

Bùi Công Khánh: one of the most performing artists of the Vietnamese artistic young generation

Bùi Công Khánh is one of the first Vietnamese artists to get an international renown during the 1990s, with his performances questioning freedom of expression in communist Vietnam. Today he is one of the 50 artists selected for the 5th Singapore Biennale that will open in October 2016. The largest exhibition ever of Bùi Công Khánh entitled 'Lac place' (Lac Chôn) was also organized in the Contemporary Arts Center The Factory, in Ho Chi Minh City, from June to August 2016. The artist integrated into jackfruit wood sculptures a multitude of stories about the history, society and culture of Vietnam, and other details of Hue imperial architecture, including wood pillars or windows. He invested a lot in this project. He used as much as 1.5 tons jackfruit wood and spent more than two years working with a team of carpenters and wood carving artisans. Bùi Công Khánh is in fact very committed to the cultural heritage of his country and jackfruit wood is a material traditionally used in community life and in particular to build boats in Vietnam. His work is a marriage between the old and modern, past and present history. He also uses different media: sculpture, painting, installation, video and sketch. His porcelain paintings Series use the traditional forms of Vietnamese blue and white porcelain vases. But the artist adds a vision of everyday life. Painter of his time, he also painted flip-flop and coca-cola cans. He also creates mural paintings, some of them being shown in Sàn Art, an independent art place in Ho Chi Minh City. "Bùi's art examines Vietnam's resilient yet destructive dance between colonial occupation, political independence and economic progress", summed up Zoe Butt, Executive Director of and Curator of the Sàn Art.