

PAINTING DURING THE TIME OF RESISTANCE IN NORTH VIETNAM – A NEW PERSPECTIVE OF ITS NATIONALISM

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Abstract: *In 1945, the August Revolution broke out, raising Vietnamese artists' national and political awareness, a pro-Việt Minh art movement emerged in Hanoi in such an extraordinary atmosphere. It was the Vietnamese strong belief in justice and the triumph of their nation that gave them extraordinary mental strength during their resistance against the French and Americans. Art and literary works in this period reflected what artists and authors thought and felt about the war. Like the majority of Vietnamese people at that time, the artist was optimistic about the future of the country. Many artists established their reputation while fighting on the battlefield, visiting air force or navy units or frontlines, travelling together with transportation teams along the Trường Sơn mountain range, where enemy bombing and shelling was incessant. Sometimes, they would fight beside soldiers and workers in military campaigns. Other times, they would visit squads or mingle with ordinary people in order to paint. Whenever possible, they would take notes and paint for soldiers and workers on the spot. A portrait of a soldier or a painting of a march or daily life in wartime was enormously encouraging or inspiring, giving Vietnamese soldiers invisible strength. The painting was created in order to make a contribution to the nation's revolution and serve soldiers and militiamen right on their battlefields. By using the language of art, the artists painted the nation's belief, boosting the morale of soldiers and people and vividly reflected their lives in the line of fire from the optimistic side.*

This paper answers the question of how the new perception of nationalism was formed. To examine this issue, this paper will discuss the artist's thought of nationalism through their writing along with analyzing the context and perception of nationalism that were expressed in the painting of the resistance in the North of Vietnam.

Keywords: *Painting, resistance, North, nationalism.*