

Fluchtpunkt Hanoi

English working title: Vanishing Point Hanoi

An art project by

Nina DeLudemann, Ottjörg A.C., Thomas Gaschler, Marina Ludemann
Room installation with simultaneous video projections (30 min each).

The starting point for the installation *Fluchtpunkt Hanoi* is an extraordinary German migration story in the 20th century.

The protagonists are Harry Schünadel, his partner Le Thi Hai and their children Henri and Lina. Lina's granddaughter Nina, daughter Marina and son-in-law Ottjörg reflect the family story from a personal point of view.

Author and media specialist Thomas Gaschler adds an outside perspective. Cultural differences, the significance of what can be called home and questions around the individual within a historical context are illuminated from different angles.

As a 17-year-old socialist in 1906, Harry Schünadel became involved in the Witten conspiracy to assassinate Kaiser Wilhelm II. When the plot is uncovered, Harry is under threat of being charged with high treason and flees Germany. He gets picked up by the Foreign Legion. As a naturalised French Citizen, he fights in North Africa, and from 1921 in Indochina.

Harry comes to rest in Hanoi. He has two children, Henri and Lina, with his Vietnamese partner Le Thi Hai, a Buddhist Cô-Dông medium who performs in temple dances, summoning the spirits of the dead and calling the goddesses. When Lina is three years old, her mother dies.

The children experience the Japanese occupation, the occupation by national Chinese troops and the beginning of the Việt Minh's liberation struggle. Lina repeatedly escapes from her boarding school in Haiphong to her father's house in Uong Bi. After the end of the war, she lives in Hanoi and begins an apprenticeship as a seamstress. Harry dies in 1950 and Lina, just 18, flees Hanoi for Paris. With the Geneva Agreement of 1954, the French are committed to withdraw from Indochina and to train the Vietnamese to use the technical infrastructure. Henri is among the last French engineers to leave North Vietnam. In the meantime, Lina has realised her dream and completed an apprenticeship as a dressmaker at the most renowned fashion school in Paris.



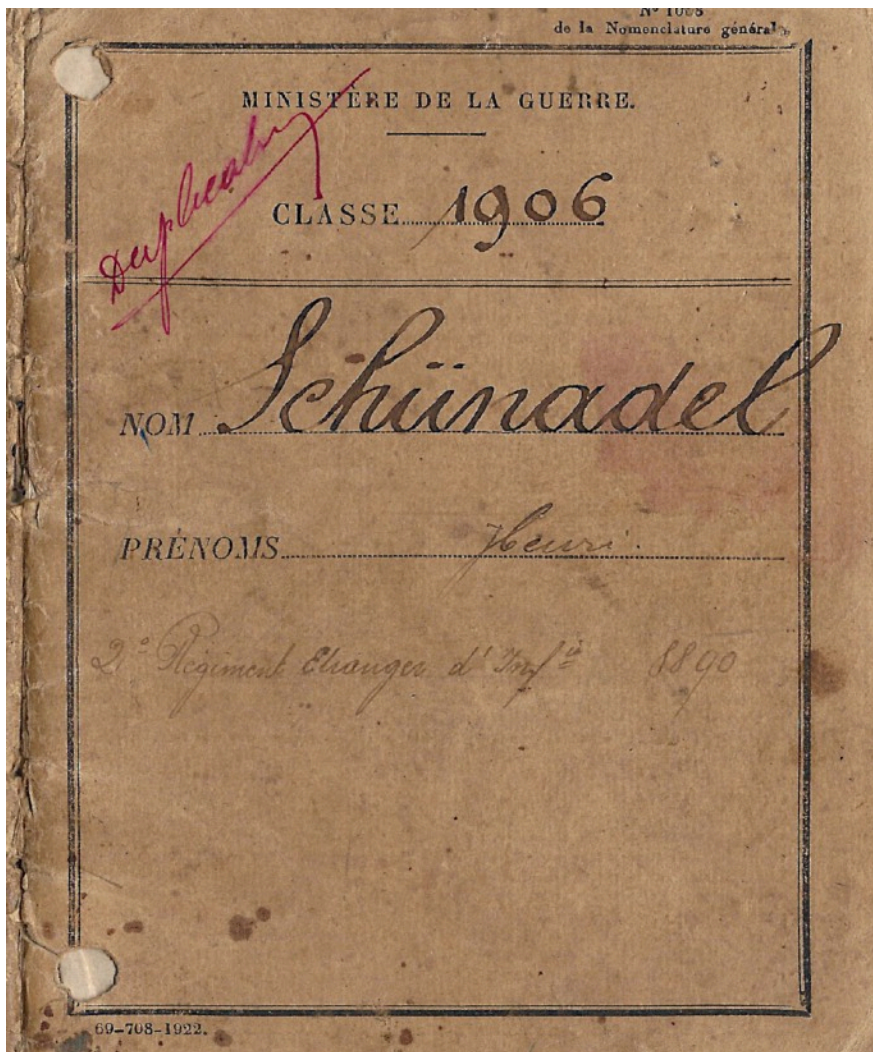
Le Thi Hai and son



She marries in Düsseldorf and gives birth to her daughter Marina. At the age of 83, Lina and her family travel to Vietnam in search of the traces of her past. In Hâu Đông rituals, her granddaughter and son-in-law are put in a trance to summon the spirit of Harry, a phantom whose only proof of existence is found in two photos, a gravestone inscription and his Carnet Militaire from the Foreign Legion.

Lina dies in Berlin in 2024 at the age of 92. As was her last wish, Nina, Marina and Ottjörg scattered her ashes in Hanoi in January 2025.

Lina age 18



Carnet Militaire Harry Schünadel

For the exhibition, the granddaughter, daughter and son-in-law, develop their own questions and perspectives based on the material filmed in Hanoi. One of the three video projections shown simultaneously is by documentary filmmaker Thomas Gaschler, an “objective” observer of this unusual story. Nina DeLudemann (*1993) takes her experience in the “hustle and bustle” of Hanoi as an opportunity to deal with the contemporary situation on the one hand in an abstract way, but also to ask herself very personally, through text, images, and T-shirts, what remains for her as the great-granddaughter of Le Thi Hai, what is here and what is there. (See also her text „Du négoce avec la mémoire“)

Installation

All works were specifically created in 2025 for this exhibition.

Nina DeLudemann

Was bleibt übrig? Who’s knocking?

10 T-Shirts with photoprint and captions, embroidered

Video 1

Ottjörg A.C.: Sie streiten sich (They are arguing)

Video 2

Marina Ludemann: I’m anything but

Video 3

Thomas Gaschler: Calling Souls

The three video projections are synchronised in a 30 minute run.

Documentation

Old suitcase with original documents: Carnet Militaire, various IDs and passports, one from the Union Française-Indochine, photos etc.

Family Archive

The exhibition is accompanied by a booklet with a text by Nina DeLudemann

The exhibition was first shown at project space roam e.V. in Berlin from April 4 to May 1 2025 and will be shown again at Kunstverein Neckar-Odenwald in Mosbach from May 31 to July 5 2026. Another exhibition is planned for fall 2026 in Hanoi.

The exhibition at roam projects e.V. Berlin was approximately 40 square meters (See photos below).

At Kunstverein Neckar-Odenwald, the exhibition will occupy an area of 120 square meters. The installation is flexible and adapts to the given exhibition conditions.



Exhibition at roam projects e.V., 4.4. - 1.5.2025

Nina DeLudemann

Born in 1993 in São Paulo, Brazil. Studied stage design at the Berlin University of the Arts and choreography and performance at the Institute for Applied Theater Studies in Giessen. In 2024, she graduated from the Art as Social Practice program in Hesse. Through her work, she aims to contribute to intercultural, (auto)colonialism-critical community building. She is active internationally, most recently in Frankfurt, Hanoi, and Porto Alegre.



Invitation exhibition Berlin

Ottjörg A.C.

Born in Heidelberg in 1958. Studied philosophy and journalism at the Free University of Berlin; fine arts at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, Repin Institute St. Petersburg, and HdK Berlin. First international exhibition in 1989 in Beijing, China; global projects since 1999. Works in public and private collections. Since 2004, lectures at academies and art colleges.

Thomas Gaschler

After studying communication sciences, he worked as a film critic, fanzine editor, festival organizer, non-fiction author (film), TV movie producer, screenwriter, and marketing specialist. He has conceived industrial films, commercials, internet appearances, and program promotions for various TV stations.

Marina Ludemann

Born in 1959 in Germany, the „economic wonderland“; childhood and youth spent in catholic Rhineland, moved seven times, studied in Tübingen and Hamburg, master's degree in literary studies. Escaped the confines of a newspaper editorial office by taking a job at the Goethe-Institut, returned to Berlin in 2024 after 35 years of international cultural exchange.

More information here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CnNgaVzUjEcufXVQvk35-ZRi56tnT7VM>

<https://www.roam-projects.eu/fluchtpunkt-hanoi-1906-2025/>