

Sung Tieu

*Multiboy*

Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig

Curated by Tuan Do Duc

12 June - 03 October 2021 Leipzig (Germany)

The relationship between work and life, as well as the individual in relation to greater social systems, constitute the central inquiry of Sung Tieu's solo exhibition. Her installation *Multiboy* is based on the recruitment agreement that the GDR established with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam in 1980. For her new commission, Tieu has researched related archival material, which she has integrated into her sculptural and sonic installation in an abstracted and altered form. The goods that the Vietnamese contract workers produced in the GDR state-owned enterprises (VEBs); the regulations and contracts they were legally bound to; as well as official records kept by the companies where the workers were employed; and other similar sources allow us to draw conclusions about the working and living conditions of these workers.

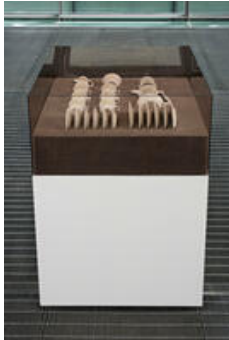
Two large-scale sculptures form the heart of the exhibition. On their interior walls, a sacred architecture emerges. Through the choice of material, the sculptures suggest a protective shell, that simultaneously implies the encasing of objects and the commodification of human labour. With this metaphor, the artist also refers to the private spheres of these workers and their housing situation within segregated residential homes. Their hopes of a stable life in the GDR were often shattered by the reality of the East German working environment – its rules, sanctions and systems of control that dominated their everyday lives.



### **Sung Tieu**

*The Disutility Of Conviction, 2021*

4:30 min stereo sound looped every 15 min, styrofoam in 2 parts  
consisting of 11 elements  
each: 380 x 294 x 147 cm



### **Sung Tieu**

*Made (By Vietnamese Workers) In The GDR, 2021*

ceramic set from VEB Henneberg-Porzellan Ilmenau, styrofoam, perspex,  
Work contract in three parts

Sculpture: 40 x 75.8 x 75.8 cm (15 3/4 x 29 7/8 x 29 7/8 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 x 23.4 cm (12 5/8 x 9 1/4 inches)



### **Sung Tieu**

*Multiboy, 2021*

food processor from VEB Kombinat Elektromaschinenbau Dresden,  
stainless steel, Work Contract in three parts

Sculpture: 46 x 16 x 16 cm (18 1/8 x 6 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 x 23.4 cm (12 5/8 x 9 1/4 inches) (framed)



### **Sung Tieu**

*Mum's Work, 2021*

Work jacket, lady birds, shoes from VEB Schuhfabrik "Banner des  
Friedens", polished stainless steel, Work contract in three parts

Installation: 174 x 77 x 29.5 cm (68 1/2 x 30 3/8 x 11 5/8 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 x 23.4 cm (12 5/8 x 9 1/4 inches)



### **Sung Tieu**

*No Proverbs For Your Labour, 2021*

Eight books from VEB Interdruck Leipzig, stainless steel, Work contract in  
three parts

Sculpture: 32 x 68 x 32 cm (12 5/8 x 26 3/4 x 12 5/8 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 x 23.4 cm (12 5/8 x 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*Offerings, 2021*

Rum from VEB Weinbrand Wilthen, candles from VEB Wittol Wittenberg, ceramic plate from VEB Henneberg-Porzellan Ilmenau, Tampon packaging from VEB Vliestextilien Löbnitztal, condoms from VEB Plastina Erfurt, stainless steel, Work contract in three parts

Sculpture: 40 × 40 × 40 cm (15 3/4 × 15 3/4 × 15 3/4 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 × 23.4 cm (12 5/8 × 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*The Earth And The Sky, 2021*

Bed and pillow sheets VEB Vowetex, duvet, pillow, metal wire, Work contract in three parts

Sculpture: 34 × 67 × 50 cm (13 3/8 × 26 3/8 × 19 5/8 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 × 23.4 cm (12 5/8 × 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*Tight Squeeze, 2021*

polishing shoe creme from VEB Wittol Wittenberg, clothing detergent from VEB Haushaltschemie Meiningen EVP, stainless steel, Work contract in three parts

Sculpture: 30 × 47 × 4 cm (11 3/4 × 18 1/2 × 1 5/8 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 × 23.4 cm (12 5/8 × 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*Filling Gaps, 2021*

Tampons from VEB Vliestextilien Löbnitztal, polished stainless steel tube, Work contract in three parts

Sculpture: 120 × 2.5 × 2.5 cm (47 1/4 × 1 × 1 inches)

Work contract (each): 32.1 × 23.4 cm (12 5/8 × 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*What Do You Believe?, 2021*

plastic flowers, polished and unpolished stainless steel

69 × 51 × 17 cm (27 1/8 × 20 1/8 × 6 3/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*Date, Flight Number, Ministry, Factory, Workers Target, Workers Actual (Multiboy Edition), 2021*

stamps on digital prints, framed in 19 parts

32.1 x 23.4 cm (each)



**Sung Tieu**

*Deployment Concept (VEB Henneberg-Porzellan Ilmenau), 2021*

stamps on digital prints, framed in 6 parts

32.1 x 23.4 cm (each)



**Sung Tieu**

*Export Restriction List, 2021*

stamps on digital print, framed

32.1 x 23.4 cm (12 5/8 x 9 1/4 inches)



**Sung Tieu**

*House Rules, 2021*

stamps on digital prints, framed in 2 parts

32.1 x 23.4 cm (each)



**Sung Tieu**

*Recruitment Agreement, 2021*

stamps on digital prints, framed in 7 parts

32.1 x 23.4 cm (each)



**Sung Tieu**

*Work Contract, 2021*

stamps on digital prints, framed in 3 parts

32.1 x 23.4 cm (each)