

KV DUONG
Canadian/Vietnamese, b. 1980



KV Duong is an ethnically Chinese artist with a transnational background—born in Vietnam, raised in Canada, and now living as a queer person in Britain. He paints, sculpts, performs, and creates installations, all centred around form and materiality in response to his life experiences.

Duong's current exploration focuses on latex, how it melds and converges with rice paper and various fabrics to create deliberate and unexpected marks. He paints the front and back, working through and working over the diverse surface to create an otherworldly substrate.

"These substrates sometimes resemble a tactile heirloom, akin to a piece of history passed down through generations, while at other times, it takes on a performative, skin-like function, serving as a vessel into my intimate DNA."

Latex holds a complex web of connotations deeply rooted in the historical dynamics of rubber plantations during the era of French colonization in Vietnam. Moreover, latex embodies a queer individual's experience, evoking sexual fantasies and intimacy.

"Laden with symbolism, this glue-like substance acts as a signifier and protagonist, fusing together materials of importance in my life to help shape and contextualize my identity and ancestral past."

The motif of a door has recently emerged, representing access, or inaccessibility, border control, and division. Drawing inspiration from the stroke composition of Chinese characters,

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Duong contemplates deconstructing the structural elements of the door frame in relation to breaking down the strokes of a character and its meaning. Through this dismantling process, he critiques power dynamics and access within the identity of a nation, particularly in the context of growing tensions between different ethnicities.

Education

- 2024 MA in Painting, Royal College of Art, London UK - in progress
Vice Chancellor's Achievement Scholarship
- 2005 Master of Applied Science (Hons), Civil Engineering, University of Toronto
- 2003 Bachelor of Applied Science (Hons), Civil Engineering, University of Toronto

Solo Exhibitions

- 2022 Too Foreign for Home, Too Foreign for Here, Migration Museum, London UK
- 2020 Between the Waves, Online
- 2019 WSP Design Studios, WSP House, London UK
Letter to my younger self, RB12, London UK
- 2018 Identity, Streatham Space Project, London UK

Projects

- 2023 No Place Like Home (A Vietnamese Exhibition) Part II, Museum of The Home (Co-curator & lead artist), London UK
My Mother Is Beautiful, Collaborative performance with Xie Rong (Echo Morgan) & An-Ting Zabudowicz Collection, London UK
- 2022 No Place Like Home (A Vietnamese Exhibition) Part I, with Hoa Dung Clerget Canning Gallery, London UK
Queer Frontiers with Artiq, Soho (Co-curator & Artist), London UK
ArtCan Winter Exhibition, Kingsgate Project Space (Curator & Artist), London UK
- 2021 Materials & Process, Canning Gallery (Curator & Artist), London UK
- 2020 Transient, ArtCan online exhibition (Curator & Artist)

Prizes, Awards, and Open Submissions

- 2023 London Group Open, Copeland Gallery, London UK
- 2023 Rage and Joy, Panel Discussion (Headlong & Young Vic), Young Vic Theatre, London UK
NAE Open 2023, New Art Exchange, Nottingham UK
Christie's Lates - Outlanders: Dreams of a New Moon, Christie's Auction House, London UK
Jerwood Arts New Work Fund, with Hoa Dung Clerget
Arts Council of England National Lottery Project Grants, with Hoa Dung Clerget
Lucky Number 8, Bomb Factory (Marylebone), London UK

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Prizes, Awards, and Open Submissions Continued

- 2022 Martin Miller's Gin Emerging Art Prize, Saatchi Gallery, London UK
Home Truths: Setting the Southeast Asian Scene Symposium, Museum of the Home, London UK
- 2022 The Unhomely: Explorations of Diaspora, and cultural displacement – Panel Discussion, Museum of the Home (with Culture&), London UK
Royal Cambrian Academy Annual Open Exhibition, Conwy UK
- 2021 Barbican Arts Group Trust Annual Exhibition, ArtWorks Project Space, London UK
Jerwood 1:1 FUND, with Hoa Dung Clerget
Royal Ulster Academy Annual Open Exhibition, Belfast UK
Royal Cambrian Academy Annual Open Exhibition, Conwy UK
- 2020 Discerning Eye - Invited artist of Tabish Khan, London UK online
- 2019 Secret Art Prize - runner up, Curious Duke Gallery, London UK
Art Revolution Taipei International Competition, Taipei World Trade Centre Hall 3, Taiwan
- 2018 Artrooms 2018, Melia White House Hotel, London UK
- 2017 Winter Salon, Live body painting performance, Concept Space, London UK
- 2016 Derwent art prize, Malls Gallery, London UK GROUP EXHIBITIONS (Selective)

Selected Group Exhibitions

- 2024 Discoveries V, Fiumano Clase, London UK
- 2023 Homotopic, Cromwell Place (with Culture&), London UK
The Brink, Ugly Duck (Tanner St), London UK
Belonging, 183 Art Gallery, Toronto Canada
- 2022 Landscapes Within, Darl-e and the Bear Gallery, Woodstock UK
- 2022 The Lost and the Remained, Koppel Project Hive (curated by an.otherasian), London UK
Nuit Blanche, 401 Richmond West, Toronto Canada
More Than Meets The Eye, D-Contemporary, London UK
Field of Action with Draw to Perform, Canning Gallery, London UK
Figure and Ground, Bermondsey Project Space, London UK
Queer Photography - a non definitive survey, The Ledward Centre x SEAS, Brighton UK
- 2021 Stockholm Supermarket Independent Art Fair, Stockholm Sweden
Re:store Re:new Re:imagine - finding balance through art, Willesden Gallery (Brent Council) London UK
Absent Authors, APT Gallery (Curated by Robert Fitzmaurice), London UK
The Other Art Fair, presented by Saatchi Art, Kings Cross, London UK
The Top 100, The Department Store (Curated by The Auction Collective), London UK
Lighting it Blue for the NHS. Public art installation with W1 Curates, #LIGHTITBLUE, NHS, 161-167 Oxford Steet, London UK
Vienna Calling II -All you Need is Love, Galerie Art Pool, Vienna Austria
- 2020 Focus LDN: Cultural Diaries, Old Brompton Gallery, London UK

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Selected Group Exhibitions Continued

- 2019 Article 25's 10x10 Charity Auction, RIBA, London UK
Elevate - ArtCan Group Exhibition, Duff and Phelps at the Shard,
London UK
- 2019 Queer Frontiers. Live body painting performance, 8-10 Brewer St,
London UK
- 2018 Summer Exhibition, Concept Space, London UK
Opening Line, Crossways Gallery, Cambridge UK
- 2017 Tribe 17, OXO Bargehouse, London UK
- 2016 Tribe 16, Ugly Duck, London UK

Public Collections

- London School of Economics, London UK
Capital Group, London UK
Ashurst Collection, London UK