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Artist's sketches etch memories of General Giap

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draw sketches," Thanh recalled. "I had to use my time an
unique chance to capture his most distinctive features. A
sketches and five oil-on-canvas paintings, there were ten
drawn as a series, at a space of 15 minutes, one after an

ThaF8nh said while she was drawing, Gen Giap's narrate
memories to her and his wife Dang Bich Ha and their son
Bien. From his childhood in the central province of Quang
then from his youthful years working as a teacher at Quo
(Hue National Secondary School) and Chu Van An Secon
School in Ha Noi. He also recalled his memories of Presi
Chi Minh and leaders of other countries.

"I was nervous while making my first sketches as I was af
not be able to catch his appearance and emotions," Than

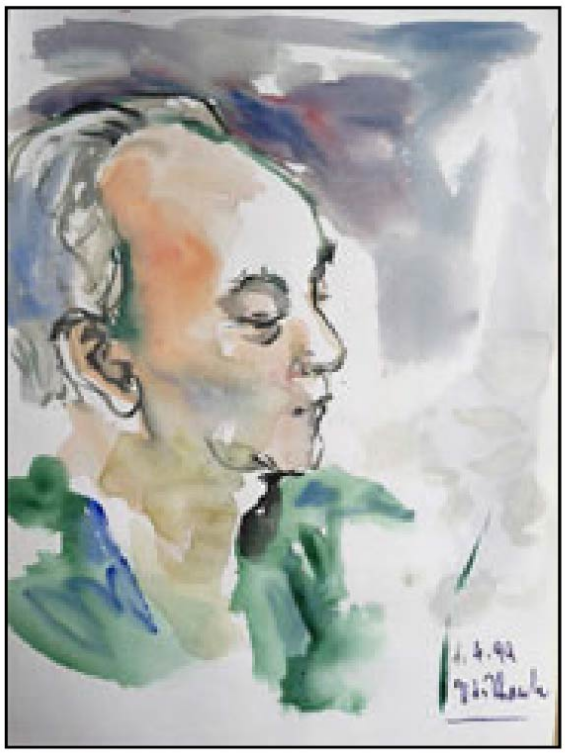
But Gen Giap seemed to understand Thanh's apprehensi
laughed out loudly, appreciated her paintings and signed
on four sketches. Thanh then kept all the four pen brushe
Giap used to sign his name behind each sketch's frame.

Gen GiaF9p then played an excerpt from Beethoven's 9th
Symphony. He also drew three sketches of ThaF8nh next
painting shelf.

"I was extremely surprised as I only knew earlier that he w
great military commander," Thanh said, "My admiration fo
doubled since then."

The painter then moved all the collection to her home in S

25/5/2019 Print



Sketched: A portrait of General Giap by Van Duong Thanh in 1999.

"I think this is an artful collectior commented Bui Phuong Viet Ar director of EAS Vietnam Compa which involves training human resources and trade promotion. knew Thanh through various ac Vietnamese overseas.

"The sketches are delicate and reflect the great General in daily This is the first time I saw such collection, catching daily life mo the General. I think it's a treasu next generations of both, Vietna people and others internationall said.

ThaF8nh splits her time between VieE4t Nam and Sweden she teaches the art of painting at various schools, including Medborgaskollan, Vuxenskollan schools in Stockholm and universities in HaF8 NoE4i and HCM City.

ThaF8nh's works were added by the VieE4t Nam National of Fine Arts to its collection for the first time when she was Since then, many of her artworks have been on permanent in national art museums and galleries in other countries inc Thailand, Singapore, Spain and Sweden.

Being distinctive for her subtle combination of Asian and E heritage in which Western techniques are used to depict tr

been making it. The platform of the sculpture will be a carv
painting, depicting the historic Dien Bien Phubattle.

"It will be the biggest sculpture that I have designed but I s
say anything more about it," she said, adding, "Let's see la

In her house in Ha Noi, besides dozens of paintings and s
of famous people of Viet Nam, she also keeps a 300-page
hundreds of articles written in various languages including
Vietnamese, English, Swedish and Denmark on General G
marking his death in October 2013. She had collected thes
newspapers all over the world.

"I was extremely moved when I heard that he had died," T
said. "Since that moment, I have spent a lot of time readin
newspapers and online news for three months to see what
foreigners wrote about him. All of them showed great resp
this historic person and devoted a lot of space in their print
online publications to cover his death."

"I brought out the book as a way of paying a tribute to Gen
Giap, marking a commemorating ceremony 49 days after h
death," she said, adding, "I hope he understood my admira
him."

Thanh plans to exhibit the book, along with her painting co
in May. — VNS