

YAVUZ GALLERY | PRESS RELEASE | 31 MAY 2018

Flying in the Fragmentary

Solo exhibition by Nge Lay

Opening: 23 June 2018 4-7pm
Artist Talk: *Nge Lay in Conversation with Louis Ho*
23 June 2018, 4pm
On view: 23 June to 22 July 2018

Yavuz Gallery is proud to present ***Flying in the Fragmentary***, the first solo exhibition of Myanmar artist **Nge Lay** with the gallery. The exhibition opens on 23 June in conjunction with *Gillman Barracks' Art Day Out – The School Holidays Edition*.

The exhibition features one large-scale installation, the titular artwork transforming the gallery into an immersive, life-sized Myanmar classroom from Thuye'dan village, a remote area ten hours north of Yangon. The work consists of thirty hanging rattan mannequins wearing the classic Myanmar school uniform – white on top and green on the bottom, alongside rows of blackboards, stacks of local textbooks, traditional schoolbags and a video of village students. The uniforms, schoolbags and books are sourced from Thuye'dan, where the artist has been regularly visiting since 2007, and basic lessons and poems from First Grade textbooks feature on the blackboards.

Flying in the Fragmentary is the culmination of the artist's ongoing investigation on Myanmar's state of education, spurred by the birth to her first child four years ago and worries about her future. The exhibition is the artist's invitation to enter and connect with the school system in Myanmar, a fragmented and unsystematic institution, further exacerbated by divides in development between urban and rural areas. The artist describes it as a "laboratory education", due to its experimental and turbulent nature over the past few decades. Myanmar's education system has suffered severely since the military coup of dictator General Ne Win in 1962, and the subsequent watershed student demonstrations of 1988 resulted in strict censorship of the education system, which continues to struggle today.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Nge Lay (b. 1979, Myanmar) is a multi-media artist that works across installation, sculpture, performance art and photography. Her works are an intensely personal reflection of her experiences in Myanmar society, particularly on socio-political issues surrounding gender, education, history and memory. Nge Lay has exhibited extensively, and with institutions such as Asia Society Museum (USA), Palais de Tokyo (France), Queensland Art Gallery, Gallery of Modern Art (Australia), Singapore Art Museum, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (Japan) and so forth. Recent curated exhibitions include: *After Darkness: Southeast Asian Art in the Wake of History*, Asia Society Museum (2018), *Collectionner, le désir inachevé*, Musée des Beaux-Arts, Angers, France (2018), *Asia Young 36*, Jeonbuk Museum of Art, South Korea (2016), *Open Sea*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Lyon, France (2015), *Women In-Between: Asian Women Artists 1984-2012*, Fukuoka Asian Art Museum (2012). She has participated in the Dhaka Art Summit (2016), 8th Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art (2014), Singapore Biennale (2013), and was a finalist of the 2012 Sovereign Asian Art Prize. Nge Lay established the Thuye'dan Village Art Project with her husband, Aung Ko in 2007, a project that seeks to engage and share contemporary art with the villagers.

For inquiries and more information, please contact Caryn Quek at caryn@yavuzgallery.com or tel: +65 6734 3262.

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Opening Hours: Tue – Sat: 11am – 7pm, Sun: 1pm – 5pm | Mon & public holidays: by appointment only

Selected Images



Rendering of installation *Flying in the Fragmentary*, 2016-2018, 30 Myanmar student uniforms, rattan, 50 blackboards, schoolbags, textbooks, video, dimensions variable



Detail of schoolbags and textbooks in *Flying in the Fragmentary* installation

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