

**Nguyen Minh Tan**

I started my life in the United States with half of it already lived. I struggled daily to make ends meet. I had no time for leisure, no time to look up at the sky or even the ground in front of me. I never had the opportunity to appreciate a painting or even the chance to step into an art exhibition. Even if I could, my understanding of what is beautiful art was not very well developed. However, in 2000 I entered into the profession of art photography by such coincidence that one can never expect. After two years of practice, I have entered many international competitions, and by 2002, I won my first medal. Today, I have won over sixty photography medals with different categories. Recently I have been going back to Vietnam to take photos of ordinary people in rural settings. It is an ambition and dream of mine to publish a photography book of my homeland for my children, grandchildren, and successive generations wanting to learn about their homeland. But I don't know if this [ambition and dream] can be realized.

*Reflections on the Transcription***By Nhu Truong**

This interview was in Vietnamese. The translation was quite a challenge due to Mr. Nguyen's diverse life which covered so many different areas, and much of the time we did not have an exact word to describe some details. Through Mr. Nguyen's story, I have learned that it is never too late to start expressing your artistic side.