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# Vietnam values

## Women's perspectives come alive with strokes of cultural, historical nuance

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**DON'T LET THE TITLE** steer you away. "Changing Identity: Recent Works by Women Artists from Vietnam" offers a lively, colorful and thought-provoking experience.






(ENLARGE)

Dinh Thi Tham Poong's work (above) puts watercolor to rice paper to show countrywomen gathering vegetables in the woods. Ly Tran Quynh Giang's art (below) uses brushy strokes to achieve a Euro style in "The Winter." They are among 10 artists in a touring show called "Changing Identity: Recent Works by Women Artists from Vietnam" at Kennesaw State University through Feb. 21.



(ENLARGE)

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The 10 artists in this touring show at Kennesaw State University represent a spectrum of styles and agendas that reflect not only personal interests but also the history of their country. A few examples:

- **Dinh Thi Tham Poong**, who was born in the mountainous northern province, puts watercolor to rice paper in stylized and sumptuous visions of her countrywomen gathering herbs and vegetables in the woods. Their colorful costumes create striking silhouettes against the verticals of the trees.
- One of several artists who came to America at the end of the Vietnam War, **Phuong M. Do**, a Fulbright scholar, has contributed a series of self-portraits — in her American home, visiting [family](#) in France and in Vietnam — that suggest feelings of dislocation as well as the vastly different lives her family members lead.
- **Ly Hoang Ly** has adopted Western art forms, like installation, [video](#) and performance, to express her vision. She suggests the tension between traditional domestic roles and contemporary feminism by painting flying women on the backs of serving trays, which she uses to build structures, to clang together in performance and to create a costume.
- **Nguyen Bach Dan** melds East and West in landscapes that suggest Chinese ink drawings filtered through Western modern art.
- The Euro vibe of **Ly Tran Quynh Giang's** paintings, with their brushy surface and rich palette, bear the DNA of France, which, during its century-long rule, set up an art academy and influenced architecture.
- **THE 411:** Through Feb. 21. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays; 7-9 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1-4 p.m. Saturdays. Sturgis Library Gallery, Kennesaw State University, 1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw. 770-499-3223, [www.kennesaw.edu/arts](http://www.kennesaw.edu/arts).



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