



## Four Seasons



**B**ath-based Oc-Eo Art specialise in Asian Fine Art; Vietnamese in particular. Named after the maritime port which was the capital of the ancient Funan civilisation of Vietnam, Oc-Eo Art is inspired by a rich history of art and culture, and aims to showcase the wealth of contemporary talent in Asia throughout the UK.

Oc-Eo Art return to Chapel Row this December with *Four Seasons*, an exhibition of both Vietnamese and Chinese Fine Art. The work on show is an extraordinarily creative celebration of the seasons, which are so key to both agricultural and city life, and which are marked throughout the year with colourful festivals and customs.

In the Chinese paintings on display

flowering trees and insects, fruit and animals all feature, not just as symbols, but also as an opportunity for artists to create images meant to bring to mind the sensations of each season. This imagery heralds the slow lengthening of the days, the scent of blossoms, the ripening of fruit, golden leaves dancing on the trees, the solitude of autumnal streets, the long rains, and the whites and greys of winter.

In contrast, the Vietnamese works show a greater Western influence, which stems from the establishment of l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Hanoi by French artist Victor Tardieu in 1925.

Over one hundred students graduated from l'Ecole, including the so-called 'three pillars', Bui Xuan Phai (1921-1988), Nguyen Sang (1921-

**Main image:**  
*Fishing Season* by  
Dao Hai Pong, 65  
x 80 cm.

1988) and Nguyen Tu Nghiem (b. 1922). These three artists went on to play a significant role in reconciling national traditions with achievements in contemporary Vietnamese art, and directly influenced the young artists who today are producing images that are fresh, compelling and full of vitality.

In these modern works, new images, motifs and techniques are being seen which blend Eastern and Western cultures. Chinese ink, handmade paper, and traditional lacquer contrast with acrylics and oils; impressionism, expressionism, cubism and fauvism are utilised in the evocation of traditional Vietnamese themes such as the village, the countryside, and daily life. The results are beautifully graceful and almost dream-like in their serenity.



This page, clockwise from above: *Riverside Street* by Pham An Hai, 80 x 65 cm; *Old Town in Rain* by Duong Ngoc Son, 85 x 100 cm; *Four Seasons II Spring* by Pham An Hai, 25 x 25 cm; *Hanoi under the Rain* by Le Than Son, 70 x 90 cm.



*Four Seasons* will run from 30 November to 12 December at:

Chapel Row Gallery  
6 Chapel Row  
Bath  
BA1 1HN

The gallery is open Monday to Saturday from 10am - 6pm.

For more information, contact Peter or Carol Quintana at:  
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Image left: detail from *Lovers Tryst in Purple Cloud* by Wang Ming Fang, 68 x 68 cm.

