

My le thi – artist essay



Recurrent Imagery provides an ongoing dialogue and connection with the audience and her art making practice Often uses symbolic representations within her work, predominantly of skeletons, skin colours, ladders, shoes, rice and masks In contrast to western vanitas, Thi uses the skull as a symbol of unity and as a common link between cultures and people Uses the four colours of red, white, yellow and black to represent the different skin colours of the world, addressing her opinions about racism and discrimination “ Art is about life rather than the look of the piece.” – Ma Le Thi 2006 By including reoccurring motifs and imagery within her works, she forms a continual connection between artist and audience. Audience

“ My Le Thi is a Vietnamese-Australian installation artist who has exhibited internationally. Her work challenges the notion of ethnicity and its complex language from which distinct characteristics and practices are questioned in a push towards building common links and global communities. The use of skeletal structures, feet and other forms are definitive examples.” – Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre and The Blacktown Arts Centre Thi’s primal audience is the Australian community and she has exhibited in Sydney galleries, including collaboration exhibitions such as ‘ Parallel Worlds’ with Tim Johnson at the UTS sydney World

Thi’s works are based on her experiences within her homeland, the highlands of Vietnam. However, as a Sydney based artist she is able to blend Western and Asian culture. Her works are also a response to her negative experience of the war in Vietnam where the bombing came close to her home. Her personal interest is in supporting minorities and the minority groups from her home country that are collectively referred to as the Montagnards. One of

these minorities is the Ede tribe, which possesses a strong culture based on matriarchal lineage While, she herself is not one of them, she has maintained an interest to their art and culture.