



Obscured Brilliance:

100 years of Vietnamese Lacquer Art 1925-2025

Patron: The Earl of St. Andrews

Curated by: Elizabeth Thomson, Saeko Ando and William Hanbury-Tenison

This exhibition, the first of its kind in the UK, will be held at the **SOAS Gallery** in central London from early **October to end December 2025**.

The timing of the exhibition coincides with three important **anniversaries**: the 80th anniversary of the Proclamation of Vietnam Independence at Ba Dinh Square, Hanoi in 1945, the 50th anniversary of the Reunification of the country in 1975, and the 100th anniversary of the opening of the *Ecole Superieure des Beaux Arts de l'Indochine* (Indochina Art School) in 1925.

The exhibition will open about the same time as the Vietnam Embassy holds its annual **National Day** celebration and continue through **Asian Art in London** week in early November 2025, both of which will boost its visibility and attract more visitors. Many people of Vietnamese heritage will travel to London to see the exhibition.

This exhibition will tell the story of **Vietnamese lacquer art**, a hybrid art form that came into being due to French and Vietnamese artists collaborating in the 1920s and that has continued to flourish throughout the ensuing periods of war and independence, with about **80 paintings** as well as other media setting the art form in context and explaining its unique qualities as a medium.

In order to make this exhibition happen we need to raise **£200,000**. We have applied to the **Arts Council** for a **£100,000 grant**, but need to match that in private commitments. **Dominic Scriven OBE has already committed £40,000**. I am challenging 11 members of the British community in Vietnam and the Vietnam community in the UK to commit £5000 each. I will then also

commit £5000. These commitments must be in writing and sent to our grant applicant Liz Thomson PhD asap. Please contact me first to discuss your commitments. Thank you in advance for supporting this exhibition. Williamtenison@gmail.com or +84877395835 for WhatsApp and Zalo