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Kunstpreis der Deutschen
Volksbanken und Raiffeisenbanken

Press release

Berlin, 18. October 2007

blauorange: Winner's exhibition opens on 23 November 2007

Danh Vo, 'Untitled' Installation

Brandenburgischer Kunstverein (BKV) Potsdam e. V.

Brandenburger Str. 5/Luisenforum

14467 Potsdam, Germany

24 November 2007 - 20 January 2008, Tues-Sun 12 - 6:00 p.m.

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Danh Vo, the winner of the 2007 blauorange art prize awarded by the Deutsche Volksbanken und Raiffeisenbanken (German Co-operative Banks), has created a new installation named 'Untitled' for the prizewinner's exhibition. The exhibition will open on 23 November at the Brandenburgischer Kunstverein Potsdam with the ceremonial presentation of the art prize (7:00 p.m.).

A chance encounter became an inspiration: Two years ago, the artist saw a dark-skinned woman with frizzy hair at the edge of a main road through the mountainous region of central Vietnam. He spoke to her and noticed that she, like him, had an inadequate command of the Vietnamese language. Her native tongue was that of an indigenous tribe from the region - where the toughest fighting of the Vietnam war took place. Her appearance revealed that her father must have been a black American soldier. On the walls of her hut, she had drawn Latin letters for practice. Under the colonial rule of the French, the symbols of the written Vietnamese language, which were derived from Chinese, were abolished.

In the search for his own roots, Danh Vo had found, in a presumably 'unspoiled' hinterland of Vietnam, numerous signs of 'Western' culture. In his installation named 'Untitled', using various objects and materials that he has since sought and collected, he



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wants to reveal the limitations of the Western concept of the 'other' or 'primitive' culture.

Danh Vo studied at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen and the Staedelschule in Frankfurt. Vo is a Danish citizen and has lived in Berlin since 2003. His installations, which are composed of documents, photos and appropriations of works of other artists, address the issues of identity and belonging.

A new concept for the art prize of the German Cooperative Banks has been implemented: it focuses on encouraging and supporting young artists living in Germany. A jury composed of art association directors selected the winners from nominations by professors at German art academies. The blauorange art prize is awarded annually and is endowed with 20,000 euros.

Further information is available at www.blauorange.bvr.de.

Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter www.blauorange.bvr.de

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