

# TIA THUY<sup>2</sup> NGUYE<sup>~</sup>N



artistic portfolio



Tia-Thủy Nguyễn

Shut it Down  
2018  
oil on canvas  
160 x 160 cm

# ABOUT THE ARTIST

**Tia-Thủy Nguyễn** (b. 1981, Ho Chi Minh City) was born and raised in Hanoi. After graduating from the *Vietnam University of Fine Arts* (2006), she moved to Ukraine, where she achieved her PhD in Fine Arts at the *National Academy of Fine Art and Architecture*, Kiev (2014). For almost 20 years of spanning diverse practices including painting, art installation, fashion design and film production, Tia-Thủy Nguyễn's multi-disciplinary career has always showed an ardent admiration for the local Vietnamese traditions, folklores, rituals and beliefs. Tia-Thủy Nguyễn is also one of the pioneers in Vietnam to embed traditions into modern life through contemporary arts.

Being conscious about the difficulties of the Vietnamese art scene, in 2016, Tia founded *The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre*, the first purpose-built space for contemporary art in Vietnam, that aims to be a dynamic destination for art and design display and education, demonstrating the creative criticality of Vietnam today. She challenges women's roles in today's society, with her own experience as a mother, a fashion designer and an artist. Tia-Thủy Nguyễn's artworks have been exhibited, auctioned and collected widely in prestigious collections in Vietnam, the UK, US and France. In 2019, Tia-Thủy Nguyễn was recognized as one of the *Top 50 most influential women in Vietnam 2019* by *Forbes Vietnam*.

# Silver Room

The **'Silver Room'** (2016 - 2019) masterpiece is around the same size as a real house, consisting of 3 layers of wood - stone blocks - and a white quartz statue on a jackfruit wood pedestal, hidden in the midst of the hills of Aix-en-Provence, France. The unique open roof design of this artwork allows sunlight, rain, dew, wind and other weather phenomena of the setting be interacted with in various ways.

At the right moment of the day, the light will pass through the slit between two stone blocks to illuminate the *soul* of the artwork in the middle of the room. In Buddhism, there is a term referred to in Vietnamese as *duyên*, which describes multiple aspects, such as time, place and circumstances falling into one right moment to reveal something life-changing or enlightening. This special terminology is emphasised and thoroughly explored in this art piece, as it has profoundly affected Tia-Thủy Nguyễn. **'Silver Room'** with its multi-technical interaction (assembly, sculpture, lacquer), uses both light and shadow to bring unique visual-spiritual effects. This work illustrates her ideology and beliefs in a peaceful, natural environment, amid the conflicts and constraints of modern society; between desire and letting go.



details of **'Silver Room'**

2016-2019

silver, stone, wood, bamboo, white quartz, rope, paint

1,620 x 1,490 x 600 cm

courtesy of Château La Coste private collection (Aix-en-Provence, France)

image courtesy of Phạm Anh Huy

# Looking Down the Troposphere

In the oil painting series '**Looking Down the Troposphere**' (2018 – ongoing), Tia contemplates 3 different natural states of the sky: transformation, transition and transparency. Taking inspiration from the book *My way, the way of the white clouds* (1975) by Osho, since 2018, Tia has started to project her feelings on the interactions between sunlight, wind and clouds, that as a result cause physical formations and colours of the sky.



**Blush #1**, 2019, oil on canvas, 119 x 90 cm

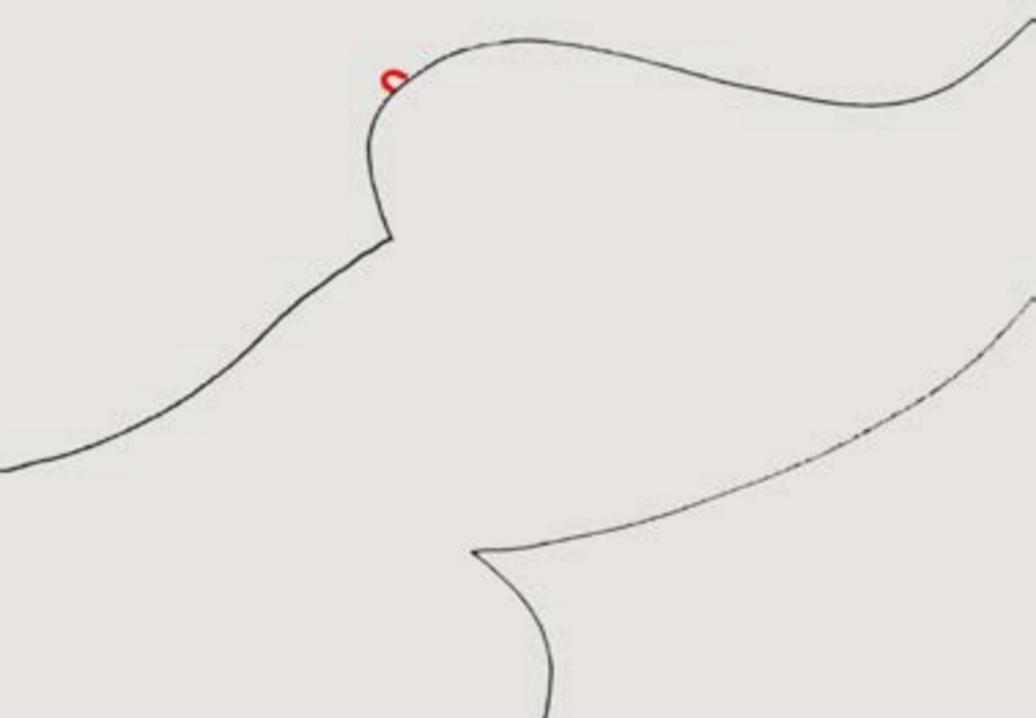


**Majestic #3**, 2019, oil on canvas,  
119 x 90 cm

The paintings are Tia's travel diary, written from an unusual perspective from an airplane window looking down to the troposphere. This point of view reflects her life over the past 2 years, spending most of her time travelling alone, crossing geographical boundaries of vast lands between Vietnam - Europe. The lands where the East and the West collide, merging into and redefining one another.



**Iridescence #1**, 2019, oil on canvas, 160 x 160 cm



**Lines #12**, 2019, ink on paper, 14.8 x 21.0 cm

Tia-Thủy Nguyễn focuses on the use of lines in drawings to retain her obsession with spontaneous moments and improvised angles of herself. The way Tia observes her own body is similar to that of a painter who studies a landscape, or a musician who dissects a melody. Curiously, she analyzed the changes in her own body over time.

This series (2018 - ongoing) is almost minimalist; showing her very strong drawing skills, by giving life to two-dimensional figures with the use of simple lines. The strokes somehow remind the audience of powerful Chinese calligraphy, applied on the refinement of movement and posture of the delicate female body.

# Lines

With 'Lines', Tia learns how to accept and nourish the contours of her own body, to enjoy the shapes it forms much like a gardener who cultivates his dear land, freely and generously. The figures appear nude, but the message is not just sensual. On the contrary, her drawings suggest diverse energy and different possibilities of nudity; giving women the freedom to move and to speak with their own voice.



**Lines #23**  
2019  
ink on paper  
21.0 x 29.7 cm

# FASHION PRACTICE



Garments from 'My Châu' collection (2019)  
featured in Đẹp Magazine (January 2020 issue).  
Image courtesy of Đẹp Magazine

# THUY DESIGN HOUSE

To Tia-Thủy Nguyễn, fashion is another creative practice with immense potential of reaching out to the larger audience. Since its establishment in 2011, *Thuy Design House* has always been a champion of the revival of Vietnamese tradition through Tia's contemporary interpretation and approach. With 9 major collections on hands, the latest being *My Châu*, which paid homage to *Cải Lương* – a traditional singing and theatre, helped Tia earn 'The Most Creative Designer' award from *Aquafina Vietnam International Fashion Week Fall/Winter 2019*. *Thuy Design House's* garments are constantly seen on screens as well as on international runways such as Rome, Paris, New York and beyond.



'*My Châu*', 2019  
Inspired by *Cải Lương*  
and princess *My Châu's*  
tragic love story.



'*Cô Ba Sài Gòn*', 2017  
A reinterpretation of the  
classic geometric patterns  
on encaustic cement tiles  
– which can be found in  
any Vietnamese home.



'*Lúng Liếng*', 2015  
Inspired by the  
female depictions by  
Indochinese painters  
such as Lê Phổ, Mai  
Trung Thứ and  
Trần Văn Cẩn.

Fascinated by the popularity and the archival value of the film format, 2017 marked Tia-Thủy Nguyễn's venture into this creative sphere with '*Cô Ba Sài Gòn*' ('The Tailor') in which she served as the its producer and costume designer. Set in the old Saigon, the film conveyed messages on the traditional family values, life as well as feminism. The film was well-received by the local movie-goers, and those from other countries during the *22nd Busan International Film Festival* at *A Window To Asia Cinema* category.

NGND HỒNG VÂN DIỄM MỸ NGỖ THANH VÂN NINH DƯƠNG LAN NGỌC DIỄM HẸ 9X DANH KIUU S.T 385 HÁI TRIEU TÙNG LEO KAYLEE HUANG

# Cô Ba SÀI-GON



22nd BUSAN INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

STORYLINE BY THE DESIGNHOUSE

ĐU KIẾN ĐỊNH CHIẾU:  
**10.11.2017**

STUDIO|68 THUY DESIGN HOUSE GALLERY SA INTERNATIONAL VINCORA A&P

ART  
FOR THE  
COMMUNITY



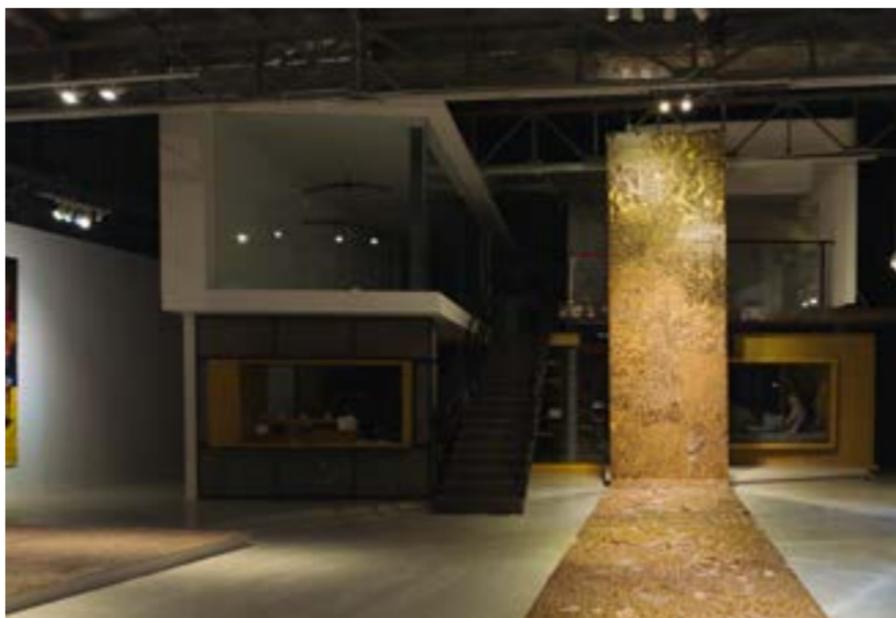
# THE FACTORY

CONTEMPORARY ARTS CENTRE

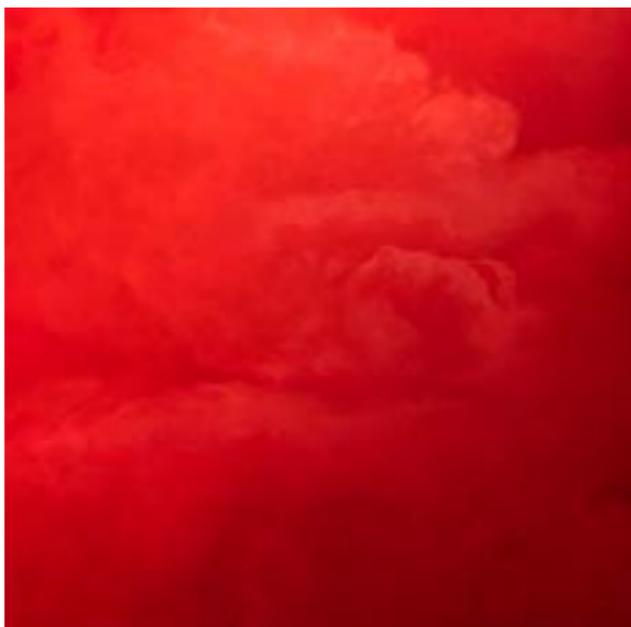
Founded in 2016 by Tia-Thủy Nguyễn, *The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre* is the first purpose-built space for contemporary art in Vietnam. With international curatorial expertise, *The Factory* is the “manufacturer” of critical and experimental exhibitions alongside a diverse roster of public programmes. In 2017, *The Factory* initiated *Materialize* – a project that aims to discover potential artists who have not had the opportunity to exhibit their works.



Artists, curators and their friends and family at the opening of **'Spirit of Friendship'** exhibition (September - November, 2017)



**'The oration for ten types of sentient beings'**, a solo exhibition of artist Phạm Trần Việt Nam, curated by Trần Lương (May - July, 2018)



**Scarlet Mist**, 2018, oil on canvas, 160 x 160 cm

In 2018, **'Scarlet Mist'** from the series **'Looking down the Troposphere'** by Tia-Thủy Nguyễn was auctioned and fetched \$100,000 at *Sotheby's (RED) Live Auction* during Art Basel Miami Beach, USA. The proceeds from the sale went to support *(RED) charity* in their global fight against HIV/AIDS.

## 'Save Our Rivers' project

In 2015, Tia-Thủy Nguyễn initiated **'Save Our Rivers'** project in collaboration with local elementary school. This project aims to raise children's awareness on environmental issues through art activities.





aerial view of 'Silver room'

2016-2019

silver, stone, wood, bamboo, white quartz, rope, paint

1,620 x 1,490 x 600 cm

courtesy of Château La Coste private collection (Aix-en-Provence, France)

image courtesy of Ngô Nhật Hoàng

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITIONS AND AUCTION

- 2020 *Out of Thin Air*, solo exhibition, Château La Coste, Aix-en  
Provence, France  
*Thủy Nguyễn: A Life Creative*, solo exhibition, The Factory,  
HCMC, Vietnam
- 2019 *Into Art Hills*, Group exhibition at Pho Ben Doi, Dalat,  
Vietnam  
*Silver Room*, solo installation, Château La Coste, Aix-en  
Provence, France
- 2018 *The third (RED) Auction* Exhibition, Sotheby's Miami,  
Florida, USA
- 2017 APEC Group's Anniversary exhibition, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2016 Founder of *The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre*, HCMC,  
Vietnam  
Co-curator of *TechNoPhobe* group exhibition, The Factory,  
HCMC, Vietnam
- 2003 *Philip Morris prize* group exhibition, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2002 Solo exhibition at Mai Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2001 *Young and promising Artists Exhibition*, Hanoi Contemporary  
Arts Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2000 *Vietnamese Artists' group exhibition*, Hanoi Expo Center,  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
*Human's Emotions*, solo exhibition, Gouman Gallery, Hanoi,  
Vietnam
- 1999 *The Young and the Restless*, solo exhibition, Gallery Cafe,  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
*Nguyen Thu Thuy and Tran Nhat Thang duo exhibition*,  
Gallery L'Atelier, Hanoi, Vietnam

## PUBLICATIONS

- 2020 *Lines/ Nét*, Tia Thủy Nguyễn, art book, Fine Art Publishing House

## **EDUCATION**

- 2014 PhD in Fine Arts, National Academy of Fine Art and Architecture, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2009 Master of Fine Arts, National Academy of Fine Art and Architecture, Kiev, Ukraine
- 2006 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Vietnam University of Fine Art, Hanoi, Vietnam

## **FASHION**

- 2016 RMIT Vietnam's Bachelor of Fashion's Graduation Mentor
- 2015 Director and Designer of Art Fashion Show for *Vietnam Culture Day*, Rome, Italy
- 2011 Founder and Creative Director of *Thuy Design House* fashion brand

## **FILM PRODUCTIONS**

- 2017 Producer and Costume Designer of film *Cô Ba Sài Gòn*, Vietnam
- 2016 Co-producer of film *Sài Gòn, Anh Yêu Em*, Vietnam  
Co-producer of film *Tấm Cám The Untold*, Vietnam  
Director of Thuy Design House's Fashion Film *Áo Lụa*, Vietnam  
Co-Creative & Co-Art Director of Phó Đức Phương's live show, Hanoi, Vietnam

## **SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT PROJECT**

- 2014 - 2015 Founder and Director of *Save Our Rivers* Project, HCMC, Vietnam

## **AWARDS**

- 2019 *50 most influential women in Vietnam in 2019*, Forbes Vietnam  
*Vietnamese Pride Award*, Elle Style Awards 2019  
*The Most Creative Designer*, Vietnam Fashion Awards 2019



*tia*

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