

sketches

*Revisiting the Histories of
Saigon Performance Art*

Nguyễn Art Foundation invites you to participate in *Sketches: Revisiting the Histories of Saigon Performance Art*, a program within the framework of *Phụ Lục Project*. An examination of the 2000s in Saigon reveals a noticeable gap in research and archival work on performance art. Although a number of significant events and individuals played formative roles in shaping the performance art scene in Saigon, their contributions have yet to be adequately acknowledged and historicized within an art-historical framework that remains partial and incomplete. A few representative milestones may be highlighted as follows:

- 14th International Performance Art Conference, held from 2–8 October 2006 in Da Lat and Ho Chi Minh City. The conference was co-organised by Blue Space (Vietnam), Concrete House (Thailand), ASA European (Germany), and Global Affairs (Austria), bringing together over 30 artists from 19 countries, and included workshops at the Ho Chi Minh City Fine Arts Association.
- Project One, a Saigon-based performance art group active between 2004 and 2008, comprised 5 core members Ly Hoang Ly, Bui Cong Khanh, Pham Trung Hau, Ngo Thai Uyen, and Richard Streitmatter-Tran.
- performance plus, a program dedicated to performance art organised by MoT+++ between 2018 and 2019. performance plus was conceived as an experimental initiative that challenged prevailing notions of performance and encouraged artists to expand the medium's definitions and boundaries.

Through this open call, we invite emerging researchers, writers, and students to delve deeper into the three events, groups, and programmes outlined above, including, but is not limited to, activities such as gathering source materials, mapping key milestones, tracing personal and institutional networks, and situating Vietnamese performance art practices within their broader historical and cultural contexts.

ELIGIBILITY

- Undergraduates, emerging researchers, writers who can speak and write Vietnamese
- Currently living and working in Saigon
- With an interest in performance art and Saigon's contemporary art history

Applicants are not required to have prior experience working with performance art, but should demonstrate an interest in research methodologies, experimental approaches, or critical perspectives within contemporary art and cultural history.

APPLICATION MATERIALS

- 01 statement of interest (max. 800 words) outlining the applicant's motivation and preliminary research proposal (including the research context, proposed topic and approach)
- 02 writing samples (academic writing, curatorial texts, journalism, or research-based creative writing)
- CV (Resume)

Please submit all materials in PDF format to info@nguyenartfoundation.com

BEFORE 23:59, 28/02/2026

TIMELINE

28/02/2026 Application deadline
09/03/2026 Announcement of selected participants
15/05/2026 Public presentation of ongoing research
31/05/2026 Final submission deadline

SUPPORT & BENEFITS

- An honorarium of 6,000,000 VND for each completed and published research output;
- Potential support for pitching and publishing research on other platforms (journals, independent publications, regional research platforms), depending on the direction and format of each research;
- Support in connecting with artists, organisers, and relevant individuals or spaces for interviews and further research;
- Editorial support throughout the research process, including feedback on content, structure, and presentation.

FORMAT & EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Selected participants will develop a text-based research project, which may incorporate visual or creative elements. Each participant is expected to:

- Develop an interview questionnaire and conduct at least one recorded conversation or interview (with artists, organizers, or related individuals)
- Present their ongoing research in a public talk at Nguyễn Art Foundation
- Produce their research outcomes in one or more of the following formats:
 - An annotated timeline of the three events or programs
 - A research essay
 - Other experimental research formats (to be proposed in the application)