

## PRESS RELEASE

# The Minneapolis Institute of Art to Present U.S. Premiere of Nguyen Trinh Thi's "Fifth Cinema"

The culmination of the past five years of her work, Nguyen's film addresses indigenous history and colonization



Nguyen Trinh Thi, *Fifth Cinema* (2018),  
Production still. Photo:  
Jamie Maxtone-Graham.

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[artsmia.org](http://artsmia.org)

**MINNEAPOLIS—August 13, 2019**—The Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) will present the first U.S. solo museum exhibition of work by artist Nguyen Trinh Thi (b. 1973, Vietnamese). Opening September 29, 2019, "Nguyen Trinh Thi: Fifth Cinema" is the U.S. premiere of Nguyen's hybrid essay-film *Fifth Cinema* (2018), a single-channel installation that examines the power of film to reclaim indigenous history and land from colonization and Western influences. The exhibition will be on view through March 1, 2020.

*Fifth Cinema* explores a subjective understanding of the artist's homeland, Vietnam. Nguyen interrogates local, official histories and external viewpoints on Vietnam, together with the wider ideals of women and men, the role of the artist in society, and the landscape as metaphor. The 60-minute video proposes a homegrown authority that is derived from the artist's own culture, expanding the concept of "Fourth Cinema," which was originally conceived by Māori filmmaker Barry Barclay in the 1990s. According to Barclay, "Fourth Cinema" is a cinema by, about, and for indigenous peoples defined in opposition to the framework of First (American), Second (Art House) and Third (Third World) Cinema.

The film continues Nguyen's practice of combining her own moving images with found footage to create works that confront issues within a specifically Vietnamese context, but are also universal. Personal accounts, popular movies, government films, news footage, documentary material, home movies sold on eBay, and YouTube videos are interwoven with the artist's own material in her consideration of how the camera mediates understanding.

"Nguyen Trinh Thi's film is a deeply personal portrait of Vietnam that layers the artist's experience of place and identity in palpable form for the audience," said Gabriel Ritter, curator and head of contemporary art at Mia. "On the one hand the film is a visual essay—a treatise on what Indigenous cinema might look and feel like from her particular perspective as a Vietnamese filmmaker. On the other hand, it is a feminist vision of the future as seen through the present—a mother seeing the world through the eyes of her daughter. Given the museum's commitment to championing underrepresented voices, I am incredibly excited to premier this work for a U.S. audience here at Mia."

# Mia

*Fifth Cinema* seeks a space between personal and collective memory, while continuing the artist's explorations into how to let others speak for themselves. The culmination of her work over the last five years, *Fifth Cinema* is a reflection of Nguyen's multiple identities: a citizen (of Vietnam, and the world), a filmmaker, an artist, a woman, a mother.

Accompanying programming includes an artist talk on Thursday, October 10. Tickets are \$10, \$5 for My Mia members, or free for members of the Contemporary Art and Paintings Affinity Groups. For more information, click [here](#). This event was made possible by generous support from the Gale Family Endowment.

"Nguyen Trinh Thi: Fifth Cinema" will be on view at Mia concurrent with two exhibitions that explore the impact of the Vietnam War. "Artists Respond: American Art and the Vietnam War, 1965–1975," which was curated by Melissa Ho and debuted at the Smithsonian American Art Museum in spring 2019, presents art created amid the United States' pitched conflict with Vietnam and on the home front as Americans bitterly fought over whether they should be involved in this war. The exhibition spans the period from President Lyndon B. Johnson's fateful decision to deploy U.S. ground troops to South Vietnam in 1965 to the fall of Sài Gòn 10 years later. "Artists Reflect: Contemporary Views on the American War," organized by Robert Cozzolino, Patrick and Aimee Butler Curator of Paintings at Mia, features works by Southeast Asian diasporic artists, who explore the impact and legacy of the conflict. Both exhibitions open September 29, 2019, and are on view through January 5, 2020.

Nguyen Trinh Thi is a Hanoi-based film/media artist and co-founder of Hanoi Doclab, a center for documentary films and moving image in Hanoi. Her moving image work—including experimental documentary films, single-channels, and video installations—consistently engages with memory and history and reflects on the roles and positions of artists in society. Nguyen's works have been shown at international festivals and exhibitions, including the 9th Asia Pacific Triennial; Biennale of Sydney; Jeu de Paume, Paris; CAPC musée d'art contemporain de Bordeaux; the Lyon Biennale 2015; Asian Art Biennial 2015, Taiwan; Fukuoka Asian Art Triennial 2014; Singapore Biennale 2013; and Rotterdam International Film Festival.

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## About The Minneapolis Institute Of Art

Home to more than 90,000 works of art representing 5,000 years of world history, the Minneapolis Institute of Art (Mia) inspires wonder, spurs creativity, and nourishes the imagination. With extraordinary exhibitions and one of the finest art collections in the country—from all corners of the globe, and from ancient to contemporary—Mia links the past to the present, enables global conversations, and offers an exceptional setting for inspiration. General admission to Mia is always free. Some special exhibitions have a nominal admission fee. For more information, call 612.870.3000 or visit [artsmia.org](#).

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## Museum Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday	10am–5pm
Thursday, Friday	10am–9pm
Sunday	11am–5pm
Monday	Closed

For more information, call + 1 612 870 3000 or visit [artsmia.org](#)

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