Marcelino Truong’s first book about the early years of the Vietnam war, the graphic memoir Such a Lovely Little War (2016), received starred reviews in Publishers Weekly and Kirkus Reviews and was named “one the season’s best graphic novels” by the New York Times. In this sequel, young Marco and his family move from Saigon to London in order to escape the war following the assassination of South Vietnamese President Diem, for whom Marcelino’s diplomat father was a personal interpreter.

In London, his father struggles to build a new life for his children and his wife, whose bipolar spells are becoming increasingly violent. But for Marco and his siblings, swinging London is an exciting place to be: a new world of hedonists and hippies. At the same time, the news from their grandparents in Vietnam grows ever grimmer as the war intensifies and American involvement becomes increasingly muddied.

With its audacious imagery and heart-rending text, Saigon Calling is a bold graphic memoir that strikes a remarkable balance between the intimate chronicle of a family undone by mental illness and the large-scale tragedy of a country undone by war.

MARCELINO TRUONG is an illustrator and painter, and the author of Such a Lovely Little War.
In 1967, England was wearing a red tunic and dancing to the sounds of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

Influenced by San Francisco, in 1967 we had our Summer of Love too.

Alas, my love, you do me wrong, to cast me off ...
Protesters and flower children challenged the establishment and rejected the boring, passive lives of their parents. They were also horrified by the monster called the Vietnam War.

Subjected to American bombing, the totalitarian regime of North Vietnam seemed like a brave force of resistance – that image was carefully crafted – while in the South, US-led conventional troops wreaked destruction without ever stopping Viêt-Cong subversion.
The clash of weapons and the voice of protesters were deafening, drowning out those Vietnamese who dreamed of a pluralistic democracy.

**HO CHI MINH!**

**U.S. GO HOME!!**

**STOP NAPALM**

**Peace for Vietnam**

**No Viet Cong ever called me nigger!**

**America is the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.**

**Looks like it! Even Martin Luther King, Even Cassius Clay, the boxer.**

They're all against us!!

Dominicus

Marcus

America often wielded a heavy hand in Vietnam, and that triggered a barrage of opposition. We came in for our share of blame too, but as Vietnamese, we suspected our Việt-Cong adversary was a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

Did you see that article about Viet Nam in TIME: “Inside the Viet-Cong”? I love ZOOMs, don’t you?

Yeah, they’re great! I read stuff about the Việt-Cong in Papa’s books. They’re pretty tough!
The figure with the moveable limbs was my favorite toy of the times. Domi and I often went to Wimbledon Common in search of real settings for our photos.

One day, we came across a demonstration protesting the war in Vietnam. People had gathered in front of the Vietnamese ambassador’s residence – Clockhouse Mansion – located at one end of the Common.
Here are two photos that survived from Wimbledon 1967 or 1969. I changed my GIs’ uniforms to make them look like Vietnam grunts.

Our Brownie STARFLASH by KODAK (1959).

The Viet-Cong are FREEDOM FIGHTERS!
Hey, who are these little reactionary fascists?!

What about North-Vietnamese infiltrations along the Ho chi Minh trail?!

Later...
Make love, not war!? Just say the word. "Ha ha!"

It’s no fair, they think the Communists are so pure!

Make love not war!
We more or less repeated what our father said.

"The American bombing is a response to Việt-Cong terrorist activities..."

Bombs away!

"When North Vietnam stops its infiltration of men and weapons along the Hồ Chí Minh Trail, the Americans will stop their bombing."

But the bombs kill all kinds of innocent civilians. Is that better than what the terrorists do, Papa?

It's terrible ... but that's war ...