

Press Release

Palimpsest

Phi Phi Oanh

Exhibition Period: 10 May – 29 June 2014

FOST Gallery



Installation view: L'Espace exhibition, Hanoi, April 2013.

About the Exhibition

FOST Gallery is pleased to present *Palimpsest* (10 May – 29 June 2014), a solo exhibition by Phi Phi Oanh.

Palimpsest is a sculptural light installation consisting of miniature lacquer 'skins' painted directly onto glass slides and projected onto the wall or translucent silk screens to create an atmospheric phantasmagorical space. These projected 'skins' are reminiscent of images seen through a telescope or microscope. The images present a macro or micro view of the universe invisible to the naked eye if not for the aid of a lens.

With *Palimpsest*, Phi Phi continues to push the boundaries of Vietnamese lacquer painting, a medium central to her practice. She employs these experimentations with lacquer painting as a field of artistic research through which to explore new relations between art history, sociopolitical context, memory, contemporary critical theory as a means towards new methodologies of interpretation and production of meaning.

This installation plays with the potential of lacquer painting by presenting the medium in its dematerialised form to reflect the way we perceive the world around us. Phi Phi developed the concept and technique of producing lacquer 'skins', which allows her to engage the medium of lacquer without its traditional surface. In this installation, these paintings are to be projected through retrofitted and lacquered medium-format projectors, creating a striking and innovative visual encounter with the medium of lacquer. This constant shifting of perspectives and preference for seeing through an apparatus or a machine reflects the condition of our understanding of reality in this age of digital reproduction.

The projectors have been retrofitted with energy efficient LED lights. Emitting little heat and no UV rays, this light source will not damage the lacquer paintings. Each projector is a self-standing sculptural object with its own stand and collection of 8 lacquered slides.

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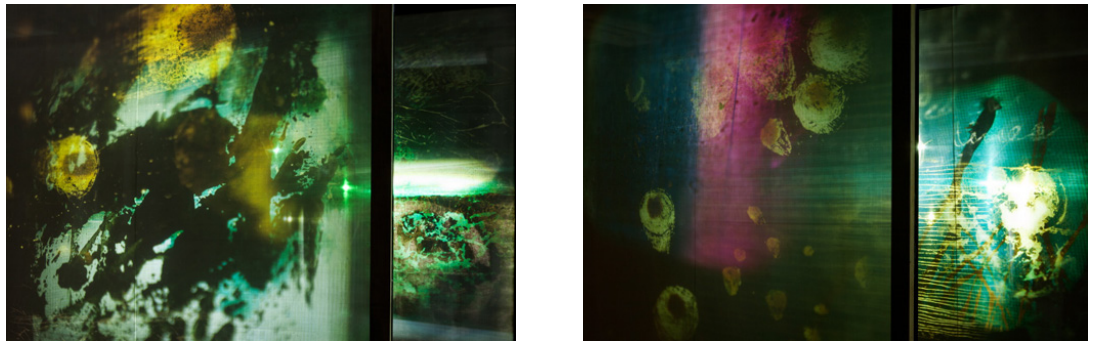
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The intertextual but regionally and culturally specific nature of this work also complements the exhibition *No Country: Contemporary Art for South and Southeast Asia* opening at the Centre for Contemporary Art in Gillman Barracks.

Press Images



Images of projected lacquer skins on silk, L'Espace exhibition, Hanoi, April 2013

Note: Images are not to scale. High-resolution images are available upon request.

About the Artist

Phi Phi Oanh (b.1979) was born in the United States. She received her M.A. in Art and Research from the Universidad de Madrid Complutense in Spain and her BFA from Parsons School of Design in New York. She has shown in solo shows at L'Espace, Alliance Francaise in Hanoi, Artcore in Las Angeles, Art League in Houston as well as El Palacio Nacional de la Cultura in Managua, Nicaragua. In 2014, she participated in the group show: *A Woman's View* at the Goethe Institute in Hanoi and also showed her monumental *Specula* in the recent Singapore Biennale (2013).

Phi Phi is a visual artist who constructs pictorial installations of evocative meditative spaces. Drawing from the hybrid nature of her personal history, she reconfigures culturally specific signs and symbols to create familiar yet unusual and distinctive experiential places.

About Gillman Barracks

Gillman Barracks is a new contemporary art destination in Singapore. Nestled amid lush greenery, this former colonial barracks is now home to local and international art galleries, dining, and creative businesses, as well as the Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) that opened in late 2013. The CCA enhances the region's contemporary art landscape through its international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes.

For more information, visit please www.gillmanbarracks.com

GILLMAN BARRACKS

Location

FOST Gallery
1 Lock Road
#01-02, Gillman Barracks
Singapore 108932

MRT

Labrador Park

Bus

Opposite Alexandra Point: 51, 57, 61, 93, 97, 97e, 100, 166, 175, 963 or 963e

Gallery Hours

Tue–Sat: 11am–7pm
Sun: 11am–6pm
Mon/Pub Hol: Open by appointment

Admission

Free

Enquiries

Call 6694 3080 or e-mail info@fostgallery.com
