

# Exhibit samples the simple by US artist

Thu Ng c

HCM CITY- An American painter is trying to help young people love simple art instead of running after unreal values found in fashionable works.

Joe fyfe, in his first exhibition in Vi t Nam, is showing 13 paintings at Mai's gallery using natural vietnamese materials as canvas to highlight his message that "art is simple".

"I have spent more than 30 years trying to learn and understand the simple meaning of art. For me painting featuring life and people presented in the most simple ways will be fresh in viewers' minds forever," says joe Fyfe, a teacher from The New Shool in New York.

Joe says he has met many young vietnamese artists who are in contact with the modern lifestype. "I think they are very active and intelligent, but tend to create work following Western trends.

"I want these artist to know that Vi t Nam and its rich culture is an endless source of inspiration," he says.

To evoke his ideas , Joe decide to create his works using light colours and simple materials during his recent time in Hà N i and HCM City.

"I know many people in HCM City now enjoy performance and installation works while my paintings are so simple," he says. "But, through my exhibition, I want viewers to try to enjoy a nature world of earth and water and people in their basis instinet.

"I hope the viewers will have many new insights about art."

Joe has visitted Vi t Nam many times and he gets his inspiration from the countries and locals. He has seen what Vietnamese people, particularly youngsters, can do .

"I found my creative stype here", he says.

Organiser of many exhibitions in the US and other countries, Joe won several awards by fine arts associations. He has worked as a teacher for some fine arts shools in New York and in Los Angeles, he is also a researcher of contemporary art.

Joe's exhibitbition runs until june 10 at 16 Nguy n Hu street, District 1, opening every day from 9am to 9pm.

***(according to Vietnam news, issued on may 31th, 2004)***

## Joe Fyfe's paintings of rivers and night skies

Huu Thang

"It look me 30 years to express my art in my paintings," said Joe Fyfe before opening his "Rivers and Night Skies" Exhibitbition at Mai's Gallery last week.

On a dozen differently sized paintings on canvas are small dots and stripes that appear at first glance to be very monotorous but in the artist's eyes, they are meeting between modernism and contemporary art.

Fyfe believes that his paintings should express his longing for simplification, so that material objects become the content of art and tell their story.

In his work, the spiritual is given a shape, a form in the material world: towns, rivers, red balloons, whatever are painted with great simplicity.

Fyfe is openly proud of having his paintings, which he produced in Vietnam, exhibited in HCMC, and says this is his way of entering into direct communion with the country, its natural beauty, its ancient architecture, its endless mountains and valleys.

From nearly 30 exhibitions under his name, Joe Fyfe has won such awards as the Bessis in 1986 for the design of 'the memory Theatre of Giulio Camillo', the Handnollow in 1999, and the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Prize in 2002.

Fyfe's show at Mai's Gallery, 16 Nguyen Hue Boulevard lasts until June 6.

***(according to Saigon Times Daily)***