

***Centre A presents the North American debut exhibition of internationally recognized Vietnamese artist duo, Le Brothers***

**VANCOUVER, BC (September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015)** – Under the curation of Makiko Hara, and in association with LIVE 2015 Performance Art Biennale, Centre A is pleased to announce the September 11<sup>th</sup> opening of *Underlying*, the first North American solo exhibition by identical twin artist duo, Le Brothers.

*Underlying* is a 3 channel video installation by Le Brothers that according to the artists depict “a journey to the past told through an imaginary war that takes place in the water. The American war ended before we were born. However, its impacts on Hue, the city we are living in, are so remarkable. During the war, many people sacrificed their lives to protect their homeland. Through art, and through a spiritual connection with the flow of water, we try to express our gratitude to those who gave us the peaceful life.”

Le Brothers are known for their performance and video work exploring the tensions and conflicts between “North and South” by embodying colonial history and the last century’s wars. Their unique approach to history, identity and the interpretation of the past in *Underlying* results in a presentation of unforgettable events in a refined and dignified manner that invites reflection, while accelerating the viewers’ understanding and provoking a deeper respect for culture and custom.

Born in 1975, and based in Hue, Vietnam, Le Brothers (Duć Hái and Ngô Thanh Lê) are identical twins, and have performed and exhibited locally and internationally, including the 2013 Singapore Biennale, Palais de Tokyo, and at the DMZ Gang HWA in Korea. In 2014 they went on a film screening tour that included New York University, Brown University, Yale University and MIT. As founders and directors of Vietnam’s first independent contemporary art gallery and artist in residency program **New Space Art Foundation** in Hue, Vietnam, Le brothers have developed a dynamic local and global artist network since 2008.

*Underlying* at Centre A marks their first North American solo exhibition. During their residency in Vancouver, Le Brothers will make a dynamic contribution to the discussions and debates about contemporary art practice especially here in the context of this region’s political and cultural dialogues, linking the Pacific coastline and Indigenous territories with Asia. For the finale of their residency, Le Brothers will make a new performance work for the finale of LIVE! Performance Art Biennale in Vancouver.

We invite you to join us for the opening reception on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. *Underlying* will run until October 15, 2015.

PUBLIC PROGRAMMING (subject to change)

Artist Talk: How We Became Artists and How We Run The New Space Foundation

Saturday, September 12 | 4-6pm

Centre A: 229 East Georgia Street, Coast Salish Territories/ Vancouver

Free Admission

In this talk, Centre A invites Le Brothers to speak about their experience for running New Space Art Foundation in Hue, Vietnam. This will be the inaugural edition of an annual series of talks that will highlight artist run culture in Asia in occasion of SWARM, where individuals and institutions engaged in artist run culture in Vancouver will have an opportunity to build networks and gain insight from colleagues across the Pacific.

Public Lecture: In Conversation with Le Brothers: The Role of Artists in Post War Contemporary Vietnam

Wednesday, September 16 | 7-9pm

Room HC 1600 Harbour Centre Simon Fraser University

515 West Hasting St. Coast Salish Territory/ Vancouver

Free Admission

Speakers: Le Brothers

Introduced by Naomi Sawada (Morris and Helen Belkin Art Gallery)

Moderated by Makiko Hara

In this public lecture, Le brothers will present recent video works and discuss about the role of artists in post war contemporary society in Vietnam. Through this conversation, the public will be offered opportunity to explore South East Asian artist cultures with the subtext of understanding their particular socio-political and economic situations surrounding the contemporary art practices.

Performance: Story in A Story Le Brothers with collaborators

Saturday, September 27 | 7-8pm

VIVO Media Arts Centre: 2625 Kaslo Street, Vancouver

Organized by LIVE 2015 Vancouver's Biennale Performance Art Celebration

For more information, please check the [LIVE website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for updates.

*Underlying* is presented in association with LIVE! Performance Art Biennale. “In Conversation with Le Brothers: The Role of Artists in Post War Contemporary Vietnam” is co-organized with LIVE and the Faculty of Communication, Art and Technology’s Centre for Policy Studies on Culture and Communities, and the Institute for Humanities at Simon Fraser University, and the Asian Canadian Studies Society.

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### About Centre A:

Established in 1999, Centre A is Canada’s only public gallery devoted to contemporary art of the Asia-Pacific. Located in Chinatown’s East Georgia Gallery Cluster, we have presented the works of over 300 Canadian and international artists and produced over 80 original projects. As a key piece of Vancouver’s cultural infrastructure, Centre A works with artists, curators and other cultural producers from throughout the region to facilitate critical inquiry and provide a platform for conversation and artistic experimentation. Centre A is also home to the Centre A Reading Room including among a vast collection contemporary Asian art books, the Finlayson Collection of Rare Asian Art Books.

Centre A is a collaborative effort powered by generous support from:



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and our growing community of patrons, donors, members, volunteers and artists, and our volunteer board of directors.

**Available for comment on *Underlying*:**

Exhibition Curator: Makiko Hara

Artists: Duć Hái and Ngô Thanh Lê

Images and a PDF of the press release are available through our [Dropbox press pack](#).

**To arrange an interview with any of the above, or for media requests and further information, please contact:**

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