

**Bamboo Lane / Revisited**  
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## **For your Consideration & Immediate Release**

### **“Open to the Four Winds” Long Nguyen – oil paintings**

Reception for the artist:  
Saturday March 19th 7-10pm  
exhibit dates: March 19 – April 23

Bamboo Lane / Revisited is proud to exhibit a selection of later large-scale paintings from the series, “Tales of Yellow Skin”, by Long Nguyen. Although the term “yellow skin” has many stereotypical connotations, the use of this term to label his work is meant to have a universal meaning through his personal story.

Born in Vietnam, Nguyen fled, at the age of 16, during the onset of the Communist regime. His memories of the influx, leaving his homeland & the traumatic witness of a gruesome suicide on the crowded refugee boat that literally bloodied his clothes, are the experiences that shroud his paintings.

Perhaps it is all a nightmarish blur, as indicative of the fields of monochromatic yellow on his canvas. Yet within this blur, we see refined details, rich tones & elaborate impastoreflective of flesh, organs, seedpods & other pieces not only of his memories, but of his thankful & insightful life as an Asian American. Rooted in Eastern Medicinal practice, the organs represent ideal harmony within the body & the seed pods are symbols of Taoist transformation – both philosophies in line with the body as a vessel & a metaphor for the vessels on which so many Vietnamese people traveled to flee their country.

The portion of the series that will be on display at the gallery, as it has evolved from 1997 – 2002, is approaching its final stages. The color is still yellow, but the tones are softer. There is less darkness, & more creamy, milky & golden tones. The symbols represented are still evident, but they too are softer – more delicate than in the early 90’s. The hardships of the past are still portrayed, but are less obvious, & more open too their levels of interpretation. Perhaps it is wisdom, of knowing & being, which has given Nguyen a sense of self with his work that has developed over the course of coming to terms with the embedded pain of his past.

Regardless of the artists’ meanings, the viewer can simply get lost in the pure glow of color & the expanse of detail.

Long Nguyen completed his mid-career retrospective in 2003 at The San Jose Museum of Art which included a catalogue featuring contributions by Elaine H. Kim & Peter Frank. Nguyen has exhibited nationally & internationally at numerous museums, institutions & galleries. He has an extensive bibliography & is the recipient of several awards, including the National Endowment of the Arts, The Fleishhacker Foundation grant & two time recipient of the California Arts Council grant.

Bamboo Lane / Revisited is an historic venue featuring two gallery rooms & a limited editions shop. We are located in Chinatown, in an alley north of College, between Hill & Broadway, with parking in Empress Pavilion structure at Bernard.