



ATTENTION ART EDITORS

For Immediate Release

Tuan Andrews Nguyen

My Ailing Beliefs Can Cure Your Wretched Desires



The Irony of Our Worship, 2017, Wood, metal, neon, LED lights, plastics, 210 x 64 x 65 cm

Exhibition Period

28 June – 18 August, 2018

Opening Reception with the artist at 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

28 June, 2018 6:30pm– 8:30pm

(Member of the press invited to attend the opening reception)

25 May, 2018 HONG KONG – 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is proud to present acclaimed Vietnamese-American artist Tuan Andrew Nguyen's first solo exhibition in Hong Kong. "My Ailing Beliefs Can Cure Your Wretched Desires" is a new series of art objects that explore the relationship between mythology, worship, animal extinction, human consumption and political protest.

There are beliefs in Vietnam originating from centuries of ideas in traditional Chinese medicine that consuming rhino horn can cure cancer as well as other illnesses. This has created a global environmental emergency regarding the rhinoceros population across the world, having the most impact specifically in South Africa. Tons of illegal rhino horns from South Africa have been seized en route to Vietnam and China in recent years. As well. Rhinos have recently become extinct in Vietnam.

Similarly, another species, the pangolin is seeing the same plight. Because their scales are believed to treat a multitude of illnesses, illegal pangolin poaching and trading is leading towards the extinction of the species in Southeast Asia, India and West Africa. Tuan Andrew Nguyen explains, "Many mythologies concerning the power of certain animals to cure diseases or give overall health and strength, have led to global economic crime and environmental catastrophes."

It is that layer of culture and social psychology in which mythical animals, like the dragon, the kirin (qilin 麒麟), and the phoenix are believed to be auspicious in Asian cultures and to have influence on all factors of one's life, such as health, financial success and longevity. Tuan Andrew Nguyen created this series of artworks tapping into the twisted relationship between humans, nature and mythology in Vietnamese culture.

The works from this exhibition play between the fantastical imaginaries of the past and new imaginations of futurism to explore the complexities of our relationship with the natural world as well as the possibilities of an alternative relationship to mythology and nature.

Tuan Andrew Nguyen (B. 1976 in Saigon, Vietnam) returned to Ho Chi Minh City in 2004 after completing a Bachelor of Arts, from the University of California, Irvine, USA and a Master of Fine Art, from the California Institute of the Arts, USA. In 2005, Nguyen and fellow artists Matt Lucero and Phù Nam Thúc Hà co-founded 'The Propeller Group', a creative development company specializing in experimental film, music video and original television content. His individual and collaborative art practice has been showcased in Vietnam and abroad. In 2007, Nguyen co-founded San Art in Ho Chi Minh City, an independent artist-run space and reading room, dedicated to the exchange and cultivation of Vietnamese contemporary art, with fellow artists Dinh Q. Lê, Phù Nam Thúc Hà and Tiffany Chung. Tuan Andrew Nguyen's film "The Island" was included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial of American art.

About 10 Chancery Lane Gallery

10 Chancery Lane Gallery is committed to playing a major role in documenting the development of art within the Asia Pacific region by consistently holding survey exhibitions by country or theme of emerging, mid-career and established artists, talks, forums and publishing books that bring together the individual historical context of the

artists with the development of the arts within Asia. The gallery focuses on the Asia-Pacific, however, keeps its eye on international opportunities around the world, bringing international cultural appreciation to Hong Kong.

Representing important artists such as Huang Rui, Wang Keping and Shi Guorui (China), Atul Dodiya (India), Bui Cong Khanh, Tuan Andrew Nguyen and Dinh Q. Lê (Vietnam), and Manit Sriwanichpoom (Thailand), 10 Chancery Lane Gallery is committed to playing a role in documenting the development of Asian art. The gallery has worked with curators Feng Boyi, Beyond the Red Curtain - China, Erin Gleeson, Forever Until Now - Contemporary Art Cambodia, Iola Lenzi, Subjective Truth - Thai Contemporary Art, Zoe Butt and Dinh Q. Lê, Time Ligaments - Vietnam. Katie de Tilly is President Emeritus and one of the founders of the Hong Kong Art Gallery Association.

For press enquiries and to arrange interviews, please contact Elsie Fong on elsie@10chancerylanegallery.com or +852 2810 0065.