



VoyageLA - LA's Most Inspiring Stories

An Inspired Chat with Hung Viet Nguyen of South Bay

Local Stories - November 11, 2025

We recently had the chance to connect with Hung Viet Nguyen and have shared our conversation below.

Hung Viet, really appreciate you sharing your stories and insights with us. The world would have so much more understanding and empathy if we all were a bit more open about our stories and how they

have helped shaped our journey and worldview. Let's jump in with a fun one: What is a normal day like for you right now?

Usually, I wake up around 8 am, clean up, have a cup of hot tea, and a light breakfast, such as a banana or a croissant. Then, go hiking or walking (about 5 times a week) nearby for 2 hours. After eating lunch, I spend the afternoon working on my artworks, and in between, I read and watch TV. The evening is almost a repeat of the afternoon. I go to bed late, around 11:30 pm to 12 am.

Can you briefly introduce yourself and share what makes you or your brand unique?

I was born in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1957. I studied Biology at Science University, then transitioned to working as an illustrator, graphic artist, and designer after settling in the U.S. in 1982. I developed my artistry skills independently, studying many traditional Eastern and Western forms, media, and techniques.

“Nguyen’s compelling, labor-intensive investigations of oil paint reveal a methodical mastery of textures. While portions of Nguyen’s work suggest the influence of many

traditional art forms, including woodblock prints, East Asian scroll paintings, ceramic art, mosaic, and stained glass, his ultimate expression asserts a contemporary pedigree.”

Okay, so here’s a deep one: What’s a moment that really shaped how you see the world?

It was happening during and after my first Los Angeles Marathon in 1985; to be a finisher, one had to complete the whole distance. From that, any achievement in life requires time and effort, no shortcuts.

When you were sad or scared as a child, what helped?

I don’t remember much from my early time; probably, I stayed alone and let time heal. Now, while I’m an old man, I pray and keep myself busy working on my paintings; then, believe it or not, things seem to find a way to be Okay.

Sure, so let’s go deeper into your values and how you think. What’s a belief or project you’re committed to, no matter how long it takes?

I’m a painter, and what I have been doing is creating pictures. I hope one day I can create a masterpiece, but as we know, the “MASTERPIECE” depends on many factors which no one can control.

I have a dream and hope for the impossible.

Okay, so before we go, let’s tackle one more area. What is the story you hope people tell about you when you’re gone?

I hope people remember me through my paintings: A spiritual, positive energy, and a humble human being.

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