

Press Release

## Dinh Q. Lê *South China Sea Pishkun*

Audio-visual installation  
Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 January 2011, 11am-6pm

CBSO Centre, Berkley Street, Birmingham B1 2LF  
Free entry

Ikon presents *South China Sea Pishkun* (2009), the first animation by Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê. Inspired by events of 30 April 1975 at the end of America's war in Vietnam, the film is based on the desperate escape by the South Vietnamese and Americans in the face of the advancing Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army.

Hundreds of helicopters packed with escapees were flown toward the South China Sea, searching for aircraft carriers. Many crash-landed when they ran out of fuel; others were pushed off the carriers' decks into the sea to make room for more to land. The title of the animation - *Pishkun* - refers to the site used by the Blackfoot American Indians to kill roaming bison by driving them over a cliff. Projected large-scale at the CBSO Centre, it shows the last moments of a machinery of war, crashing, struggling and dying in the sea.

Born in Vietnam in 1968, Dinh Q. Lê was raised in California. He is best known for his technique of weaving photographic strips to create striking new images. His work has been exhibited worldwide, including at the Museum of Modern Art (New York) and the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

This event is organised in collaboration with Birmingham Contemporary Music Group.

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**Saturday 22 January, 5.30pm**

**Dinh Q. Lê introduces screening of *When the Tenth Month Comes*  
CBSO Centre**

Artist Dinh Q. Lê gives a talk and introduces a screening of *When the Tenth Month Comes* (1984), a classic wartime melodrama made nine years after the Vietnam War. The film provides a rare insight into the post-war lives of Vietnamese citizens, told from their perspective.

This event forms part of Ikon's Vietnamese Film Festival Weekend. Check [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk) for more details.

**Ends.**

**Note to Editors:**

1. The CBSO centre is located on Berkley Street, five minutes walk from Ikon.
2. Ikon is open Tuesday – Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays, 11am - 6pm. Free entry.
3. Ikon Gallery is a registered charity and receives core funding from Birmingham City Council and Arts Council West Midlands.
4. A selection of images is shown below.
5. For more information and images please contact Helen Stallard, Press and PR Consultant, on 0774 033 9604 or [h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:h.stallard@ikon-gallery.co.uk)

# IKON

Ikon Gallery, 1 Oozells Square, Brindleyplace, Birmingham B1 2HS  
TEL. +44 (0) 121 248 0708 / FAX. +44 (0) 121 248 0709  
WEBSITE. [www.ikon-gallery.co.uk](http://www.ikon-gallery.co.uk)  
Ikon Gallery is a registered charity no. 528892



Dinh Q. Lê  
*South China Sea Pishkun* (2009)  
Courtesy of the artist



Dinh Q. Lê  
*South China Sea Pishkun* (2009)  
Courtesy of the artist