

PHUONG NGO

LOST AND FOUND:

*PRAYER, PLANTATION, PASTICHE*



THIS IS NO FANTASY

dianne tanzer + nicola stein

# PHUONG NGO

## LOST AND FOUND:

### PRAYER, PLANTATION, PASTICHE

16 September - 08 October 2022

Following the French conquest of South Vietnam in 1862, the Roman Catholic Church established a community and religious services for French colonialists. The first church occupied a Vietnamese pagoda, abandoned during the conquest. This pagoda was eventually replaced by a wooden church, which in turn was replaced by the Notre-Dame Cathedral Basilica of Saigon, officially Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of The Immaculate Conception. Established by French colonists who initially named it Cathédrale Notre-Dame de Saïgon, the cathedral was constructed between 1863 and 1880.

On 15 April 2019, a fire broke out beneath the roof of Notre-Dame de Paris cathedral in Paris. By the time it was extinguished, the building's spire and most of its roof had been destroyed and its upper walls severely damaged; extensive damage to the interior was prevented by its stone vaulted ceiling, which largely contained the burning roof as it collapsed. The outpouring of global grief was immediate and a fundraising campaign following the destruction brought in pledges of over 1 billion Euro within a week.

Taking the above histories as a starting point Lost and Found (2019 - ) is an ongoing body of work that seeks to question the ways in which colonial ideologies impacted how people value various cultures and communities. The project utilises found photography and digital image archives (Google Images, Trip Advisor, Getty Images, etc.) to interrogate the ways in which systems of colonialism, imperialism and eugenics continue to influence the ways that colonised bodies relate to the world at large.

# PHUONG NGO

## LOST AND FOUND:

### Prayer, Plantation, Pastiche

18 August - 10 September 2022

#### BIO

Phuong Ngo is an artist living and working in Melbourne, Australia. His practice is concerned with the interpretation of history, memory, and place, and how it impacts the individual and collective identity of the Vietnamese diaspora. Through an archival process rooted in a conceptual practice, he seeks to find linkages between culture, politics, oral histories, and historic events, which in turn dictates the materiality of his artistic output.

Ngo's work has been curated into seminal institutional exhibitions including recently Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane 2022; Asia Pacific Triennial (APT10), QAGOMA 2021; (SLIPPAGE) Ballarat Foto Biennale, Ballarat 2021; Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art; Monash Gallery of Art; Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria; RMIT Gallery, Melbourne; Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne and Cheah Kongsu Obscura Festival, Penang, Malaysia. His solo exhibition Nostalgia For A Time That Never Was, was recently on at The Substation, Melbourne. In 2022 Ngo was named winner of the Banyule Award for Works on Paper and a finalist in the Bowness Photography Prize and the Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award.

Ngo also practices in collaboration with Hwafern Quach under the name SLIPPAGE.

SLIPPAGE examines the cycles of history in conjunction with current geopolitical and economic issues through the lens of vernacular cultures, artifacts, and language.





*Photo: Simon Strong*



Diptych  
(see details below)  
\$10,500

*Photo: Simon Strong*





PHUONG NGO  
No harm will come to me, 2022  
Pigment print, found postcard  
55 x 70 cm  
\$10,500 (diptych)





PHUONG NGO  
I am the state, 2022  
Pigment print, found postcard  
50 x 70 cm  
\$10,500 (diptych)





PHUONG NGO

The Interest of the State must come first, 2020

Pigment print, found postcard

41 x 24.9 cm, framed

\$4,000





ANNAM — Hué  
3545. Palais du Prince Tuyen-Hoa  
Frère du Roi







PHUONG NGO

There is nothing new except what has been forgotten, 2020

Pigment print, found postcard

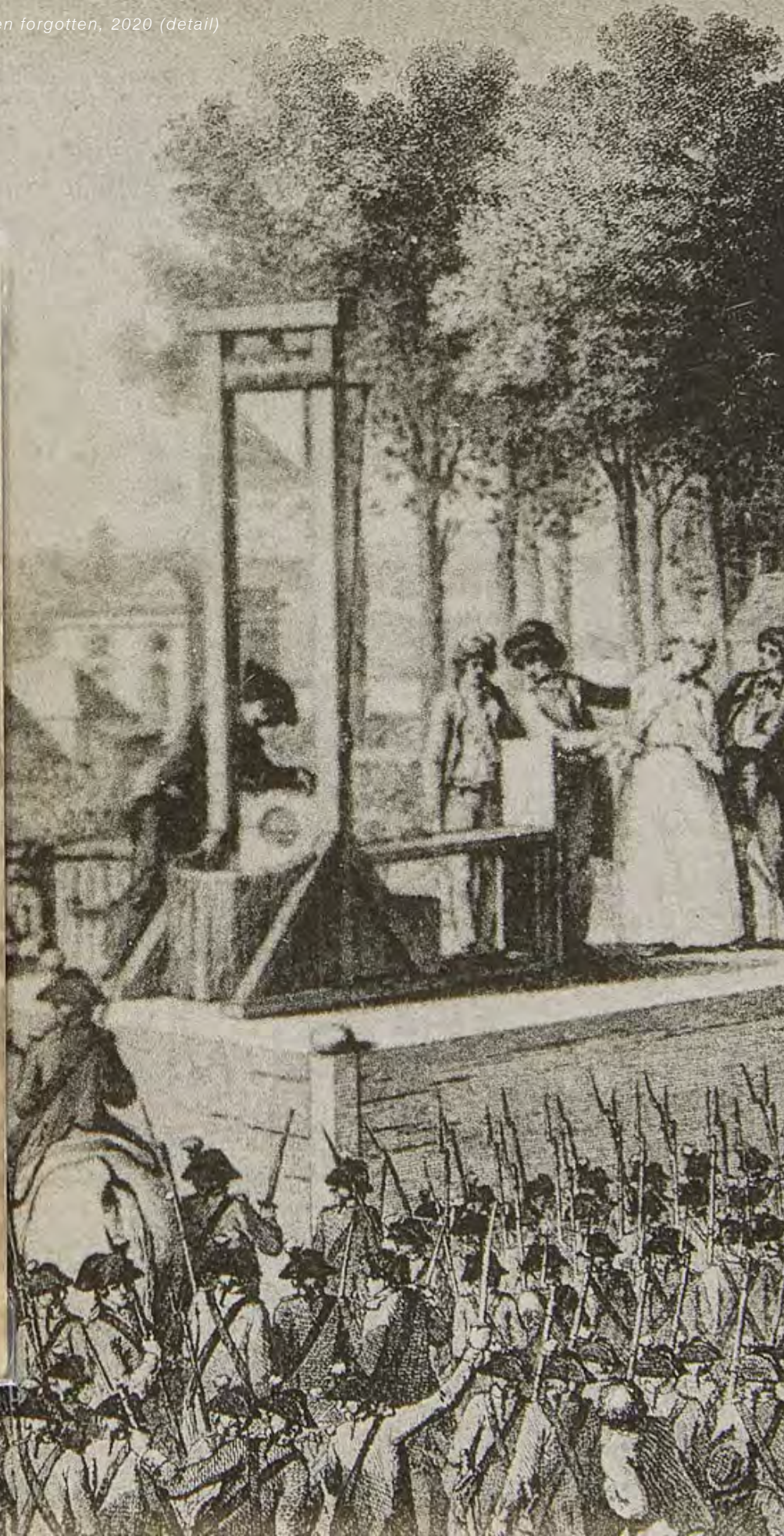
22.5 x 41 cm, framed

\$4,000



*There is nothing new except what has been forgotten, 2020 (detail)*

*un sous-officier d'artillerie, doï 1585,  
ur, décapité le 8 Juillet 1908*







HANOI: Tête du brigadier, col 40, empalonneur, décapité le 8 Juillet 1908.

*Exécution de Louis XVI, le 21 Janvier 1793 à 10 h. 22 du matin,  
Place de la Révolution (Concorde). - Execution of Louis XVI on Monday  
the January 1793 at twenty minutes past ten in the morning at the  
Place of the Revolution (Concorde).*

PHUONG NGO  
It is legal because I wish it, 2020  
Pigment print, found postcard  
25.5 x 40 cm, framed  
\$4,000



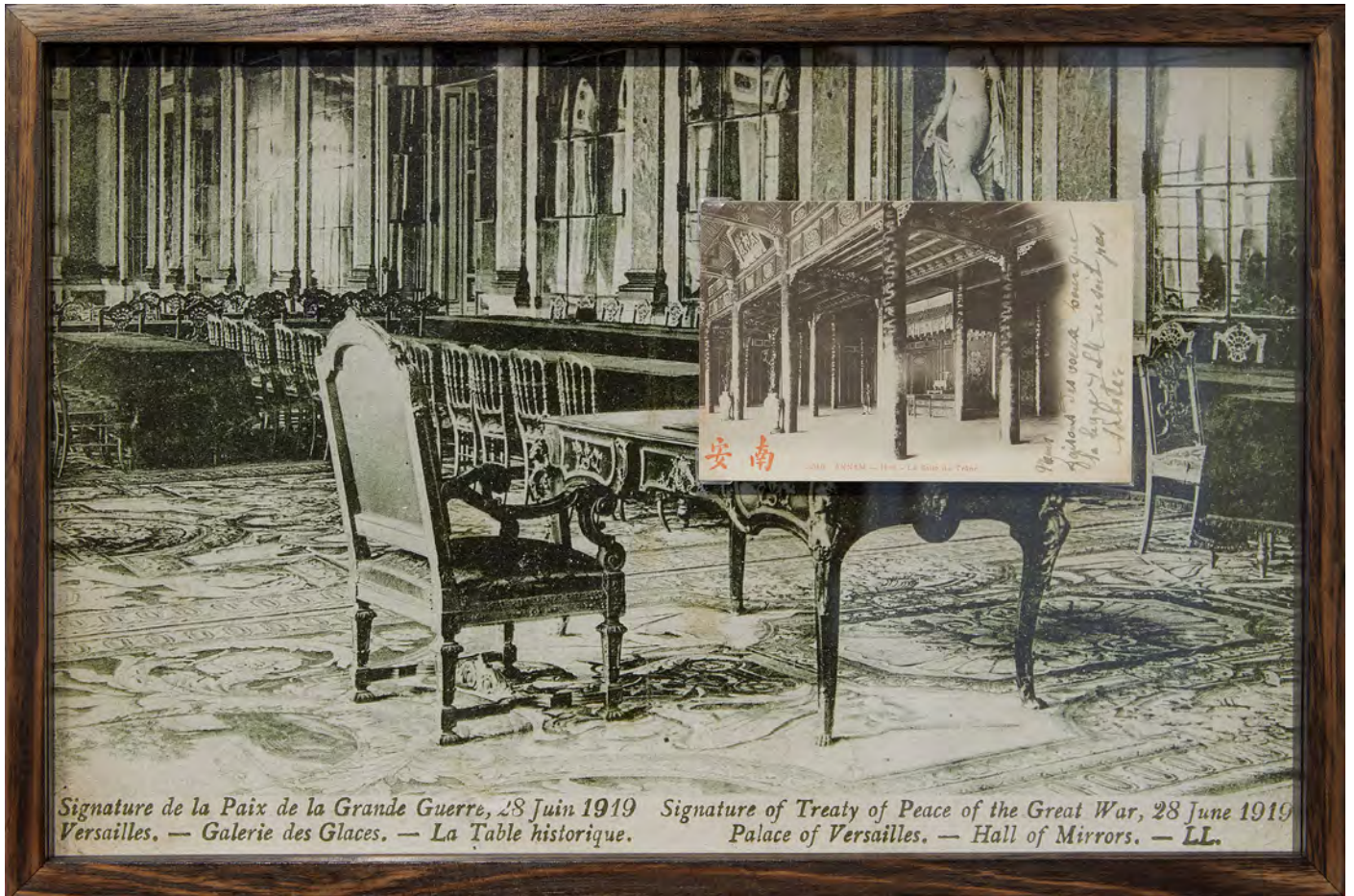
*It is legal because I wish it, 2020 (detail)*



**HANOI : Tête du brigadier, cai 40, empoisonneur, décapité le 8 Juillet 1908.**







*Signature de la Paix de la Grande Guerre, 28 Juin 1919  
Versailles. — Galerie des Glaces. — La Table historique.*

*Signature of Treaty of Peace of the Great War, 28 June 1919  
Palace of Versailles. — Hall of Mirrors. — LL.*

PHUONG NGO

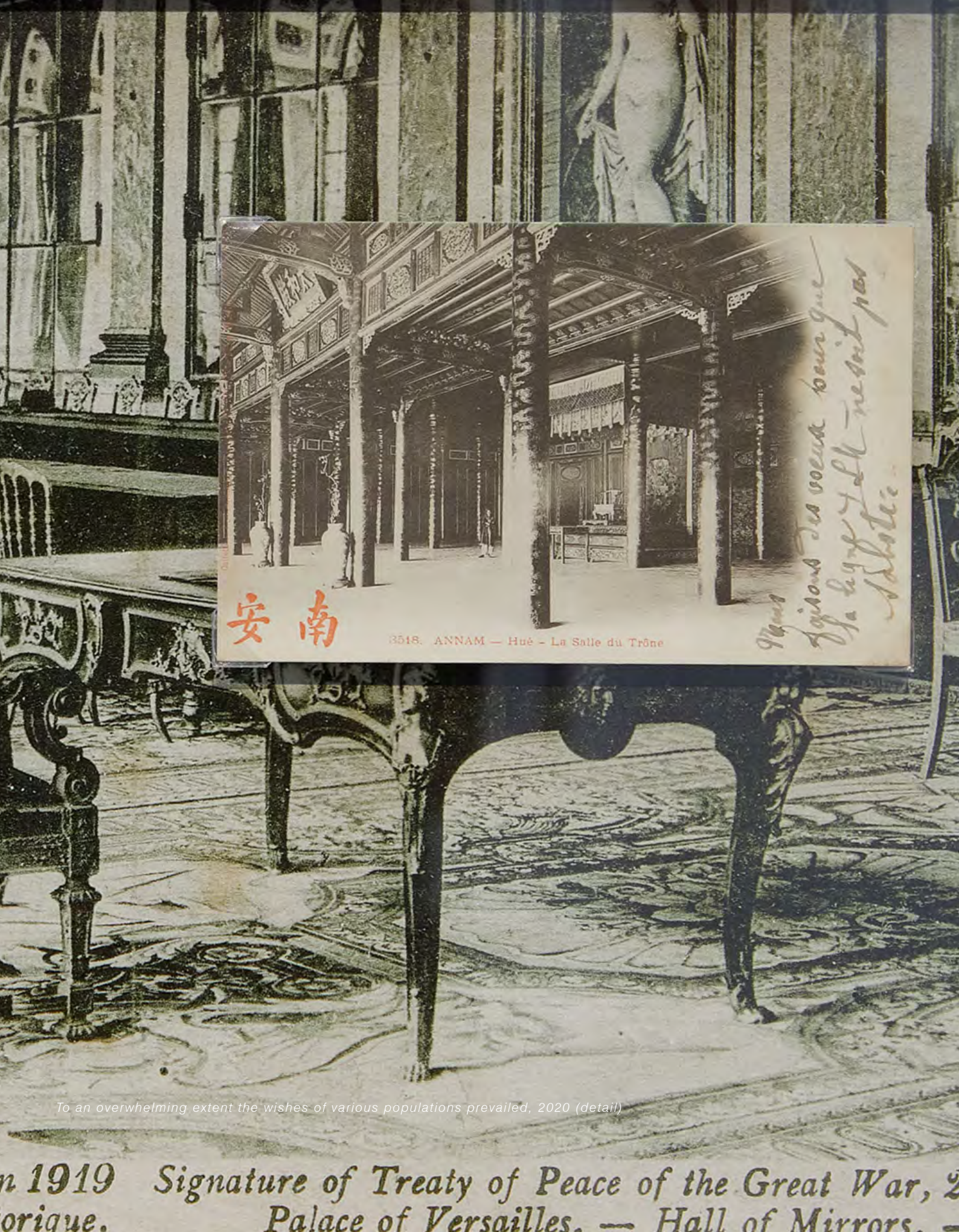
To an overwhelming extent the wishes of various populations prevailed, 2020

Pigment print, found postcard

40 x 26.4 cm, framed

\$4,000





安南

3518. ANNAM — Hué — La Salle du Trône

Nous  
faisons des vœux  
pour que  
la lignée de l'Empereur  
ne soit pas  
éteinte.

To an overwhelming extent the wishes of various populations prevailed, 2020 (detail)

in 1919  
orique.

Signature of Treaty of Peace of the Great War, 20  
Palace of Versailles. — Hall of Mirrors.





Diptych  
(see details below)  
\$6,000

*Photo: Simon Strong*





PHUONG NGO

We are all impressed by what we're seeing here 1, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard, found photograph

30 x 30 cm (diptych)

\$6,000





PHUONG NGO

We are all impressed by what we're seeing here 2, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard, found photograph

30 x 30 cm (diptych)

\$6,000





PHUONG NGO

Like life imprisonment without a jail, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard

33 x 60 cm, framed

\$5,000





Cl. de l'Ag. Ec. de l'Indo-Chine

18 - Une exploitation du caoutchouc en Cochinchine - F. N.





PHUONG NGO  
What a mistake to enter the rubber lands, 2022  
Pigment print, found photograph  
70 x 50 cm, framed  
\$6,000





*What a mistake to enter the rubber lands, 2022 (detail)*





Diptych  
(see details below)  
\$6,000

*Photo: Simon Strong*





PHUONG NGO

A forest without birds, 2022  
Pigment print, found postcard  
40 x 25.8 cm, framed  
\$6,000 (diptych)





PHUONG NGO  
Crushed by trees, fertilized by the corpse, 2022  
Pigment print, found photograph  
15 x 26.5 cm, framed  
\$6,000 (diptych)





Dptych  
(see details below)  
\$6,000

*Photo: Simon Strong*





PHUONG NGO

The people who control it here are uncivilized, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard

40 x 25.5 cm, framed

\$6,000 (diptych)





PHUONG NGO  
I expected more, 2022  
Pigment print, found postcard  
40 x 30 cm, framed  
\$6,000 (diptych)





Triptych  
(see details below)  
\$12,000

*Photo: Simon Strong*





PHUONG NGO

So horrible to watch the massive fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard

33 x 49.5 cm, framed

\$12,000 (triptych)





PHUONG NGO

Perhaps flying water tankers could be used to put it out, 2022

Pigment print, found postcard 49.5 x 33 cm, framed

\$12,000 (triptych)





PHUONG NGO  
Must act quickly, 2022  
Pigment print, found postcard  
33 x 49.5 cm, framed  
\$12,000 (triptych)





SLIPPAGE  
Severed, 2019  
Pigment Print  
Edition of 6 + 2AP  
100 x 70 cm  
\$5,000





PHUONG NGO  
A World Vision, 2022  
Video  
04:16 min  
POA  
*(Photo: Matthew Stanton, The Substation, 2022)*



*Photo: Simon Strong*



# PHUONG NGO

## CV

SLIPPAGE est. 2018 – Collaboration with Hwafern Quach  
Lives and works in Melbourne, VIC

### EDUCATION

- 2022 Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Doctor of Philosophy (Fine Art)
- 2012 Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), Bachelor of Art (Fine Art) Honours
- 2005 Flinders University, Bachelor of Arts (Asian Studies, International Relations) Honours

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 Lost and Found: Prayer, Plantation, Pastiche, THIS IS NO FANTASY, Melbourne, VIC
- 2022 Nostalgia For A Time That Never Was, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- 2021 Adrift From The Fall, Ivanhoe Library and Cultural Hub, Ivanhoe, VIC
- 2019 Drunken Swine (SLIPPAGE), First Draft, Sydney, NSW
- Expansionism V (SLIPPAGE), Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo, VIC
- Expansionism IV (SLIPPAGE), Bus Projects, Melbourne, VIC
- Article 14.1, Sydney Festival, Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney, NSW
- The coconut doesn't fall far from the tree, but is sometimes carried away by a current, SEVENTH Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2018 Expansionism III, FELTspace, Adelaide, SA
- 2017 Conflicted: Works from the Vietnam Archive Project, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- 2014 Article 14.1, Next Wave Festival, No Vacancy Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 My dad the people smuggler, Counihan Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Domino Theory, Centre for Contemporary Photography (CCP), Melbourne, VIC
- The Vietnam Archive Project: Slide #1, SEVENTH Gallery, Melbourne, VIC

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 1988, The Australian Art Orchestra, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- This language that is every stone, Institute of Modern Art, Brisbane, QLD
- 2021 Asia Pacific Triennial (APT10), QAGOMA, Brisbane, QLD
- We will all eventually return to the earth, (SLIPPAGE) Ballarat Foto Biennale, Ballarat, VIC
- Stages, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
- Ritual, Cairns Art Gallery, Cairns, QLD
- 2020 Older than Language, (SLIPPAGE), Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart, TAS
- 2019 The Essayist, Cross Arts Projects, Sydney, NSW
- Those Monuments Don't Know Us, Bundoora Homestead, Bundoora, VIC
- 2018 Primavera, Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney, NSW
- In a World of Wounds, Artbank, Sydney, NSW
- Family Grimoires, SEVENTH Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- Hyphenated, (SLIPPAGE), The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- 2017 Photography 130 – Behind the Lens: 130 years of RMIT Photography, RMIT Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2016 Belonging, Cheah Kongsu Obscura Festival, Penang, Malaysia
- 2015 Migratory Complex, Punctum, La Maison Folle
- 2014 Substation Contemporary Art Prize, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- What Follows Came Before, SEVENTH Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- The Sievers Project, Centre for Contemporary Photography (CCP), Melbourne, VIC
- Vietnam/Australia: Voicing the unspoken, Yarra Gallery, Human Rights Arts & Film Festival, Melbourne, VIC
- 2013 Melbourne Now, National Gallery of Victoria (NGV), Melbourne, VIC
- 2012 Come Sail your ships around me: stories of reaching Australia by sea, Atrium Gallery, Monash Gallery of Art, Melbourne, VIC
- Fresh Produce (How to make spring rolls and other Vietnamese cultural traits), Next Wave Festival, Melbourne, VIC
- 2011 Not Pictured, Pigment Gallery, Melbourne, VIC
- 2010 My Life, Your Death, First Site Gallery, RMIT, Melbourne, VIC
- 2009 19/52, The Library Art Space, Melbourne, VIC

### AWARDS AND PRIZES

- 2022 Banyule Award for Works on Paper (Winner)
- Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist)

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## CV

- 2021 Josephine Ulrick and Win Schubert Photography Award (Finalist)
- 2021 Darebin Art Prize (Finalist)
- 2020 Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist)
- 2020 National Photography Art Prize (MAMA) (Finalist)
- 2019 Incinerator Art Award for Social Change (Finalist)
- 2019 Ramsay Art Prize (Finalist)
- 2017 Incinerator Art Award for Social Change (Finalist)
- 2017 Banyule Award for Works on Paper (Finalist)
- 2016 Substation Contemporary Art Prize (Finalist)
- 2015 Banyule Award for Works on Paper (Finalist)
- 2015 Foam Paul Huf Award (Nominee)
- 2015 MACK First Book Award (Nominee)
- 2014 The Westie – Substation Contemporary Art Prize (Winner)
- 2013 The Westie – Substation Contemporary Art Prize (Winner)
- 2013 Macquarie Digital Portraiture Award (Finalist)
- 2013 The Churchie National Emerging Art Prize (Finalist)
- 2012 William and Winifred Bowness Photography Prize (Finalist)
- 2011 National Photographic Portrait Prize (Finalist)
- 2010 Siemens RMIT Fine Art Scholarship Award (Nominee)

### CURATORIAL PROJECTS

- 2021-22 Hyphenated Biennial
- 2020 Hyphenated Biennial (online)
- 2019 The End/Future of History, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 Jason Phu in Footscray, Makers Window, Melbourne, VIC
- 2019 Hoda Afshar: Remain, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC
- 2018-19 Due West Festival, Artistic Associate, Melbourne, VIC
- 2018 Hyphenated, The Substation, Melbourne, VIC

### COLLECTIONS

National Gallery of Victoria  
Geelong Art Gallery  
Murray Art Museum Albury  
Moreland City Council  
Banyule City Council  
Private Collections

### SELECTED GRANTS & RESIDENCIES

- 2022 Creative Victoria's Creators Fund
- 2022 Australian Council for the Arts - Arts Projects
- 2021 George Mora Fellowship/State Library of Victoria Fellowship
- 2021 Regional Arts Victoria - Sustaining Creative Workers Program
- 2021 Artist in Residence – Parramatta Artist Studios
- 2020 Creative Victoria Grant
- 2020 Australian Council for the Arts - Arts Projects
- 2018 Australian Council for the Arts - Arts Projects
- 2016 Australian Council for the Arts - Arts Projects
- 2015 Australian Council for the Arts – Project Development Grant
- 2015 Creative Victoria Grant
- 2015 Creative Individuals Career Fund - Copy Right Agency
- 2013 Australian Council for the Arts - New Work Grant
- 2013 City of Melbourne Arts Grant
- 2013 Arts Victoria Development Grant
- 2013 RMIT Honours Endowment Travelling Scholarship
- 2013 Kick Start Program, Next Wave Festival



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TONKIN



420. - NAM-DINH. - Tour-Pagode

Collection R. Moreau, Hanoi



# THIS IS NO FANTASY

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