

TRONG GIA NGUYEN



+32 456 04 19 44
+1 347 690 1316

trongish@gmail.com

Brussels, Belgium

SKILLS

- Out-of-the-box solutions and strategist
- Team player with a deep array of experiences in many sectors while possessing a dynamic, flexible skillset
- Strong verbal and written communication (English)
- Proficient in technology and apps:
Microsoft Office
Adobe Creative Suite
Davinci Resolve
Sketchup
Canva
WordPress
Etc.
- Strengths in manual studio practices including:
Carpentry and production
Painting and construction
Film and photography
Custom picture framing
Etc.

LANGUAGES

- Native English speaker
- B2 in Vietnamese
- A2 Level in French

WORK EXPERIENCE

Current / Recent

- Chief Judge, 2026 UOB Painting of the Year Prize, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam and Singapore
- Special Projects Designer, *Ordinaire*, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, design special edition of furniture
- Special Projects Designer, *Ginkgo*, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, design special edition of prints and t-shirts
- Art Direction and Brand Advisor, *Les Petits Riens* (2026), aid lead interior designer with store remodeling and concept navigation, Brussels, Belgium
- Independent Researcher, *Bloom Association* (2026), investigative research for environmental NGO, Paris, France
- Copywriter, *Dar Kawa / Valerie Barkowski* (2023-CURRENT), pen social media content, newsletters, blogs, and web materials for lifestyle brand, Brussels, Belgium

Writing, Publishing and Research

- Copywriter, *Lebon / Riviera Bella* (2020-21), pen social media content, newsletters, blogs, and web materials for lifestyle brand, Brussels, Belgium
- Arts Writer (2003-ongoing), conducted interviews and wrote articles, exhibition and product press releases, artist statements, and grant writing for numerous entities in the art, design, and lifestyle sectors, including: *Brussels Exclusive Labels Magazine*, *CoBoSocial*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *New York Arts Magazine*, *Artslant*, *Feight and Volumer Gallery*, *Diva Art Fair*, etc.
- Senior Editor, *Artslant.com* (2007-09), oversaw a team of 10 writers for coverage of art and cultural events, New York, USA
- Blogger, *Art21*, wrote articles and conducted interviews for this acclaimed television program, New York, USA

Creative Direction, Film, Theater, Product Design and Fashion

- Writer/Director, *The Leavers* (2026), a multimedia theater performance about the immigrant experience
- Director/Producer, *The Last Letter Writer* (2021), documentary film about the last public translator in Vietnam
- Scenographer, *House* (2019), dance performance with Kerman Dance Company that performed to audiences in Vietnam and France
- Digital Animator, *Exil* (2017), theater performance written by Céline Alexandre that traveled in Vietnam and Hong Kong
- Product Designer, *Ordinaire* (2026), designed an artist collection of furniture for mid-tier furniture brand, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- Product Designer, *LA Loop* (2024), designed the 25th anniversary product for eyewear accessory company, Los Angeles, USA
- Interactive Installation Designer, *Lacoste* (2012), designed a full room video and sculptural installation at the brand's flagship store, Miami, USA
- Shoe Designer, *Be & D* (2013), designed a special edition of high top sneakers for boutique brand, New York, USA
- Product Designer, *Hotel Particulier* (2012), designed a special collection of gold-leafed chairs for boutique brand, New York, USA
- T-shirt Designer, *Misnomer Dance Company* (2007), New York, USA

HOBBIES

- Tennis, basketball
- DIY projects
- Travelling and exploration
- Technologies and gadgets

AS AN ARTIST

- Exhibited artworks in galleries and museums worldwide in over 200 exhibitions
- Artworks in private and public collections internationally
- Garnered grants and awards from prestigious museums and residencies worldwide

EDUCATION

- Master of Fine Arts, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, USA
Major in Painting
- Bachelor of Fine Arts, Major in Painting
Minor in Art History
University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL, USA

WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Technology and Website Design

- Freelance Website and Branding Designer (2002-CURRENT), created and built numerous websites (HTML, Wix, Squarespace, WordPress) for sustainable businesses, non-profits, arts professionals and galleries including: *Draft Animal Power*, *Art Table*, *Tresors d'Altitude*, *Decoradar*, *H&S Foundation*, *Zabriskie Gallery*, etc.

Travel, Events, Public Relations and Marketing

- Co-founder, *VIETNAMOI* (2023-CURRENT), a travel agency that organizes art-focused trips annually to Vietnam and Morocco
- Co-founder, *Art Hijack* (2004-07), boutique PR agency that catered to the cultural sector. New York (USA). Clients included *DIVA Art Fair*, *Freight and Volume Gallery*, *Decoradar*, *Lab Gallery*, *Girlee Detroit*, etc
- Fundraiser (2003-12), conceived and organized benefit auctions and charity events for organizations including *Dystonia Foundation*, *Residency Unlimited*, *War Child*, and others
- Event Organizer, *Pool Parties Summer Music Festival* (2007), curated special events for weekly outdoor music festival, New York, USA

Art Administration, Collections Management, Registry and Advisory

- Chief Judge, *UOB Painting of the Year Award* (2026), Singapore Advisor and Manager, *Dar Kawa Artist-in-Residence* (2024-CURRENT), select artists and coordinated with visiting artists for boutique luxury riad, Marrakech, Morocco
- Worked in numerous capacities as Director, Registrar, Preparator, etc. for museums, galleries and not-for-profits that include: *USF Contemporary Art Museum* (1997-99, Florida, USA), *Zabriskie Gallery* (2000-2003, New York, USA), *JHB Gallery* (2009-12, New York, USA), *NGC 224 Gallery* (2005-07), New York, USA
- Studio Manager, *Wangechi Mutu* (2012-13), managed the daily operations for renowned artist, New York, USA
- Collections and Sales Associate, *Artist Pension Trust* (2013-14), New York, USA)
- Sales Advisor, *ArtCycle* (2006-07), New York, USA
- Served on Benefit, Advisory, and Review committees at *Photo Los Angeles*, *Fashion in Film Festival*, *Florence Artist in Residence*, *Cave Residency*, etc.

Curation and Programming

- Conceived and organized over 30 art exhibitions at institutions and galleries including *Factory Center for Contemporary Art* (2016, Vietnam), *Boca Raton Museum of Art* (2013, USA), *Freies Museum Berlin* (2011, Germany), etc.

Teaching, Lectures and Panels

- Delivered lectures and presentations at numerous cultural and educational institutions including *Columbia University* (New York, USA), *School of Visual Arts* (New York, USA), *Sculpture Center* (New York, USA), *Catalyst Foundation* (Washington, D.C., USA), *Reykjavik Art Academy*, *Goethe Institute* (Hanoi, Vietnam), etc.
- Moderated and participated in panels at *Cue Foundation* (New York, USA), *Art Stage* (Singapore), *Cervantes Institute* (New York, USA), etc.
- Adjunct Professor of Art at *University of South Florida* (1997-98, Tampa, USA) and *St. Petersburg College* (1999, Florida, USA)