Identified as among the most popular writers of contemporary Vietnam, Duong served as a cultural activities guide in Vietnam prior to 1975 and as a member of a performing arts group for Vietnamese troops on the front during the war. She also has worked as a screenwriter; she was a producer-director for the film *The Sleepwalker*. The unflattering portrayals of Vietnam Communist Party functionaries exemplified in *Novel Without a Name* (1995) led to official harassment, arrest, and incarceration. She was honored with the Chevalier des Arts and des Lettres in 1994, the Prince Claus Foundation Award in 1999, and the Ginzane Cavour literary award in 2005. *Paradise of the Blind* (1988) was short-listed for the 1992 Prix Femina Etranger, and *Novel Without a Name* was short-listed for the 1997 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award. Recent novels include *Memories of a Pure Spring* (2000), *Beyond Illusions* (2002), *No Man's Land* (2005), and *Au zénith*, a translation of *Dinh Cao Choi Loi* (2009).