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NGUYEN LAM – AN OUTSTANDING ELEMENT OF SOUTHERN ART SINCE THE 20TH CENTURY



Painter Nguyen Lam (real name Lam Huynh Long) was born in 1941 in Can Tho. He graduated from the Saigon National College of Fine Arts in 1963. Before that, he received a certificate of merit at the International Fine Arts Exhibition in Saigon in 1962, and a Silver Medal at the Spring Exhibition in 1962. His paintings were sent to the famous art event Biennale de Paris in France in 1961 and 1963, the International Fine Arts Exhibition in Kuala Lumpur in 1963; New Delhi in 1967 and in New York in 1968. Nguyen Lam had many solo exhibitions at home and abroad, and his name was also widely introduced in group exhibitions around the world. In addition, he taught at the Gia Dinh National School of Decorative Arts and was a member of the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association as well as the Vietnam Fine Arts Association.

Nguyen Lam is a talented painter in the lacquer field. In addition to his unique works, in 2013, he was chosen by the French Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City to restore the large lacquer painting "Procession" (1.8 x 3m) by the famous painter Nguyen Gia Tri. In 2014, the Ho Chi Minh General Science Library also invited him to successfully restore three works "Nostalgia for the North" (2 x 3m), "Dance under the Moon" (1.8 x 2.44m), "Abstract" (1.22 x 2.44m). This shows his deep understanding and skillful control of materials in the lacquer field.



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In his painting career, Nguyen Lam went from realism, branched out to impressionism, expressionism and then delved into abstract painting on both oil and lacquer materials. With figurative paintings, he painted many themes of young women while turning to abstraction, he mainly painted about the spirit of meditation, silence and the invisible of the mind. At the same time, he and painters such as Ho Huu Thu, Nguyen Trung, Dinh Cuong, Nguyen Khai, Trinh Cung, ... created an artistic and diverse appearance of abstract painting in the Southern region. The color palette in Nguyen Lam's paintings is relatively calm, warm, the atmosphere is dark and light like the chaos but also has the rhythm of a poem. In an interview in 1997, when he and three other artists in Saigon such as Ho Huu Thu, Trinh Cung, and Nguyen Trung were selected to introduce their works in the grand exhibition "100 Outstanding Artists of Southeast Asia (Southeast Asian Art: A New Spirit)" organized by the National Museum of Singapore, he shared: "If I lived in a different time, a different space, with a different cultural cradle, my creative work would have a different starting point, nature, and appearance. Without holding on to the past as a resource, even my steps would not be steady, and finding direction would be even more difficult. Be a subject with your traditional cultural heritage as a worthy successor and look out, supplement and exchange, and keep up with the big trends."

Materials and colors were like a wild and deep land for Nguyen Lam to explore. With the spirit of free creation and the development of the flow of traditional cultural heritage, his art is loved by many people. Nguyen Lam's works are in the collections of the Vietnam Fine Arts Museum, Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Museum, Singapore Art Museum, ... as well as in private collections around the world.

Le Quang



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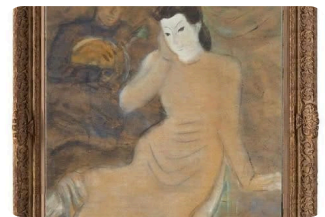
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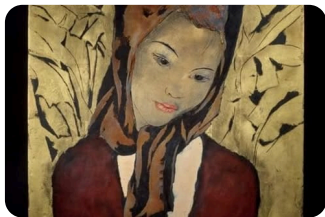
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