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The journey of 'million dollar' painters (part 4): Nguyen Lam - master of lacquer

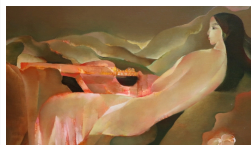
November 13, 2019 19:02 GMT+7 | Culture

Thích 0

Theo dõi thethaovanhoa.vn trên [Google News](#)



(Thethaovanhoa.vn) - **Painter Nguyen Lam (full name: Lam Huynh Long, born in 1941 in Can Tho) was successful almost from the moment he entered the professional painting career in the early 1960s. In 1961 and 1963, his paintings participated in the Biennale de Paris in France; in 1962, he received a Silver Medal at the Spring Exhibition in Saigon. Having gone through many objective and subjective events, painting was never a rest for him. In about 60 years of holding a brush, Nguyen Lam painted more than 1,200 works.**



The Journey of 'Million Dollar' Painters (Part 3): Ho Huu Thu - the Man 'Not Dependent on Ideas'

Working professionally, composing tirelessly and contributing a charming, wandering brushstroke to the modern Vietnamese visual arts ecosystem - that is Ho Huu Thu.

Currently, Nguyen Lam's "price code" on the market is not clear, because he and the buyers rarely reveal this. But through intermediaries, with large-sized lacquer paintings, about 120cm x 240cm, there have been transactions showing up to 100 thousand USD. The largest lacquer painting that Nguyen Lam has ever painted is 200cm x 600cm, if it were to be traded now, the price would certainly be much higher.

[The Journey of Million Dollar Painters \(Part 2\): Neo-Realist Master Do Quang Em](#)

[The Journey of 'Million Dollar' Painters \(Part 1\): The 'Feminine' World of Nguyen Trung](#)

Nguyen Lam's class

In 2013, Nguyen Lam was invited by the French Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City to restore a large landscape painting by Nguyen Gia Tri, with many pieces, so it was very difficult. After the successful restoration, [Nguyen Lam](#) said: "Actually, this is a lacquer work made using traditional methods, so there is nothing new compared to the advances in lacquer painting techniques in Vietnam today, but I always feel excited as if I were living in the creative atmosphere in the studio of a famous painter in ancient times, years before I was born."

 Photo caption

Painter Nguyen Lam at his family's studio. Photo: Van Bay, October 2019

In early 2014, the Ho Chi Minh City General Science Library invited him to successfully restore three large-scale lacquer paintings, also by Nguyen Gia Tri, created in the 1960s, which are currently hanging in this public space. These two examples alone are enough to demonstrate Nguyen Lam's understanding of lacquer techniques.

Another thing that helps him to be more stable is that his family has experience in making frames and many other stages of lacquer materials, so they understand it quite thoroughly. He also has decades of research, testing, and analysis, so he understands the characteristics and differences of Phu Tho lacquer (lacquer), Binh Duong lacquer, Nam Vang lacquer, Japanese lacquer, industrial lacquer, etc. He and his family mainly create works from lacquer materials, also known as traditional lacquer.

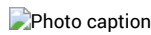
 Photo caption

"Unknown Sky" (lacquer, 80cm x 120cm, 1995) by Nguyen Lam

Painters Ho Huu Thu and Do Quang Em said that since the 1980s, thanks to Nguyen Lam's connection with the market, many old painters have returned to lacquer painting. There are quite a few painters who claim Nguyen Lam as their direct or indirect teacher, and recently a few young painters have held solo exhibitions that have left a good impression on their expertise.

Veteran art writer Nguyen Trong Chuc once commented: “Until around the mid-1980s, Nguyen Lam’s painting career took a new turn when he chose lacquer to express his creativity and emotions. It can be said that, together with painter Ho Huu Thu, Nguyen Lam has continued to explore and enrich traditional lacquer art, modernizing lacquer with abstract language - a great challenge for any painter who has lived fully with this difficult material”.

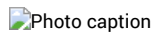
Like Nguyen Trung, Dinh Cuong, Ho Huu Thu, Nguyen Khai, Trinh Cung..., Nguyen Lam also "followed in the footsteps" of Nguyen Phuoc to enter abstract painting very early, blooming after 1975, when many people wanted to avoid the idea and form when painting, or wanted to enter the spirit of inaction, meditation, and silence.



“Untitled 1” (oil on canvas, 145cm x 180cm, 2018) by Nguyen Lam

Nguyen Lam began to hold the brush with a romantic spirit in realistic, impressionistic, and expressionist styles, with the middle part being exploration and experimentation, and then moving into expressionistic and abstract abstraction. Currently, besides abstraction as the main focus (both oil and lacquer), Nguyen Lam still paints figurative paintings - mostly of young women - to meet two main collections.

Over the past 25 years, Nguyen Lam has devoted much effort to abstract painting, and it seems that he has become leisurely and at ease with himself. He is very shy about talking about himself, almost avoiding most of the press, so with a long journey and many achievements, there are very few interviews or articles that get his opinion. When asked where he has gone in abstraction? He simply said: "In my personal opinion, I think I have only gone a short distance, my children and young colleagues have gone further, with more innovation."



From left to right are the famous artists: Dinh Cuong, Nguyen Phuoc, Nguyen Khai, Nguyen Lam, Nguyen Trung, Ho Huu Thu, Trinh Cung. They met at an exhibition in Texas (USA) in October 2012. Photo provided by Huyen Lam

Buddha at home... is still sacred

Nguyen Lam's family is one of the rare groups in Vietnam with 8 painters, 6 of whom are members of the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association and the Vietnam Fine Arts Association. Nguyen Lam has 9 children, 5 girls and 4 boys, 6 of whom are painters: Huyen Lam, Lam Huynh Son, Huynh Lan, Lam Huynh Linh, Huyen Le, Lam Lan. The remaining two children, Lam Huynh Lam and Lam Huyen Ly, are lacquer artists, while Lam Huyen Loan is a zither artist. Huyen Lam's son, Nguyen Lam's grandson, is the young painter Lam Ngoc Thanh.

Talking about his family of painters, Nguyen Lam simply said: “I am happy because everyone can make a living by painting, listen to each other and respect each other’s work. Not everyone followed the painting profession from the beginning, some only went to painting school when they were middle-aged, but eventually found their own path.”

After 1975, Nguyen Lam was a veteran in the cycling community in Ho Chi Minh City, and was admired by many young colleagues for his will and gentleness. Painter Huyen Lam said that every day when he went to practice, his father was given a kilo of beef, which was the main source of nutrition for the whole family during the difficult years of the subsidy period. This influenced his children and grandchildren not only in painting, but also in practicing cycling and in a diligent and frugal lifestyle.

Before becoming a painter in middle age, Lam Huynh Son (born in 1964) was a very famous cyclist in Vietnam, a champion with many awards. Lam Huynh Lam, Lam Huynh Linh, Lam Huyen Ly... were also cyclists with many achievements.

Except for artist Huyen Le who is currently residing in the US, Nguyen Lam and his children and grandchildren currently live mainly in Phu Nhuan and Go Vap districts, Ho Chi Minh City. The house where Nguyen Lam and his wife (Nguyen Thi Thuong) have lived since the early 1960s is located in an alley on Nguyen Kiem Street, Phu Nhuan District, and is always filled with the laughter of their children and grandchildren. This is a place frequented by many generations of artists, researchers, collectors and art dealers.

Nguyen Lam's works are in the collections of the Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Singapore Art Museum, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum... as well as in private collections throughout

(Q&A about career, art, market)

Artists have the right not to paint according to popular taste.

** What do you think about "art painting" and "market painting"?*

- Up to now, I have only painted figurative and abstract paintings, and have paid little attention to this question.

** Do you consider drawing a profession or a career?*

- I think it's the same, because I've been drawing all my life.

** So do you ever have to adapt to the tastes of the people?*

- I am happy that my children and I can make a living by selling paintings. Artists have the right to refuse to paint at the request of the buyer.

** What is the role of the art buyer in art and creativity?*

- I am grateful to them, but I don't pay much attention to their role. I just draw.

Van Bay

Thích 0

Tags: NGUYEN LAM PAINTING ART LACQUER

SAME CATEGORY

VIEW BY DATE 29 AUGUST 2025 SEE

365 Perspective: A series of festivals from patriotism



“Living School” of National Achievement

That was the affirmation of Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh at the opening ceremony of the National Achievements Exhibition celebrating the 80th anniversary of National Day...

Father’s Legacy, a Special Destiny and Love for Vietnam



Brilliant fireworks join in the joy of Independence Day



Modern tanks of the Vietnam People’s Army at the National Achievements Exhibition



FEATURED NEWS



“Living School” of National Achievement



365 Perspective: A series of festivals from patriotism



Dang Thai Huyen - Gentle and intense



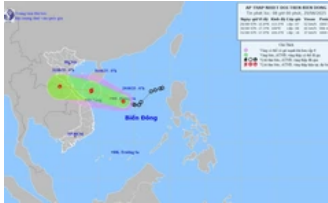
Tuan Tran 'learns' to be a slow-developer, puts all his effort into his role despite injury



International reporters explore Bat Trang pottery village, promoting Hanoi heritage



Close-up of the “huge” equipment participating in the parade, A80 parade



Tropical depression heading towards the sea from Nghe An to Hue



U23 Yemen brings elite soldiers to Vietnam: Is U23 Vietnam worth worrying about?



Transfer news 8/29: Garnacho makes historic deal for MU, Tottenham wins Chelsea's target



What should MU do with Amorim now?



Searching the workplace of the Chairman of Dong A Thanh Hoa Football Club



Vietnam's Badminton Beauty Queen Can't Surprise the Olympic Champion at the World Championship

READ MORE



MU giờ phải làm gì với Amorim?

Thất bại lịch sử trước Grimsby Town tại vòng 2 Carabao Cup đã đẩy MU vào một cuộc khủng hoảng mới. Hình ảnh HLV Ruben Amorim co ro trong khu kỹ thuật, gần như bất lực khi các học trò thất bại 12-11 trong loạt sút luân lưu, đã trở thành biểu tượng cho giai đoạn khó khăn của Quỷ đỏ.

1 giờ trước



Tin chuyển nhượng 29/8: Garnacho tạo thương vụ lịch sử cho MU, Tottenham giành mục tiêu của Chelsea

Tin chuyển nhượng 29/8: Garnacho tạo nên thương vụ lịch sử cho MU. Tottenham “nặng tay trên” thành công mục tiêu của Chelsea. Rasmus Hojlund cập bến đội bóng Serie A...

1 giờ trước



TP. Hồ Chí Minh rực rỡ cờ đỏ sao vàng mừng Quốc khánh

Trong những ngày này trên khắp các nẻo đường, khu dân cư, góc phố, quán xá, trường học, công sở, khu vực công cộng... ở TP. Hồ Chí Minh đều được trang hoàng rực rỡ cờ đỏ sao vàng.

2 giờ trước



Tài xế ShopeeFood hóa “ông tơ”, mang món ngon Thất Tịch đến tận cửa

Một mùa Thất Tịch nữa lại về, giới trẻ nô nức săn lùng các món ngon từ đậu đỏ với hy vọng sớm tìm được “một nửa”.

2 giờ trước



U23 Yemen mang tinh binh đến Việt Nam: U23 Việt Nam có đáng lo?

U23 Yemen – đối thủ cạnh tranh trực tiếp tấm vé dự VCK U23 châu Á 2026 với U23 Việt Nam đã chính thức công bố danh sách 23 cầu thủ tham dự vòng loại diễn ra tại Việt Trì (Phú Thọ). Đáng chú ý, cả ba tiền đạo mà đội bóng Tây Á đăng ký đều là tuyển thủ quốc gia.

2 giờ trước



Bóng đá Việt Nam: 'Từng người tình bỏ ta đi...'

Hòa Bình FC sẽ rời giải hạng Nhất quốc gia, hay còn gọi là V-League 2, mùa giải 2025/26, đó là thông tin không mấy lạc quan với BTC giải, khi chỉ còn hơn 2 tuần nữa giải đấu sẽ khởi tranh.

2 giờ trước



NSND Tự Long hé lộ vai diễn trong phim 'Hộ linh tráng sĩ'

Trong không khí chào mừng kỷ niệm 80 năm Quốc khánh, dự án phim Hộ linh tráng sĩ - Bí ẩn mộ vua Đinh đã có màn ra mắt ấn tượng tại Triển lãm Quốc gia. Đặc biệt, thông tin NSND Tự Long sẽ đảm nhận một vai diễn mang nhiều bí ẩn đã gây sự chú ý lớn từ công chúng.

3 giờ trước



Ninh Bình sẵn sàng phục vụ du khách dịp lễ 2/9

Dịp Quốc khánh 2/9 năm nay, người lao động trong cả nước sẽ được nghỉ 4 ngày, dự báo lượng du khách về tham quan Ninh Bình sẽ tăng mạnh.

3 giờ trước



Áp thấp nhiệt đới hướng về vùng biển từ Nghệ An đến Huế

Theo Trung tâm Dự báo khí tượng thủy văn Quốc gia, hồi 7 giờ ngày 29/8, vị trí tâm áp thấp nhiệt đới ở vào khoảng 15,8 độ Vĩ Bắc; 113,5 độ Kinh Đông trên vùng biển phía Đông Nam đặc khu Hoàng Sa.

3 giờ trước



Khám xét nơi làm việc của Chủ tịch Câu lạc bộ bóng đá Đông Á Thanh Hóa

Tối qua, Công an tỉnh Thanh Hóa đã khám xét khẩn cấp nơi làm việc của ông Cao Tiên Đoàn, chủ tịch Câu lạc bộ Đông Á Thanh Hóa.

3 giờ trước



Xe điện Trung Quốc thách thức "ngôi vương" của Tesla tại châu Âu

Theo số liệu mới công bố của Hiệp hội Các nhà sản xuất ô tô châu Âu (ACEA), doanh thu của hãng xe điện Mỹ Tesla tại thị trường châu Âu trong tháng 7 giảm tới 40% so với cùng kỳ năm trước, đánh dấu tháng thứ 7 liên tiếp sụt giảm.

3 giờ trước



Link xem trực tiếp bóng chuyền giải vô địch thế giới 2025 hôm nay ngày 29/8

Thethaovanhoa.vn updates the link to watch live the 2025 World Volleyball Championship taking place on August 29.

4 giờ trước



Spending more than 200 million but still losing to the 4th division team, Ruben Amorim urgently met with MU's board of directors

Coach Ruben Amorim will have a discussion with the MU leadership next week after the Old Trafford team continued to disappoint. Despite spending 200 million pounds on shopping, MU still lost to the 4th team in the English League Cup.

4 giờ trước



Hanoi FC and HAGL 'lost' at the beginning of the 2025/26 V-League season

The first three rounds of the 2025/26 V-League ended with unsatisfactory results for the two teams with 8 V-League championships, Hanoi FC and HAGL. Both teams are stuck at the bottom of the table with only 1 point.

4 giờ trước



Two factors push gold prices to 5-week high

World gold prices hit a five-week high in the session on August 28, thanks to a weakening US dollar and safe-haven flows amid lingering concerns about the independence of the US Federal Reserve (Fed).

4 giờ trước



Doan Cong Vinh competes in Mr International 2025

Doan Cong Vinh has just been announced to participate in the Mr International 2025 contest. The final night of the contest is scheduled for September 26 in Thailand.

5 giờ trước



Hot sports news on the morning of August 29: International newspapers unanimously mentioned Bich Tuyen and Tran Thi Thanh Thuy after the match against Kenya.

Hot sports news on the morning of August 29: Thai media commented on the loss of the Vietnamese women's volleyball team; Dalot criticized his teammates...

5 hours ago

G1					
G2		11847		56225	
					64022
G3		55762		49889	92424
		23653		12700	54529
G4		3943	6427	5289	5072
		0012		6085	6394
G5		5320		9087	4606
G6		422		163	828
G7		50	21	60	96

XSMB 8/29 - Northern Lottery results today 8/29/2025 - Live lottery today August 29

XSMB 8/29: Northern Lottery results today Friday 8/29/2025 drawn at 6:10 pm are updated live fastest and most accurately on Thethaovanhua.vn.

5 hours ago

		33541		05075	
		66148		76661	
G4		93307		45362	
		43844		13134	
		54851		00580	
		46931		69026	
G3		45910		84689	
		83251		44676	
G2		75667		83133	
G1		27827		55306	
G8		216121		166372	

XSMT 8/29 - Central lottery results today 8/29/2025 - Live lottery today August 29

XSMT 8/29: Thethaovanhua.vn updates the Central lottery results on Friday, August 29, 2025, including Gia Lai and Ninh Thuan lotteries.

5 hours ago

G7			931		
G6		8913		2845	1470
G5				9444	
G4		45206	15745	52490	43010
		82640		64857	54605
G3		32202			42536
G2			98191		
G1			00012		
G8			270569		

XSTV 8/29 - Tra Vinh lottery results today 8/29/2025 - Live lottery today August 29

XSTV 8/29: Tra Vinh Lottery is issued by Tra Vinh Lottery Company and is drawn at 4:20 p.m. every Friday. Live XSMN results are updated fastest on Thethaovanhua.vn.

5 hours ago

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