

## Nguyen Lam – A Memorial Under the Moonlight

Wednesday, September 17, 2025, 10:46

In the quiet space of Huyen Art House, where brush strokes become whispers between the Vietnamese soul and the infinite, and colors are like incense sticks, we will commemorate the 100th day of the death of Nguyen Lam (1941 - 2025), one of the great artistic souls of modern Vietnamese painting, at 5:30 pm on October 3, 2025.

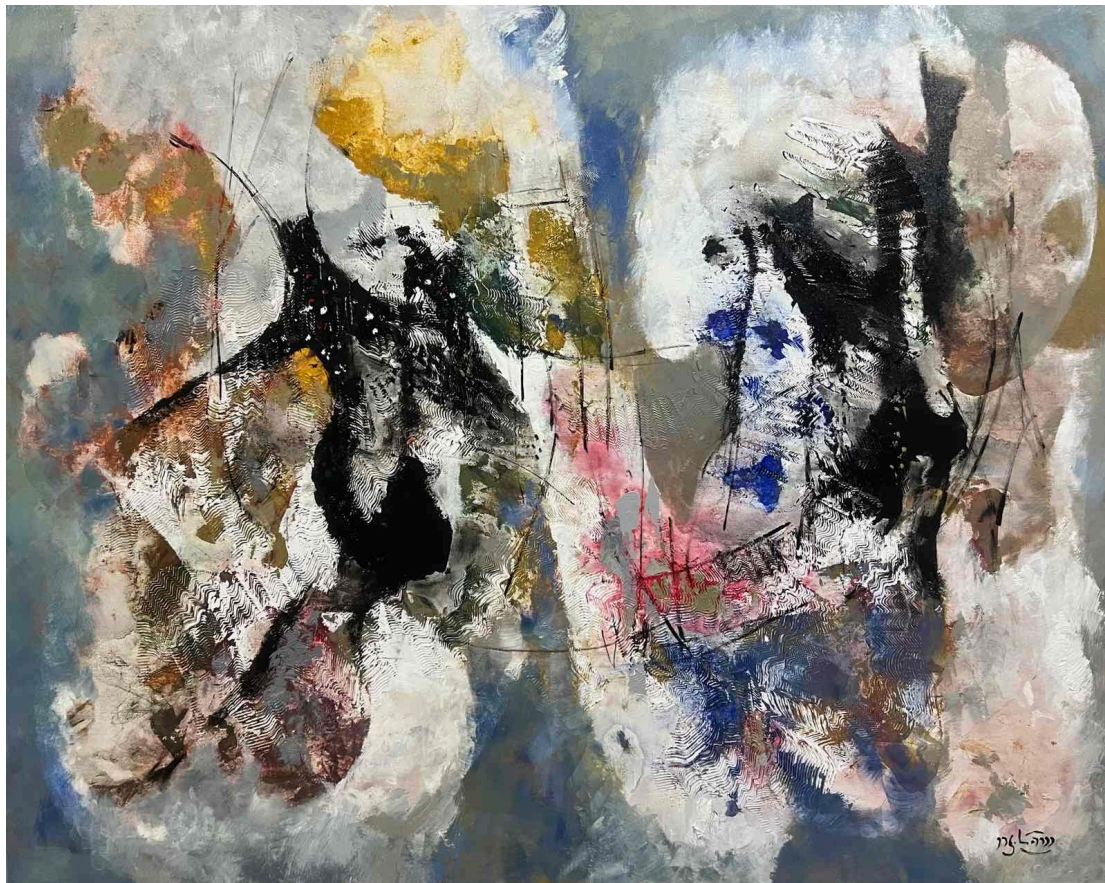
The exhibition, organized by ArtBlue Studio in collaboration with Huyen Art House Gallery, brings together 25 representative oil paintings by painter Nguyen Lam. During 20 years of actively working with painter Nguyen Lam, Phuong Nguyen, owner of ArtBlue Studio Gallery, has organized 6 solo exhibitions for him, in which Nguyen Lam participated in four exhibitions in Singapore. Many international visitors love his art, typically in 2017, when more than 80% of the exhibition paintings found owners. In particular, Phuong Nguyen successfully brought Nguyen Lam's painting " The Last ", painted in 1965, to the National Art Museum of Singapore. Not only a partner, Phuong Nguyen also respects and loves Nguyen Lam as a teacher, a beloved father, and it is this deep affection that has motivated this special memorial event.



Nguyen Lam – Abstract, oil on canvas, 2018, 145×180 cm

The highlight of the exhibition is a series of abstract paintings, like silent lighthouses illuminating his inner journey. Different from the exquisite lacquer works that made his name, this series opens up a new dream world: deep black embracing soft gold, with strong brush strokes penetrating the hazy space, like a boat quietly drifting on the ocean of memories.

I still remember the times I met him, Nguyen Lam sitting next to a glass of wine or a cup of tea, his eyes shining like the full moon, talking about the brushstrokes that were “living” on canvas. That simple yet profound relationship gave me the opportunity to touch not only his talent but also his open heart, a convergence of tradition and innovation intertwined, like an underground stream running through layers of time.



**Nguyen Lam – Abstract, oil on canvas, 2019, 110×140 cm**





**Nguyen Lam – Abstract, oil on canvas, 2021, 110×140 cm**

The abstract voice in his paintings, with its winding lines like the wind blowing through the deep forest, is a dialogue between silence and fury, a colorful dance between light and darkness. In each breath of the paintings, we seem to hear the echo of To Thuy Yen's poem: "On the high hill, the wind rustles through the mountain / White clouds run in clusters in the sky..." ( Afternoon on Tam Giang Lagoon ) Each patch of color dissolves like a whisper from afar, evoking loneliness and an endless journey of searching.

The boldness in the way Nguyen Lam rediscovered oil painting, with a rare, intense energy, is an affirmation of talent and constant change. Although abstract beauty is sometimes like a puzzle, difficult to grasp, it is that invitation that is the attraction: like a star flickering in the night, forcing the viewer to write their own story. We can imagine him sitting in front of the canvas, his hands weak but his brush strokes still steadfast, painting patches of color like a wordless piece of music.

However, that abstraction is also a challenge, not everyone can easily enter that deep inner world. But that is what creates the unique power of his legacy: opening a door, not for the majority, but for those who dare to face the depth within themselves.



**Nguyen Lam – Abstract, oil on canvas, 2018, 145×180 cm**

Somewhere, flickering between layers of colors overlapping like clouds dissolving in the sunset, is the shadow of a dream that has not yet come true, where memory and the present intersect, leaving behind a lingering echo of sadness. The brushstrokes not only paint images, but also tell stories that have never been spoken, like memories of an old time he has passed through, full of ambition and silence.

“The dream of the beginning is lost and wandering / The soul is lost in the dreamy melody of the royal poinciana flowers....”

(Bui Giang, Rain Source)

The messy lines reflect the wandering footsteps, leading the viewer to escape from reality, into a world that is both strange and familiar. Perhaps, in each stroke of the brush, he has put into it a whole sky of poetry, where art and poetry light up an eternal flame. More than a thousand of Nguyen Lam's works have crossed borders, present in famous museums and private collections from Paris to New York. But perhaps the greatest legacy is still the inspiration he left for generations of young artists, and his family, with six children all pursuing art, like branches of rivers flowing from a source of light.

This exhibition, which runs until October 13, 2025, is not only a tribute, but also an affirmation of the enduring vitality of art, transcending the boundaries of time, connecting souls, like the moonlight illuminating the dark night. Come, to listen to the voice from deep within. To remember. And to feel Nguyen Lam, who turned each brushstroke into an endless song.

**September 5, 2025**  
**NGO Kim-Khoi**