



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Galler Hours: Thursday-Saturday, 12-5 PM and by appointment

Gallery Artist MyLoan Dinh Receives Prestigious Award at ArtFields 2022

Charlotte, North Carolina—Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art proudly announces gallery represented artist MyLoan Dinh as the winner of the Second Place Grand Prize of the renowned 2022 ArtFields Competition in Lake City, South Carolina. ArtFields, founded in 2013, features an annual competition and exhibition offering more than \$100,000 in cash prizes, and a \$25,000 Second Place award. This competition was created, and functions, with the goal of honoring visual artists in the Southeast through a nine-day celebration, which serves as a revitalizing force for the city.

On the eve of Asian American Pacific Islander Desi Heritage Month (#AAPIDHeritageMonth), Dinh's win is groundbreaking, as she is the first Asian artist to win a major award at Artfields in its 10-year competitive history. The winning work, *Thanks, No thanks*, addresses issues of sexual violence against Asian women and Anti-Asian Hate, social justice concerns that Dinh places foremost not only in her creative practice but also in her life. Dinh states, "At first glance, the boxing speed-ball appears playful—sugary, even sweet, given the mosaic of clay conversation hearts that enfold it. But more serious currents flow beneath its eye-catching veneer. While its central refrains—'Thanks' and 'No Thanks'—are some of the simplest expressions available to us, their almost obsessive repetition lends them an ambiguous force. To what are they responding? The work is part of a series that challenges cultural myths and false narratives contributing to the sexual violence against Southeast Asian women in contemporary America, and more broadly, the work is a repeated call to stop Anti-Asian hate." The nature of her winning work, along with the collective body of Dinh's works, are vital vessels for expressing overlooked experiences, and authentically documenting and uplifting Asian narratives. Dinh's achievement also highlights the deep, creative talent at work in Charlotte, North Carolina: she is

the first Charlotte-based artist to win a major award in the ArtFields competition. The award marks yet another milestone of recognition for the city of Charlotte and its thriving artist community.

The media is invited to view MyLoan Dinh's current solo exhibition *Mixed Blessings* at Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art through private appointments (schedule at info@eldergalleryclt.com) or during normal gallery hours. Additionally, the following program will be offered in conjunction with Dinh's exhibition:

Demystifying Performance Art: A Conversation with MyLoan Dinh and Jonell Logan, Vice President and Creative Director at the McColl Center & *Longing for Harmonies* Performance by MyLoan Dinh

Saturday, June 4, 2022 | 11 AM

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demystifying-performance-art-tickets-323473035557>

About Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art

Elder Gallery of Contemporary Art consistently curates thought provoking exhibitions and events that encourage critical thinking and conversation and specializes in content-driven contemporary art. The gallery represents established artists and emerging talents who challenge traditional materials and aesthetics, as well as those who embrace abstract, figurative and representational aesthetics.

Named as a must-see Charlotte destination by *Fodor's*, Most Relevant Art Gallery by *Elevate Magazine*, and Best Art Gallery in Charlotte for the past four years by *Charlotte Magazine*, the gallery collaborates with forward thinking visionaries to continue its broad exhibition program, welcome a wide audience, and make art accessible to communities across the spectrum – from local to virtual.

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