

Thi Bui

EDUCATION

2003	M.A. Art Education, New York University
2000	M.F.A., Sculpture, Bard College
1998	B.A. Legal Studies, Univ. of California, Berkeley
1998	B.A. Practice of Art, Univ. of California, Berkeley

RESIDENCIES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION

2023	Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN) artist residency, Cazhillac, France
2021-22	Story Board, online, with Lauren Markham and Chris Arnold
2021	From Fact to Story, online, with Lauren Markham and Chris Arnold
2019	Bellagio Rockefeller Foundation writers residency, Italy
2018	Diasporic Vietnamese Artists Network (DVAN) residency, Djerassi, California
2017	Comic Art Workshop, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
2015	Comic Art Workshop, Maria Island, Tasmania, Australia
2012	Harvard University, Project Zero Institute
2010	Atlantic Center for the Arts, Comics/Sequential Arts Residency
2009	Expression College of Digital Design, Flash Animation
2008	UC Berkeley, Creative Writing with Fae Myenne Ng

AWARDS:

2026-28	Lucas Artists Fellowship , Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga, California
2025	Creative Capital Fellowship
2024	APALA Children's Literature Honor
2022	Japan Media Arts Festival Manga Division Excellence Award
2021	Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Journalism Award in Cartooning
2021	National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Selection
2020	National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Selection
2020	Bill Sorro Community Activist Honoree , Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus, San Francisco, CA
2019	Bellagio Residency Rockefeller Foundation Fellow
2019	Women's Hall of Fame , Alameda County
2017-present	Common Book / First Year Reading selection at UCLA, U of Oregon, MassArt, U of Chicago, UC Riverside, U of South Carolina, CSU Monterey Bay, LA County Valley College, Century College, College of Wooster, Henderson State University, Albion College, Chico State
2019	Seattle Public Library Seattle Reads selection
2018	East Bay Express Best Graphic Novelist Fighting for the Underdog
2018	Caldecott Honor winner
2018	APALA Children's Literature Award
2018	Ezra Jack Keats Honor winner
2018	American Book Award winner
2018	Eisner Award finalist, Reality-based Comic
2018	National Book Critics Circle Award finalist, Autobiography
2018	Ringo Award
2018	Pop Culture Classroom Excellence in Graphic Literature Award
2017	Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection
2016	American Booksellers Association Winter/Spring 2017 Indies Introduce selection
2015	APature 2015 Featured Artist
2012	ING Unsung Heroes award for teachers
2010	Fund for Teachers National Plank Fellow

PUBLICATIONS

Illustrator, **Ride / Đạp Xe**, written by Bao Phi, Capstone, 2026
Writer, **Before You Die, Dammit**, Substack, 2026

Featured Artist, **Racial Justice Poster Project**, Akonadi Foundation, 2026
 Contributor, **Making Nonfiction Comics: A Guide for Graphic Narrative**, Abrams ComicArts, Nov 2025
 Guest editor, **McSweeney's Quarterly Concern, Issue 78: The Make Believers**, April 2025
 Contributor, **The Cleaving: Vietnamese Writers in the Diaspora**, edited by Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, Lan Duong, and Viet Thanh Nguyen, UC Press, April 2025
 Contributor, **On Being a Writer: Vietnamese Diasporas in Dialogue**, edited by Viet Thanh Nguyen, Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, and Lan Duong, UC Press, 2023
 Contributor, **Field Guide to Graphic Literature**, edited by Kelcey Ervick and Tom Hart, Rose Metal Press, 2023
 Illustrator, **Finding Papa**, written by Angela Pham Krans, Harper Kids, 2023
 Contributor, **COVID Chronicles: a Comics Anthology**, edited by Kendra Boileau and Rich Johnson, Graphic Mundi, 2021
 Illustrator, **IN/vulnerable: Inequity in the Time of the Pandemic**, written by Sarah Mirk et al, Reveal News in collaboration with The Nib, 2020
 Illustrator, **Chicken of the Sea**, written by Viet Thanh Nguyen and Ellison Nguyen, co-illustrated by Hien Bui-Stafford, McSweeney's, 2019
 Author and illustrator, **Refugee to Detainee: How the US is Deporting Those Seeking a Safe Haven**, The Nib, 2018
 Contributor, **The Displaced**, edited by Viet Thanh Nguyen, Abrams, 2018
 Illustrator, **A Different Pond**, Capstone, 2017
 Author and illustrator, **The Best We Could Do**, Abrams ComicArts, 2017
 Author and illustrator, **Fear is a Good Motivator for Political Action**, The Nib, 2017
 Author and illustrator, **Precious Time**, PEN America, 2017
 Contributor, **New England Review**, Winter 2016
 Contributor, **The Asian American Literary Review: (Re)Collecting the Vietnam War**, Fall/Winter 2015
 Creator, **Terror**, 2013
 Editor, **We Are Oakland International**, Self-published, 2012
 Creator, **Labor** and **Backwards**, 2011
 Contributing Artist, **Hyphen Magazine**, Spring 2011
 Contributor, **History as Art, Art as History**, by Dipti Desai, Jessica Hamlin and Rachel Mattson, Routledge, 2010
 "Critical Mass[es]: Reflections on the flag project as activist art" (with Dipti Desai and Lisa DiFilippo), *Journal of Cultural Research in Art Education*. Spring 2003, Vol. 21
 "Buis in Vietnam and America: a memory reconstruction," Masters Final Project, NYU May 2003

SELECTED INTERVIEWS

Connecticut Public Radio Disrupted – [Bestselling Cartoonist Thi Bui reflects on leaving Vietnam as a child](#)
Seattle Public Library – [An Evening with Thi Bui](#)
San Francisco Public Library – [Thi Bui and Lauren Markham One City One Book Interview 2018](#)
NPR All Things Considered – [Cartoonist Thi Bui Weaves Together Personal and Political History](#)
Mother Jones – [An Illustrated Guide to Escaping the Vietnam War and Making It in America](#)
University of Oregon Humanities Center – [UO Today with Thi Bui](#)
NBC News – ['The Best We Could Do' Honors Family's Immigration Story in Debut Memoir](#)
Seattle Public Radio KCRW – [Interview with Thi Bui](#)
Bloom – [Q&A with Thi Bui](#)
The Comics Journal – [Sweet Revenge: An Interview with Thi Bui](#)

SELECTED REVIEWS

[Vulture](#)
[SF Chronicle](#)
[The Comics Journal](#)
[Seattle Review of Books](#)
[Social Justice Books](#)
[Star Tribune](#)

SELECTED BOOK LISTS

Washington Post - [Four graphic novels that illuminate anti-Asian racism through personal experience](#)
Gates Notes – [5 Amazing Books I Read This Year](#)

New York Magazine's "The Cut" – 6 Graphic Novels to Make You Cry
Newsweek – The Books That will Make 2017 More Interesting
Electric Literature – 34 Books by Women of Color to Read This Year
Booklist – Top 10 Graphic Novels of 2017
AV Club – AV Club's Favorite Comics of 2017 so far
Bustle – 15 of the Most Anticipated Books of 2017
Comics Beat – PEN's State of Emergency Looks at Matters of the Day
Chicago Reader – 10 Books We Can't Wait to Read
Huff Post – 27 Nonfiction Books by Women Everyone Should Read This Year
Goodreads Blog – 23 Highly Anticipated Books of 2017
Paste – The 20 Best Comics of 2017 (So Far)

ART EXHIBITIONS:

2022	<i>Japan Media Arts Festival</i> , Miraikan - the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation, Tokyo, Japan
2021	<i>The Art of the News: Comics Journalism</i> , Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon
2019	<i>Artists Reflect: Contemporary Views on the American War</i> , Minneapolis Institute of Art
2019	<i>Emerging Artist Showcase</i> , Cartoon Art Museum
2018	<i>Looking Backward, Looking Forward: U.S. Immigration in Cartoons and Comics</i> , Billy Ireland Cartoon Library & Museum
2018	<i>Reframing the Fragments: The Best We Could Do</i> , Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, University of Oregon
2017	<i>Illustrated Justice/Graphing Freedom</i> , Omi Gallery, Oakland, CA
2016	<i>POW! Women in Comics and Illustration</i> , Studio Grand, Oakland, CA
2013	<i>Storytelling in Pictures</i> , the Museums of Los Gatos, CA
2003	<i>Individualize</i> artSPACE@16, Malden, MA
2003	<i>First Weekends</i> (shadow play performance) Brooklyn Arts Exchange, NY
2002	<i>Peter Stuyvesant</i> (site-specific installation) NYU Open Studios, NY
2002	<i>Six Un-Common Exhibitions</i> The Commons, NYU, New York, NY
2001	<i>the flag project</i> NYU, New York, NY
2001	<i>126a</i> BrooklynFront, Brooklyn, NY
2000	<i>Foci: Points of Convergence</i> UBS, Red Hook, NY
1998	<i>Four Walks</i> Worth Ryder Gallery, Berkeley, CA
1998	<i>The Dirt Show</i> Worth Ryder Gallery, Berkeley, CA
1998	<i>Rock, Paper, Scissors</i> Worth Ryder Gallery, CA
1998	<i>Counterpoint / Nature</i> Mirren Gallery, Half Moon Bay, CA
1997	<i>Prayer</i> (solo exhibition) The White Room, Berkeley, CA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Fall 2018 – present	Visiting Lecturer , various campuses Deliver keynote speeches and multimedia, interactive presentations on <i>The Best We Could Do</i> and contemporary issues
July 2024 – July 2025	Senior Lecturer, California College of the Arts, MFA in Comics Taught theory, craft, and critique in nonfiction comics to second year graduate students in intensive summer session workshop.
June 2025	Visiting Lecturer, Storyboard Residency , Saint Mary's College, Moraga, California Ran workshop on combining image and text in creative nonfiction. Reviewed manuscripts, gave one on one consultations.
Sept 2020 – May 2024	Assistant Professor, California College of the Arts, MFA in Comics Taught Intro to Comics Theory, mentored second year graduate students, taught online studio course with emphasis on longform comics, reviewed applications to the graduate program,, project managed annual CCA Comics Anthology, provided program-wide and

campus-wide service.

- June 2019 — Aug 2020 **Adjunct Professor, California College of the Arts, MFA in Comics**
Taught craft and critique in nonfiction comics to second year graduate students in intensive summer session workshop.
- Jan 2015 – May 2019 **Lecturer, California College of the Arts, MFA in Comics**
Worked with second year graduate students to critique and monitor progress on thesis projects, as well as mentor them through the challenges and possibilities of the comics medium and industry.
- Aug 2007 – June 2014 **Founding Teacher, Oakland International High School, California, grades 9-12**
Worked with unique population of all English language learners and recent immigrants at this alternative public school in Oakland Unified School District. Developed and taught wide range of courses, including a semester-long autobiographical comics project for freshmen and sophomores, resulting in 4 years of printed comics collections and an acclaimed anthology called "We Are Oakland International." Created a place in the 11th grade Computers class for students to learn to work with video to tell their own stories; created the annual Media Academy Awards to recognize outstanding student work and encourage creative use of multimedia in the school.
- Aug 2012-June 2014 **Agency by Design / Oakland Learning Community School Liaison**
Served as intermediary between Harvard Project Zero researchers, local funders and participating teachers in an interdisciplinary research project exploring the intersection of design thinking, the maker movement, and Project Zero frameworks for teaching and learning. Designed hands-on workshops, study groups and meet-ups for teachers to test and reflect on trial teaching materials. Managed grant applications and design projects.
- July 2013 **Project Zero Institute Fellow, Harvard University, Massachusetts**
Developed workshops for educators and administrators in using the arts to engage learners and explore new practices in K-12 education.
- July 2006 **Educational Consultant, Cooper Hewitt National Design Museum, NY**
Collaborated with museum directors, curators, architects, designers and other educators to implement a redesigned Summer Design Institute, where K-12 teachers from around the U.S. met to imagine new educational models that use the design process as a tool for teaching.
- Sep 2003 – Feb 2006 **Teacher, HS of Telecommunication Arts & Technology, Brooklyn, grades 9-12**
Developed curricula for and taught several art electives (Comics as Oral History, Drawing I and II, Art History, Design) as well as Freshman Global Art, which integrated social studies themes and world history with art concepts and studio activities designed to enhance students' understanding of Global Studies.
- Jul 2003 – Aug 05 **Curriculum writer, PBS / Art:21 Education Council**
Collaborated with education director at Art:21 and other New York educators to create art, social studies, and English lesson plans and educator's guide for Art:21, the PBS television series on contemporary art and artists in the United States.
- Sep 2001 – May 03 **Graduate Assistant, Steinhardt School of Education, New York University**
Developed instructional resources for teachers-in-training at NYU. Conducted research in critical pedagogy and art education. Organized art exhibitions, teach-ins, slide slams and other student events. Reviewed applicants to the Masters in Art Education program. Built network of NYU alumni and cooperating K-12 schools in NYC.
- Jan 1997 – Nov 98 **Teaching Assistant, Univ. of California, Berkeley**
Taught beginning and advanced figure drawing to undergraduate art and non-art majors. Worked closely with master drawing instructor and sculptor, Jane Rosen, to document and translate class lectures into usable teaching material for a book about drawing.