



## PRESS RELEASE: DISLOCATE

## SAN ART

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre (FCAC) is a creative hub over 1000sqm in size, incorporating significant exhibition spaces, an arts library, workshop, a co-working space, and an organic concept restaurant and bar lounge. FCAC's aim is to support the development and education of contemporary art in Vietnam, while at the same time providing an opportunity for a culturally enthusiastic community to explore, work, and socialize.

"We are very excited to collaborate with such an extraordinary talent and appreciate his means of expressing his appreciation for not only his ancestry, but also paying homage to his country's complex history", says Executive Director Albert van der Westhuizen.

On the 23rd of June 2016, The Factory will open its second exhibition – a solo of Hoi An based artist Bui Cong Khanh titled 'Dislocate', curated by Zoe Butt (Executive Director and Curator, San Art). In 'Dislocate' – the largest installation to date by the artist - the wood of the jackfruit tree springs to life as a stunningly carved installation, its' architectural beams, windows and objects referencing a myriad of social and cultural histories concerning Vietnam, via style and subject.

Working with a team of senior expert wood carvers and carpenters from Hoi An over a two year period, 'Dislocate' embraces a complex interwoven set of narratives that pivots around this ancient city on the central coast of Vietnam a city at the heart of Bui Cong Khanh's practice and family history.

'Dislocate' is a kind of fortress. The central structure, likened to a house, is deliberately left incomplete; its roof and walls are not solid, possessing space between beams where wall panels are spread randomly throughout. Taking traditional imperial architectural techniques of Hue (the ancient capital of Vietnam on its central coast) as its style, it is surrounded by four artistically designed bonsai that act as spiritual guards of this entire project.

This sculptural project is deliberately carved entirely from the wood of the jackfruit tree – a material the artist long marvelled for the multifarious ways this plant had been made of use by his community. His father was a carpenter whose skill in carving this malleable timber was intriguing to a young Khanh. Bui also remembers his mother's thrift in cooking the daily meals in the late 1970s and, like her fellow neighbours, inventing all manner of ways to cook this one plant that was somewhat readily available. Bui gives us space to pause, to contemplate the social bias we may carry unknowingly, to 'dislocate' ourselves from our perceived reality in the hope to re-conjure the stories that define us.

Bui Cong Khanh was born in Da Nang in 1972. He is an artist deeply fascinated with social assumptions of cultural heritage. As one of the first local artists to gain an international reputation in the 1990s, Bui's diverse practice has since embraced painting, sculpture, installation, video and drawing with successful showcase across the South East Asian region and beyond. 'Dislocate' is an exhibition that forms parts of a larger artistic endeavour called 'Conscious Realities', initiated and organized by San Art in a Network Partnership with the Prince Clause Fund.

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre is pleased to be able to collaborate with the local artistic community of Ho Chi Minh City, such as San Art, in the realization of this exhibition.



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*'Dislocate' would not be possible without the support of:*



Prins Claus Fonds voor  
Cultuur en Ontwikkeling



CDEF  
Cultural Development  
& Exchange Fund

Notes to Editors:

'Conscious Realities' (2013-2016), seeks to stimulate creative activity in Vietnam, engaging different ideas of contemporary artistic process, consisting of lectures, closed-workshops and an artist-in-residency program. Focusing on the shared cultural histories of South East Asia, South Asia, Latin America and Africa, invited artists and intellectual expertise on and from this region, will engage the divergent reactions to these histories and the lessons to be learned in thinking laterally across these creative communities.

San Art is an artist initiated, non-profit contemporary art organization committed to the exchange and excavation of cultural knowledge within an interdisciplinary community. San Art is the most active independent arts organization in Vietnam dedicated to promoting, facilitating and showcasing contemporary art through production, exhibition, discourse and education. <http://www.san-art.org>

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