

ATTENTION ART EDITORS

For Immediate Release



DINH Q LÊ, *Erasure*

10 Chancery Lane Gallery Art Projects Hong Kong

17 May – 30 July 2012

at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery Art Projects, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

[23 April 2012, Hong Kong] - 10 Chancery Lane Gallery presents *Erasure*, by Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê and co-curated by Zoe Butt and the Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation – an interactive sculptural and video installation that draws on issues concerning refugees and asylum seekers.

The darkened gallery space will be dominated by a floor-to-ceiling moving image of an 18th-century ship beached on an isolated coastline slowly being consumed by flames. Beneath this image will be a scene of destruction where, amongst the debris of stone boulders and fragmented boats, tens of thousands of small black and white photographs rest. These images, self-portraits, family and passport photos, represent the thousands of refugees who fled Vietnam post 1975 – a generation Dinh is a part and thus spent years buying such photographs in second-hand stores in the hope of finding his own family's archives.

During the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to pick up these photographs which will be removed one by one, scanned, catalogued, stored and uploaded to a purpose built website (www.erasurearchive.net) for people to browse through this collection of *oan hon* (lost souls) and perhaps find their own families.

Starting from the mid 1970s, hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese refugees sought asylum around the world. Hong Kong received its first wave of Vietnamese refugees on 4 May 1975 when a 3,743-strong refugee group was found arriving on board the Danish freighter *Clara Mærsk*. Although the Hong Kong Government declared them "illegal immigrants", this arrival marked the start of a wave of refugee migrations to Hong Kong and it soon became a "safe haven" choice. The BBC World Service spurred the decision by making known Hong Kong's 3-month grace period in which to make resettlement applications to a third country. Hong Kong was also known for its liberal policy of allowing landed refugees the right to work. The walls of Victoria Prison, Hong Kong's first prison, directly face 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. The compound became a transit and repatriation centre when Hong Kong was declared a port of first asylum for Vietnamese refugees in the late 1970s. By 1980, more than 180,000 Vietnamese sought refugee rights in Hong Kong.

Born in Vietnam in 1968, Lê moved to Los Angeles with his family in 1979 after fighting erupted between the Vietnamese and the Khmer Rouge near Ha Tien at the Cambodian border. As a refugee himself, Lê was motivated to produce 'Erasure' by the tragic sinking of an asylum seeker's boat off Christmas Island, Australia in December 2010. 'Erasure' was initially commissioned and realized by the Sherman Contemporary

Art Foundation (SCAF) in Sydney in July 2011. Lê has chosen to exhibit *Erasure* now in Hong Kong due to it's historical relation as a Vietnamese asylum seeking country. Lê's practice challenges how our memories are recalled and how society archives the evidence of human suffering, elucidating commitment to the artistic process as a means of excavating history and the uncovering and revealing of alternate ideas of loss and redemption.

Dinh Q. Lê is considered one of Vietnam's most significant contemporary artists. His work has been shown at MoMA, New York (2011), the Singapore Biennale, Singapore (2008); Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue, Washington(2007); Arko Art Center, Seoul, Korea (2007); The Museum of Fine Art, Houston, Texas (2007); MoMA, PS1, Long Island City, New York (2006); Asia-Pacific Triennial Of Contemporary Art, Queensland ArtGallery/Gallery of Modern Art (2006); Asia Society, New York, New York (2005); Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy (2003); The RISD Museum of Art, Providence, Rhode Island (2002); and Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, California (2001). His work will be featured in Documenta 13, this June. *Erasure* is a new commission and a curatorial collaboration between SCAF, Zoe Butt (co-director and curator, San Art, Ho Chi Minh City), and 10 Chancery Lane Gallery. This is Lê's third solo exhibition at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery, Hong Kong.

For interview and press enquiries please contact Heidi Kim on heidi@10chancerylanegallery.com or +852 2810 0065.

10 Chancery Lane Gallery during the week of ART HK 12

Dinh Q. Lê's *Erasure* and Carol Lee Mei Kuen's *Threads of Luminosity* at Art East Island in Chai Wan on 17 May, 2012 is part of the 10 Chancery Lane Gallery programs for ART HK 12, which runs from 17 to 20 May 2012. Also opening in the week include Ai Yamaguchi's *ashita mata (again tomorrow)*, opening on 14 May 2012. For details of our exciting programs please follow us on Facebook "10 Chancery Lane Gallery / Katie de Tilly Contemporary Artists" or visit website: www.arteastisland.com.

Artist and Curator's Talk and Brunch: Thursday, May 17th 9:30-11:00 am

DINH Q. LÊ
Erasure

10 Chancery Lane Gallery Art Projects, Hong Kong

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SOLO EXHIBITION AT

10 Chancery Lane Gallery Art Projects

Unit 604, 6/F, Chai Wan Industrial City Phase 1, 60 Wing Tai Road, Chai Wan, Hong Kong

Opening hours: Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 6pm

Enquiry: +852 2810 0065 / +852 2558 5665

10 Chancery Lane Gallery will be showing at **BOOTH 1F12** at ART HK 12, HKCEC, Wanchai