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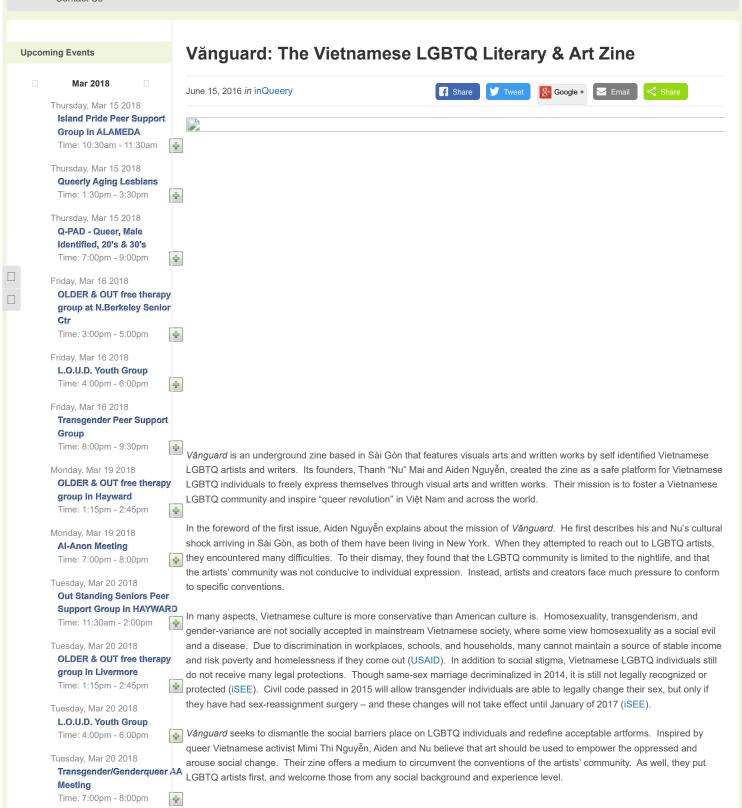
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Skip to content & Skip to navigation | Site map another piece from the first issue, Aiden wrote about the etymology word "bê ðe" and the influence of Western colonization on Wicked Transcendent Folk -

Genderqueer Peer Support Group

Time: 7:30pm - 9:30pm

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modern Vietnamese culture. "Bê ôê" is a commonly used derogatory term for homosexuals, particularly effeminate homosexuals. But, as Aiden explains, many do not actually know the origins of this word.

After doing a bit of research, he found that the word comes from the French word for pederasty, "pédéraste". The word was introduced to Việt Nam during the period of French colonization in the 19th and 20th centuries. During this time, it was common for French colonizers to engage in pederasty with underage Vietnamese boys. However, the French also saw homosexuality as a sin due to Roman Catholic beliefs. French colonizers observed homosexual activity in Việt Nam, and saw it as a "Vietnamese disease" which threatened to infect the French with syphilis. (Homosexuality and transgenderism in Việt Nam, Natalie Newton)

After learning about the origins of the word "bê ŏê", Aiden expresses humiliation as a Vietnamese person and as someone who identifies with the LGBTQ community. Vietnamese people unknowingly use a word from French colonization to spread the same homophobia and ignorance their colonizers believed in. Aiden draws the conclusion that Vietnamese people did not form their own ideas about gender expectations and homosexuality. Instead, outside forces have had a deep effect in shaping the homophobic and heteronormative notions of modern Vietnamese society.

Vietnamese LGBTQ individuals comprise a group that is silenced on so many levels, be it by Western cultural dominance or Vietnamese social norms. It is even hard for many to find safety and acceptance within Vietnamese LGBTQ spaces. Vănguard offers voice and community to these people. It also connects them to a larger, global community of diasporic Vietnamese people, who may feel alienated by predominantly white LGBTQ spaces in English-speaking countries.

Each issue of Vănguard features drawings, digital art, photographs, essays, poems, and short stories in either Vietnamese or English. Issue #3 is currently in the works, while issues #1 and #2 are available on their website, which is available in English and Vietnamese.

There are three ways that you can support Vănguard:

- o If you are Vietnamese, you can submit material to zine before its deadline. The deadline for Issue #3 has already past, so you must wait until submissions for Issue #4 are open. The submission guidelines are provided in English here, and in Vietnamese here.
- If you would like to buy the zine, it is available worldwide. Please contact vanguardzine@gmail for more information. Issue #3 is scheduled for release in July.
- Finally, if you would like to make a donation, you can do so here: https://www.gofundme.com/vanguard-3.

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