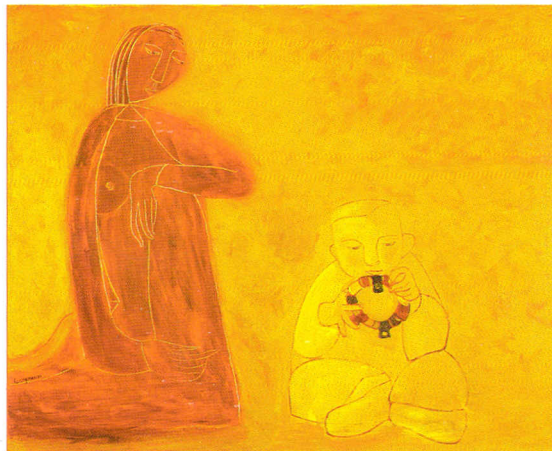


galleries, professionals, and all types of enthusiasts of this artistic discipline. A new feature for this edition is that *LOOP* has moved to the city center. The Hotel Pulitzer (Bergara, 6-8) will be the ideal site for the event. Admission is 10.

LOOP features the latest works of emerging and established video artists. Two complimentary projects, *LOOP: The Video Art Fair '06* and *OFF-LOOP '06*, are linked together with the shared objective: to make Barcelona for nearly two weeks the international destination for all video art enthusiasts. Conferences, roundtables, artists' talks and more than 50 spaces, including museums, cultural centers, art galleries, bars and stores through out the city, together with the fair, form this international event.

LOOP '06 will transform the rooms of the Hotel Pulitzer into exciting exhibition spaces. Further, the visitor will be able to view 10 international premieres and numerous new works of 40 leading galleries from around the world. A complete program of conferences and roundtables, *Video Feedback*, compliments the galleries' video exhibitions. Moreover, major video art distributors and contemporary art magazines form part of the *Video Zone*, a space that highlights the latest publications and video works in current distribution.

OFF-LOOP '06 will extend throughout vital points on Barcelona's cultural map. *OFF-LOOP '06* creates a platform for bringing together the disparate artistic energies surrounding video and transform them into a global network. The project programs its own contents and incorporates the proposals of the major cultural institutions of the city. At the same time, this exhibition offering is filled out with diverse shows at alternative exhibition spaces and cultural programming. Among the spaces that will participate in this year's *OFF-LOOP* include Antoni Tàpies Foundation, CCCB, Miró Foundation, Caixa-



Lan Nguyen, *Under the Sun*, 2006, acrylic on canvas, 46 x 52 inches.

Forum Mediateca, MACBA, Casa Àsia, Institut Francès, La Capella, Goethe Institut, La Virreina, Caja Madrid, Santa Mònica, Metrònom, L'Antic Teatre, Distrito Quinto, Telematique, Centre Civic Barceloneta, Espai Úbu, Nau Ivanow y Miscelànea, among others. Admission is free.

...

THE UNITED STATES

Country Songs

Vietnamese artist Lan Nguyen will present *Country Songs*, a solo exhibition of her recent paintings depicting folk traditions of rural Vietnam, at Noho Gallery in New York, from July 25 through August 12, 2006.

Born in 1968 and raised in Hanoi, Lan Nguyen attended the Fine Arts University of Hanoi where she studied graphic arts. After graduating, she relocated to the United States where she exhibited in New York City and Pittsburgh, and later to London, where she held several solo shows. Nguyen now lives and works now in Hong Kong.

Her subject-matter in *Country Songs* is scenes from traditional countryside life in Vietnam, such as Cheo opera. Executed in acrylic on canvas, Nguyen seeks to evoke emo-

tions that are common to people regardless of nationality.

Noho Gallery is located at 530 West 25 Street, Fourth Floor, New York, NY 10001. For further information visit www.lan-art.com or send e-mail to: lannguyen@hotmail.com.

...

HONG KONG

Art Of Accumulation

Art Statements and *The French May* will present the first exhibition in Hong Kong by Barthelemy Togu, May 1-31, 2006.

Accumulation is fundamental to Barthelemy Togu's work. Togu was born in 1967,

in Cameroon, and now lives and works in Paris. He shows his watercolors in large series and makes his sculptural works from numerous heterogeneous parts. Togu's titles are all in English—an instance of his ironic play with dominant modes, given that he is a Francophone. His texture is generally rough and quick, whatever the medium, and he treats contemporary art as a sort of lending library, borrowing from the work of Boetti, Clemente, and Cragg, among others. His deft appropriations may be seen as an inversion of the historic pillaging of Africa during the colonial period.

Togu's watercolors provide a strong visual beat, using a limited repertory of images and colors to depict a dreamy world of human, animal, and vegetal metamorphosis. Sexy female bodies sprout plant life or undefined organs; a male body extends into a spiraling elephant trunk. Rows of nails frequently appear planted in the bodies, an intimation of physical pain in this generally joyful world. His watercolors, with their humor, erotic energy, and sense of possibility, are the most accessible part of his endeavor, if the least critical of the here and now.

Art Statements Gallery is located at 5 Mee Lun Street (down from 85 Hollywood Road), Central. Tel/Fax: (852) 2122 9657. www.artstatements.com. Δ



Barthelemy Togu, *Life Trial*, 2006, mixed-media installation, dimensions variable. Photograph: Courtesy of Art Statements.