

Blurb for Events Calendar

This December, Visual Artist Nguyen Oanh Phi Phi provides audiences a rare chance to experience lacquer in a new light in her latest lacquer exhibition *Specula*. Two years in the making and monumental in size, *Specula* combines Vietnamese lacquer with architecture and mural painting, leading the viewers through an enigmatic tunnel temporarily escaping the bustling city.

***Specula* opens on December 4-31, 2009 at the Hanoi City Exhibition Hall, 93 Dinh Tien Hoang Street, Hanoi (across from Trang Tien Plaza and Hoan Kiem Lake).**

Press Release

Specula, an installation by Phi Phi Oanh

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A walk through the *Specula* reveals a multilayered network of images representing the interior of an imaginary cave. *Specula* draws from sources as diverse as the Hanoi architecture, Islamic pattern design, prehistoric cave paintings, and installation art. This cultural hybridization results in a contemporary installation that ponders age-old and universal questions of presence and existence... only now more international in character and revealing of the artist herself.

Born in 1979 in Houston, Texas, Phi Phi Oanh attended Parsons School of Design in New York and Paris. In 2004 Phi Phi Oanh studied Fresco Painting at the Fine Arts University of Madrid. In 2005 She received a Fulbright Scholarship to research traditional Vietnamese art. Known for her large-scale compositions and unique lacquer technique in *Black Box* (2007), this is her second major lacquer exhibition.

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Specula, Phi Phi Oanh

Images of the studio, work in progress



Photos by Aaron Joel Santos

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