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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DMV's First Vietnamese American Art Exhibition Celebrates 50 Years Of Resilience

Vagabond presents an art exhibition from January 16 to March 1, 2025 to uplift the perspectives of the Vietnamese American diaspora and commemorate the end of the war in Vietnam.

WASHINGTON, DC—Vagabond presents "50 Years of HOPE and HA-HAs," a Vietnamese American art exhibition that celebrates the expansiveness of the diaspora, rooted in the DMV. 2025 marks the 50-year anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam. The mainstream perception of Viets has remained unchanged for decades, rooted in the suffering of war, yet nothing about the community is static. In Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech "Beyond Vietnam," Dr. King addressed the importance of understanding the Viet experience in saying, "we may learn and grow and profit from the wisdom of the brothers who are called the opposition."

The exhibition offers counter narratives from the 1.5 and 2nd generation of Vietnamese Americans while uplifting the multi-cultural intersectionality of the diaspora. The theme of resilience is interwoven through joy, memorial, heritage, catharsis, solidarity, representation and community. The exhibition features visual art, poetry, video art, zines and music by Anthony Trung Quang Le, Antonius-Tín Bui and Theresa-Xuan Bui, Chanlee Luu, Hien Kat Nguyen, Jenn Tran, Jess Trúc My Nguyen, Khanh Aiden Nguyễn, Khánh H. Lê, Khoi Le, Kim Khouan Khong Sandara, Lộc "Leo" Nguyễn, Loc Huynh, Ngoc "Naomi" Le, Philippa Pham Hughes, Phượng-Duyên Hải Nguyễn, shawn williams, Thu Anh Nguyen, Valerie Plesch, superbloom*, Vagabond and Vanguard.

This exhibition is funded by the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities' Art Exhibition Grant program and curated by Anthony Trung Quang Le and Philippa Pham Hughes. The exhibition follows Vagabond's 2024 self-published art zine, supported by Wherewithal Grants and the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Learn more at VagabondZine.com.

About Curators:

Anthony Trung Quang Le is a DC-based multidisciplinary artist and identifies as Vietnamese, American and Queer. They work in painting, video, sculpture, printmaking, performance, writing and curation, exploring the joy of nonconformity. Le received a FY 2025 DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities (CAH) Art Exhibition Grant to curate the DMV's first Vietnamese American exhibition in 2025. They received a 2024 Wherewithal Grant by Washington Project for the Arts to create Vagabond, a zine and exhibition spotlighting Viet artists in the DMV. They are a 2023, 2024 and 2025 CAH Fellow, and their work is in the DC Art Bank Collection. In 2023, Le presented their solo exhibition "Golden Looking Hour" at Transformer in Washington, DC.

Philippa Pham Hughes is a social sculptor, educator, speaker, and writer. Currently, she is a Social Practice Resident at The Kennedy Center, Visiting Artist For Arts & Civic Engagement at the University of Michigan Museum of Art, and a Lecturer at the Ford School of Public Policy at the University of Michigan. She applies relational thinking and an aesthetic of care and delight to her work in democracy building, civic engagement, and repairing the social fabric of our country one creative conversation at a time. Philippa draws from the arts and humanities to design spaces for honest conversations across political, social, and cultural differences. She

has produced hundreds of creative activations since 2007 for people who might not normally meet to engage with one another in unconventional and meaningful ways. She also curates multi-disciplinary art exhibits & experiences. These relational experiences build social capital, social cohesion, and social discourse. She is a curious and lateral thinker whose multi-disciplinary practice is informed by sociology, psychology, philosophy, political science, history, community organizing, design thinking, creative placemaking, art, and humanities. Philippa has spoken internationally, including SXSW, The Sphere Initiative at the Cato Institute, TEDxAmericanUniversity, Placemaking Week Amsterdam, University of Michigan's Penny Stamps Speaker Series, Sparkfest, Fort Worth Women's Policy Forum. Her work has been featured by artnet, CNN, PBS Newshour, CityLab, and The Washington Post. Philippa's mission: to create a society in which all humans flourish.

Special Events:

Jan 16 • 10:30 AM-11 AM • Press Preview

Jan 16 • 5-7 PM • Opening Reception

Jan 25 • 2-4 PM • Poetry Talk with Chanlee Luu, Philippa Pham Hughes, shawn williams, Thu Anh Nguyen

Feb 8 • 2-4 PM • Zine Talk with superblooom*, Smells Like Rice, Vagabond

Mar 1 • 4-6 PM • Musical performance by Jess Trúc My Nguyen and Closing Reception

Location:

CAH Gallery: 200 I Street Southeast Washington, DC 20003

RSVP:

<https://vietart.eventbrite.com>

Exhibit Images:



New Year at the Garden of Eden Center by Anthony Trung Quang Le



She Waited for the Rest of Her Family from this Point in Place by Khánh H. Lê