

Thang by Aaron Parten

Dinh Ngoc Thang, or rather under his artistic moniker “Thang”, is a Vietnamese contemporary painter. Born in Quang Xuong, Thanh Hoa, a province in Northern Vietnam, Thang endured a difficult childhood in the rural countryside. Despite the hardships faced in this harsh landscape, it was in this environment where he developed an appreciation and love for the beauty of both the terrain as well as the people who populated it.

Beginning his ventures into the creation of art as a self taught painter, Thang went on to formalize his study. He is also a current member of the “Young Artist Groups”. Thang practices philanthropic efforts as well, through participation in auctions to raise money for charities such as “Operation Smile” and “Art for Heart”. In 2015 with “Art for Heart” his piece “Ban Mai” raised \$50,000, enough to aid 50 heart surgeries.

As mentioned, Thang was majorly touched by the agrarian surroundings of his youth, the influence of which is easily noticed across his collections. In his early works one can see a focus on women and children, carrying on their daily tasks in the countryside. Quoted in finding love and inspiration in “the beauty of Vietnamese women, the innocence of children, and the scenery of the homeland” Thang captures moments of ordinary life, at many times consisting of punishing labor and arduous chores. As these moments occur, perhaps lacking in description any amount of romanticism, Thang reveals levels of beauty in his renditions of those and that which inspire him. With his paintings, Thang works to bring the viewer to a place where they “can feel the romantic atmosphere in each work”.

As of 2020, Thang has signed on with the prestigious Masterpiece Publishing of California, USA. His current works are on display at Winn Slavin Fine Art, a gallery in Beverly Hills representing Blue Chip artists and their art. Under the guidance of contemporary renaissance man Sir Daniel K. Winn, Thang has furthered developed the display of embodiments of beauty within his work. His current collection features a primary focus on landscapes, again intensely inspired by the environment in which he grew up. Using oil paint applied onto the canvas primarily using a pallet knife, these paintings present a feeling similar to that found in impressionist masterworks of the past, while presenting an environment not traditionally seen in such pieces.

In looking at the recent paintings created by Thang, there are numerous points which bring them to a level of mastery sought after by his contemporaries and influences alike. Thang applies a focused use of warm or cool colors, depending on the feeling he wishes to evoke through his work. This, balanced with an expert employment of light, does more than make a beautiful image, it brings the audience into the environment portrayed in the piece. Structural aspects found within the paintings of Thang also work to invite the viewer into, for example, the bamboo jungles of the Vietnamese countryside. This can be observed in the diminishing perspectives which directly pull the eyes of the viewer into the scene and along certain paths towards a deliberate focal point.

Comparable to the likes of Claude Monet, known for his emotive landscapes, and Pablo Picasso who through his own development of styles traditional at his time, established new approaches which are still studied and loved to this day.

The works of Thang can be found in the possession of collectors across the world, including his home country of Vietnam, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and the Netherlands. He has participated in such exhibitions as a display at the Vietnam Museum of Fine Arts at Nguyen Thai Hoc, Hanoi, the National Fine Art Exhibition in Hanoi, Vietnamese Painting in Seoul, South Korea, "Life, Colors and Purity" in Singapore, as well as group exhibitions in Hong Kong and the Netherlands.