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Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba

***Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex -
For the Courageous, the Curious and the Cowards***
(2001)

April 8 – July 6, 2003

Bakalar Gallery

CAMBRIDGE – From April 8 to July 6, 2003, the MIT List Visual Arts Center presents a film by **Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba: *Memorial Project Nha Trang, Vietnam Towards the Complex - For the Courageous, the Curious and the Cowards*** (2001). This 13-minute film, screened as a DVD video projection was originally commissioned for the 2001 Yokohama Triennale of Contemporary Art, Japan.

Filmed on location in Vietnam's IndoChina Sea, Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba's film focuses on the lives of Vietnamese cyclo drivers. Cyclos, human-powered rickshaws, are an inexpensive means of transportation used to transport goods and people in Vietnam. The cyclo industry is a source of income for many Vietnamese who were left unemployed as a result of the country's reunification. Modernization, however, has made these vehicles unwelcome on city streets in Vietnam because, although cyclos have less negative impact on the environment, they are slow moving and old-fashioned. As a result, the government has banned further production of cyclos.

This remarkable film depicts a number of young men struggling to propel cyclos across the rock-strewn and sandy ocean floor. Working in teams, they pull, push, and pedal the passenger-less vehicles. Periodically, and in ever-shortening cycles, they rush up to the surface for air or risk drowning. The water grows deeper; the boulders get larger; the trip to the surface takes longer; and the task is increasingly arduous. Finally, the drivers abandon their cyclos, and swim together toward an underwater "city" composed of tents made from white netting strung between boulders-- a metaphor, perhaps, for the many Vietnamese boat people who drowned in the aftermath of the war. The clear blue water, sunlight dappling the ocean floor, and gentle flute music composed by Quoc Bao and Nguyen-Hatsushiba, again provide stark contrast in this all-too-real metaphor for this endangered way of life.

Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba was born in Japan in 1968. He now lives and works in Vietnam. He was educated in the United States at Brookhaven College, Dallas, TX; The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, IL; and the Maryland Institute, College of Art, Mount Royal School of Art, Baltimore, MD.

Nguyen-Hatsushiba's selected solo exhibitions include: *Matrix Program 2003* (2003), UC Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA; *Jun Nguyen-Hatsushiba: Memorial Project Vietnam* (2003), New Museum, New York, NY; *Xich Lo 2001 - The Making of Alternative History* (2000), Mizuma Art Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; *In Between* (1998), Shiseido Ginza Art Space, Tokyo, Japan; *WWW.XEOM.COM* (1998), Blue Space Gallery, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (1998); and *Dream* (1997), 29 Hang Bai Exhibition House, Hanoi, Vietnam. He has also participated in numerous group exhibitions including: *The Sydney Biennial* (2002), Sydney, Australia; *The Bienal de São Paulo* (2002), São Paulo, Brazil; *The Yokohama Triennale* (2001), Yokohama, Japan; *The Gwangju Biennale* (2000), Gwangju, Korea; and *Gap Vietnam* (1999), Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin, Germany.

This presentation is part of the Boston Cyberarts Festival, 2003.

The MIT List Visual Arts Center's programs are generously supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Council for the Arts at MIT.



Direction

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building, 20 Ames St., at the eastern edge of the MIT campus. It is in close proximity to Kendall Square, Memorial Drive, and the Longfellow Bridge.

By T, take the red line to the Kendall/MIT stop, follow Main St. west to Ames St., turn left, and walk one block to the cross walk. The List Visual Arts Center, housed in a building identifiable by its white gridded exterior, will be on your left. Signage is on the building.

By car, coming across the Longfellow Bridge or from Memorial Drive, follow signs for Kendall Square. Limited metered parking is available on Ames Street. A parking garage is located at the Cambridge Center complex (entrance on Ames between Main and Broadway) during business hours and on campus after business hours and on weekends.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday – Thursday: 12 – 6 PM; Friday: 12 – 8 PM; Saturday and Sunday: 12 – 6 PM
Closed Mondays

Information

617-253-4680 or <http://web.mit.edu/lvac>

All exhibitions at the List Visual Arts Center are free and open to the public. Wheelchair accessible. Accommodations are provided by request. Please call Hiroko Kikuchi, at 617-452-3586 for inquiries.



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