

Minh Le

Major: Journalism and Graphic Design

**Title: ĐAN**

**(Motherland, Part II)**

One of my earliest memories growing up was the power outages that would happen throughout the torrid summer. Cooling, my twin brother and I would lie on sedge mats and take turns fluttering a rattan fan. The heat vanished into thin air, but the image remained forever in my mind.

ĐAN is a weaving of the land that raised me. The title ĐAN is Vietnamese for weave, bind, or intertwine. It refers to the act of weaving memories and imaginings, traditions and novelty, and both nostalgic and modern references to the East. I'm weaving my own sedge mat, for which the threads that bind everything together are the memories I have from an upbringing that informs who I am as a Vietnamese artist. Hanoi, this is for you.

This collection of works spans across media, and it experiments with different Asian crafts, namely, *bojagi*—a Korean folk art consisting of patchworks made from scrap fabrics. In Korean culture, *bojagi* is often associated with gift-wrapping cloth. Traditionally, *bojagi* is used to protect everything from precious sutras to common household goods and food, where the cloth is believed to convey an individual's care for what is being wrapped, as well as respect for its recipient. Creating my own sedge mat, I connected that usage with my experience leaving Vietnam for America. It's about how I can create a patchwork to protect not only possessions, but also memories, so that I can swaddle and transport my home with me.