

Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF) - Dr Gene Sherman - brings her concluding architectural *Fugitive Structures* project to Sydney, opening 7 July 2016



Green Ladder

A temporary architectural pavilion made entirely from bamboo – the steel of the 21st century

Sydney, Australia: The architectural pavilion titled *Green Ladder* has been created by one of the world's 'edgiest architects' - Vo Trong Nghia (New York Post 2015) and will be on public display at SCAF from 24 June to 10 December 2016. Award-winning architect, Vo Trong Nghia will be in Sydney for the opening of *Green Ladder* and will present a talk at SCAF during the opening week.

SCAF's Fugitive Structures now in its fourth and final year, was the first series in Australia to explore the potential of temporary pavilions as tools for experimentation and for investigating new architectural concepts. Dr Gene Sherman, Executive Director of SCAF comments: "The design of this final SCAF pavilion centres around two central pillars of Vo Trong Nghia's approach to architecture: the innovative use of bamboo, and his passion – and self imposed duty – to green the world's urban landscapes with plants and vegetation."

Vo Trong Nghia Architects *Green Ladder* is constructed to resemble a dense green forest, and to raise awareness of bamboo's strength and viability as a 'green steel' building material. SCAF visitors will be able to enter and hide amongst the elegant grid-like bamboo construction of the pavilion.

Vo Trong Nghia Architects (VTNA) has won numerous awards and created highly innovative and functional buildings throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Vo has instilled in his practice, of 60 Vietnamese and international architects, engineers and staff, a unique work philosophy based on a mandatory 2 hours of daily meditation and frequent silent meditation retreats for the team. He is on a mission to encourage other creative companies throughout the region to embrace his work ethic and his environmental goals.

VTNA delivers green spaces to concrete urban jungles – as he says, 'greening the city by architecture'. Vo was born in rural central Vietnam in a house without electricity; won a scholarship to study in Nagoya, Japan before completing further studies in Tokyo. In 2006 he founded VTNA and the practice has rapidly grown. His company is based in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City where the population has reached 10 million and green space equates to a mere 0.25%. VTNA combines traditional methods and materials within a sophisticated contemporary architecture practice. VTNA's award winning projects have included a 'Kindergarten Farm' for children of factory workers, the 'House of Trees' within the most densely populated area of Ho Chi Minh City, and an unbelievably beautiful tree covered university campus. VTNA has won numerous international architectural awards, most recently six *Green Good Awards* (annual awards granted by the Chicago Athenaeum and The European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies) and the French *Green Era Award* 2016 for the sublime Sheraton Phu Quoc Resort.

In keeping with the philosophy of VTNA, SCAF has organised a series of talks and events in association with *Green Ladder* including an architect's talk by Vo Trong Nghia on Thursday, 7 July 2016 at 5pm. Throughout the six-month period that the Pavilion will be on display at SCAF there will be a series of meditation and yoga programmes, details will available at <http://www.sherman-scaf.org.au>.

- Ends -

MEDIA CONTACT: For interviews with Vo Trong Nghia and Dr Gene Sherman and general press inquiries, please contact Claire Martin [art]iculate, 0414 437 588, Claire@articulatepr.com.au or Kym Elphinstone, Kym@articulatepr.com.au, 0421 106 139.

Notes

Green Ladder, SCAF's fourth *Fugitive Structures* architectural pavilion will be on display at Sherman Contemporary Art Foundation (SCAF), 24 June – 10 December 2016, 16-20 Goodhope Street, Paddington, Sydney NSW 2021. Access is free of charge and open to the public Wednesday to Saturday 11am to 5pm. For further details contact: www.sherman-scaf.org.au. SCAF's *Culture+Ideas* series offers ideas, workshops, panel discussions and events for children.

Fugitive Structures was the first series in Australia to explore the potential of temporary pavilions as tools for experimentation and for testing new concepts. It was always intended to be a series of four annual pavilions and has included: 2013 – Andrew Burns's *Crescent House*; 2014 – AR-MA *Trifolium*; 2015 – Sack and Reicher + Muller's *Sway*; and concludes in 2016 with Vo Trong Nghia Architects' *Green Ladder*.

Vo Trong Nghia Architects (VTNA): Vo Trong Nghia is known for developing sustainable architectural designs by integrating inexpensive, local materials and traditional skills with contemporary aesthetics and contemporary methodologies. Working on a range of cultural, residential and commercial buildings, the practice also focuses on greening urban areas with long-term goals for Vietnam's sustainability. VTNA has received numerous awards, including five World Architecture Festival Awards, ARCASIA award, WAN 21 for 21 Award and FuturArc Green Leadership Award, and most recently six Green Good Design Awards (one in Italy and five in Vietnam). In 2012 Vo was named Architect of the Year in Vietnam. VTNA has designed the Vietnamese pavilion for the World Expo in both Shanghai (2010) and Milan (2015). Recently, the practice was invited to participate in the Chicago Architecture Biennial (October 2015 – January 2016), and constructed a pavilion for the 30th anniversary of TOTO Gallery Ma Tokyo.

Green Ladder is presented in partnership with BVN Architecture.

Exhibition Partner



SCAF is proudly supported by the Patrons' Circle

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SCAF's Fugitive Structures 2016 pavilion is presented in Brisbane as part of the Asia Pacific Architecture Forum, an initiative of Architecture Media and State Library of Queensland.

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