

Thao Nguyen Phan

Reincarnations of Shadows

13 Mar – 11 Aug 2023

Regnens dråber, strømmen af en flod og den gådefulde tilstedeværelse af børn i naturen er tilbagevendende billeder i filmværkerne af den vietnamesiske billedkunstner Thao Nguyen Phan (f. 1987). Gennem værker fra de seneste 10 år udfolder denne soloudstilling kunstnerens spirituelle billedsprog i suggestive filminstallationer, sirligt lakmaleri, lyskulpturer, tekstil, sarte akvareller og arkitektoniske interventioner.

Thao Nguyen Phan sammenfletter fabler, mytologi og folkløse fra Vietnams turbulente fortid med nogle af nutidens presserende spørgsmål såsom et eskalerende forbrug og ødelæggelsen af Jordens ressourcer. Netop skæringspunktet mellem det overnaturlige og det dokumentariske er i højsædet i denne udstilling, der fremmaner glemte figurer, frodige landskaber og undertrykte historier.

Udstillingens titel stammer fra Thao Nguyen Phans nyeste filmværk, der tegner et portræt af Diem Phung Thi (1920-2002), én af Vietnams væsentligste modernistiske kunstnere. Som del af sin egen udstilling præsenterer Phan et udvalg af den afdøde kunstners skulpturelle værker og collager, og etablerer hermed et slægtsskab mellem de to kunstnere. Diem Phung Thi's værker har tillige inspireret udformningen af udstillingens bænke.

Andre af Thao Nguyen Phans værker kredser om floden Mekong, der flyder fra det tibetanske plateau i Kina gennem Myanmar, Laos, Thailand og Cambodia før den når havet i Vietnam. Floden både forbinder og ernærer befolkningerne i regionen, der gennem historien har været mærket af katastrofer som hungersnød, oversvømmelser og tørke. For Thao Nguyen Phan har floden betydning som et landskab mærket af kolonialismens arv, den vedvarende industrialisering og tiltagende klimaforandringer.

Thao Nguyen Phan har med udstillingens mange værker skabt et sammenhængende og sanseligt univers, hvor lyd, billeder og tekst skaber fortællinger, der forbinder fortid, nutid og fremtid.

Udstillingen er kurateret af Henriette Bretton-Meyer og organiseret af Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milano i samarbejde med Kunsthall Charlottenborg. Den præsenteres i samarbejde med CPH:DOX og er støttet af Augustinus Fonden, Det Obelske Familiefond, Statens Kunstfond samt William Demant Fonden.

Udstillingens i alt fire filmværker vises i loop, og man kan vælge at se alle filmene i hele deres længde eller blot opleve kortere uddrag. Værkteksterne er skrevet af Lucia Aspesi, Amina Berdin, Fiammetta Griccioli samt Teodora di Robilant fra Pirelli HangarBicocca. Information om udstillingsrelaterede events og omvisninger findes på Kunsthall Charlottenborgs hjemmeside og i billetsalget.

Drops of rain, flowing rivers and the enigmatic presence of children in nature are recurring images in the film works by Vietnamese artist Thao Nguyen Phan (b. 1987). Presenting works from the past ten years, this solo exhibition unfolds the artist's spiritual imagery in evocative film installations, exquisite lacquer painting, light sculptures, textiles, delicate watercolours and architectural interventions.

Thao Nguyen Phan intertwines fables, mythology and folklore from Vietnam's turbulent past with pressing current issues such as escalating consumption and the depletion of Earth's resources. The intersection between the supernatural and the documentary takes centre stage in this exhibition, which conjures up forgotten figures, lush landscapes and suppressed stories.

The title of the exhibition is taken from Thao Nguyen Phan's latest film work, which paints a portrait of Diem Phung Thi (1920–2002), one of Vietnam's pre-eminent modernist artists. As part of her own exhibition, Phan presents a selection of the late artist's sculptural works and collages, thereby establishing a kinship between the two artists. Diem Phung Thi's works have also inspired the design of the exhibition's seating.

Other works by Thao Nguyen Phan revolve around the Mekong River, which flows from the Tibetan Plateau in China through Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Cambodia before reaching the sea in Vietnam. The river connects and feeds the various populations of the region, an area which throughout history has been ravaged by disasters such as famine, floods and drought. For Thao Nguyen Phan, the river is a landscape marked by the legacy of colonialism, ongoing industrialisation and accelerating climate change.

With the many works featured in the exhibition, Thao Nguyen Phan has created a coherent and sensuous world where sound, images and text create narratives that connect past, present and future.

The exhibition is curated by Henriette Bretton-Meyer and organised by Pirelli HangarBicocca, Milan in collaboration with Kunsthall Charlottenborg. It is presented in collaboration with CPH:DOX and supported by the Augustinus Foundation, the Obel Family Foundation, the Danish Arts Foundation, and the William Demant Foundation.

The four film works in the exhibition are shown on a loop. You can choose to watch all four films in their entirety or just take in shorter excerpts. The accompanying texts are written by Lucia Aspesi, Amina Berdin, Fiammetta Griccioli and Teodora di Robilant from Pirelli HangarBicocca. Information about exhibition-related events and guided tours is available on the Kunsthall Charlottenborg website and from the ticket office.