

## Nga Nguyen



Born in Saigon, Vietnam in 1962. Nga came to the United States just before the fall of Saigon, in 1975. She had her first art exhibit in 1983. She studied the Japanese technique of Urushi lacquer art since 1976 and has perfected the technique. She also studied at the New York School of Interior Design which

gave her a sense for decorative expression as well as artistic expression.

Nga's images capture a serenity and a chaos, with hope overflowing throughout. Nga's work draws upon the natural world and embodies her intriguing fusion of philosophy, imagery and materials. Following in the tradition and technique of Japanese lacquer art, her work also reveals the influence of several nineteenth century European painters, notably Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh, and the native artist Henry Rousseau. Discussing these European influences, she says Gauguin's work attracted her by "his bold colors, solid Tahitian women and dreamy, poetic message." She studied the "rich mixture of colors and strong expressive touch of Van Gogh" and found "a sense of mystery and danger" in the primitive jungle and animals painted by Rousseau. She explains that in her early twenties proximity to Washington, D.C., enabled her to tour the National Gallery of Art every Sunday and to see exhibits at the Corcoran Gallery and the Phillips Collection. On trips to Paris and New York she visited major museums, where she studied the European paintings.