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CASA CAPTIVATING

Exclusive Artist Interview with Hùng Viet Nguyen



Hùng Viet Nguyen (<https://hung4art.com/home.html>) was born in Saigon Vietnam in 1957. He studied Biology at Science University, then transitioned to working as an illustrator, graphic artist, and designer since settlement in the U.S. in 1982. He developed his artistry skills independently, studying many traditional Eastern and Western forms, media, and techniques. Nguyen's compels, labor-intensive investigations of oil paint reveal a methodical mastery of textures. We interviewed Hùng and asked him some questions about his background and creative process.

Interview Questions

What made you decide to pursue a career in art?

During 6th grade, there was a writing essay test. The topic was: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

And my reply was to be an artist. However, I came from a large family and an environment that didn't favor the pursuit of art. I went to Science University in Saigon, Vietnam where I studied biology. I came to the US in 1982, and from then on, the dream of becoming an artist came back. Following my dream, I took some short courses and worked as an illustrator and graphic artist during the daytime and a fine artist at night.

What inspired this exhibition?

I love the cozy gallery space at Casa Romantica. I carefully selected the right works for the space. Since I had the honor to do a solo show, I showed side by side my two main series paintings: Sacred Landscapes and Ancient Pines. Also, I sprinkled in some works from other series. I hoped I could tell the new audience here a little more about my art and myself.

What is your creative process?

I often sketch on small note sketch-book to get some ideas about the best composition. But I usually don't look at the sketches while creating the artwork, I think that way I can bring more elements into the artwork without planning. I believe an artwork needs to have both consciousness and unconsciousness elements. I build the artwork step by step, from raw thick paints to defined textures, then details and colors adding back and forth until nothing else I can do to make it better.

When is your favorite time of day to create?

I probably work on artwork a few hours a day: 9 am – 11 am and 6 pm – 9 pm. But the hours are flexible depending on how I feel or how would the artwork becomes. Sometimes I take a few days or weeks without working, while others I spend all day finishing my artwork.

How do you encourage young artists to keep pursuing their passion?

Be responsible. Everyone wants to be a celebrity, or a successful artist, but in reality, is rare to make it. Think about what will make you happy, then go for it with all the passion and energy you have. And again be responsible with your loved ones and yourself.

See the Exhibition

Visit the exhibition SACRED JOURNEY by Hùng Viet Nguyen in Casa Romantica's art gallery. The exhibition is on view during our public hours until March 5. [Plan Your Visit](https://www.casaromantica.org/plan-your-visit/) (<https://www.casaromantica.org/plan-your-visit/>) today!

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ABOUT

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Casa Romantica Cultural Center and Gardens is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization and is the historic home of the founder of the city of San Clemente. Casa Romantica provides programs for all ages in arts, music, history, horticulture, and literature and is a premier Southern California cultural center.

PUBLIC HOURS

Monday: Closed

Tuesday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Wednesday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Thursday: 10 AM – 4 PM

Friday: 10 AM – 2 PM

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Sunday: 10 AM – 2 PM

We are closed President's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

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