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PRESS RELEASE

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## WHO IS WEAVING THE SKY NET?

**Exhibition dates:** 2 Nov 2024 – 5 Jan 2025

A group exhibition curated by New York-based Vietnamese curator Do Tuong Linh, spotlighting artists who have long explored textiles as metaphors for the universe's construction.

### Featuring

Dinh Thi Tham Poong  
Doan Van Toi  
Leila Seyedzadeh  
Keith Khanh Truong  
Lai Thi Dieu Ha  
Tra My Nguyen  
Woo Hannah  
Tran Thao Mien

**Performance | Hydra: Wearable Art by Lai Thi Dieu Ha**

**Dates:** 16, 30 Nov & 14 Dec 2024

**Satellite Venue:** Millenia Walk



**Tra My Nguyen, *Bodies (The Lovers)*, 2024, aluminium, mesh fabric, textile silicone, foam, 74 x 150 x 11 cm.**

Yeo Workshop is pleased to feature Dinh Thi Tham Poong, Doan Van Toi, Leila Seyedzadeh, Keith Khanh Truong, Lai Thi Dieu Ha, Tra My Nguyen, Woo Hannah, Tran Thao Mien, these eight boundary-breaking artists employ textile, fabric, and weaving as a means to question the construction of our universe and existence. The title, borrowed from an essay by physician Nguyen Tuong Bach, draws on the delicate interplay between quantum physics and Buddhist thought. In his reflection, Nguyen unearths profound yet simple truths: we, as human beings, weave the fabric of our realities much like a sky net—often unaware of our role as creators. Entangled in the intricate webs of our own making, we forget we are their architects, lost in the stories we script and perform.



**Tra My Nguyen**, *Bodies (The Lovers)*, 2024, aluminium, mesh fabric, textile silicone, foam, 74 x 150 x 11 cm.

Works presented evoke a sense of interconnectedness, reminiscent of *Indra's Net*, a symbol of boundless complexity where each thread reflects the universe itself. This reference to "Lưới trời Đế Thích" (Indra's Net) deepens this philosophical inquiry, where each part mirrors and influences the whole, revealing the boundless complexity of existence. This eternal question of

reality versus illusion—like the dream-like play we both create and inhabit—remains unanswered, lingering as an open meditation.



Doan Van Toi, *Moral precepts*, 2024, silk, embroidery thread, fabric, watercolour, 60 x 80 cm.

In the canon of art history, textile-based creations are commonly relegated to the realm of “craft”—a preposition that *Who is Weaving the Sky Net?* boldly challenges and transcends. Among the countless controversies of luxury fashion houses, [one was accused of copying the innovative work of Vietnamese artist Tra My Nguyen](#), which had sent shockwaves through both the fashion and art communities. Yet is a powerful reminder that textiles and weaving are not mere ‘crafts’ but fine art forms in their own right, deeply embedded in philosophy, culture, and existential inquiry. Tra My Nguyen’s *Bodies (The Lovers)* textile-sculpture series in the exhibition reimagines motorcycle garments beyond their original function, gesturing toward a body that exceeds social constructs, transforming into new forms beyond their everyday use. Elsewhere in the exhibition, Iranian artist Leila Seyedzadeh reflects on the enduring ties of heritage and the beautiful complexity of being between worlds through *The Landscape of My Voice – East River*. She poetically captures her immigrant journey, connecting New York’s East River and Tehran’s Alborz mountains. The intimacy of textiles is omnipresent throughout the exhibition. After



discovering that one of her kidneys had shrunk abnormally in 2019, Woo Hannah began a journey of self-exploration through the creation of fabric bags that mimicked the shape of various organs. The resultant fabric sculptures *NYX*, *Nidation* and *A Smelly Ear* come to express the complex feelings of loss and possessiveness.



Woo Hannah, *A Smelly Ear* 냄새나는 귀, 2024, Fabric, cotton, silicone, thread, beads, 21 x 14 x 14 cm.

Image courtesy of the artist and G Gallery. Photo: Seungheon Lee

The artists in *Who is Weaving the Sky Net?* weave their unique narratives and materials with a shared grace, bridging fabric and life's delicate interconnectedness, unravelling the many ways we craft, question, and live within the worlds we weave. Through distinct approaches and methods, they engage this age-old inquiry: *Are we mere performers in the worlds we weave, or are we their creators?* The exhibition in turn forms a testament to the enduring power and resonance of textiles art, and urges a broader conversation about creativity, originality, and the interconnected nature of life.





Keith Khanh Truong, *Chiếu/ Pixel-weaving samples 1A and 1B*, 2023, Risograph printed, hand-woven, machine-sewed, 183 x 122 cm each.

**Performance | Hydra: Wearable Art by Lai Thi Dieu Ha**

Featuring wearable fabric sculptures in conjunction with Millenia Walk's "Moving Wonders" festive celebrations.

**Dates & Times:**

Saturday 16 Nov, 2- 5pm

Saturday 30 Nov, 2- 5 pm

Saturday 14 Dec, 2- 5 pm

**Satellite Venue:**

Atrium, Millenia Walk, 9 Raffles Blvd, S039596



Performance by Lai Thi Dieu Ha, performer: Richard Streitmatter Tran.

As part of the exhibition programme, Lai Thi Dieu Ha collaborates with Singaporean artists, Elden Zachery, Josh Tirados, Liz Zhu and Muhammad Mustaghfir, to showcase her original creations. Since 2012, following a series of controversial performances, one which was described as “[terrifying](#)”, the artist has an alternative method of inquiry to her explorations of the inner self, identity and origin. She began *Sewing with Fabric*, which draws inspiration from the freshwater organisms such as Hydra. This long-term performance evolves with history, time and place, much as the rhythms of life. Lai Thi Dieu Ha’s Hydra spills over in human life, softening violence and offering protection for those small, vulnerable and endangered.

The performance will take place in Millenia Walk as part of the mall’s art experiences and offerings amidst their festive experience, featuring a tour of the mall centrepiece by artists Wade & Leta. Millenia Walk, designed by Pritzker Architecture Prize laureate Philip Johnson, is a retail destination featuring a curated selection of artisanal shops and dining establishments, all housed within the architecturally stunning, art-filled Millenia Singapore development.

## ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES



### **TRA MY NGUYEN** (b. 1992, Vietnam)

Tra My Nguyen is a Berlin-based multidisciplinary artist working across sculpture, moving image, fashion, and textiles. Drawing on diasporic perspectives, her practice re-contextualizes material culture within the framework of global modernisms. Nguyen's work delves into speculative narratives, exploring the intersections of gender, labour, migration, and technology within the current neoliberal order.

Her work has been exhibited at the 4th Edition of Bienalsur, Centro de Arte UNLP, La Plata (2023); The State of Fashion Biennale, Arnhem, Netherlands (2022); ACUD Galerie, Berlin (2022); Galerie Tanja Wagner, Berlin (2022); Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn (2021), among others. She was artist-in-residence at Rupert Residency, Vilnius (2024); Intermix Residency, Ministry of Culture, Riyadh (2023); and Incubator Collective, Berlin (2020).



### **TRẦN THẢO MIÊN** (b. 1991, Hanoi, Vietnam)

Trần Thảo Miên is an installation and visual artist. Mien has developed her embroidery techniques using monofilament yarn on various types of fashion waste and found natural elements. Guided by the diverse tapestry of Asian culture along with her endless curiosity of modern environmental science, Mien intertwines spiritual essence into her soft textured sculptures, embodying reverence for “Vạn vật hữu linh” - Vietnamese beliefs of the individuality and equality of every living being on Earth, she reimagines the order of nature, questioning established hierarchies that lie beyond human grasp.

Recent notable exhibitions include: *Means of Productions*, Lunch Hour, NY; *Mind & Machines*, Vietnamese Women's



Museum, Hanoi & Hai An Gallery (2023); *The Foliage IV*, Vincom Center for Contemporary Art, Hanoi; *Sign Chorus*, Old Soul, Da Nang (2022); among others. She is a Recipient of the Inclusion Award, Goethe Institut Hanoi.



**DINH THI THAM POONG** (b. 1970, Lai Chau, Vietnam)

Dinh Thi Tham Poong's work is whimsical and sincere. Her work is steeped in a feeling of genuine wonder at the human condition, nature and our environment. Poong combines images from her own Muong heritage with a surrealist visual landscape imbuing her works –both formally and emotionally – with a quality which can be described as utterly unique and completely global. Utilising pattern on pattern in a flat palette of colour on traditional Do paper, she creates a world at once introspective and surrealistic. Depictions of ethnic minorities juxtaposed with flat decorative patterns are flights of imagination fused with normal daily life.

Dinh Thi Tham Poong has exhibited widely internationally and her works are in the permanent collections of the Singapore Art Museum, Fukuoka Asean Art Museum, Fukuoka, Japan, the Rupertinum Museum der Moderne Salzburg, Austria, the MacLean Collection Mundelein, Illinois, USA, the New York Historical Society NYC, and the Post Vidai Collection, Vietnam/Switzerland among others.



**DOAN VAN TOI** (b. 1989, Hai Phong, Vietnam)

Doan Van Toi's practice mainly focuses on the relationship between humans and nature, explored through various materials. "*Karaoke - Karaoke*" is his latest series of works, where the Hanoi-based artist continues his exploration of nature's mechanisms through the use of silk, embroidery threads, fabric, and watercolour. Centred on the essence and interconnectedness of all things regardless of the boundaries of religions, and sciences, each artwork ultimately aims to evoke a sense of inner peace in each viewer.

He holds a bachelor's degree in painting from the Vietnam University of Fine Arts (2017) and has participated in several regional and international exhibitions.



**KEITH KHANH TRUONG** (b. 2000, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam)

Keith Khanh Truong is a multi-disciplinary artist who works mainly with printed matter, textiles, and sculptures, Truong digitises Vietnamese household objects, transforms their imagery and characteristics in cyberspace, and replicates those objects through tactile processes such as printing, weaving, and sewing. They aim to create faux-fibre replicas existing at the intersection of physical reality and digital dreamscape. Through this mode of production, Truong seeks to reimagine the traditions and mythologies in trans narratives.

Truong graduated from Tufts University and the School of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston, MA and is currently based in New York.



**LEILA SEYEDZADEH** (b. 1986, Tehran, Iran)

Leila Seyedzadeh is an interdisciplinary Iranian artist based in New York. Her work delves into the realm of imaginary landscapes, particularly focusing on natural elements like mountains that emerge from the subconscious. These landscapes function as intricate tapestries woven from fragments of memories that have become disjointed and lost their original significance. Through this process, Seyedzadeh creates scenes of placelessness, where the act of reconstructing these memories simultaneously erodes their meaning, resulting in a landscape that is both familiar and disorienting.

Seyedzadeh was awarded the H. Lee Hirsche Prize (2019) and the Soma Summer Scholarship at Yale School of Art (2018). Her work has been featured in Canvas, ArteEast, Tique, No NIIN, Art Apart of cult(ure), Art Spiel, and the Museum of Non-visible Art. Currently, Seyedzadeh is an artist in residence at the That Studio program and is preparing for a solo exhibition in 2025 at the Visual Art Center, NJ. Her previous solo exhibitions have been held at the Peter Gaugy Gallery, Austria and the Dastan Gallery, Iran.



**WOO HANNAH** (b.1988, Daejeon, South Korea)

Woo Hannah's work imagines an existence that transcends the notion of a finite and fixed body. Based on this, she depicts a scenario where all beings are equal to one another in a horizontal relationship, breaking away from the existing dichotomy which divides humans and non-humans. She presents a situation in which opposite and polarised beings, such as the living and the non-living, the protecting and the protected, the old and the young, the painful and the joyful, converge and complement each other in works that do not limit the boundaries of genres based on fabric as the main material.



Woo has held solo exhibitions at Frieze No.9 Cork Street, London (2023); G Gallery (2023), and SongEun Art Cube (2020). Recent group exhibitions include those at Buk-Seoul Museum of Art (2022, 2019), SongEun Art Center (2022), Arko Museum of Art (2019), Ilmin Museum of Art (2019), National Asian Cultural Center (2017), and many others. She received the Frieze Artist Award in 2023.



**Lai Thi Dieu Ha** (b. 1976, Hanoi, Vietnam)

Lai Thi Dieu Ha is one of Vietnam's most significant feminist artists, known for her distinctive, multi-dimensional, and provocative art. Initially focusing on performance art, she delved into explorations of the inner self, where her body became both a medium and canvas for grappling with identity and origin. Over time, her practice expanded to include photography, painting, sculpture, installation, and video, while maintaining the psychological tension and obscurity that define her work. Textile forms a fundamental element in her art, with organic fabric sculptures and installations frequently integrated into her performances.

She was awarded the Silver Award for UOB Painting of the Year 2023. Other notable exhibitions include: *Psychodrama Therapy*, Rapid Pulse International Performance Art Festival, Chicago (2014); *Mind, Flesh, Matter*, Sàn Art, Ho Chi Minh City, (2014); *Undefined Boundaries*, Heritage Space, Hanoi (2017). In 2015, she presented her first solo exhibition, *Conservation of Vitality*, at Cuc Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam.

## ABOUT THE CURATOR



Do Tuong Linh is a curator, art researcher, writer based between Hanoi (Vietnam) and New York City (United States). Linh holds a BA in Art History and theoretical criticism from Vietnam University of Fine Arts and a MA in Contemporary Art and Art Theory of Asia and Africa at SOAS (University of London). UK with the prestigious Alphawood scholarship. She is a part of the Bard Curatorial Studies program class of 2025.

Linh has engaged in various art exhibitions and projects in Vietnam, Southeast Asia, Europe and beyond since 2005. She is a fellow researcher for Site and Space in Southeast Asia – a research project run by the Power Institute, University of Sydney, Australia funded by Getty Image Foundation, USA. She participated in many international cultural arts programs such as Asia Cultural Council research fellowship 2023, Ljubljana Graphic Art Biennial 2019, Slovenia; Association of Art Museum Curators conference, New York, USA; Mekong Cultural Hub 2018 – 2019, Taiwan; CIMAM International Museum Workshop 2018, Oslo, Norway; Asia Culture Center (Gwangju, Korea) 2018; Tate Intensive 2018, Tate Modern Museum, UK; French Encounter at Art Basel in Hong Kong 2018.

Some of her notable curated exhibitions include Means of Productions 2024 (NYC, USA), 12th Berlin Biennial 2022, Citizen Earth 2020 (Hanoi, Vietnam), The Foliage 3 (VCCA, Vincom Center for Contemporary Arts, Hanoi, Vietnam) 2019, Geo-Resilience of the All-world at La Colonie (Paris, France) 2018, No War, No Vietnam exhibition at Galerie Nord (Berlin, Germany) 2018, SEAcurrences (London, UK) 2017.

Special thanks to G Gallery (Seoul, Korea) and Indochine Gallery (Hanoi, Vietnam).

## **ABOUT YEO WORKSHOP**

Yeo Workshop is a gallery committed to contemporary art in Singapore. In recent years, the gallery has been focused on bringing greater prominence to local artists with several Singaporean artists joining the roster. Covering a multi-disciplinary approach and collaborative spirit, the gallery defines itself by its progressive engagements that strive to shape the trajectory of contemporary art in Southeast Asia and beyond. Determined to platform their artists to international audiences, the gallery regularly participates in international art fairs including Art Dubai, Frieze Seoul, NADA Miami, Paris Asia NOW and ARTSG.

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