

**TOO FOREIGN FOR HOME,
TOO FOREIGN FOR HERE**

2 APRIL - 29 MAY, 2022

KV DUONG

Migration Museum
Lewisham Shopping Centre
London SE13 7HB



I was born in Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam in 1980 and migrated to London in 2010. I grew up in Canada to Chinese Vietnamese parents displaced by the Vietnam War. In my work I explore themes of migration and cultural assimilation, through a re-examination of my parents' and my own experiences. I am a self-taught artist with a background in structural engineering.

The central piece Resurrection is a live body painting performance about my family's journey from Vietnam. My father was drafted to the war but was thankfully dismissed because of his glaucoma. My mother was shot in the hand while carrying her sister and fleeing their home. My aunts were boat people who made it to Canada via the Bidong island refugee camp. The burning of paper in the performance refers to the Buddhist philosophy of burning joss paper to pay homage to our ancestors. Resurrection was performed at the APT Gallery in Deptford last summer.

In Family Portraits, foreground images of my British work visa and portraits of my family and siblings are overlaid on top of an aerial view of a refugee camp. The facial features are deliberately blurred to present a universal experience of migrants.

In the sculptures, small-scale building blocks are precariously balanced to portray the experience of new immigrants living in a foreign country.

In Classroom, a historic background of the Lewisham high street is overlaid with children's school desks. Between 1975 and the 1990s, around 22,000 Vietnamese refugees resettled in Britain, principally in London and clustered in Hackney, Deptford, and Lewisham.

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For sales and enquiries, please
contact the artist directly

50% of all sales proceeds will be
donated to the British Red Cross
to aid with the crisis in Ukraine.

Prices are inclusive of VAT

Supported by Lewisham's Creative Enterprise Zone and SHAPES Lewisham



RESURRECTION

Live body painting performance at APT Gallery
London UK. 2021

Acrylic, charcoal, soil and organza on 300 gsm
burnt paper.

W150 x H275 cm

https://youtu.be/f0eeJFvgZ_U

(Price on asking)

This performance is about the migration journey
of my family from war-torn Vietnam. The burning
of the paper canvas refers to the Buddhist
philosophy of burning joss paper to pay homage
to our ancestors. Burning of paper also evokes
the Western idea of rising like a phoenix from the
ashes.



FAMILY PORTRAITS

Acrylic and transfer on rusted steel plate
W18 x H24 cm (x3), 2021

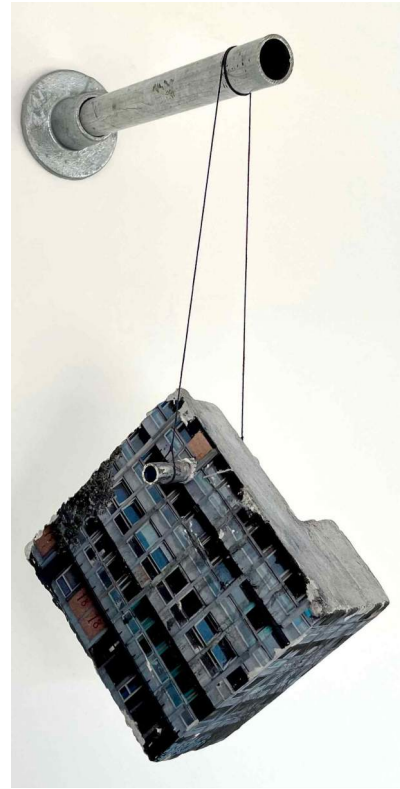
£500 (unique edition of 3)

The foreground images are of my 2012 British work visa, my family portrait from Vietnam, and a portrait of me and my siblings. The background image is an aerial view of a refugee camp.

Often a portrait is presented with the clarity of the sitter's features but shows no insight into their life story or identity. This series of portraits deliberately blur the facial features and blend the sitters with a background image related to their history. The blurred face presents a universal representation of a migrant's experience.



STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY
W18 x H30 x D18 cm, 2021
£500



IN TENSION
W25 x 45 x D30 cm, 2021
£500



SIMPLY SUPPORTED
W23 x H15 x D15 cm, 2021
(not for sale)

Sculpture medium: Acrylic, charcoal, and transfer on concrete grout over found polystyrene. The image transfer is of the Robin Hood Gardens estate in East London.

These small scale sculptures portray the precarious experience of new immigrants living in a foreign country. Their living conditions are often unpredictable, particularly for those who are displaced by war.



Lewisham High Street looking towards Lewisham Road (1960s)

CLASSROOM

W18 x H24 cm, 2022

£200 (unique edition of 3)