



Love Hurts in Capital Exhibit

HA NOI — Paintings on love – drifting between the language of simplicity and that which manifests itself when confronting those complex emotions, individualities, solitude and overwhelming passion, are on display at the Bui Gallery.

The exhibition, named after a collection of short stories by US writer Raymond Carver, *What We Talk about When We Talk about Love*, includes works by Truong Tan, Nguyen Minh Thanh, Nguyen Quang Huy, Tracey Emin from the UK and late French artist Louis Bourgeois.

The women in Huy's new paintings are suffocating between crumbling reality and their shattered dreams, but appear as magnetic angels, intriguing and magnificent, they fight for the name of love.

With Thanh, the tranquil imagery, so bitter in his paintings, questions the reality, the essential, the unconditional nature of love, and questions whether it can make one complete. Tan is displaying works dating back to 1993.

Best known as artists from the golden age of Vietnamese contemporary art, Tan, Thanh and Huy have exhibited at prestigious biennial and triennial events.

Their work is also represented in famous collections such as the Fukuoka Asian Art Museum, the World Bank Art programme in Washington DC and the Singapore Contemporary Art Museum.

Tan is known as one of the few artists who has had a major influence on generations of artists in Viet Nam today.

The exhibition also features a few pieces by two extraordinary contemporary female artists – Bourgeois and Emin. Their works candidly confront themes of identity, sexuality and the fear of loss and abandonment.

Bourgeois (1911-2010) was a renowned French-American artist and sculptor, best known for her contributions to both modern and contemporary art.

She graduated from the Sorbonne in 1935 and continued to study at various other art schools. Her works are abstract; they are suggestive of the human figure and express themes of betrayal, anxiety, and loneliness.

The French artist exhibited and collaborated with well-known figures such as Duchamp and Pollock, and is recognised today as the founder of confessional art, which now includes artists such as Emin.

Considered one of Britain's most acclaimed and successful contemporary artists, Emin (born 1963, now lives and works in London) has participated extensively in group exhibitions worldwide since 1995 and has had numerous solo exhibitions.

Tracey's is a confessional art, manifested in a rich variety of media and unprecedented in its frankness and the unsparing nature of her self examination. Her work is frequently highly confrontational, but is redeemed by its honesty, good humour, self-awareness, poetry and ultimate innocence. Although she deals relentlessly with the minutiae of her own life, she touches largely on issues that are common to all, not least sexuality, mortality, and the creation of meaning in life.

The exhibition runs until November 15 at the Bui Gallery, 23 Ngo Van So Street, Ha Noi. — VNS