

OC-EO CONTEMPORARY VIETNAMESE FINE ART

NGUYEN DIEU THUY – TRANSPARENT SPACE

“Within a transparent space that extends to infinity, I explore the limitless horizon of the beauty of humanity, nature, freedom, and destiny...” Nguyen Dieu Thuy

Oc-Eo Art introduced rising Vietnamese artist, Nguyen Dieu Thuy, to London in November at their highly acclaimed exhibition, ‘A Sense of Space’, part of the 10th annual Asian Art in London festival.

Born in Saigon, Thuy studied violin at the Conservatoire de Musique in Ho Chi Minh City. After she graduated in 1988, she joined the Ho Chi Minh City orchestra as a violinist and taught music. In her spare time, though, she painted, and two years later she gave up her professional music career to devote herself to painting.

Thuy is one of a generation of women who, through work, talent and determination, have overcome the sadness and struggle of growing up in post-war Saigon.

She is drawn to white, and this lends a contemporary eye to her harmonious compositions of traditional Vietnamese urban and rural life – women in white, people of the floating markets, fishermen, sparrows, rice bowls, chopsticks, earthenware jars, fans and flowers.

For Thuy, each object has its own space, a soul, a life of its own. Her rice bowls and earthenware jars, painted in rich earth tones, are symbols of the land, of life renewing itself. ‘Give it a breath of life, since it has a reason for being’. Sometimes she adds silver or gold leaf to reflect modern civilisation.



Her birds are symbols of freedom. ‘If you had time in war and had time of the ruin after that, you will see how beautiful if we could have a simple life as little sparrows, happy on my canvas.’ Similarly, her paintings inspired by the floating markets of the Mekong, are deeply philosophical: ‘It make me think about our life. Just like these people, each one of us has our duty and we drive our boat on this river of life.’

Although she paints her women in traditional white ‘ao dai’, the narrative of these paintings is contemporary. Invariably, she adds a touch of colour with a fan, a scarf or flowers, and the poses her figures adopt are poised and elegant: classical, graceful and poetic, yet ready to meet the challenges of a new Vietnam.

Oc-Eo Art is privileged to be able to bring Vietnamese Contemporary Fine Art to England and in particular to be sole representatives of Ms Thuy’s work in the UK. Please see our web-site for details of where and when Ms Thuy’s work will next be exhibited.

Vietnamese art has, over the last 10-15 years, become increasingly sought after and is both sold by galleries and collected by museums worldwide, as well as being featured extensively in Southeast Asian art auctions. We believe that not only is it deserving of still greater recognition, but that it is some of the best value fine art to be collected anywhere in the world.



Above Song of Nature, oil on canvas, 50x50cms (1 of set of 4)

Above right Summer, oil on canvas, 100x80cms

Below right Under the Shadow of Bamboo, oil on canvas, 150x120cms



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