

532 GALLERY THOMAS JAECKEL  
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**Lien Truong**  
*In the Shadow of a Vessel*  
June 6 – July 2, 2019

532 Gallery Thomas Jaeckel presents *In the Shadow of a Vessel*, an exhibition of paintings by Lien Truong, opening June 6th. This is Truong's first solo exhibition with the gallery.

Lien Truong's recent paintings layer different times. Situated between the past and the future, they represent significant events in American history, pointing to an ambiguous present that conflates defiance with prejudice and moral risk. Alluding to America's legacy of perpetual war, Truong melds a soft, painterly palette with references to symbols that overflow with historical meaning.

Part of Truong's technique involves reference to historic Asian silk painting. Patterns of cloth seem to absorb the lineage of violence in the collective American psyche. In a work like "A Delicate History between the Harpy and an Angel" (2019) fabrics are set vertically, and between them cartoon nooses have been interposed. These modernized cartoon nooses emotively comment on the silk prepared and painted by the artist, in cropped, dark, figurative narrations. In "The Neurosis of Blood and Stone" (2019) strips of fabric seem to burst from the belly of a severed horse—a beast of burden too often used in wars. In both paintings, the physicality of the body becomes a ghost-like abstraction.

Vessels, like any other object that contains space within itself, can be broken; they can spill over. *In the Shadow of a Vessel* refers to, on the one hand, objects, figures, and persons ravaged by war and other affronts to personal autonomy. On the other hand, the paintings themselves are vessels, setting in relief historical indignities suffered by individuals at the hands of the state. In this latter sense, the paintings ensheath specific histories along with a retroactive desire for justice. The vessels on view give rhythm and shape to people and places whose histories have been all but erased.

**Lien Truong** was born in Saigon and immigrated to the United States. She received her MFA from Mills College and BA from Humboldt State University. Truong's work has been exhibited in institutions such as the National Portrait Gallery, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, the Oakland Museum of California, the Station Museum of Contemporary Art, The Centre of Contemporary Art in Moscow. She has been the recipient of several awards, including fellowships from the Institute of Arts and Humanities and the North Carolina Arts Council. Her work is in several public collections, including the Linda Lee Alter Collection of Art by Women, the North Carolina Museum of Art, the Weatherspoon Art Museum, Post-Vi Dai, and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.