

# AIDS HeART

## The work of Vietnamese artist Truong Tan

A VISUAL ARTS EVENT FOR THE 1998 SYDNEY GAY & LESBIAN MARDI GRAS FESTIVAL

Controversial Vietnamese artist, Truong Tan, presents his first exhibition in Australia at Gallery 4A. Banned in his home country, Truong Tan's profound images confront religious and sexual taboos. His stylised paintings and installations transgress conservative moral and social codes within Vietnam by engaging with gay identity and HIV.

Truong Tan's signature is a face with a blindfold over the eyes. Featured in all of his works, this symbol is a metaphor for ignorance about HIV & gay issues. The curator of the exhibition, Melissa Chiu, has said, "Truong Tan's work is especially important to a consideration of gay rights because of the way that he has dealt with censorship enforced by the cultural authorities in Vietnam. His simple black and red paintings of the male body shows the body as a symbol of social ideas and values."

Truong Tan's work has been seen around the world including Hong Kong, Japan, Germany, Norway and Denmark. He has recently completed an artist's residency at the prestigious La Cite studios in Paris and will be in Australia for the duration of his exhibition at Gallery 4A.



Venue: Gallery 4A  
 Curator: Melissa Chiu  
 Dates: 12-28 Feb., 1998  
 Hours: Thursday - Saturday, 12-6 pm  
 Entry: FREE

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