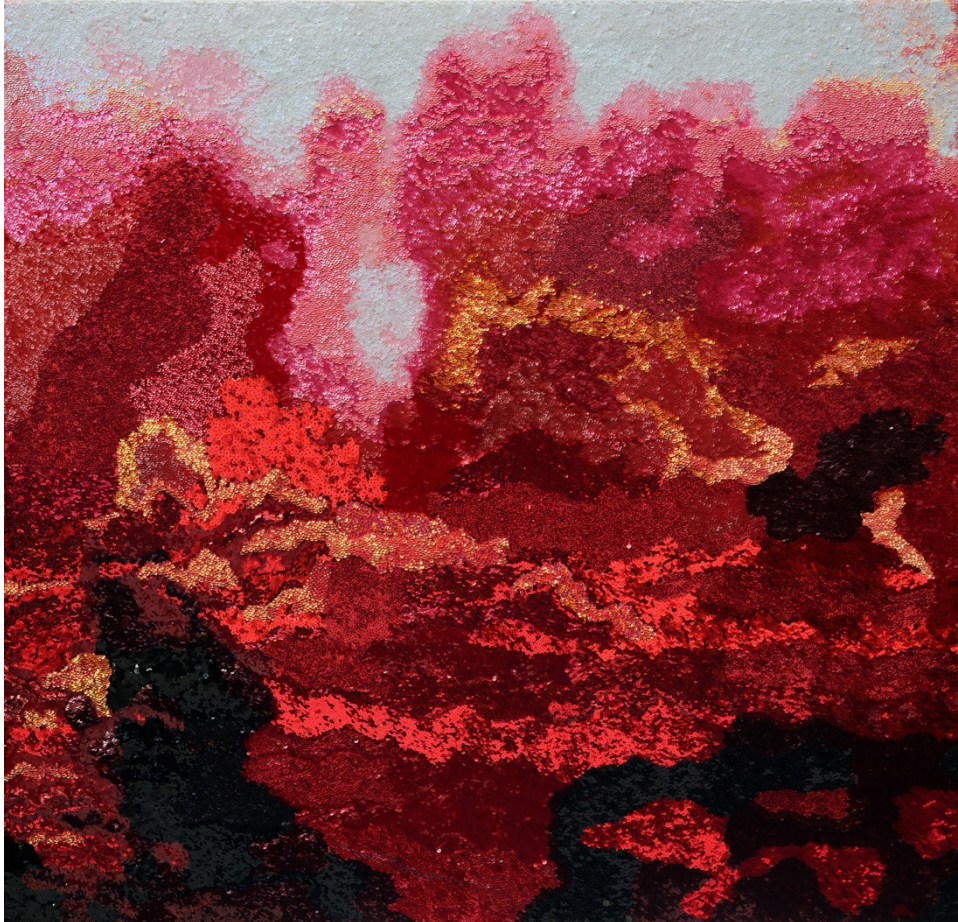




CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Provence



TIA-THUY NGUYEN

Floating in the Nothingness

25th September – 31st December / Richard Rogers' Drawing Gallery

“The cloud travels to nowhere but goes everywhere. It is not a conqueror but it flows above everything else. You cannot fight it, you cannot own it”

Following the inauguration of her permanent pavilion, *Silver Room*, at Château La Coste in 2019, Tia-Thuy Nguyen returns with her first solo exhibition in Europe.

Floating in the Nothingness draws from both Tia-Thuy's fascination with clouds and the architecture of the Richard Rogers Gallery, the venue of this exhibition. Since 2018 Tia-Thuy has worked on a series of oil paintings that portray clouds, entitled *I, my, me, cloud* and originating from regular travels between Asia and Europe. From the plane, her sketches and photographs of the sky became a type of visual journal. These studies had added significance as Tia-Thuy's own father was a pilot during the Vietnam war. Through literature the artist also explored the poetic nature of the cumulus, particularly the book "*My way, the way of the white clouds*" by the Indian spiritual leader, Osho.

This new body of work sees Tia-Thuy use new media, embellishing the canvases with sewn sequins and beads. These techniques undoubtedly stem from the artist's background in fashion design and her passion for artisanal craft. Visually, they allow Tia-Thuy another manner to convey the vivid colours and forms created by the interactions between sunlight, wind and humidity in the sky. The rich textures of these new works also offer a new tactile dimension to her work and speaks to her efforts to convey the physical volume of these forms. As her subject, Tia-Thuy focuses on 3 different states of the cloud : transformation, transition and transparency. 27 of these works form the exhibition *Floating in the Nothingness*, ranging from 30x30 cm to much larger formats (350 x 200cm).

The studies for these compositions, taken from an airplane window, offer a particular perspective from above the clouds. The gallery designed by Richard Rogers at Château La Coste is therefore an ideal space for this exhibition. This 26 meter cantilever building draws visitors over the void, plunging them into the view of the landscape. It offers a connection between sky and earth, between the real and the celestial; a connection also seen in Tia-Thuy's work and relating directly to the exhibition title.

Aside from looking towards the heavens, there is also a deeply reflective element to these works. As in Osho's teachings, the cloud can be seen as a metaphor for the self. For Tia-Thuy these works have an element of the self-portrait. Each composition marks a moment in time, during a specific journey. A cloud itself is formed from internal energies and the artist often considers herself a cloud, projecting inner feelings and adapting with the winds.



NOTES TO EDITORS

TIA-THUY NGUYEN

Tia-Thuy Nguyen was born in Hanoi in 1981. After graduating from the Vietnam University of Fine Arts, she moved to Ukraine, where she achieved her PhD in Fine Arts. For almost 20 years of spanning diverse practices including painting, art installation, fashion design and film production, Tia-Thuy's multi-disciplinary career has always showed an ardent admiration for the local Vietnamese traditions, folklores, rituals and beliefs. Being conscious about the difficulties of the Vietnamese art scene, she founded in 2016 The Factory Contemporary Arts Centre, the first purpose-built space for contemporary art in Vietnam that aims to be a dynamic destination for art and design display and education.

SILVER ROOM (2019)

Silver Room by Tia-Thuy Nguyen is inspired by a traditional Vietnamese house made of wood and bamboo. In the center of this house, the visitor will find a room covered with silver leaves, in which the artist has placed a crystal buddha. The tranquility of the works location encourages thought and refection.

ABOUT CHÂTEAU LA COSTE

Situated in one of the oldest winemaking regions of France, between the historic city of Aix- En-Provence and the Luberon National Park, Château La Coste is a vineyard where wine, art and architecture co-exist in harmony. Since it opened to the public in 2011, Château La Coste invites visitors to discover over forty major works of contemporary art installed in the open air and five gallery spaces dotted across the 500-acre site.

Each year artists and architects are invited to visit the domain and discover the unique beauty of this Provençal landscape, with its famed cypresses, stone pines, olive trees and ancient oaks. They are given the freedom to create a site-specific work in an area of the site that inspires them, so Château La Coste continues to evolve as new projects and installations are developed. Artists and architects who have created permanent works at Château La Coste include Frank O. Gehry, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Louise Bourgeois, Richard Rogers, Sophie Calle, Tracey Emin and Jean Nouvel.

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