

**“Đả Đảo Cục Cức”  
“Down With the Shit”**

February 7, 2009  
6:00pm

*by jenni trang le  
music mix by thuan nguyen aka “DJ 2-1”  
special thanks to Tram, Lan, Ysa, Thu-Huong, Ann*

In the night I overheard them talk  
The coldest story ever told  
Somewhere far along this road  
They lost their souls... to a war so heartless.

Refugees of Art  
We knew before we started the challenges of reason  
Bringing vision to grey seasons of change  
In a community ironically bound by oppression and scare tactics  
That have left wounds traumatized and reactive  
We chose to open our eyes and speak  
Wax dialogue and move beyond the surface of “symbols”  
that wield too much power in this hour of Hope.

[ START MUSIC MIX #1 “HEARTLESS” ]

how could you be so heartless?  
At the gallery, i told a woman, “it’s not black and white”  
and she said, “yes it is.”  
And it silenced me  
Made me feel 8 years old again  
when my mother said “because I said so”  
and I had no defense.  
When I asked what the Viet Nam war was  
And my family said, “Đừng có lo... cứ học giỏi mẹ thương...”  
Just focus on the future success of material wealth  
The American Dream.  
Turn your head, instead.

The community extremists’ eyes blaze  
In a furious haze  
Their tunneled rage  
Incites mob mentalities  
Leaving no insight into healing...  
Or dealing.

Let’s mix it up, shall we?

Several vulgarities were left on the voicemail machines of co-curators' Lan & Tram...

[ START & SCRATCH VULGAR VOICEMAIL MESSAGES ]

“Đả Đảo Cục Cứt”  
“Down With the Shit”

You can call us names  
Seek fame from exploiting slander-made drama.  
But I will not cower into submissive, dutiful, gendered, abiding citizenship.  
Down with that shit.

We will extend our hands  
If you're willing to unclench your fists,  
Start healing this communal heartbreak  
Because like it or not, we come from the same bloodied history,  
Despite birthright, motherland, father tongue...  
And I'm standing here wanting to understand you but  
until you understand me  
We cannot stand in peace.

I will fight you with the strongest weapon in my lyrical arsenal:  
Love. Tình Cảm.  
Acceptance. Chấp Nhận.  
Knowledge. Kiến Thức.  
Empathy. Thông Cảm.

[ START MUSIC MIX #2 “HEAL THE WORLD” ]

Tụi em sẽ thương, ủng hộ cộng đồng tới cái lúc mà tang nác tất cả...

SING ALONG!

We are the world, we are the children  
We are the ones who make a better day, so let's start giving...