

HINTERLANDS

Sept 7th 2012 - September 29th 2012

Opening Reception Friday Sept 7th, 6pm - 8pm - Closing September 29th

Gallery Hours Wednesday - Saturday, 12 noon - 5pm, or by appointment

HINTERLANDS aims to merge faraway places. We have transported the hinterlands of Hanoi, through the art and artists that engage with Nha San Studio, Vietnam's longest running experimental arts space, to a kindred space in San Francisco - The Tenderloin National Forest / Luggage Store Gallery, where 40% of the surrounding neighborhood population is of Southeast Asian descent.

HINTERLANDS is The Luggage Store's first artistic exchange involving artists born, raised and based in Vietnam. **HINTERLANDS** consists of a three month residency project in which four artists work in collaboration. This project culminates in an exhibition of new works by two of Hanoi's most exciting young artists. Nguyen Phuong Linh and Nguyen Tran Nam join Lu Yang, a multi-media artist from Shanghai and Gabby Miller from The Bay Area.

Hanoi, which translates to "the hinterland between the rivers" is located in the Red River Delta, in the center of Northern Vietnam.

The hinterland is the uncharted areas beyond a coastal district or a river's banks. It is the part of a country where only a few people live and where the infrastructure is weak.

The hinterland is beyond what is visible and known, the back country of the mind, the not yet imagined. It is the far-a-way place.

www.luggagestoregallery.org 1007 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Graphic Design by Japheth Gonzalez
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Luggage Store (top)
Nhasan Studio (bottom)

The Luggage Store - www.luggagestoregallery.org

The Luggage Store is one of San Francisco's leading nonprofit multidisciplinary arts organizations established in 1987, with three venues in downtown San Francisco; the luggage store (1007 Market Street), the luggage store annex (aka 509 Cultural Center) at 509 Ellis Street and the adjacent Tenderloin National Forest in Cohen Alley (a green community commons for for public art and social interventions). The luggage store's vital exhibition, performing arts, artist-in-residence, public arts and arts education programs are designed to broaden social and aesthetic networks by encouraging the flow of images and ideas between different cultural and economic communities.

Nhasan Studio - www.nhasan.org

Founded in 1998, Nha San Studio is the longest running experimental arts space in Vietnam. It is a Muong ethnic minority house on wooden stilts, transported piece by piece from the mountains in Hoa Binh province to the outskirts of Hanoi. Moonlighting as family home and business, Nha San circumvents the law requiring approval for any public exhibition in Vietnam by registering gatherings as private events. Nha San Studio can be understood in multiple ways as a hinterland of Vietnam – few inhabitants, distinct from but influenced by the state, and a space to go beyond the imagination.

Nguyen Phuong Linh. B. 1985, Hanoi. Self-taught. Lives and works in Hanoi.

My father collects, repairs and reconstructs traditional wooden houses, churches and temples. He shipped wood salvaged from a catholic church and the windows from a mental hospital in the countryside outside of Hanoi to Oakland for me. I am building a boat from this wood. Now I can row.

Nguyen Tran Nam. B. 1979, Hung Yen Province. 2003 BFA in Painting, Hanoi Fine Arts University. Lives and works in Hanoi.

In preparing to come to San Francisco I thought about what I should ship to America. What could the people who left Vietnam by boat bring with them? What did they expect in the new country? I decided to ship the basic elements that any human needs to survive: soil, water and earth - things that are both in the homeland and the new land.

Đất nước translates to soil and water. In Vietnamese these words together also mean country. At the end of this year my family will exhume my mother's bones for a tradition called bốc mộ - we unearth the bones in order to bury them in their final resting place. I measured my body and filled these dimensions with earth and water from San Francisco. This is how much space my body uses now. This is how much space I will use when I am buried underground.

Lu Yang B. 1984, Shanghai, China. 2007 BFA New Media, China Academy of Art. 2010 MFA New Media, China Academy of Art. Lives and works in Shanghai.

"POWER OF WILL 4.0: LAZER LEZ" was shot in a single night in Hanoi. Lu Yang directed Gabby's video performance in a set built in the porch of Phuong Linh's small apartment. Power of Will is a long term project started in 2008. Lazer Lez was made in December 2011 when I first time met charming Gabby. Caution, be careful of the shot by Gabby's charming laser!

Gabby Miller. B. 1985, Oakland. 2008 BA Anthropology, Reed College. Lives and works in The Bay Area.

Title: Logistics from Sea to Land (For Giang and Nam).
Materials: Section of a salvaged steel shipping container, one tube of oil paint from Giang's studio in Hanoi, 2012.

In 1967 the U.S. government contracted Sea-Land Service to begin sending container ships from The Port of Oakland to South Vietnam. In November of that year the 685-foot-long ship The Oakland delivered 609 thirty-five foot containers full of supplies to Vietnam. It is now estimated that 10,000 shipping containers fall into the sea every year. In these spillages a small number of containers wash ashore.