**Video: Made in Vietnam**

**Text transcript**

[Old jazz music starts playing in the background]

**A trip down memory lane.**

*Black-and-white scenes of old Vietnam: A church; an old map of Saigon; horse-drawn carriages in front of the church; the church reflected in a puddle of water; a statue of the Virgin Mary in front of the church; the old post office and its clock; an old man uses a magnifying glass to read a letter; the old man pens a reply; the ornate façade of a building; patterned floor tiles; a couple walks through a passageway, hand-in-hand.*

*Lisa sits and speaks in her shop.*

**Lisa Nguyen-Owen (founder of Very Ngon Homewares):** My name is Lisa, I’m from Very Ngon Homewares. I’ve been in Vietnam, this time, since 2008. I arrived very early in 2008 to do volunteer work with a local NGO, and that was for 18 months. By the time the 18 months had finished, I decided I wanted to live and stay in Vietnam. So through talking with friends and family and my partner, I tried to come up with an idea of starting a business, because I was really interested in doing that. So I eventually narrowed it down to working with fabrics, that’s something I’ve always been interested in. I love collecting textiles, I love working with fabrics, just everything about them, I found very interesting.

*Someone pours a bucket of ink onto a table; a printing press; a silkscreen of a boy in traditional garb.*

**Lisa:** We decided to do some hand printing, and initially we were going to outsource it, but I had a lot of trouble finding someone who could do that. So eventually we realized that I just have to do it myself.

*Someone prepares the printing press; someone lays out freshly printed textiles to dry.*

**Lisa:** We were living in a very small house, and I was literally doing the screen printing in my kitchen…

*A framed printed textile.*

**Lisa:** …picking up the pieces of fabric, rushing them outside, putting them over the motorbikes or over trees just so they could dry out, and then we had them sewn up into the tea towels.

*Another shot of Lisa sitting and speaking.*

**Lisa:** Also in that process, I came across some very old French postcard images, and completely fell in love with them. They are just beautiful images from the late 1800s, early 1900s.

*Someone sifts through a pile of old postcards.*

**Lisa:** I’ve always been very attracted to all things very old, antique, vintage...

*Lisa speaks to another lady; both look over the postcards. On the wall behind them is a framed print of a woman in traditional garb.*

**Lisa:** So as soon as I saw those in a book, I was like, “Oh, gorgeous!” Trying to initially source over the images had its own issues, but we were able to find out ways to do that, and now I collect my own postcards that we use for our products.

*Another shot of Lisa sitting and speaking.*

**Lisa:** We initially decided to do just tea towels, because they’re a product that Vietnamese people don’t use, and there’s a number of reasons why it was a good product to start with. It was very simple, something we could make very easily, we could print easily…

*Printed tea towels hanging on a line; printed cushions.*

**Lisa:** …and I thought it would have appeal to tourists and expats, something that you can easily take home. It’s a lovely gift that people can give to people. So that’s what we started with, just doing tea towels.

*A spread of printed tea towels and tote bags; a close-up shot of an old postcard; printed coaster sets.*

**Lisa:** From there, we went, “OK, we think we’ve got a good idea and a good product.” And so we’ve just gradually increased it from that time, and now we have a lot more homeware products, and we’re starting to create different products.

*Prints of two ladies in traditional garb.*

[Background music fades out]