, for their support and co-sponsorship.



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***Notes for editor:***

**Đạt Vũ** (b. 1991, Ho Chi Minh City) is an emerging visual artist who works primarily with photography. An honors graduate of Wesleyan University, USA, and a Mortimer Hays- Brandeis Traveling Fellow, Đạt looks forward to experimenting with installation and video. Đạt Vũ is the first artist to take part in '[Materialize](#)': <http://www.datvu.xyz>

**The Indochina Arts Partnership (IAP)** is a non-profit art organization that conducts programs of cultural development and artistic exchange in countries of Southeast Asia, with a primary focus on Vietnam. IAP offers various activities through three core programs: 1) organize exhibitions and promote art education, 2) providing artists' support through residencies and career development program, and 3) fostering mutual development through partnerships and collaborations. For more information at: <http://indochinaartspartnership.org>

**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://factoryartscentre.com>