



Pham An Hai

changing seasons

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Solo Exhibition by

Pham An Hai

28 November – 31 December, 2015



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Thavibu Gallery Co., Ltd.
Silom Galleria, Suite 433
919/1 Silom Road, Bangkok 10500, Thailand
Tel. 66 (0)2 266 5454, Fax. 66 (0)2 266 5455
Email. info@thavibu.com, www.thavibu.com

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FOREWORD

Jørn Middelborg

Thavibu Gallery

Thavibu Gallery has the pleasure of presenting the current catalogue and exhibition, *CHANGING SEASONS*, by the Vietnamese artist Pham An Hai. The exhibition takes place in Bangkok, Thailand, on 28 November – 31 December 2015.

Pham An Hai is one of Southeast Asia's foremost painters of abstractions. He is also an excellent painter of figurative art and started out as an artist doing expressionistic paintings and moved on towards abstraction. His oil on canvas works have developed into larger and bolder canvases over the years, layered and richly textured.

His paintings are inspired by landscapes, cityscapes and nature, but he offers his own personal interpretations of these familiar themes. In the current exhibition ***Changing Seasons***, he focuses on the rendition of seasons, using less lines but deeper layerings than in earlier works.

Seasons, because as he says: "I view the changing seasons as melodies always present in my mind, and I use colours – yellow, white, blue – to interpret the colours of the seasons using abstractions".

Pham An Hai is 48 years old and one of Vietnam's most internationally recognized artists. He holds a Master of Fine Art from the Hanoi Institute of Fine Art and has taken part in international exhibitions all over Asia, and also in the USA, UK, Italy, Belgium, Dubai and Australia. His works are found in museum collections and regularly sell at international auctions.

Art As A Paradox

Phan Cam Thuong

Art Critic

Whilst Vietnam is a country fertile for deep contemplation, the current circumstances makes it un-conducive to a wide range of artistic activities that narrate the public's sentiments on important issues. With censorship very much alive, the artist still maintains an observance and engagement with their environment, yet their narratives need to be subtle if they intend to walk down their chosen path of art.

Pham An Hai has had a successful career. Though a late bloomer, Pham An Hai's natural talent for the arts along with his passion, ambition, diligence and focus propelled him to becoming an internationally acclaimed artist. His oil paintings vividly illustrate the emotions of his subjects in his identifiable style. He alternates, experiments and modifies his art to try to attain his ideal perfection. Pham An Hai is undeniably one of the best artists at expressing his inner emotions through his painting in Hanoi.

Abstract paintings are not everyone's cup of tea, as there is not a universally language in the painting readily available to comprehend. Artists who take up creating abstracts need to excel in creating a story from shapelessness.

Many artist do not expect people to understand fully their works. Rather, the creation of an artwork from his soul is the most satisfying aspects of the end result. Abstract paintings can be a paradox in art and life.

Pham An Hai exhibition, "Changing Seasons" is testament to the way of life of the Vietnamese people in the agricultural aspects throughout the decades. Agriculture does not play an integral role in the economy and culture as it used to. But, many artists feel a nostalgia and want to hold on to the past. Each abstract painting by Pham An Hai has a natural and rhythmic sense of modern life – the hustle and bustle, anxiety, insecurity and uncertainty of the modern way of life. From the delicate coloring and the sensual brushstrokes, his works are a unique commentary on their own. He possesses the uncanny ability to manifest powerful obsession in a poetic way.



Rain on the Street, 2015 | Acrylic on canvas | 200 x 100 cm



Landscape (2), 2015 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 80 cm



The Garden, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 80 cm



Evening in the Mountains, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 60 cm



Evening, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 125 x 80 cm



Sound of the Land, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 80 cm



Sound of the Street, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 125 x 80 cm



Red Day, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 125 x 80 cm



Landscape (3), 2015 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 80 cm



Landscape (4), 2015 | Oil on canvas | 125 x 80 cm



Silent Sound, 2015 | Oil on canvas | 125 x 80 cm



Trace of the Street , 2015 | Oil on canvas | 200 x 120 cm



Old Street, 2014 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 60 cm



Balance (2), 2014 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 60 cm



Teapot Dream (8), 2014 | Oil on canvas | 100 x 60 cm

CHRONOLOGY



Pham An Hai

Born 1967 in Hanoi

1995: Bachelor of Fine Arts from Hanoi Fine Arts Institute

2006: Master of Fine Arts from Hanoi Fine Arts Institute

Selected Art Exhibitions

1992-1997 Group exhibition of Vietnam's Contemporary painter by Vietnam Fine Arts Association & Hanoi Fine Arts Association, Vietnam

Young painter of Vietnam Contemporary (group exhibition) by Young painters of Vietnam club in Hanoi, Vietnam

1998 **Coming Spring** - Group exhibition in Hanoi, Vietnam
Young painter contemporary of Vietnam in Haiphong, Vietnam
Selected painting exhibition Vietnam- Asean contemporary artists by Philip Morris Company
Group exhibition of Vietnam's contemporary painters by Vietnam Fine Arts Association

1999 **View from the Inside** at Nam Son Art Gallery in Hanoi, Vietnam
Selected paintings exhibition Vietnam-ASEAN contemporary artists by Philip Morris Company
Widening our embrace a Friends Gallery in Hanoi, Vietnam
Tears for Central Areas to help the population in central Vietnam by Prudential (U.K) & Nam Son Art Gallery in Hanoi, Vietnam

2000 **Structure** First solo exhibition at Nam Son Art Gallery in Hanoi, Vietnam
Vietnam Identities at Sofitel Gallery in Melbourne, Australia
Hanoi Fine Arts 2000 at AECE in Hanoi, Vietnam
National Fine Arts exhibition 2000 in Hanoi, Vietnam

2001 **Hanoi with Heart and Soul & Mind** at Gallery E in Hong Kong
The World's Premier Contemporary Asian Art fair in Singapore

2002 Group exhibition at Rotunda, Exchange Square, in Hong Kong
Fresh Wind at Gallery E in Hong Kong
Where the Rivers Meet Vietnam Cultural Festival, Luxembourg & Continued in Universite Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels, Belgium
Abstract View at Nam Son Art Gallery in Hanoi

- 2003** **Space Street** - Group exhibition at Nam Son Gallery, in Hanoi, Vietnam
Abstract Oil & Lacquer at Thavibu Gallery in Bangkok, Thailand
- 2004** Group exhibition in Singapore
- 2005** **Vietnam Now** - Group exhibition in Seattle, Washington, USA
Vietnam Contemporary Art - Group exhibition in Tokyo, Japan
National Fine Arts exhibition 2005 in Hanoi, Vietnam
- 2006** **Together** - Group exhibition in Chiangmai, Thailand
Dragon & Butterfly - Vietnam Festival Culture at Museum Victoriano in Roma, Italy
- 2007** **Inside & Outside** - Solo exhibition in Thavibu Bangkok, Thailand
Sosabeol International Art Expo - Festival Culture at Sosabeol, Korea
- 2008** **Merging the Best of East and West** - Group exhibition in London, UK
- 2009** **The Flow of time** - Solo exhibition at Thavibu Gallery Bangkok, Thailand
- 2010** **The Art of T** - Group exhibition in Mandarin Hotel, Hong Kong
In Focus - Solo exhibition in The Red gallery in Dubai, UAE
- 2012** **Mirage** - Solo exhibition at Thavibu Gallery Bangkok, Thailand
- 2013** Asian Art Contemporary art fair in Hong Kong and Malaysia
- 2014** **Vietnamese Modern and Contemporary Paintings** at IMAG Gallery – Houston, USA
Group show at Mandala Gallery – Singapore
Solo show at Asian Art de Vivre Gallery – Hong Kong
- 2015** **Changing Seasons** solo show at Thavibu Gallery, Bangkok

Publications

Pham An Hai – Expressions & Abstractions (Jorn Middelborg, Ed). Published by Thavibu Gallery, 2007.



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JTC Jewelry Trade Center, Suite 433
919/1 Silom rd, Bangkok 10500
Tel +662 266 5454
Fax +662 266 5455
Email: info@thavibu.com
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