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| BUI Xuan Phai (1920-1988) |
| Bùi Xuân Phái |
| Bùi Xuân Phái is famous for his paintings of the streets of his birthplace, Hanoi. Graduating from the École des Beaux-Arts d’Indochine, Hanoi, in 1946, Phái painted with the resistance group of artists but returned to Hanoi in 1952 for the birth of his first child. Due to his participation in the *Nhan Van, Giai Phan* affair, which sought to separate art and politics, he lost his teaching post at the Hanoi College of Fine Arts where he had been a lecturer (1955-57). Phái contributed illustrations and cartoons to many publications throughout his lifetime, including the two publications after which the aforementioned affair was named. During the Second Indochina war he was part of a group of artists who travelled to various places in the countryside recording events. Quintessential Bùi Xuân Phái works are intimate oil and gouache cityscapes capturing the essence of Hanoi’s ancient quarter prior to economic renovation beginning in 1986. The simplified shapes are boldly outlined in black, while the greys and dull browns of the buildings are echoed in leaden skies. Reflecting a time of war and its aftermath, the streets are sparsely inhabited by occasional pedestrians or bicycle riders. |
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| Further reading:  (Bùi)  (Noppe and Hubert)  (Taylor) |