

MANNY TRINH

Toronto, ON

BIOGRAPHY

Manny Trinh (born 1974 in Saigon City, Vietnam) immigrated to Canada when he was 11 years old. He is a painter and visual artist.

Trinh's practice explores the nuances of contradiction. His vivid impressions of the human landscape of his homeland — dense yet sprawling, chaotic with an underlying order, decaying but full of life and growth — have become major influences on his work.

From engaging with a bright, complementary, almost fauvist or pop colour palette to experiments in greyscale and monochrome, Manny focuses on the entanglement of fantasy and reality; encapsulating a recognizable human core within surreal technology and splintered mechanical landscapes.

The various techniques Trinh employs in wet and dry brushwork found in his acrylic, watercolour and gouache paintings are studies probing the surface and texture of our dichotomous environments, acknowledging generations of cultural evolution. Manny Trinh lives and works in Toronto, Canada.

ARTIST STATEMENT

This body of work was created during the numerous periods of lockdowns throughout the pandemic. During this time, I found myself at home with a lot more time on my hands than ever before. I wanted to give structure to my days so I created a routine where I would begin my mornings painting with watercolours. The subject matter was chosen based on what was around me in my home, found objects from daily walks, and general everyday items. Each item was painted without a specific plan which resulted in a random format. Although the format is random, the act of painting them provided some much needed structure to my days.

During the lockdowns I would keep thinking about activities that you were not allowed to do. I found myself missing human interaction through sports such as basketball, skateboarding and tennis. With everything shut down, I felt it was essential for me to maintain my creativity. The only thing I felt I could do was my art, so I decided to paint these courts that I looked forward to visiting again. Through these paintings I attempted to explore the idea of what we really miss or take for granted in our everyday lives.

CV

EDUCATION

2009-2011 Art Fundamentals, Dundas Valley School of Art, Hamilton

SELECT SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2018 SAIGONIA, Wall Space gallery, Ottawa
2015 GlassBox Barbershop, Toronto
2011 Prey Nokor, DeFacto Gallery at Mulberry House Cafe, Hamilton

SELECT GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2021 Holiday Show, Art Quarters Gallery, Toronto
2020 Papier, (Virtual Fair), with Youn Gallery, Montreal
2018 6th Anniversary exhibition, Youn Gallery, Montreal
2018 Convenience, as part of the 2018 Myseum Intersections Festival, 187 Augusta, Toronto
2017 New and Review, Wall Space gallery, Ottawa
2016 Bombay Artisan Series, Only One Gallery, Toronto
2016 Unbuild/Debuild/Rebuild, Hundred Dollar Gallery, Hamilton
2015 Good Looks Good, YOUME Gallery, Hamilton
2015-16 SurFace, 99 Sudbury, Toronto
2014 Painting Hamilton, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Hamilton
2014 Good Looks Good, DeFacto Gallery Mulberry, Hamilton
2014 The BlackCat Gallery Dundas W Gallery, Toronto
2012 Good Looks Good, Mascot Cafe, Toronto
2012 Doing it to Death, DeFacto Gallery at Mulberry House Cafe, Hamilton
2012 Outdoor mural with Montreal artist initiative En Masse, Supercrawl, Hamilton
2012 One Night Stand, Flatspot Skateboard Shop, Hamilton

COMISSIONS + COLLECTIONS

2016 Album art for the band Union Duke
2013 Album art for the band Canadian Winter, December
2013 Live painting, part of the music video "Better Things To Do," by the band Young Rival, released October
Cover art for "Sound Bites," McMaster University Radio 93.3
2009 CFMU program guide, Winter

MEDIA AND PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 *Manny Trinh's Memories of Vietnam*, Culture Magazine, August,
2016 *Brick Literary Magazine cover art*, issue #97
2013 *Vietnam Reimagined*, Descant 160: The Hidden City, Issue 160 (Vol. 45, No. 1, Spring, pages 143-153
2013 *Arts & Entertainment section*, Hamilton Magazine, Vol. 30, No.1, Winter, page 62
2012 *Emerging Visual Artist*, State of the Arts Series, The Hamilton Spectator, September
2010 *Artist hopes good things happen to those who wait*, Hamilton Community News

AWARDS

- 2016 Toronto Finalist, Bombay Artisan Series
2013 Ontario Arts Council Emerging Artist Grant
2011 Nominee, City of Hamilton Arts Award for Visual Arts
2009 Entrance Scholarship Recipient, Women's Art Association Fund