
Thu Tran's Painting At The End Of 2017 Is "The Right Of A Woman In Love"!

04/07/2018 by Yết Lam

At the end of 2017, the first time, there was an impressive abstract solo exhibition by a female artist at Vietnam Fine Arts Museum. Name of the exhibition is just one word 'Thu' (mean – autumn in English). But this is also the name of a person, the artist's name, not the autumn weather exhibition. The full name of the artist is Tran Thi Thu, but can be called Tran Thu or Thu Tran. The artist's age of life is more experienced, in contrast, her age of work is burning with youthful enthusiasm. The artist's personality and her works tell us so. It is also understandable that the artist chooses the "action painting" style to freely express her unlimited emotions, with fairly large paintings (1.5m wide; 3m - 3.5m length).



Artist Thu Tran

The first time I listened to well-known English songs, which became classics of the 80s, I felt creepy and shed my tears when I heard the song *Woman in Love* by Bee Gees composed, Barbra Streisand sang. I didn't know any English at the time, but I clearly felt the lyrics and the music of the song as if the waves were hitting regularly on the cliffs. At first, it was still gentle and mild, as later the waves became more boiling, noisy, intense, and painful, bewildered but strong, and then ragged. But the most frightening thing is that it keeps going on and on, don't know when the waves stop, as like as, maybe forever...

When I saw paintings of artist Thu Tran, I got the same feeling again. Something is persistent, intense, painful, and drastic, constant and constant, unaware of when was the limit in the way Thu draws her paintings.



Afternoon by the river – Thu Tran

There are a few people started their painting career when they are ... 40 years old. In Vietnam, at that age most of the people are stable with any career (even big or small), and then accept to reach old age, get pension. That is about men, not to mention women. Also in Vietnam, women are often tired of many things, so they get old earlier than men, women in rural areas, usually in their forties, are waiting to have a grandchild. But Tran Thi Thu dared to start devoting herself to painting at that age.

After a strange award of the master examiners with keen eyes in a Northwest region exhibition in 2010, Tran Thi Thu stepped officially into the art when she was 40 years old. Unrelated, but this reminds us of the decision of Paul Gauguin (1848 -1903), also around the age of 40, when he decided to leave Paris to Tahiti, to become the world's Gauguin painter. ...



Untitled emotions – Thu Tran

I imagine Thu's road to the painting field determinedly as a farmer makes terraced fields. At first, in the dry season, the farmer cut each of field's edge from the bottom up, these connect each other be high gradually, in many years, they have been high up to the top of the mountain. In the water season, the water at the top flows down through these edges. Born in 1970, in the Chuong (bell) village in old Hà Tây (Phường Trung, Thanh Oai, Hà Nội now), where the craft of hat-making and knitting has been famous for a long time now, but according to her family, she grew up at the "northwestern capital" Son La. She liked drawing since she was a child, when she was adult, she studied at the Central College of Music and Education and peacefully returned to Son La to start a career as a painting teacher, she thought it was over and wait for retirement in peace of mind.

However, as by an arrangement of fate, her passion for painting incited Thu to follow it, like the water of terraced field pour from top to bottom, very fast and impetuous... Firstly, from Son La, she moved to Hoa Binh to teach and go on to further study in the arts. Then she moved from Hoa Binh to Hanoi, not like many people, they come to the Capital to get a good job and accommodation at a company agency, Thu wanted to move to Hanoi to be lived and painted freely in the most vibrant arts environment than any other cities in the country. All this process, she encountered many hardships, and like other weak Vietnamese women, the artist had to shed many tears. But just like a weak and strong Vietnamese women, she wiped her tears dry with a unique indigo dyed fashion scarf, made by herself, and then continued to go ahead and paint.

She paints like the love of a child with brick-goal football, which means winning is just knocking down the brick-goal of rival team, not a lot of planning and strategy as an English Premier League kick of an adult. Therefore, Thu always draws laboriously and is full of passion.

Artist, art researcher Phan Cam Thuong, who had a lot of times to see Tran Thi Thu paints, described: "She painted very quickly, as a form of 'going into a trance', then completely entered herself into the painting, drawing with the pen, plastering with a trowel, splashing, then picking paint color and wiping by her hand unconsciously. All around the place were all stained, and perhaps it was also connected to the painting, if it could be joined together. Thu goes on drawing, tossing the pen from this place to other place in a certain rhythm from the inside of an unknown emotion, not knowing where this drawing ends, from time to time, after that pouring color and splashing. Thu prefers a poetic and powerful abstraction, freedom to express emotions uncontrollably, like a person who plunges into a thirst for love, impulses and be released by suppressed energy'.

People call this style of painting is "action painting", and researcher Phan Cam Thuong calls it in ethnic languages "paint as going into trance". That means the final effect of the picture is not as important as the great happiness when painting. It likes the right of a woman in love, if you take into account the effectiveness like other kinds of painting, maybe it becomes a consequence... But are there any traces left behind from the wonderful sensations that are not wonderful?

Most of the people don't understand the meaning of their life for something clearly, or know what they do best, or better than themselves. Most has to live under a certain rule, then at a certain age, they accept their fate, and impute to the life. Fortunately for someone who realizes early what is a significant thing in her personal life? Artist Tran Thi Thu is such a person. With her first solo exhibition, the artist only displayed under 15 large-sized paintings, a part of the paintings that she has painted continuously over two years, filled two galleries at the Museum of Fine Arts. Viewers admired the 'hot' works with many emotions of a female artist who drawing like a woman in love, in the cold of the North East. To love a specific person is quite uncertain, you can give more than get back, or can be neglected. But love for art never betrays us as a concrete figure, unless we run out of fire to heat it.../

Source:

<http://ape.gov.vn/hoi-hoa-thu-tran-cuoi-2017-chinh-la-quyen-cua-nguoi-dan-ba-dang-yeu-ds1674.th?fbclid=IwAR2HvVfAcBbVHV32CXlp4gyJf8EYfdeK iGK3ePJ1QWI8TN6E7As2Q3dhY>

Translated by Vietnam Art House