

## ART GALLERY NEWS RELEASE

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(press & tour inquiries)

**Tufts University Art Gallery**

at the Aidekman Arts Center 40R Talbot Avenue

Medford, MA 02155

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*Paramount*, 2003, C-print and linen tape, 33½ x 66¼ in., Collection of Shoshana & Wayne Blank

## A Tapestry of Memories: *The Art of Dinh Q. Lê*

January 22–March 29, 2009

**Public Opening Reception: Thursday, January 29, 5:30-8:30pm**

**Artist's Presentation: Thursday, January 29, 4:30pm**

**Panel Discussion led by C. David Thomas: Thursday, February 12, 6:00pm**

**Curatorial Tours of the Exhibition: 2/7, 2pm; 2/21, 2pm; 3/12, 6pm; 3/26, 12pm; 3/28, 2pm**

**MEDFORD, MA** – The Tufts University Art Gallery proudly presents *A Tapestry of Memories*, a hallmark survey exhibition on the work of American and Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê. This exhibition of 18 photo-weavings, 2 white-on-white embroideries, 2 video installations, and one installation draws from museum and private collections across the nation and spans the artist's oeuvre since 1995.

Physically dislocated and culturally displaced from his homeland, Lê has sought to negotiate his Vietnamese background within the prevailing philosophical, aesthetic, and cultural values of the West during the late 1980s and 1990s. His work intricately layers cultures as the artist literally weaves multiple strands of identity and experience, history and memory, mythology and reality, conflict and resolution. The artist uses a traditional Vietnamese grass mat technique to weave together strips of film stills, photo-journalistic images, and anonymous vintage photographs “to present *my* point of view because I feel that information out there doesn't speak to and of *my* experience...the weaving brings together and yet it's disrupting...you can still see the iconic image, but at the same time it's breaking up and there's this new image merging and forming...there are all these stories underneath that the public rarely knows about, and I think what I'm doing is exposing the *other* story.” In addition to his works about Hollywood films and American perceptions of the Vietnam War, Lê also treats subjects of religion, the tyranny of the Khmer Rouge, and personal and collective stories of Vietnam.

Born in Vietnam in 1968, Dinh Q. Lê escaped his hometown of Ha Tien in 1977 when it was invaded by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge regime. His family emigrated to Los Angeles in 1979; it was as a student at the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1989 that the artist began to create the woven photographic work for which he is known, and when he started to question the “mythology” of Vietnam being perpetuated in American schools and popular films. After completing his studies there and in New York, he chose to return to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where he currently lives and works. Lê was the winner of an Individual Photographer's Fellowship from the Aaron Siskind Foundation, his work was included in the Venice Biennale and is in museums such as the Museum of Modern Art, NY; Kyoto Museum of Art; the New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

*A Tapestry of Memories: The Art of Dinh Q. Lê* is organized by Bellevue Arts Museum and made possible in part by the generosity of The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation. A full-color hardbound catalogue is available. For complete programming information (dates, times, and locations) visit our website at [www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery).

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The **Tufts University Art Gallery** animates the intellectual life of the greater university community through exhibitions and programs exploring new, global perspectives on art and on art discourse. The Gallery is located in the **Aidekman Arts Center** on Tufts University's **Medford** campus. The Gallery is fully accessible and admission is free. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00am to 5:00p.m; Thursdays until 8:00pm. **Free** daytime visitor parking is available in the two parking lots off Lower Campus Road. Parking passes must be obtained at the front desk of the Tisch Gallery and displayed on your dashboard. Free event parking is available without a pass in the lot behind the Aidekman Arts Center, off Lower Campus Road. Call **617-627-3518** for more information or visit [www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery](http://www.ase.tufts.edu/gallery).