

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



DATES: November 5 – December 30, 2009

OPENING: First Thursday, November 5, 5-8 pm

LOCATION: ArtXchange Gallery

512 First Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104

COST: FREE and open to the public

HOURS: Tuesday – Saturday, 11 AM – 5:30 PM

First Thursday until 8 PM

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Bui Cong Khanh

New Paintings from Vietnam

Seattle, Washington – October 1, 2009

Pull date – December 30, 2009

ArtXchange Gallery in Pioneer Square proudly presents the first solo exhibition in Seattle by Vietnamese artist, **Bui Cong Khanh**. The exhibit opens during the First Thursday Artwalk, November 5, from 5-8 pm.

Khanh graduated from the College of Fine Arts in Ho Chi Minh City and currently resides in Hoi An. Having worked with the artist for over a decade, ArtXchange will present work from his early, post-graduate career to his current work in lacquer and gouache. Khanh's pieces combine mixed-media such as sand, rocks, gold leaf, eggshell and oil paint with the traditional medium of Vietnamese lacquer painting. Often the objects in his paintings are perennial symbols of Vietnamese culture and daily life. "*What I want is to (show) the present as simply as possible... I paint life calmly, as if writing my diary,*" states Khanh.

The straightforward nature of his work has helped Khanh reach a broader, international audience. Despite their visual simplicity, Khanh's topics delve into complex issues regarding identity, spirituality, consumerism and the challenges young artists face in contemporary Vietnam. "*I am as interested in the preservation of traditions as I am in issues of contemporary daily life,*" he says. "*I will continue painting, aware of the world's current progress, but also aware of my soul, the soul of a Vietnamese artist.*"

Bui Cong Khanh, an accomplished painter, also produces music, installation and performance-based artworks. He will be exhibiting in the 6th Annual Asia Pacific Triennial of Contemporary Art at the Brisbane Gallery of Contemporary Art in 2010. He has exhibited in every major city in Vietnam and in countries around the world including Korea, Cambodia, France, Australia, the United States, Malaysia, Germany, Taiwan and Thailand.

ArtXchange Gallery: ArtXchange Gallery is a contemporary international art gallery that aims to inspire cultural exploration, the expansion of global community and the exchange of ideas through art, film and photography.

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