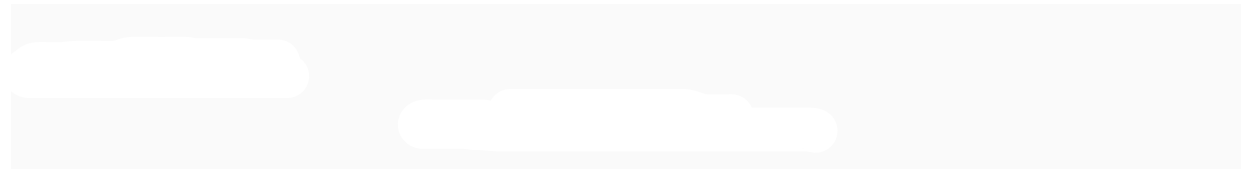


## Trương Công Tùng (Vietnam, 1986) wins the first edition of the Han Nefkens Foundation – Southeast Asian Video Art Production Grant



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Saigon, 8 March 2023: **Truong Cong Tung** is the winner of the inaugural **Han Nefkens Foundation – Southeast Asian Video Art Production Grant 2023**, in collaboration with **San Art**, Vietnam; **Sa Sa Art Projects**, Cambodia; the **Jim Thompson Art Center**, Thailand; **Museion**, Italy; **Busan Museum of Art**, South Korea and **Prameya Art Foundation**, India.



Image: Trương Công Tùng

**Han Nefkens** -*"I'm impressed by Công Tùng's voice. He is not afraid of questioning ambiguities, and I'm confident that with this grant, he will take his exploration of how reality can be seen in fiction one step further."*

Newly established in 2023, the **Han Nefkens Foundation – Southeast Asian Video Art Production Grant** aims to be a tool for increasing contemporary artistic production in the video art field and is directed at artists living in Southeast Asia. The Grant involves the production of a video art work. In order to consolidate the candidates' career, the Grant appraises artists living in that region who have established a solid trajectory but haven't yet had the opportunity to exhibit their work extensively. The production grant should serve as an important source of support and boost in the artist's career.

**Trương Công Tùng** will receive \$15,000 for the production of a new work to be produced within a period of nine months. The Han Nefkens Foundation will get a long-term loan of the produced artwork for presentation at art institutions worldwide with whom the Foundation collaborates with. Thus, from the third quarter of 2023, Trương Công Tùng's newly produced work will be presented at the partner institutions in Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Italy, South Korea and India.

**The Jury stated** - *"Trương Công Tùng was chosen unanimously thanks to the distinctive and intuitive approach in his work. His high-quality video productions offer poetic translations of complex histories, informed by his prior practice as a sculptor. We wish to praise Trương for his strong sense of self and we look forward to following the development of his versatile artistic practice."*

The final jury was chaired by Mr. Han Nefkens and composed of Dinh Q. Le, Mary David, Phuong Anh

Nguyen and Vicky Do members of San Art, Vietnam; Lyno Vuth, Chanveasna Chum and Lyna Kourn members of Sa Sa Art Project, Cambodia; Gridthiya Jeab Gaweewong Director at Jim Thompson Art Center, Thailand; Anushka Rajendran Curator at Prameya Art Foundation, India; KI Hey-Kyung Director of the Busan Museum of Art, South Korea and Bart van der Heide Director of Museion, Italy. The Jury meeting was held in the presence of Hilde Teerlinck, CEO and director of the Han Nefkens Foundation and Alessandra Biscaro, coordinator for the Han Nefkens Foundation.

**Trương Công Tùng** - *"First of all, I wish to send my utmost gratitude to Han Nefkens and the entire art foundation team, judges, friends, relatives, and also to my ancestors of thousands of millennia - trees, grasses, worms, bugs, water, land and souls.... I would like to think my presence in this grant is because of your presence."*

*"Trương Công Tùng is just a mere phantasm without all of you, those who are not me in being defined as an individual, a person. The grant is an opportunity for me and other entities besides me to be closer, more connected to this world, to be able to understand, and to be able to love... a love that bears no discrimination. From sentient beings to inanimate species...."*

### **Trương Công Tùng**

Born in 1986, Trương Công Tùng grew up in Dak Lak among various ethnic minorities in the Central Highlands, Vietnam. He graduated from the Ho Chi Minh Fine Arts University in 2010, majoring in lacquer painting. With research interests in science, cosmology and philosophy and the environment, he works with a range of media, including video, installation, painting and found objects, which re-act personal contemplations on the cultural and geopolitical shifts of modernisation, as embodied in the morphing ecology, belief or mythology of a land. He is also a member of Art Labor (founded in 2012), a collective working between visual art and social/life sciences to produce alternative non-formal knowledge via artistic and cultural activities in various public contexts and locales.



Image still: Dance of the Insect, Single channel video, 2020, 15 minutes 20 seconds

Trương Công Tùng has exhibited extensively in Vietnam and abroad as a solo artist and as part of Art Labor Collective. Select recent exhibitions include, *"Is it morning for you yet?"* 58th Carnegie International, Pittsburgh, USA (2022), *"State of Absence... Words out there"*, a collaborative installation by plants, insects, earth, water, ash, air and Trương Công Tùng Manzi Art Space, Hanoi, Vietnam (2021), *"The Sap still runs"* (2019), San Art, Ho Chi Minh City, Bangkok Biennale (2018), *"Between Fragmentation and Wholeness"* at Galerie Quynh in Ho Chi Minh City (2018), *"A Beast, a God, and a Line"* at Para Site, Hong Kong (2018) and Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw (2018), Dhaka Art Summit, Dhaka (2018), Cosmopolis, Collective

Intelligence, Centre Pompidou, Paris (2017), *"Soil and Stones, Souls and Songs"* at Para Site, Hong Kong (2017) and Kadist, San Francisco (2016), *"Across the Forest,"* an installation for Project Skylines with Flying People 3 at Nhà Sàn Collective, Hanoi (2016), and *"Gestures and Archives of the Present, Genealogies of the Future"* at Taipei Biennial, Taiwan (2016).

Internationally recognised art critics, curators and artists (nominated by the partner institutions of the grant and the Han Nefkens Foundation) carried out an initial scouting process whereby each scout selected three artists. These initial proposals are reduced to a shortlist which is in turn presented to the selection Jury.

The initial selection of artists formally presented to the jury was made by the following scouts: Corey Pamela, Do Tuong Linh, Gleenson Erin, Abhijan Toto, Lim Jongeun, Nelson Roger, Nguyen Bill, Nguyen Trinh Thi, Park Jwoon, Perez Siddharta, Pich Sopheap and Pieracciani Loredana.

The shortlist of eleven artists, whose portfolios were discussed by the final jury was Bùi Lêna (1985, Vietnam), Dong Quynh (1982, Vietnam), Jiwarangsan Prapat (1979, Thailand), Muhammad Zarina (1982, Singapore), Neang Kavich (1987, Cambodia), Numbenchapol Nontawat (1983, Thailand), Salina Tita / Ahmett Irwan (1973 / 1975, Indonesia), Salvatus Mark (1980, Philippines), Seno Shireen (1983, Philippines), Tontey Natasha (1990, Indonesia) and Trương Công Tùng (1986, Vietnam).

The project will be developed in cooperation with the Netherlands Embassy and Consulate General in Vietnam in the framework of NLVN50, 50 years of bilateral Netherlands Vietnam diplomatic relations.

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