

Statement from the Department of Cultural Heritage

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism
Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

On behalf of the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I wish to express congratulations and gratitude to the museums and institutions that are participating in this exhibition, and to Asia Society, New York, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, for organizing *Arts of Ancient Viet Nam: From River Plain to Open Sea*.

The efforts of Asia Society and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, have been long and have spanned many years in development. I would also like to express deep appreciation to the curator of the exhibition, Dr. Nancy Tingley, for her insight and vision, as well as for her dedication to the project.

Viet Nam has a long history and rich culture that has withstood countless tumultuous wars and conflicts. It has long flourished as a nexus of trade and international commerce and the current exhibition presents its cultural legacy in the form of some of our finest works of art and sculpture.

It is our belief that this project will deepen the American people's understanding of the culture of Viet Nam and its important role in the history of Asia. Arts and culture have always provided a bridge to mutual understanding among the peoples of the world, and this project is a first important step toward that end.

Dr. Đặng Văn Bài

General Director

The Department of Cultural Heritage

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

Socialist Republic of Viet Nam