

PRESS RELEASE

Time, Illuminated

The first solo show of **Tôn-Thất Minh-Nhật** in Paris



Duration: 5 January - 31 January 2024

Vernissage 18h, 12 January

Galerie BAQ, 15 rue Beautreillis, 75004 Paris

Public hours: 11-19h, Tuesday - Saturday

Free admission, no reservations required

Sơn ta, or Vietnamese lacquer, is duality: material and technique, liquid and impermeable, shadow and light.

Beginning as sap from the *rhus succedanea* tree
Coaxed into brown or black, if worked with tools in wood or iron
Hardening when cured with a precise humidity
Sanded and polished, layer by layer into depths, revealing details in eggshell, snail shell, and mother-of-pearl; to be hued with color pigments, silver powder, and gold leaf –

Time, illuminated.

Tôn-Thất Minh-Nhật is a Huế-based artist whose work in Vietnamese lacquer transcends surface, plays with stillness, captures change. His works are a meditation on time.

At once painterly and sculptural, Minh-Nhật's mastery of technique allows for an exploitation of the dimensionality of *sơn ta*, compelling the viewer to plumb the black depths of the material through fields of color, and to register the nuances of shadow through luminosity.

Surrounding a number of paintings, Minh-Nhật's engravings on wood frames reference the architectural language of royal temples in the artist's hometown. The title of each work draws upon Chinese *shuǐ-mò* (水墨 / ink and wash) painting, where imagery of nature are gestural, poetic expressions of human feeling and emotion.

Perhaps, like modern poetry and other contemporary art forms, Minh-Nhật's lacquer paintings contain within themselves the key to reading them: surface is depth; juxtaposition is narrative; process is meaning.

For images with captions of the artworks, please click [here](#) to download.
For any further inquiries, please contact:

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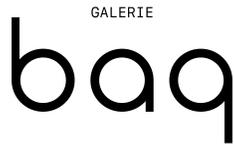
About the artist:

Tôn-Thất Minh-Nhật (b. 1982 in Huế, Vietnam) graduated from Huế University of Fine Arts in 2007. Minh-Nhật is a renowned Vietnamese artist known for his unique approach to *sơn ta* (Vietnamese traditional lacquer) technique.

Minh-Nhật's artistic journey can be divided into several key periods, each corresponding to specific collections. Initially, he followed traditional composition methods, creating polished, shiny, and deep surfaces reminiscent of what he learned in school. In the second period, he actively experiments with grinding, roughening, embossing, perforating, or burning the materials to bring out the third dimension of conventional 2-dimensional tradition of lacquer painting. This led him to the third period of his career, starting from 2008 to the present, combining flat and glossy surfaces with rough and rugged textures, aiming to maximize the idea of controlling light reflection on the painting's surface when illuminated.

After 15 years of dedication, Minh-Nhật is still fascinated by the resilience and the flexibility that *sơn ta* offers. He still patiently pursues his adventure to explore possibilities of *sơn ta*, making his name among the most potential lacquer artists in Vietnam.

Some recent exhibitions of Minh-Nhật includes : *Hanoi Grapevine Selection*, 2023, Hanoi & Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; *Đông Chí*, MoT+++ Art space, 2022, Hồ Chí Minh City, Vietnam; *Dreaming of a Foreign Land*, Mơ Artspace, 2021,



Hanoi, Vietnam; *Nổ Cái Bùm Art Festival*, 2020, Huế, Vietnam; *Pray*, Indochine Palace, 2016, Huế, Việt Nam; *Tron Tron*, Hue Fine Art Museum, 2015, Huế, Vietnam; *Quầy*, Then Collective, 2014, Huế, Vietnam; *Chúc mừng năm mới*, New Space Arts Foundation (N.S.A.F.), 2013, Huế, Vietnam.

<https://galeriebaq.com/artists/83-ton-that-minh-nhat/>

About the gallery:

Galerie BAQ opened in April 2023, under the direction of Lê Thiên-Bảo and Quinnie SG Tan. Its Director, Lê Thiên-Bảo, has more than 10 years active in the Southeast Asian art scene. Now based in Paris, Galerie BAQ champions and amplifies contemporary art from the world's emerging centers of creativity, working directly and bringing together artists and experts who have ties to Southeast Asia and their diasporic communities everywhere. In addition, Galerie BAQ is curious about forms of cultural production and creative expression that engage with complex histories and identities, reimagine traditions, and challenge dominant ideologies.

<https://galeriebaq.com/>