

# Joyriding

Work by Hien Kat Nguyen

On view May 22 through June 21, 2025

Artist reception Saturday, May 31, 2025, 5–7pm

1353 U St NW, Washington, DC 20009



Hien Kat Nguyen *Thôi nôi*, 2023.

**Washington, DC:** Hamiltonian Artists is pleased to present Hien Kat Nguyen’s solo exhibition, *Joyriding*. Rooted in their experience of transitioning into full-time industrial finishing work upon art school graduation, Nguyen’s work breathes levity into the rat-race of industrialized labor.

Reflecting on their experience in the relentless, often disillusioning pursuit of success and the American Dream, Hien Kat Nguyen’s *Joyriding* presents a gamified art practice where humor serves as a coping mechanism for systemic inequality. Interactive sculptures designed after familiar retro toys entice viewers to participate, yet each gameplay and puzzle component is intentionally rigged—nearly impossible to win.

Drawing upon blue collar work culture and their interest in ancient Vietnamese artifacts and folklore, Nguyen renders anthropomorphized creatures like legged fish, cockroaches, and chameleons. These nameless characters embody the bizarre nature of adaptability and cultural assimilation, raising the question, survival at what cost? The exhibition consists of freestanding and wall hung sculptures, in which Nguyen deploys both factory manufacturing and hand-based processes such as powder coating, woodworking, metalworking, and hand-sewing.

Nguyen’s work upends dichotomous thinking with whimsical satire, exploring the space between failure and success—*WIN OR LOSE*.

**An artist-led exhibition tour will be held on Saturday, June 14, 3–5pm; link to register [here](#). Additional programming to be announced.** Visit Hamiltonian Artists’ [website](#) and follow [@hamiltonian\\_artists](#) on Instagram for more information about corresponding public programs.



### ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hien Kat Nguyen (b. 1999; Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam) is a sculptor and an industrial finisher based in Richmond, Virginia. Nguyen received their Bachelor of Fine Arts in Sculpture and Extended Media from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2022. They often document their experiences as a Vietnamese immigrant through sculpture and installation.

They have attended residencies at Anderson Ranch Arts Center, Penland and Peter Valley School of Craft. Nguyen received scholarships from Haystack, Penland, Petter Valley, Arrowmont and Pocasin School of Crafts. They were the recipient of the Windgate-Lamar Fellowship from the Center for Craft and the Undergraduate Fellowship in Sculpture from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Nguyen has shown work at the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities, Queer Arts Salon in Washington DC, The Visual Arts Center of Richmond, the Iridian Gallery, and the Anderson Gallery in Richmond, Virginia. They are currently a 2023-2025 Hamiltonian Artists Fellow.

### ABOUT HAMILTONIAN ARTISTS

Hamiltonian Artists' mission is to nurture community and increase access to space, opportunity, and resources for emerging artists, through impactful programs and exhibitions. The organization reaffirms and expands upon its originating vision as an incubator for the professional development of emerging visual artists, serving as a hub for Washington, DC's, creative economy and a vibrant center for contemporary art in the DC area. With its unique investment in emerging artists, Hamiltonian Artists provides resources to aid their development in important business skills, professional experiences, and visibility to support and sustain their art career.

Through the fellowship program, exhibitions, studios, artist talks, public events, membership program for art collectors at all levels, and so much more, the organization contributes to the vitality of the area's arts scene by deepening the appreciation for contemporary art and culture throughout Washington, DC, and beyond.

### HOW TO VISIT

Location: Hamiltonian Artists, 1353 U Street NW, Washington, DC 20009

Hours: Thursday–Saturday, 11am–6pm

For more information visit [hamiltonianartists.org](https://hamiltonianartists.org).

**CONTACT**

For press inquiries and additional info, contact Anisa Olufemi, director of programs and curator [anisa@hamiltonianartists.org](mailto:anisa@hamiltonianartists.org).

Images available [here](#).