



**Family:  
Teresa Nguyen  
& Family**

**Artist:  
Robert  
Schwieger**

**THE FAMILY** –The Nguyen family came to the United States escaping the Vietnam War. Father, Cuong, came in 1975 and was sponsored by the Dodge City (KS) Diocese. Mary (mother) and Francis (oldest brother) were united with Cuong in Kansas, sisters and brothers Maria, Teresa, John and William were born in Kansas and the family relocated to Lincoln, NE in 1996.

**ARTIST'S OBSERVATIONS** – Conversations with the family have revealed a beautiful family founded upon humility, a strong faith and a dedication to self-improvement through hard work and education. The family has maintained strong cultural ties but they have also integrated into their new home(s) with pride and perseverance.

**MEDIUM** – As artist, I have chosen not to simply illustrate a story, but rather attempt to capture the essence of their storied family history through an assemblage of materials and within an architectural structure. The structure loosely identifies three time periods and locations and is overseen by a triptych of spiritual significance.

Much of the secondary decorative treatment is accomplished through the silk screen monotype process. Gold leaf dominates the glass components highlighting the materials elegant, yet tasteful and spiritual properties.

It is the hope of the artist that the work engages the viewer on a level that they are comfortable with. If it is unsettling in content or design, this too signifies an involvement that requires the thought process to be activated.

Robert Schwieger, artist

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## **Family: Teresa Nguyen & Family**

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In 1975, Teresa Nguyen's parents and eldest brother left the village of Vinh Thanh, Vietnam, to live in Kansas. During the next two decades Teresa, her sister and two brothers were born and the family resettled in Lincoln. While the Nguyen children don't have personal memories of Southeast Vietnam, their parents have taught them about life there and have instilled many of the values that came from their heritage. The family says the changes in their lives underlined the importance of religion, family and education as priorities in their lives.

*Photo: Mrs. Nguyen, Teresa Nguyen and Robert Schweiger*

*Photo Credit: Amanda Hefner*

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