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Lyman Allyn Art Museum

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LYMAN ALLYN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS A DYNAMIC SERIES OF PAINTINGS BY THUAN VU

"In my work, I use nature as both a mirror and window to communicate who I am, where I've come from, and how I experience our world. The majesty and poetry of nature is a reflection of my emotional landscape while providing a canvas on which to dream and reflect."

New London - Lyman Allyn Art Museum announces the opening of *Thuan Vu: Kintsugi in the New World*, an exhibition featuring a dynamic series of paintings from New Haven artist Thuan Vu. Drawn from both his *Kintsugi* flower series and *The New World* series, these paintings reflect the Japanese philosophy of placing value on that which has been broken and repaired, whether it be an object, community, or person. His paintings offer a revised sense of wholeness and beauty even in the face of fracture and confusion. This exhibition is on view Jan. 18 through Mar. 30, 2025.



Left to right: *Kintsugi: Arrangement no. 1*, oil on aluminum panel, 48" diameter, 2023; *Kintsugi: Arrangement no. 4*, oil on aluminum panel, 48" diameter, 2024; *Kintsugi Arrangement no. 17*, oil on aluminum panel, 60" diameter, 2022.

As a Vietnamese refugee, Vu's work is about finding a sense of wholeness and beauty in our divided selves, our fractured country, and our complicated world. "For the past 10 years, I've made a series of paintings called *The New World*, which abstractly reimagines the sensations felt by my parents when they fled Vietnam during the war and settled in America with seven of their eight children," says Vu. "These completely imaginary landscapes tap into a refugee's feelings of hope, joy, and confusion—but these feelings are universal. Framed by nature, the

painting's offer a space for the viewer's mind to search, discover, and breathe in a space to call home."

Vu's most recent *Kintsugi* series utilizes the Japanese practice/philosophy of repairing broken pottery by rejoining the pieces together using gold. The newly repaired piece, proudly showing its golden scars, is seen as more beautiful for showing its history, resiliency, and its ability to be transformed from trauma. Using this mending philosophy, Vu reflects on wholeness as it relates to his identity and asks, "How do we find beauty and grace in times of fracture and disruption? Can the process of recovery, discovery, and growth—with its infinite complications—be seen as beautiful and valuable?"

"This exhibition offers a profound reflection on resilience and transformation," said Museum Director Sam Quigley. "Vu invites us to consider the often-overlooked grace in our own fractures—be they physical, emotional, or psychological. In these striking paintings, the act of repair becomes a powerful metaphor for healing, identity, and belonging."

Kintsugi in the New World represents a reflection on belonging in one's skin and in the world. It is not only a celebration of beauty in imperfection, but a poignant meditation on the process of becoming whole, even amidst life's most challenging disruptions.

The opening reception is Friday, Jan. 17, from 5 - 7 p.m. Museum members are free, and non-members are \$10. To register, call 860.443.2545 ext. 2129 or email us at info@lymanallyn.org.

Related programming includes a Gallery Talk with Thuan Vu on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 5:30 pm. Members are \$10, and non-members are \$15. More information will be available on lymanallyn.org.

For more information or to request images, please contact Rebecca Dawson by email at dawson@lymanallyn.org.

This exhibition has been made possible with support from an anonymous foundation. Funding has also been provided by the Connecticut State Legislature, administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development, Office of the Arts. The artist received support for the development of this exhibition from Southern Connecticut State University.

About Thuan Vu

Thuan Vu is an awarding winning artist and professor at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT. He was born in Saigon, Vietnam and settled with his family in New Orleans, LA. His paintings examine constructions of identity, especially those of Vietnamese refugees. His research has taken him to Vietnam, Paris, and Japan—where he studies Vietnamese communities world-wide. In 2020, he was the only painter to receive the Artistic Excellence Award by the Connecticut Office of the Arts. The recipient of numerous awards and grants, Thuan lectures nationally, and has had over 15 solo exhibitions. More information on his work can be found at www.thuanvu.com.

About Lyman Allyn Art Museum

Lyman Allyn Art Museum welcomes visitors from New London, southeastern Connecticut and all over the world. Established in 1926 with a gift from Harriet Allyn in memory of her seafaring father, the Museum opened the doors of its beautiful neoclassical building surrounded by 12 acres of green space in 1932. Today it presents several changing exhibitions each year and houses a fascinating collection of over 19,000 objects from ancient times to the present, including art from Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe, with particularly strong collections of American paintings, decorative arts and Victorian toys and doll houses.

The museum is located at 625 Williams Street, New London, Connecticut, exit 83 off I-95. It is open **Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.**, and closed on Mondays and major holidays. For more information call 860.443.2545, ext. 2129 or visit www.lymanallyn.org.