



For immediate release

The Minnesota Humanities Center Welcomes Pulitzer Prize-Winning Author, Viet Thanh Nguyen, to Minnesota for Public Event

August 8, 2017—SAINT PAUL, Minn.—The Minnesota Humanities Center is pleased to announce **An Evening with Viet Thanh Nguyen** at St. Catherine University on Friday, September 15. Viet will engage in a captivating evening of conversation with Minnesota author, Kao Kalia Yang, in front of a live audience.

Nguyen will be in Minnesota to discuss his latest book, a 2016 National Book Award non-fiction finalist, “Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War” which explores the collective memory of the Vietnam War in the consciousness of both Americans and Vietnamese.

“We are honored to have Viet in Minnesota at the invitation of the Humanities Center,” says Humanities Center President, David O’Fallon. “Viet’s work brilliantly showcases the power and meaning that the humanities can bring into the lives of all Americans. ‘Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War’ exemplifies the Humanities Center’s approach to engage in thoughtful dialogue from differing perspectives about difficult subjects and highlight narratives that have long been absent from our collective consciousness.”

[Viet Thanh Nguyen](#) is the Aerol Arnold Chair of English and Professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity at the University of Southern California. In addition to “Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War,” he is the author of “Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America,” the novel “The Sympathizer” as well as an upcoming collection of short stories called “The Refugees.” “The Sympathizer” won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction as well as many other literary awards.

Viet was born in Ban Me Thuot, Viet Nam (now spelled Buon Me Thuot). He came to the United States as a refugee in 1975 with his family. Viet graduated from UC Berkeley with degrees in English and ethnic studies. He stayed at Berkeley for a Ph.D. in English, moved to Los Angeles for a teaching position at the University of Southern California, and has been there ever since.

Joining Viet for this conversation is Minnesota teacher, public speaker and author, [Kao Kalia Yang](#). Yang is the author of the award-winning book, “The Latecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir” and the book, “The Song Poet.” She is a graduate of Carleton College and Columbia University’s School of the Arts. Yang is a member of the Hmong ethnic minority. Born in Thailand’s Ban Vinai Refugee Camp, Yang is now an American citizen and resides in Minneapolis.

“Both Nguyen and Yang call their readers to reflection and action on the myriad ways in which war continues to shape our relationships with each other and with ourselves,” says Amy Hamlin, Director of the Neufeld Initiative in the Liberal Arts at St. Catherine University. “In the spirit of its founders, St. Catherine University is committed to community conversations that attend the most urgent needs in our society.”

An Evening with Viet Thanh Nguyen will take place from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. on Friday, September 15 at the Jeanne d'Arc Auditorium on the campus of St. Catherine University. A reception and book signing will follow. Tickets are \$10 and the event is open to the public. Seating is limited.

To learn more about this event and purchase tickets, visit: <http://bit.ly/VietEvent>

This event is made possible by a generous donation from a private funder of the Minnesota Humanities Center with additional support from the Evaleen Neufeld Initiative in the Liberal Arts at St. Catherine University.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center:

Founded in 1971, the **Minnesota Humanities Center** is a statewide nonprofit organization and full service event center located in Saint Paul, Minnesota. The Humanities Center offers a new way to think about our future, grounded in the humanities, and collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and frame conversations and strengthen connections. The Humanities Center works to bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have been absent or marginalized. The Humanities Center is a resource for the state of Minnesota and is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The mission of the Minnesota Humanities Center is to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. More information about the Humanities Center is available at mnhum.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the National Endowment for the Humanities:

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

About St. Catherine University

Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in 1905, St. Catherine University is home to the nation's largest undergraduate college for women. Committed to meeting the educational needs of women of all ages, as well as men in its associate and graduate programs, the University offers a diversity of programs in a variety of liberal arts, healthcare specialties, and professional programs. With beautiful campuses in St. Paul and Minneapolis, St. Catherine University has a total enrollment of over 5,200. For more information visit www.stkate.edu.

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