



# Peace Mural Foundation, Inc.

## *Washington DC Exhibition*

*3336 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20007  
(202) 333-1803; Em: info@peacemural.org*

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**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

### **For Immediate Release**

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For more information, please contact:

John Frank, President of the Peace Mural Foundation; (904) 705-4322.

Huong, Artist; (772) 225-3200

Exhibition Gallery: 3336 M Street NW, Washington DC 20007; (202) 333-1803

## **New paintings call for an end of torture *Inaugural D.C. exhibition of famed Peace Mural and unveiling of new paintings to serve as a catalyst for action***

**WASHINGTON, DC** – In the wake of news of President-elect Barack Obama's desire to close the Guantanamo Bay prison, the *Peace Mural Foundation* and other non-profits are joining the call to end torture and cultivate peace with the grand opening of a powerful, historic art exhibit in the nation's capital.

**At 2pm on Sunday, Dec. 7th**, an exhibit of a 600-foot-long collection of more than 2,000 paintings collectively known as the *Peace Mural* will be displayed for the first time in Washington, DC at **3336 M Street, NW in Georgetown**. Also at this grand opening celebration, the Foundation, along with Vietnam War refugee-turned-peace activist, Huong, will unveil 50 new paintings dedicated to ending torture.

The exhibit, which also includes work from the artist's *War Pieces* collection, will be open to the public through Jan. 30.

"The *Peace Mural* is designed to be a participatory experience for those who see it, and one that evokes public discourse and civic education" said John Frank, president of the Peace Mural Foundation. "It's far more than an art exhibit. It is both inspirational and provocative, deeply educational, spiritual and politically charged as it resonates the hope and vision for peace within all society."

The powerfully cathartic and memorable work, which focuses on the pain and horror of war as seen by the artist with her own eyes, echoes recent news that Obama has picked Eric

Holder to serve as attorney general, a man who has led the call to close Guantanamo Bay. That prison has served as a lightning rod for American policy that has practiced torture of war detainees throughout the world.

The two-month exhibition, organized by the Peace Mural Foundation, will be held in collaboration with numerous peace organizations, including: Code Pink, Campaign for a Dept. of Peace, Veterans for America and the National Peace Foundation. Programs, most of which are free to the public, will reflect themes of art, education, spirituality, public policy, and citizen action for the advancement of a "culture of peace." A full list of events surrounding the exhibit can be found by logging on to [www.peacemural.org](http://www.peacemural.org).

This call to end torture and cultivate peace is centered on the artwork on Huong, who emigrated from Vietnam during the fall of Saigon. She was a journalist in her native land before discovering her innate talents in painting during her decade living in Alaska. Her early art – focusing on the quiet, peaceful beauty of Alaska – quickly brought her national and international acclaim, and her work was featured in more than 80 shows throughout the nation and Canada .

Huong eventually settled in Florida, where news of the first Iraq War led her to begin work on her vividly haunting *War Pieces* collection as well as the *Peace Mural*, a collection of more than 2,000 individual paintings expressing a message of peace throughout the world.

"I will dedicate this exhibit of the Peace Mural in Washington, D.C. to all the peace lovers and makers around the world," Huong said.

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**Partners (Partial Listing):** Busboys and Poets; Campaign for a US Dept. of Peace; Code Pink; DC Branch of Brahma Kumaris; DC Poets Against the War; Duke Ellington School of the Arts; Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University; Center for Social Justice at Georgetown University; Institute for Policy Studies; Key Humanitarian Initiative; Little Friends for Peace; Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns; National Peace Foundation; One Common Unity; Pax Christi; Peace Action Montgomery; Peace X Peace; Stewart R. Mott Charitable Trust; Veterans for America, Witness for Peace; and WPFW 89.3 FM.