

# Textures of Remembrance:

## Vietnamese Artists and Writers Reflect on the Vietnamese Diaspora

April 30, 1975 holds significant meaning for Vietnamese people on different shores. This date marks the end of decades of war and the beginning of the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese. It is a date often remembered as a loss by those of South Vietnamese descent. For others, it is a date that denotes new beginnings. Such experiences may be harrowing, joyous, inspired, tragic, or tender... but they are rarely shared or heard.

Curated by the Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN), *Textures of Remembrance: Vietnamese Artists and Writers Reflect on the Vietnamese Diaspora* presents an intimate perspective of this diasporic experience. The creative pieces showcased here reflect our community's range of thoughts and emotions. These narratives texturize the Vietnamese diasporic experience, in which refugees are not objects of rescue but instead subjects of artistic and political transformation.

DVAN believes that the stories and creativity of a thriving Vietnamese diaspora can connect our global community. We champion and pass on these stories to current and future generations to make evident the complexities within our communities.

*Textures of Remembrance* evolved from the stories collected from emerging writers and artists shared on DVAN's online publication *diaCRITICS*. In 2019, editor Dao Strom launched "(Re-)membering April 30th" as a call for submissions for the diasporic community to reflect on the historic day in terms of both the past and the present. Today, this exhibition builds upon these reflections by drawing upon the following themes: Memory and Trauma, Roots and Belonging, War, and Refuge.