



FONDATION  
D'ENTREPRISE  
**HERMÈS**

Exhibition  
**Thu-Van Tran**  
"Une place au soleil"

From July 12, 2018  
to January 7, 2019

La Grande Place  
Musée du cristal Saint-Louis  
Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche

Curator  
Marie Cozette



LA  
GRANDE  
PLACE  
MUSÉE DU CRISTAL



CENTRE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN  
LA SYNAGOGUE DE DELME

**PRESS KIT**

## EXHIBITION

### **Thu-Van Tran**

“Une place au soleil”

(“A Place in the Sun”)

From July 12, 2018 to January 7, 2019

Opening on Wednesday July 11, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

La Grande Place

Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis

Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche

**This solo exhibition by the artist Thu-Van Tran at La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, in Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche (Moselle, France) is produced by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. It forms part of the Foundation's continuing support for temporary exhibitions at its own art spaces (in Brussels, Singapore, Seoul and Tokyo) and in collaboration with national art institutions (“Formes simples” at the Centre Pompidou-Metz, “L'Esprit du Bauhaus” at the MAD, Paris)**

Each year, the Foundation presents two exhibitions of contemporary art at Saint-Louis, with a focus on artisanship and/or skilled expertise. Each season of three monographic or themed exhibitions is co-produced with a leading cultural institution in the Lorraine region, in association with the Cristallerie Saint-Louis and La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis. Following the inaugural and follow-up seasons, in partnership with the Centre Pompidou-Metz and 49 Nord 6 Est – Frac Lorraine (Metz), the Foundation has invited the Moselle-based contemporary arts centre La Synagogue de Delme to devise the third cycle of exhibitions.

Under the title “L'héritage des secrets” (“The Heritage of Secrets”) Marie Cozette, director of La Synagogue de Delme, has devised a series of three exhibitions exploring the historical, architectural, aesthetic, technical and human facets of the crystal workshops, over their 400-year existence. Marie Cozette says: “The guest artists for the series — art duo Hippolyte Hentgen, Thu-Van Tran, and Dominique Ghesquière — have immersed themselves in the unique world of the Cristallerie, to create new works that seek to diffract meaning, just as crystal diffracts the light.

“For her solo exhibition at La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, Thu-Van Tran has initiated a new series of rubberwood sculptures, each incorporating a (defective) crystal object initially destined for the scrapheap. The resulting works mingle two unique materials, each with its own distinctive story. [...] These sculptures, which are presented in glass cases, are also the basis for a series of photograms. Inspired by the silent gathering of a community of women that the artist witnessed in Hong Kong during a recent trip to Asia, the images are imbued with powerful, poetic message of resistance.”

#### **Curator Marie Cozette**

Director of the CAC – La Synagogue de Delme

#### **Guest Artist Thu-Van Tran**

Born 1979 in Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam), lives and works in Paris (France).

Thu-Van Tran, *In the Fall, in the Rise*, 2017.  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



# Press Release

“Thu-Van Tran was born in Ho Chi Minh City in 1979 and came to France with her family in 1981. Her identity is defined by two geographically and culturally distant horizons, connected by the twists and reversals of history. Her work explores the meanders of the intimate and collective memory, and enshrines her own genealogy in a wider historical and symbolic perspective. Her sculptures, photographs, films and installations embody a poetic sense of distance and displacement.

For her solo exhibition at La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, Thu-Van Tran has initiated a new series of rubberwood sculptures, each incorporating a (defective) crystal object initially destined for the scrapheap. The resulting works mingle two unique materials, each with its own distinctive story. Imported from Indochina in the 1920s, rubberwood is cultivated intensively for the rubber industry. Rubber saplings are grown as grafts on a host plant, and the wood's appearance is modified by its environment. This process of 'reciprocal contamination' is central to Thu-Van Tran's work, in which materials and objects stain one another, flow, 'weep', and sometimes leave traces of their presence.

Traces of presence are also central to the photograms produced by the artist for the exhibition, using the rubberwood and crystal sculptures that are displayed in glass cases. The imprint of the objects and bodies placed on the light-sensitive paper becomes a fully-fledged figurative mode, a kind of 'representation in reverse', in which absence becomes the matrix for other potential narratives.

The series of photograms is inspired by the silent gathering of a community of women, witnessed by the artist on the streets of Hong Kong on a recent trip to Asia. On Sundays, women domestic workers spend the day sitting on the ground together on the footbridge linking the city's central business district to the harbour, invading this crossing as a stationary mass. Their powerful presence, occupying the public space, is in direct contrast to their fragile social and economic status. Far from being a burden on society, these women are the fabric that holds it together, supported by the solidarity of their own community.

Thu-Van Tran captures these disparate symbolic, social, historic and technical elements to create a powerful, poetic message of resistance.”

— Curator **Marie Cozette**, Director of the CAC – La Synagogue de Delme



# About “L’héritage des secrets”

A cycle of three monographic exhibitions devised by the CAC – La Synagogue de Delme and La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis.

“Imagine for a moment that the colourful, sparkling carafes, vases, and millefiori paperweights that line the shelves of the museum are the products of magic, divination or witchcraft. In this context, they would stand as the archaeological record of past rites whose origins and secrets we have yet to discover: a mystery to which three successive artists each offer their own, poetic solution, opening the doors to further mysteries along the way...

‘L’héritage des secrets’ is a series of three monographic exhibitions exploring the historical, architectural, aesthetic, technical and human facets of the museum and the workshop it celebrates, over the 400 years of its existence. In the neighbouring workshops that are the beating heart of the complex, artisan expertise is handed down from one generation to the next, through skilled gestures acquired over the course of a lengthy initiation. The guest artists have immersed themselves in the unique world of the Cristallerie, to create new works that seek to diffract meaning, just as crystal diffracts the light that passes through it.”



# Guest Artist



Thu-Van Tran  
Photo Julie Dao Duy

**Thu-Van Tran** was born in 1979 in Ho Chi Minh City, in Vietnam. She lives and works in Paris. She has presented solo exhibitions at Ladera Oeste (Guadalajara, Mexico), the n.b.k. Neuer Berliner Kunstverein (Berlin, Germany), the Macleay Museum in Sydney (Australia), the Musée des Abattoirs (Toulouse, France), and La Maison Rouge (Paris, France).

Her work has been shown at the Moderna Museet (Stockholm, Sweden), the Art Sonje Center (Seoul, South Korea), the Vehbi Koç Foundation (Istanbul, Turkey), the Edition Block (Berlin), the Plateau-FRAC Île-de-France (Paris) and the Crédac (Ivry-sur-Seine, France), where she is also planning a solo exhibition for spring 2019. She is a nominee for the Prix Marcel Duchamp 2018, for which her work appears at the Centre Pompidou in the same year. She took part in the 57th Venice Biennale in 2017, curated by Christine Macel. In 2014, she co-curated the exhibition "Duras Song", with Jean-Max Colard, dedicated to the work and archives of Marguerite Duras. The exhibition was held at the Bibliothèque Publique d'Information (BPI), at the Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris).

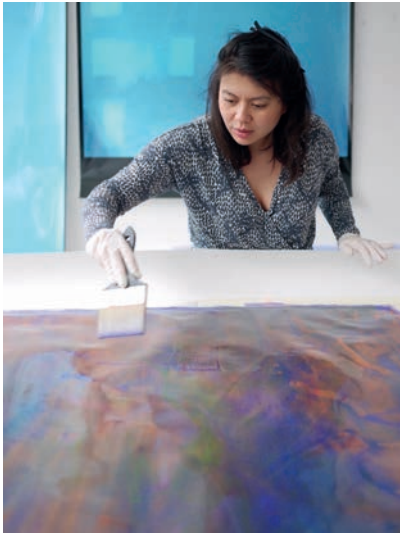
Thu-Van Tran is represented by the Meessen De Clercq gallery (Brussels, Belgium), and is currently preparing her first solo show at the Rüdiger Schöttle gallery (Munich, Germany).



# Press Images

High-resolution images available for download at [www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/en/press-room](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org/en/press-room) (password on request).

Views of the exhibition available after the opening.



Thu-Van Tran  
Photo Julie Dao Duy



Thu-Van Tran, *In the Fall, in the Rise*, 2017. Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *In the Fall, in the Rise; Penetrable; The Red Rubber* (detail), 2017  
View of the exhibition "Viva Arte Viva", Biennale di Venezia, 2017. Photo: Thu-Van Tran  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels





Thu-Van Tran, *The Red Rubber*, 2017  
View of the exhibition at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2017.  
Photo: Åsa Lundén  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *The Red Rubber; Penetrable*, 2017  
View of the exhibition at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2017.  
Photo: Åsa Lundén  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *Penetrable*, 2017  
View of the exhibition at Moderna Museet, Stockholm, 2017  
Photo: Thu-Van Tran  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *From You to Faith, in the Rise*, 2016  
Photo: Eric Baudart  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *We live in the flicker*, 2016  
View of the exhibition at Ladera Oeste, 2016. Photo: Éric Baudart  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *L'imaginaire - Jackson*, 2009  
Photo Éric Baudart  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels





Thu-Van Tran, *Without Stain #1* (détail), 2012  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *Air and Dreams #1 & #2*, 2017  
View of the exhibition at Galerie Joseph Tang, Paris, 2017  
Photo: Aurélien Mole  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *Au Couchant Fordlandia*, 2015  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels



Thu-Van Tran, *Au Levant Phu-Rieng*, 2015  
Courtesy of the artist and Meessen De Clercq, Brussels





## La Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

The Fondation d'entreprise Hermès supports men and women seeking to learn, perfect, transmit and celebrate the creative skills that shape our lives today and into the future.

The Foundation operates eight major programmes centred on skills, creativity and transmission: **New Settings** for the performing arts, **Exhibitions** and **Artists' Residencies** for the visual arts, **Immersion** for photography, **Manufacto – the Skills Factory** and the **Skills Academy** for the discovery and perfection of artisan trades. **H<sup>3</sup>** is the Foundation's worldwide programme of support for organisations whose work reflects these central aims. The **Biodiversity & Ecosystems** programme enacts a core commitment to protect fragile ecosystems for future generations.

The Foundation's diverse activities are governed by a single, over-arching belief: Our gestures define us. • [www.fondationentreprisehermes.org](http://www.fondationentreprisehermes.org)

## La Cristallerie Saint-Louis

Founded in 1586, the Müntzthal glassworks became France's "Verrerie royale" in 1767, when the factory received letters of patent from Louis XV, and changed its name to the Verrerie Saint-Louis. The secrets of crystal-making were discovered at the workshop in 1781. The factory joined the Hermès Group in 1989. Every day, Saint-Louis produces signature crystal wares — tableware, decorative objects, lighting and furniture — created by master glassworkers and glass cutters honoured with the title Meilleurs Ouvriers de France. All are the custodians of unique, ancestral expertise, handed down and enriched from generation to generation: Saint-Louis crystal is blown, shaped and decorated by hand, in 24-carat gold or platinum.

Each year, the Saint-Louis crystal workshops host an artist working in situ as part of the **Artists' Residencies** programme organised by the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès. The programme gives participants carte blanche to create new works using the exceptional materials transformed at each workshop, in collaboration with the teams of artisans. **Emmanuel Régent** is artist-in-residence at the Cristallerie Saint-Louis for 2018.

### → Guided tour of the Cristallerie Saint-Louis

Beginning at the Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, in the company of an expert workshop guide, the detailed tour introduces visitors to each of the skilled artisan trades that are the bedrock of Saint-Louis's international renown: master glassworkers shape objects from the molten crystal, followed by the work of the master glass cutters, engravers and gilders. The tour includes a visit to the paperweight workshops, to discover the fascinating world of these remarkable objects, beloved and collected by the French writer Colette. The visit continues with an overview of the contemporary collections, continuing the factory's centuries-old tradition of creativity and innovation through the work of in-house and guest designers such as French artist Noé Duchaufour-Lawrance. The chandelier workshops bring the visit to a dazzling conclusion. Throughout the guided tour, visitors are able to observe at close quarters the work of leading artisans honoured with the title Meilleur Ouvriers de France.

| Guided group tours (advance bookings only): Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

— except mid-July to mid-August, Christmas, New Year and public holidays

Duration: 90 minutes (EN, FR, DE)

Bookings: +33 3 87 06 64 70 – [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com) • [lagrandeplace.fr](http://lagrandeplace.fr)



## La Grande Place musée du cristal Saint-Louis

Opened in 2007, at the heart of the crystal workshops complex, La Grande Place Musée du Cristal Saint-Louis, presents a permanent collection of 2,000 pieces reflecting Saint-Louis's crystal-making heritage. The 953-metre itinerary witnesses 400 years of expertise, through works representing the many iconic skills practised at the site, together with videos illustrating the artisans' gestures and skills today. Designed by Lipsky + Rollet to reflect and enhance the building's original architecture, the museum offers a fun, instructive insight into the unique properties of Saint-Louis crystal.

| Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Tuesday.

• [lagrandeplace.fr](http://lagrandeplace.fr) – [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com)

## The Cac – la synagogue de Delme

Over twenty-five years, the Moselle-based contemporary arts centre La Synagogue de Delme has mounted over 60 exhibitions and developed a strong identity as an innovative, experimental workshop and venue. Artists are invited to work on specific projects, and works are often produced in situ. The unusual space — a former synagogue in an Orientalist style, built in 1881 to serve a small town of 1,000 people in a rural area 35 kilometres from Metz and Nancy — stages three or four exhibitions each year.

Parallel to its programme of exhibitions, the art centre runs artists' residencies in the village of Lindre-Basse, hosting three artists per year, each for a period of three months. The artists create new projects that resonate with the surrounding landscape, and the Lorraine region's Natural Park area.

In 2012, the centre opened an additional space dedicated to cultural and teaching activities. Following an open competition, the building — a public commission — was designed by artists Berdaguer and Péjus. • [www.cac-synagoguedelme.org](http://www.cac-synagoguedelme.org)



# Selected highlights from the Fondation d'entreprise Hermès

Programme **Manufacto, the Skills Factory**  
First year of workshops in twenty schools  
Île-de-France, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, France  
October 2017 → June 2018

Programme **Artists' Residencies**, third season,  
three artists-in-residence in Hermès workshops  
**Sebastien Gouju**,  
mentored by Françoise Péetrovitch  
**Emmanuel Régent**,  
mentored by Michel Blazy  
**Vassilis Salpistis**,  
mentored by Isabelle Cornaro  
2018

**Exhibition Marie Cool Fabio Balducci**  
La Verrière, Brussels, Belgium  
April 18 → July 7, 2018

Programme **Skills Academy, #4**  
"Textiles"  
Call for applications  
April 3 → July 5, 2018

**Exhibition Mircea Cantor**  
"Adjective to Your Presence"  
Le Forum, Tokyo, Japan  
April 25 → July 22, 2018

**Exhibition Jeremy Sharma**  
"fidelity"  
Aloft at Hermès, Singapore  
May 17 → August 19, 2018

**Exhibition Lili Reynaud Dewar**  
"Beyond the Land of Minimal Possessions"  
Atelier Hermès, Seoul, Korea  
June 1 → July 29, 2018

**Support Taysir Batniji**  
Exhibition "Gaza to America,  
Home Away from Home"  
Les Rencontres d'Arles, France  
July 2 → September 23, 2018

Programme **New Settings #8**  
**Anagoor**  
**Jeanne Candel**  
**Nora Chipaumire**  
**Ola Maciejewska**  
**Vera Mantero**  
**Ali Moini**  
**Christos Papadopoulos**  
**Philippe Quesne**  
**Lia Rodrigues**  
**Émilie Rousset**  
**Émilie Rousset & Louise Hémon**  
**Hiroshi Sugimoto**  
**Virginie Yassef**  
September → December 2018

**Exhibition Min Oh**  
Atelier Hermès, Seoul, Korea  
September 6 → November 4, 2018

**Exhibition Ismaïl Bahri**  
La Verrière, Brussels, Belgium  
September 21 → December 1, 2018

**Exhibition "Les Mains sans sommeil I"**  
Artists' Residencies 2014, 2015, 2016  
**Clarissa Baumann, Lucia Bru,**  
**Célia Gondol, DH McNabb**  
The Forum, Tokyo, Japan  
September 13 → November 4, 2018



## Visitor information

### La Grande Place Musée du cristal Saint-Louis

Rue Coëtlosquet  
57620 Saint-Louis-lès-Bitche, France

Exhibition open to the public from July 12 to January 7, 2019.

Daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except Tuesday.

Free admission with a valid museum ticket (tarifs: €6, €3)

Or with a combined ticket for the museum and the Manufacture de Saint-Louis (tarifs: €17, €10)

→ **Information** +33 3 87 06 40 04 or [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com)

→ **Booking** +33 3 87 06 64 70 or [lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com](mailto:lagrandeplace@saint-louis.com) [www.lagrandeplace.fr](http://www.lagrandeplace.fr)

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