

danh vo

oct 26— dec 14, 2019

opening
oct 26, 12 — 2 pm

#danhvo

kurimanzutto
gob. rafael rebollar 94
col. san miguel chapultepec
11850 mexico city

tue – thu, 11 am – 6 pm
fri – sat, 11 am – 4 pm

press
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kurimanzutto presents the second solo exhibition by Danh Vo in the gallery. Examining the present to understand his past, Vo also looks at the future and thus weaves objects, people and histories, both personal and official, into his work. The artist's practice has long since been informed by his interactions with friends and relatives. Vo's work can be understood completely through the collaborations he has established with his significant others: his father, his lover, his nephew, his friends. Following a series of projects, such as the Venice Biennale and his most recent show at the South London Gallery, Vo presents works that continue to expand upon the artistic importance of those relational connections.

A series of paintings on mirror foil by his former tutor at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Peter Bonde, have been created at the gallery. Bonde's characteristic smearing technique is applied over printed dialogues from the movie *The Exorcist*. A similar series of these artworks by Bonde have been integrated to Vo's latest projects. Their once fraught student-professor relationship has now turned their confrontation into a fruitful and creative collaboration.

Combined to these paintings are the photographs that Heinz Peter Knes has taken of Vo's nephew and muse Gustav. These clichés make direct reference to fashion photography in Gustav's attitude and demeanor but are also the testimonies of their friendship between the confident young adult and the artist. Vo's family have been omnipresent in the construction of his artistic practice - namely Phung Vo, the artist's father - who has been a close collaborator throughout his career, excelling in the practice of calligraphy. New drawings using his favorite typeface will also be part of the composite installation at kurimanzutto.

Weaving his past with the history of Vietnam and of the world, Vo has acquired objects from the estate of Robert McNamara, former United States Secretary of Defense (1961-68), a notorious figure in the military politics of the Vietnam War. This first contact with the McNamara family led their son Craig McNamara to befriend Vo and later gift him with a walnut orchard, its timber destined to make rifle stocks. Instead, the timber has been used by the artist to make replicas of designer furniture or to be used raw and unfinished in his exhibitions.

Close relationships, accidents of history, chance encounters and past confrontations are not only part of Vo's

artistic practice but of his life as a whole, an endless chain of associations and references that work as networks of meaning.

about the artist

Danh Vo studied at KADK-The Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts in Denmark and at the Städelschule in Frankfurt, Germany.

His most important exhibitions include: *untitled*, South London Gallery (2019); *Danh Vo*, CAPC Bordeaux (2018); *Danh Vo: Take My Breath Away*, Guggenheim Museum, New York and SMK Copenhagen (2018); *Ng Teng Fong Roof Garden Commission series: Danh Vo*, National Gallery Singapore (2016-17); *Banish the Faceless / Reward your Grace*, Palacio de Cristal del Retiro, Madrid (2015); *Ydoh eht ni mraw si ti*, Museum Ludwig, Cologne (2015); *Danh Vo: Wad al-hayara*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2014/2015); *Danh Vo: We The People (detail)*, Faurschou Foundation Beijing (2014); *We The People*, commissioned by Public Art Fund for the Brooklyn Bridge Park, New York (2014); *I M U U R 2* (Hugo Boss Prize), Guggenheim Museum, New York (2013); *Chung ga opla*, Villa Medici, Rome (2013); *Go Mo Ni Ma Da*, Musée de'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (2013); *We The People (detail) 2010-2013*, Art Institute of Chicago (2012); *Vo Danh*, Kunsthau Bregenz, Austria (2012); *JULY, IV, MDCCLXXVI*, Kunsthalle Fridericianum, Kassel (2011); *Hip Hip Hurra*, SMK- National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen (2010); *Les fleurs d'intérieur*, KADIST, Paris (2009); *Danh Vo Where the Lions Are*, Kunsthalle Basel (2009); *Package Tour*, Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam (2008).

Danh Vo participated in the International Art Exhibition at the 55th and 59th Venice Biennial (2012 and 2019) and represented Denmark at the 56th Venice Biennial (2015) with the exhibition *mothertongue*.

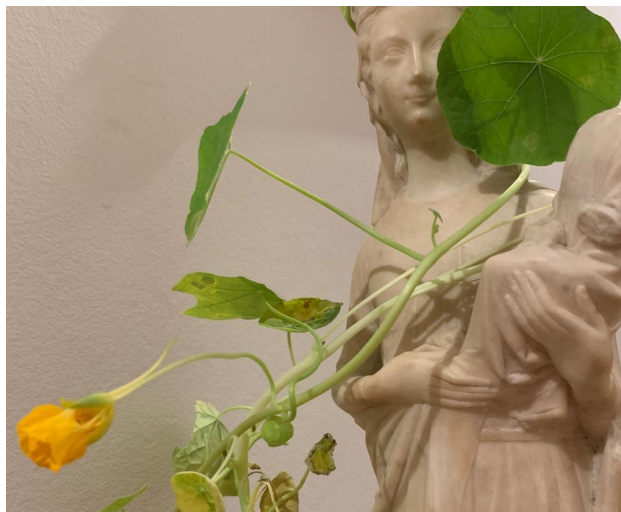
Danh Vo currently lives between Berlin and Mexico City.

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Danh Vo, image courtesy of the artist and kurimanzutto, Mexico City / New York