

PRESS RELEASE

**site / shine / sight**

Duo Exhibition of Trương Quế Chi and vn a

28 Sep - 18 Nov, 2018 @ The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre



Image courtesy of Trương Quế Chi

The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre is pleased to present '**site / shine / sight**' - a duo exhibition featuring collaboration between visual artist/filmmaker, **Trương Quế Chi** and architectural studio, **vn-a**. This is the first time that visual art and architecture comes together at The Factory, in an attempt to explore how elements of light can be communicated, perceived, interpreted and even manipulated within the context and conditions of a contemporary art space. They will transform the space of The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre into a dim maze, where all light emits from the various sculpture, installation and photography within the recesses of particularly placed, structurally specific louvers. Such a staged arrangement of objects and architectural elements - the first event of its kind in Vietnam on this scale - seeks to create an atmosphere of a strange faraway place. The curious and ambiguous first encounter of a new place is akin to a field trip with an anthropological approach, whereby an artist, architect, researcher or missionary, maps a site as they discover and study an object, community, or territory. Within this project, the artists are curious of the process of discovery and interpretation, as the investigator - here the artists and also the audience - may find themselves lost at a new site. They will then learn to detect shape, character, or function of subject and object on-site, connecting and reading these 'dots' from their original contexts to their current surroundings at the Factory, such a context seeking an audience's unbounded perspective. Initially this exhibition was inspired by the historical context of particular architecture and landscape in the Central Highlands of Vietnam, such as local housing and sacred buildings. Later, personal reflection and materials outside of this original context expand the projects' formal and conceptual narratives.

Graduating from the Master of Film Studies program at The New Sorbonne University in Paris, Trương Quế Chi is an artist currently based in Vietnam. Tuấn Dũng Nguyễn and Hương Vũ - members of Bund

Deutscher Architekten (BDA - Association of German Architects), Berlin branch – operate their studio, named 'vn a', between Berlin and Da Lat, Vietnam, winning second place at the VI Edition of the International Prize for Sacred Architecture in 2016.

This duo show between Trương Quế Chi and vn-a is a multilayered hermeneutic circle between light, space and object. Here, light sources integrate with the gallery structure, simultaneously deriving broader meaning for ideas of transformation, belief and transparency.

This exhibition is curated by **Arlette Quỳnh-Anh Trần**, with the weighty advice from architect **Anh Cường Nguyễn**.

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## vn-a

Hương Vũ and Tuấn Dũng Nguyễn completed their Diploma (equivalent to Master) at Laboratory for Integrative Architecture LIA – a research office at Technical University of Berlin, under Prof. Finn Geipel in 2008. They founded 'vn-a' – an architecture studio with two locations in Berlin and Dalat, Vietnam, in 2014. From October 2016, Tuấn Dũng Nguyễn worked as scientific assistant at the Institute for Industrial Buildings and Structural Design IIKE, Braunschweig University of Technology. In 2016 they won second place at the VI Edition of the International Prize for Sacred Architecture and first place at the Hanns Schaefer Preis Berlin. In 2017, they were appointed as full members of Bund Deutscher Architekten (BDA – Association of German Architects), Berlin branch, for their outstanding works and performances.

**Trương Quế Chi** (b. 1987) is an M.A. graduate of Film Studies from the University of Paris III: Sorbonne Nouvelle, and is active in both visual art and the cinema scene as filmmaker, artist and curator. She examines the spectacle of everyday violence in Vietnam and delves into the complex relationship between archive, memory and imagination. Her works have been featured at 'When I stop by the Cape', Nhà Sàn Collective, Vietnam (2017); 'Cosmopolis #1', Centre Pompidou, France (2017); 'Skylines with Flying People 3', Nhà Sàn Collective, Vietnam (2015-2017); 'Oberhausen International Film Festival', Germany (2015); 'Rencontres Internationales Paris/Berlin', Gaité Lyrique, Paris, Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin (2015); and Torino Film Festival, Italy (2014). Trương is currently a member of Nhà Sàn Collective's curator board and a film lecturer at the Hanoi University of Theatre and Cinema.

**Arlette Quỳnh-Anh Trần** is a curator, writer and member of Art Labor collective. She is Curator and Director of Post Vidai – a collection of Vietnamese contemporary art in Geneva and Saigon. Tran was previously Assistant Curator at Sàn Art and Saigon Open City. Her practice aims to go beyond the mere aesthetic value of art and consider art as catalyst, using visual language to interpret, question, and narrate multiple spheres of a topic. Tran has contributed to Istanbul Biennale 2015; Hugo Boss Asia Award 2015, Shanghai; 2084 (2012) with Pelin Tan and Anton Vidokle; SYNAPSE – International Curators' Network, HKW, Berlin; and several solo and group shows for young emerging artists. As a member of Art Labor, Tran has participated in CCA-NTU Singapore, Times Museum Guangdong, Centre Pompidou Paris, Dhaka Art Summit and the 57th Carnegie International.

**Anh Cường Nguyễn** graduated from École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Lyon (ENSAL) and Institut national des sciences appliquées de Lyon (INSA) in France. His graduation project won Prix de la jeune architecture de la ville de Lyon (Prize for young architect of Lyon city) – in category of peripheral architecture. He was senior architect at the SEURA architectes agency in Paris from 2011 to 2017. In 2018 he founded and currently practices at *studio nhabe scholae* in Ho Chi Minh City.

**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 contemporary art and cultural trends, both past and present, in 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>