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The Golden Age: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam

presented by TOPAZ ARTS, Inc.
Todd B. Richmond & Paz Tanjuaquio, co-curated with Chương-Đài Võ

an exhibition by **Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez**
in collaboration with

Carol Cassidy, Lionel Descostes, Nic Ford, Joe Fyfe, Sébastien Gouju,
Jean Sébastien Grill, Francis Morandini and Emma Perrochon

on view June 4 to 25, 2016

opening reception: Saturday, June 4, 3-6pm

Join us for a public conversation at 3:00pm, Sat, June 4th:

with artist **Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez**, art historian **Jane DeBevoise** and curator **Chương-Đài Võ**

TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program is pleased to present ***The Golden Age: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam*** – an exhibition by **Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez**, on view **June 4 to 25, 2016**. There will be an **opening reception on Saturday, June 4, 3-6pm**, with a public conversation at 3pm: with artist Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez, Jane DeBevoise (Asia Art Archive), and curator Chương-Đài Võ. Admission is complimentary. TOPAZ ARTS is located at 55-03 39th Avenue in Woodside, Queens, NY. Directions: #7 to 61st/Woodside or R/M to Northern Blvd, see details at www.topazarts.org. Gallery hours are by appointment – please email visit@topazarts.org or phone 718-505-0440.

The Golden Age: Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam is a “travelogue” and “experimental diary” of Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez’s artist residencies, projects and travels in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia over the past decade. Born in Auxerre, the French artist of Catalan, Cretan and Vietnamese descent first went to Vietnam in 2006. Influenced by his regular travels to Asia since then, he has developed a post-abstraction practice that engages with questions of translation, the decontextualization and transformation of familiar practices, and collaborations with artists of different genres and media.

When he first visited the home of his paternal forebears, Dialynas Sanchez felt disoriented and overwhelmed by the visual, aural and psychic energy of Vietnamese society. He immersed himself in the temples, museums, parks, and public life. He used art to process his experiences, and he saw Hanoi as a huge exhibition space with installations on view on every street block. The stalls, businesses, cafes and daily life that populated the sidewalks were a rich source of found abstractions and materials.

In collaboration with other artists who have visited or presently live in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam, Dialynas Sanchez creates sculptures, paintings and multi-media work that are part found forms and part artistic interpretation. The works blur the line between art and craft, tradition and innovation, painting and photography, visual art and music, and the artistic and the documentary.

Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez is a Spring 2016 Visual Artist-in-Residence at Topaz Arts, which provides exhibition space and project support for select international and local artists. Support for Dialynas Sanchez two-week residency is provided, in part, by www.laregion.fr



About:

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization founded in 2000 by artists **Todd B. Richmond & Paz Tanjuaquio**. An artist-run creative development center, Topaz supports the creative process, offering public programs for contemporary performance and visual arts.

The **TOPAZ ARTS Visual Arts Program** is made possible, in part, by the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs.

TOPAZ ARTS, Inc. is made possible, in part, by NYC Dept. of Cultural Affairs; NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer; and by the generosity of private individuals; TOPAZ ARTS Dance Programs are made possible by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation; New York State Council on the Arts, a state agency; The Mertz Gilmore Foundation; NYS DanceForce with funds from NYSCA Dance Program. More information is available at www.topazarts.org.



Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez is a French artist of Cretan, Spanish and Vietnamese heritage, currently based in Paris and Sète. He graduated from Arts & Design School of Dijon (ENSAD, 2008). He completed a post-diploma in visual arts in Lyon, under the direction of Jean-Pierre Rehm (ENBAL, 2008/2009), and a post-master program in Shanghai managed by Paul Devautour (L'École Offshore, 2013/2014). His first solo show took place at Suffusive Art Gallery in Hanoi (2007). His paintings have been included in Portrait de l'artiste en motocycliste and The artist as a collector, both curated by Olivier Mosset at Le Magasin, CNAC of Grenoble (2009); Museum of Fine Arts of La Chaux-de-Fonds (2010); and Museum of Contemporary Arts of Tucson (MOCA) in Arizona (2010/2011). He took part in an exhibition about globalization and tourism titled Cosmotopia at Le Commun, BAC of Geneva (2012), in which he showed work made in response to his time spent in Vietnam. He has completed artist residencies in Hanoi, Saigon, Vienna, Rotterdam and Boston.

Collaborating Artists:

Carol Cassidy is a weaver and fiber artist who creates handwoven silks; she exhibits and teaches around the world. She has worked in Europe, Africa and Asia for more than 40 years, exploring indigenous weaving cultures and their traditions. She is based in Vientiane, Lao PDR, where she co-founded Lao Textiles in 1990.

Lionel Descostes studied at École nationale supérieure de création industrielle (ENSCI) in Paris, and then spent four years doing art research in Japan, Singapore and Indonesia. He settled in Vietnam, where he has been living for 16 years. Alarmed by the dissolution of craftwork villages around Hanoi, Descostes taught himself and nine deaf and mute assistants a technique of single-thread embroidery that he invented and has developed over the last 14 years.

Nic Ford grew up in Manchester, and started DJ'ing in the mid nineties. One half of the British electronic music duo MadderModes, he runs Shift Coordinate Points imprint and is a resident DJ at The Observatory in Saigon.

Joe Fyfe is a painter and art critic based in New York City. Using acrylic paint on primed burlap and jute, he limits his palette to a few colors in each work. He was awarded a 2002 Adolph & Esther Gottlieb Foundation grant, and has received fellowships from Fulbright Program, Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center, Yaddo and MacDowell Colony.

Sébastien Gouju conceives sculptures, drawings and paintings that oscillate between game, figuration and reinterpretation. Such iconography leaves space for the representation of fauna and flora in their domestic, educational and decorative uses. His work can be found in private and public collections (Artothèque of Auxerre, Caen, Pessac, Strasbourg, FRAC Alsace and Champagne-Ardenne, and CNAP Puteaux-Paris-La Défense).

Jean-Sébastien Grill lives and works in Nancy, France, as an independent graphic designer and a communications manager for the city. Working with an economy of means, he creates works that may take any form of artistic expression. He lived in Vietnam for several years, and can speak and write the language.

Francis Morandini lives and works in Paris; he graduated from École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts de Lyon, FR (Master of fine arts degree). He creates documentary works that offer alternatives to uniform norms in modes of representation. Among his recent exhibitions are: Void Has No Exit (Creative Union, Hiroshima, 2008), The Clearing (Triennial of contemporary Art, Prague, 2008), Rendez-vous (Shanghai Art Museum, 2008), Numero tres (La Virreina – centre de la image, Barcelona, 2012), Falsefakes (Triennial of photography 50 jpg, Genève), The Secret Sea (Onomichi City Museum of Art, Onomichi, 2013), and Against the grain (Centre de la photographie Genève, 2014).

Emma Perrochon graduated at the National art school in Dijon, France, and then studied at the post-grade program CERCCO (research on contemporary ceramics) at HEAD, in Geneva, 2010-11. The sculptures that she develops can be seen as decorative or useful (ornaments, containers, stands, tools) as well as belonging to the specific field of contemporary art. It is in the inter-relation of the fields of design, art history, decorative arts and "spare-time arts" that she produces shapes to question the established hierarchy of useful/trivial, beauty/decoration.

Conversation at 3:00pm, Sat, June 4, with artist Frédéric Dialynas Sanchez:

Jane DeBevoise is Chair of the Board of Directors of Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong and New York. Prior to moving to Hong Kong in 2002, Ms. DeBevoise was Deputy Director of the Guggenheim Museum, responsible for museum operations and exhibitions globally. She joined the Museum in 1996 as Project Director of China: 5000 Years, a large-scale exhibition of traditional and modern Chinese art that was presented in 1998 at the Guggenheim museums in New York and Bilbao. Prior to 1996, Ms. DeBevoise was Managing Director at Bankers Trust Company where she worked for 14 years in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo and London. Ms. DeBevoise has a BA from Tufts University, an MA from the University of California, Berkeley, and a PhD from The University of Hong Kong, all in art history. Ms. DeBevoise was appointed by the Home Affairs Bureau of the Hong Kong Government to the Committee for Museums 2004-2007 and to the Museums Advisory Group for the development of the West Kowloon Cultural District 2006 – 2007. She is a Trustee of Asian Cultural Council.

Chương-Đài Võ is a Researcher at Asia Art Archive and an independent curator. Her exhibitions have been selected in curatorial competitions sponsored by apexart in New York City, New Art Center in the Boston-area, and Dorsky Gallery in Long Island City. She is a former Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; in addition, she has received fellowships and grants from Asian Cultural Council, Fulbright Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, and University of California Pacific Rim Research Program. She has a PhD from University of California, San Diego, and a BA from Johns Hopkins University.