



PROPHILIA

Richard Streitmatter-Tran

Feb. 26 – Apr. 5, 2022

About the Artist

Richard Streitmatter-Tran's work has been exhibited internationally including the de Sarthe Gallery (Hong Kong), Palais de Tokyo (Paris), 52nd Venice Biennale (2007), Singapore Art Museum/Centre Pompidou video exhibition (2011), Art Stage Singapore, Singapore Biennale (2008 & 2006), Singapore Art Museum (SAM), among many others.

In 2005 he received the Martell Contemporary Asian Art Research Grant from the Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong for his year-long research project, *Mediating the Mekong*. He was a Teaching Assistant at Harvard University (2000-2004), conducted media arts research at the MIT Media Lab (2000) and a visiting lecturer at the Ho Chi Minh Fine Arts University in 2003-4. He was an advisor to the Para/Site Curatorial Programme in Hong Kong and the San Art Artist Residency program in Ho Chi Minh City.

Born in 1972 in Vietnam, he lives and works in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. He received his BFA degree in the Studio for Interrelated Media at the Massachusetts College of Art in Boston.



About the Exhibition

PROPHILIA is an extended series of portrait paintings. Richard Streitmatter-Tran, a Ho Chi Minh based artist, looks to the mediated social world of profile images and considers their relation to the long tradition of portraiture painting. Using social media networks, he solicits profile images as initial references. He strips off their meta information and contextual tagging. He then paints portraits that transform the subjects - and in many cases, returns an image of the final paintings to the original posters.

Painting on an absorbent ground in watercolour and gouache on metal plates and woks, these ubiquitous items found throughout Vietnam often resembling reflecting mirrors. The artist searches for a connection between the immateriality of electronic screen-based lives with the material objects of everyday life.

The title PROPHILIA is an invented word bringing together the words “profile” and “philia” which means the love of something.



Fon, 2022
Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 25.50 cm (dia)



Braid Hawk, 2022 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 39.70 cm (dia)



Bean Bun, 2022 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 41.50 cm (dia)



Kenya, 2022 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 25.60 cm (dia)



Crop, 2022 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 33.80 cm (dia)



Caramel, 2022 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 33.50 cm (dia)



Calista, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 32 cm (dia)



Forest, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 44 cm (dia)



Funk, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 44 cm (dia)



Violet, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 25 cm (dia)



Towel, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 26 cm (dia)



Turn, 2019 | Watercolour on metal plate | 54.50 cm (dia)



Grey Skies, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 52 cm (dia)



Shades, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 26 cm (dia)



Sienna, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 43 cm (dia)



Red Cap, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 41.50 cm (dia)



Pensive, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 44 cm (dia)



School Girl Bob, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 46.50 cm (dia)



Squint, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 35 cm (dia)



Joint, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal | 29 cm (dia)



Crimson, 2019 | Watercolour and gouache on metal | 38 cm (dia)



Red Strap, 2018 | Watercolour and gouache on metal plate | 30 cm (dia)



Red, 2018 | Watercolour and gouache on absorbent ground on metal | 32 cm (dia)



Auburn, 2018 | Watercolour and gouache on absorbent ground on metal | 31 cm (dia)



Blue Tank, 2018 | Watercolour and gouache on absorbent ground on metal | 32 cm (dia)



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