Press Release

A Lotus Blooming in a Sea of Fire

Curated by Song Hà

On view:

November 7 - December 20, 2025 Tues. - Sat., 11am - 6pm

Opening Reception: Fri. November 7, 6pm - 8pm

Location:

291 Church Street, NYC, and 3D Online

Featuring work by:

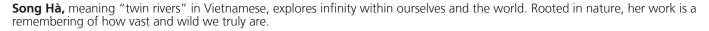
Pao Her - Leang Hu - Kenn Diep Pan - Ger Xiong

Transcending time and imagining new worlds, A Lotus Blooming in a Sea of Fire is a multidisciplinary exhibition that explores the fertile power of Southeast Asian communities surviving war, diaspora, and gendered violence.

The exhibition reimagines the body as a site of regeneration rather than ruin, and weapons as healing objects. Featuring artillery shells that have been turned into bells, Indigenous songs of new beginnings, and the intergenerational wisdom of mothers, the collected works point to a speculative archive from the future.

The exhibition draws inspiration from the late Thích Nhất Hạnh and the Buddhist parable of the lotus: a flower that blooms from the murkiest water. In this vision, the "sea of fire" represents the multiple systems — colonialism, militarism, transphobia — that attempt to engulf us. But the lotus blooms anyway. It insists on life.

A Lotus Blooming in a Sea of Fire was selected through apexart's Open Call. For more information and images visit https://apexart.org/pham.php or contact maryam.ghoreishi@apexart.org.



apexart's program supporters past and present include the Milton and Sally Avery Arts Foundation, the Kettering Family Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Buhl Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Spencer Brownstone, the Kenneth A. Cowin Foundation, Epstein Teicher Philanthropies, The Greenwich Collection Ltd., William Talbott Hillman Foundation/Affirmation Arts Fund, the Fifth Floor Foundation, The Puffin Foundation, the Trust for Mutual Understanding, The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts, and public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, public funds from Creative Engagement, supported by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and administered by LMCC, funds from NYSCA Electronic Media/Film in Partnership with Wave Farm: Media Arts Assistance Fund, with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, as well as the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the New York State Legislature.

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Pao Houa Her, *Nim ye*, 2024 (still installation view). Five-channel video, color, sound. 13 minutes, looped.