

FIRST SURVEY OF PREEMINENT  
VIETNAMESE-AUSTRALIAN ARTIST  
DACCHI DANG IN *AN OMEN NEAR AND  
FAR*

9 June – 30 July, 2017



Image: Dacchi Dang, *Untitled* (from the series *Spectacle II*), 1996, photogravure. Courtesy the artist.

# Dacchi Dang: An Omen Near and Far

9 June – 30 July  
4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney

4A CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ASIAN ART  
SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA  
9 June – 30 July 2017  
4a.com.au

This June, 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art will stage the first ever major survey exhibition of the work of Vietnamese-Australian artist Dacchi Dang in *Dacchi Dang: An Omen Near and Far*, opening Thursday 8 June at the Centre in Haymarket, Sydney.

*An Omen Near and Far* presents work that spans three decades of Dang's practice, which encompasses photography, printmaking, video and installation. Born in Saigon as the Vietnam War was intensifying, Dang fled on a boat to be eventually accepted as a refugee in Australia. His life and art is informed by an ongoing redefinition of place and home.

From Saigon to Paris and Peel Island in Queensland's Moreton Bay, Dang's work ranges across artistic media, seeking to articulating the complex nature of diasporic experience. Says Dang of this major display of his practice:

"Having developed a visually poetic language as a means of recording and reflecting upon life experiences and memories, I hope that the ideas and symbolic meanings that permeate my art may preserve images and their latent histories for present and future Australian Vietnamese generations so that we might better

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# SYDNEY'S 4A FEATURES HONG KONG IN *BEFORE THE RAIN* EXHIBITION

January 21 – March 29, 2017



Centre for  
Contemporary  
Asian Art

Media Contact: Bridie Moran

T: 2 9212 0380 M: 0402926031

E: [bridie.moran@4a.com.au](mailto:bridie.moran@4a.com.au)

understand our own stories. At the same time, I hope that by giving form to an individual's vision, we might truly come to accept that the Vietnamese diaspora experience can never truly be reduced to anything less than the vast sum of voices from which we will never hear."

Commissioned for the exhibition is a new work by Dang in 4A's ground floor gallery: created after the artist's recent visit to his homeland, *Et in Arcadia Ego* takes a wax bamboo forest form, that will be set alight and entirely melted as part of a series of performances over the duration of the exhibition. *An Omen Near and Far* also presents a selection of historical material from the archives of both the artist and 4A. This includes documentation of Dang's creation of *The Boat* (2001), a milestone work that marked an important artistic consideration of Australia's changing treatment of refugees.

The exhibition is open to the public and will be open daily (Tuesday – Sunday) at the Centre's Gallery at 181-187 Hay Street, Haymarket, and will run from 9 June to 30 July 2017.

Curator: Pedro de Almeida

Curatorial Assistant: Harriet Reid

## Exhibition opening and associated events:

### Exhibition Opening

Thursday 8 June, 2017

6.00pm – 8.00pm

*Dacchi Dang: An Omen Near and Far* will be opened by Professor Emeritus in Art History at the University of Sydney, John Clark.

### VIP Media Event & Artist Talk

Thursday 8 June

11AM – 12PM

Join *An Omen Near and Far* artist Dacchi Dang and curator Pedro de Almeida, for a special artist talk event. For details, please email [bridie.moran@4a.com.au](mailto:bridie.moran@4a.com.au)

### Exhibition venue:

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

181-187 Hay St, Haymarket, Sydney NSW 2000, Australia

Open Tuesday – Friday: 11am-5pm

Saturday and Sunday: 11am to 4pm (excluding public holidays)

### Public Programs:

- **Saturday 10 June – 11.00am** Artist-led exhibition tour
- **Saturday 10 June – 12.00pm** Dacchi Dang and Dr Anthea Gunn, Australian War Memorial Senior Curator of Art, discuss the Gillespie Bequest commission, a series of new works exploring Vietnam War veterans' experiences.
- **Saturday 1 July – 12.00pm** Artist's performance, *Et in Arcadia Ego*
- **Saturday 1 July – 12.00pm** Congee Lunch Tour with curator Pedro de Almeida
- **Saturday 29 July – 2.00pm** Artist's performance, *Et in Arcadia Ego*

### Exhibition dates:

9 June – 30 July 2017

#AnOmenNearandFar

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To register for our media preview, RSVP to the opening or arrange an interview with the artists or curator, contact Bridie Moran, Marketing, Communications and Development Manager at 4A: [bridie.moran@4a.com.au](mailto:bridie.moran@4a.com.au), +61 402926031

**\*\*ENDS\*\***

## ABOUT THE ARTIST:

**Dacchi Dang** (b. 1966, Saigon, Vietnam) is an artist who lives and works in Sydney. Dang was born to a Chinese father and Vietnamese mother, and at the age of sixteen fled Vietnam with his brother and sister on a fishing boat. After a traumatic sea voyage the boat arrived on Malaysian shores where Dang was transported to the refugee camp of Pulau Bidong. Following nine months at the camp, he was transported to Kuala Lumpur where he was accepted as a Vietnamese refugee by Australia in 1982.

Dang's work has been exhibited in Australia and internationally since the early 1990s. Solo exhibitions include *Full Circle* (2009), Metro Arts Gallery, Brisbane; *Liminal* (2006–2008), Horsham Regional Art Gallery, Victoria; Centre for Contemporary Photography, Melbourne; and 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, Sydney; *Spectacle I* (1996), Firstdraft Gallery, Sydney; *Spectacle II*, Stills Gallery, Sydney. Group exhibitions include *DDESSIN [14]* (2014), Paris Contemporary Drawing Fair, Atelier Richelieu; *Crossing Boundaries* (2014), Sydney Town Hall; *Edge of Elsewhere* (2010–2012), 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art and Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney; *Planet Ueno* (2008), Taito Community Museum, Tokyo; *Re-StArt* (2008), 733 Art Factory, Chengdu; and *News From Islands* (2007), Campbelltown Arts Centre, Sydney.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts (1991) and a Master of Arts (1996) from the College of Fine Arts, University of New South Wales, Sydney; Graduate Diploma in Archives and Records Management (2000) and Graduate Certificate of Applied Science in Cultural Heritage Studies specialising in Photography (2003) from University of Canberra; and a Doctor of Philosophy (Fine Arts) from Queensland College of the Arts, Griffith University, Brisbane (2013). Dang has undertaken artist residencies at Bundanon Trust (2001), Hill End (2001); Cité Internationale des Arts, Paris (2003) and Tokyo University of the Arts Geidai (2008). His work is held in public and private collections in Australia, France, China and Hong Kong. Over 2015–2018 Dang is producing new works commissioned by the Australian War Memorial Gillespie Bequest that explore the wartime experience of Australian and Vietnamese–Australian veterans.

## ABOUT 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art

4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art fosters excellence and innovation in contemporary Asian and Australian culture through research, documentation, development, discussion and presentation of contemporary visual art.

We believe that Asian cultural thinking will have an important impact on the future. 4A's aim is to ensure contemporary visual art plays a central role in understanding the dynamic relationship between Australia and the Asia-Pacific region.

4A has a distinctive approach to addressing Australia's cultural diversity through a dynamic program including local and international exhibitions, public programs, workshops, seminars, symposiums and community activities. These have been recognised locally and internationally as having raised awareness of Asian–Australian art and culture and Australia's place in the Asia-Pacific region.

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