

***because you are the sun;
because you are the thread***

Vivian Tran

Presented by The Greenway Conservancy

With project support from TD Charitable Foundation

On view May 1, 2026–December 1, 2026

Chin Park on The Greenway



because you are the sun; because you are the thread

Vivian Tran

WITH An Hà,
Happy Melon Press,
and Copenger

May 1, 2026–December 13, 2026
Chin Park on The Greenway

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Inspired by Vietnamese street vending culture and the labor of the artist's grandfather who once sold ice by tricycle, *because you are the sun; because you are the thread* is a large-scale outdoor installation featuring two interactive, pedal-powered flipbooks from artist Vivian Tran. Sited in Boston's Chinatown neighborhood, two tricycles are installed facing each other, each with a large-scale flipbook connected to its pedals. As passersby ride the trikes, they become the flipbook's protagonist, animating sequences of horizon imagery which the artist collected via video stills from tv shows and films popular in Vietnam in the 1960s-2000s.

Centered in front of the moving images, riders produce an animation in which their body becomes a thread, seaming together scattered moments across time and place. Though each person produces a unique visual, they cannot see the image they create themselves. In this way, the installation functions via interdependencies: it cannot be fully seen without another's presence. The act of understanding becomes contingent on witnessing another's movement, on inhabiting space together.

About her project, Tran shares: "For *because you are the sun*, I sourced horizon imagery from nostalgic widely-watched films and television shows that shaped my family's upbringing in Vietnam, alongside newer programs that they continued to watch after immigrating to Canada."

"I view these films – which are often dubbed in Cantonese or Vietnamese– as intersections of collective and personal memory, with the horizon line acting as connective tissue between them, linking decades, geographies, and genres. Retracing the footsteps of my parents, aunts, and uncles through film allowed me to imagine the lives they lived before risking everything to create a more comfortable future for their children."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Vivian Tran (b. 2002, Toronto) is an interdisciplinary artist based in Boston, MA. Working primarily in video installation and sculpture, Tran constructs quiet and minimal scenes that are suggestive of narrative, often interweaving moments across time and space. By closely observing overlooked actions and ephemera from daily life, Tran's work explores when, how, and why the everyday can become profound—revealing a quiet, emotional sensitivity that reminds us of our own aliveness.

Tran is a co-founder of [Copenger](#), a collective that hosts experimental happenings in unconventional spaces. She attended the Yale Norfolk School of Art in 2023 and was a fellow at the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists' Residency in 2024. Tran earned a BFA in Studio Art and a BS in Cognitive & Brain Science from Tufts University in 2025. She is currently a 2025-26 Durational Pedagogies Fellow at Dia Chelsea.

EXHIBITION GUIDE

ARTIST RECOMMENDATIONS

春风吻上我的脸 / *Spring Kisses My Face* (1956)
Inspired by the popular Chinese song written by Chen Die Yi and sung by Yao Li, Tran creatively interpreted its lyrics for one of the painted phrases featured in her artwork: “Spring travels to my heart and tells me it is spring now.”

***The Book of Form and Emptiness* (2021)**

A novel by Ruth Ozeki that revolves around Annabelle and her son, Benny, who starts to hear the voices of objects.

***A Needle Woman, Kimsooja* (1999-2001)**

A durational performance and video work that took place across Tokyo, New York, London, Mexico City, Cairo, Delhi, Shanghai, and Lagos, in which the artist theorizes herself as a needle passing through the fabric of a place and its people.

***Pure Color* (2022)**

An experimental novel by Sheila Heti that centers around Mira, who is an aspiring art critic.

ABOUT THE GREENWAY

The Greenway is a contemporary public park in the heart of Boston. We welcome millions of visitors annually to gather, play, unwind, and explore. The Greenway Conservancy is the non-profit responsible for the management and care of The Greenway. The majority of the public park’s annual budget is generously provided by private sources.

The Greenway Conservancy’s Public Art Program brings innovative and contemporary art to Boston through free exhibitions and events that engage people in meaningful experiences and dialogue with art, each other, and the ideas of our time.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Online Artist Talk with Vivian Tran

Thursday, April 23, 2026
12:00-1:00 PM

Opening Reception with Vivan Tran, An Hà and Copenger

Saturday, May 30, 2026
4:30-7:30 PM

Artist & Curator Walkthrough *Bilingual in Cantonese and English*

Wednesday, June 17, 2026
12:00-12:45 PM

Artist Conversation with Vivian Tran

Co-presented with Pao Arts Center
October, 2026, Exact date TBD
5:30-7:30 PM

Learn more and RSVP for these events on our website.



Scan QR code to RSVP

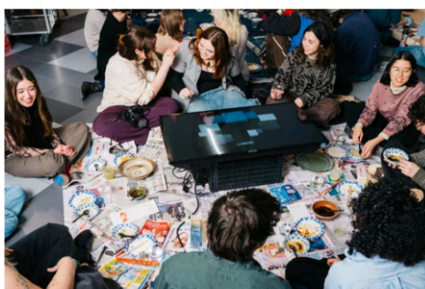
SPECIAL THANKS

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Special thanks to project collaborators Jaywalk Studio, Best Dressed Signs, Mitchell Dose, Black Cat Labs, Happy Melon Press, An Hà, Sung-Min Kim, and Copenger.

EXHIBITION GUIDE

PREVIOUS WORK BY VIVIAN TRAN



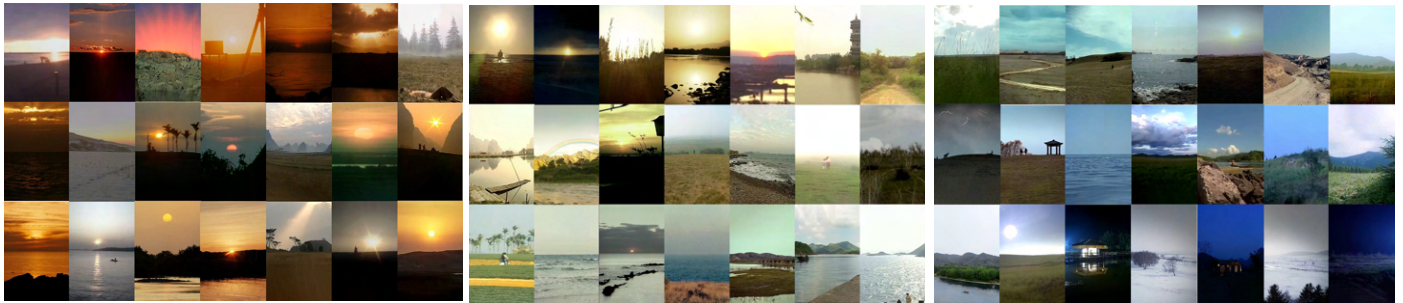
GUIDED QUESTIONS

What similarities do you see across many of these pieces?

What elements caught your eye the most?

EXHIBITION GUIDE

Themes: *Memory, belonging, nostalgia, connections across time and space, everyday objects, everyday rituals, horizons, journeys*



ACTIVITY 1: RELATING

Horizons / Daily Landscapes

Horizon is a word for where we see the sky meet the earth.

Sometimes we see the horizon far away, like when we are atop a mountain or at the ocean.

Other times, we see the horizon much closer, like when we are in a forest or among tall buildings.

For her project, the artist collected many images of the sun and horizon at different times of day and in different landscapes.

Use the boxes below to draw some landscapes that you see every day in your own life.

What is a memory that you have of a sunrise or sunset, or a memory you have of the moon?

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a sunrise landscape.

Sunrise

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing an afternoon landscape.

Afternoon

A large empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for drawing a sunset landscape.

Sunset

EXHIBITION GUIDE

ACTIVITY 2: SENSEMAKING

Everyday Objects

Objects from our daily lives can link us to faraway places and times. They can hold important memories and remind us of different parts of our lives.

Think of an object that has traveled through your family or life. Where did it come from?

Think about why it is important to you. Where is it now?

Use the space below to draw or write for 1 minute about your object.

Was there a time when your object seemed happy?

Was there a time when your object seemed sad?

If your object could go on vacation, where would it want to go? What would it want to do on vacation?

