

LÊ TRUNG CHÍNH - artist statement

BORN: in Hà Nội, Việt Nam, 1948

MEDIUM: Silk Painting

ART EDUCATION: informal

MEMBERSHIP: Corvallis Art Guild; Corvallis Art Center

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One weekend in Bodega Bay, CA, in 1995, a good friend showed me the technique of silk painting. A water-resistant resin (“gutta”) is used to outline images on a piece of stretched white silk, then fabric dyes are applied with a simple brush (Serti technique). The colors of the art piece are permanently fixed by a final steaming process.

Painting on silk provides me with reflective moments where my art world is like a coloring book. While the landscape of the Pacific North West is a paradise for artists, scenes of people in their daily life as they work, play, or simply exist are most inspiring to me. More lately, as the world around me gets more unsettling, I have taken to doing portraits of people I admire, and themes of social conscience. Within the swirling gutta contours that frame my figures in their unique life and fate, I fill in the colors of their dreams and passions, allowing each painting to take on its own short tale of fantasy, joy or melancholy.

My subjects are often faceless, for their stories are universal. The people of Việt Nam will always provide me with my deepest inspiration. The wider world of my travels, reading and music returns me to scenes and stories of our common humanity, all strung together along my own silk road.

I would like to thank my wife Jeri, whose love of bright colors helps me bring out the essence of life in my work, and all our friends and relatives who share in our artistic journeys.

Chính Lê, July 2022