



An Analytical Study of Gold Medal Award in the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India During 2002–2007

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Abstract

This research is aimed at analyzing children's painting awarded with gold medal award in the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007. The Researcher selected children's painting awarded with President's Gold Medal and Jawaharlal Nehru Gold Medal, prized awarded for gold medal level group from the competition held in 6 consecutive years for totaling 101 paintings and focused on the issues of 1) content 2) painting materials 3) painting method and 4) picture structure. Details of each painting was analyzed on respective issue by using percentage and recording analytical result in the essay accompanied by sample pictures of the such paintings.

Findings from the study indicated that:

1. The content of paintings mostly related to the way of life by number of painting 33.67%.
2. The painting materials mostly used was poster color by number of painting, 43.56%.
3. Painting methods used were found in correlation to painting materials e.g. poster color, water color, oil pastel, pastel, oil color and acrylic color. From the study, each painting material could have variety of painting methods according to the nature of such material.
4. With respect to picture structure, it appeared that : 1) color choice and color composition; paintings using visual natural color were mostly found (60.40%). 2) emphasis; paintings using larger shape than the remaining components to create emphasis were mostly found (28.72%). 3) balancing; paintings creating balance by distinguishing between left and right side were mostly found (75.25%). 4) Picture composition; paintings with perspective composition were mostly found (57.43%)

Keywords: Analytical Study, Gold Medal Award, Shankar's International, Childrens Painting, Competition in India

Introduction

Today, children art contest has gained more attention and it has been held widely, at the local, national and international level. This activity is seen as a catalyst for promoting creativity and imagination of the children through artistic works. The most popular event is painting contest held by both public and private organizations or agencies or even the foundations which allows the

children to participate by submission of their paintings or by painting in the event. Academic institutions also play an important role in encouraging their students to participate in such contests both at the national and international forum. This enables us to see the pattern of children art especially painting published in the media, material or program and variety of Thai children works and works from those of other

countries which may reflect distinctiveness and development of children art in each country. Children painting or art contests are held by many countries e.g. the ASEAN countries, the European countries. From the review of invitation letters to join the contest, it was found that India by Shankar Association has established children painting and literature international contest since 1950 until present. This organization is very keen of focusing on promotion of esthetic value. It has published and distributed its activities worldwide and has gained a lot of attention from children evidencing by a number of artistic works submitted from children around the world. Later, the international contest has been organized by many organizations from countries around the world e.g. Japan, Poland, Argentina, Canada, Norway, Turkey, Egypt, Republic of South Africa, Bangladesh, France, the US, Republic of Kenya and Hong Kong etc. The contest may be held annually or every two years and some countries may hold this kind of contest on the special occasion e.g. environment campaign, festival or celebration in each country.

Children art international contest under Shankar's International Children's Competition initiated by Shankar Association, India, has been organizing since 1950 until now and has gained a lot of attention from children around the world including children from Thailand. Thai children have won the prizes from this contest continually and it is seen as classic art international contest. Among those many works, the works from students of Soeng Sang School have won Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal, silver medal, and prize medal continually since 1983 to 2007. In 1998, work of Mr. Siritwat Yaikratok, grade 9 student of Soeng Sang School won Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal. He was invited to attend the award ceremony and to pay study visit arts exhibition and tourist attractions in New Delhi, India on the 50th anniversary of children art

international contest held Shankar Association. Children works won the prize in each year have been published and distributed worldwide. For such a long period this international contest has been organized, its philosophy has also been well established making this event being appreciated by children around the world. Works are varied in terms of contents, creative technique, innovation and distinctiveness representing identity of each country. Most works winning President's gold medal, Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal and silver medal have been gathered and published in the program and books distributed to organizations and agencies.

From the above, it has made me interested in analyzing paintings winning President's gold medal and Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal, prizes in the group of gold medal which can reflect variety of works and representing other prizes awarded in this contest, Shankar's International Children's Competition during 2002–2007. It is aimed to analyze painting content, painting materials, painting method and painting composition which may be of benefit to the art instructor, student and the institution as well as organizer in children art promotion activity to be used as a guideline for further research and development of creation of painting among the children. It is also a source of information for paintings by children in other countries which are new and varied in terms of pattern, technique and culture.

Aims

To analyze paintings created by children winning gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 on the following issues:

1. Content
2. Painting material
3. Painting method
4. Painting structure

Research Methodology

1. Research Scope

The Researcher has selected paintings of the children winning President's gold medal for 5 paintings and Jawaharlal Nehru gold medal for 96 paintings which were gold medal prize group that can reflect variety of works and represent other prizes during the past 6 years of contest, totaling 101 paintings by analyzing on the following issues:

1. Content
2. Painting material
3. Painting method
4. Painting structure
 - 4.1 color choice and color composition
 - 4.2 making dominance
 - 4.3 picture balancing
 - 4.4 picture composition

2. Data Collection

1. Paintings created by the children winning the gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 published in the book, Shanka's Children's art number 53–58, 6 issues printed by Shanka Association, India and given to Soeng Sang Art Gallery, Soeng Sang School.

2. Other data source concerning children art contest and other opinions:

2.1 program of children art exhibition at national and international level at Soeng Sang Art Gallery, Soeng Sang School

2.2 interview and discussion with arts scholars and activists, arts instructors.

2.3 document, invitation for children art contest at arts learning department, Soeng Sang School

2.4 documents, books and research papers at library of Srinakharinwirot University and of other universities

3. Documents, materials, textbooks, articles relating to concept of children arts, paintings, content of paintings, painting material, painting method and painting structure for the purpose of

analyzing the works in this study.

3. Data Processing and Data Analysis

1. Analyzing painting of the children winning gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007. Such pictures used in this study were secondary data from the book, Shanka's Children's art number 53–58 for totaling of 101 pictures on the following issues:

- 1.1 Content
- 1.2 Painting material
- 1.3 Painting method
- 1.4 Painting structure
 - 1.4.1 color choice and color composition
 - 1.4.2 making dominance
 - 1.4.3 picture balancing
 - 1.4.4 picture composition

2. Analysis of painting on such issues has been done through the following steps:

2.1 Collection of paintings of children winning gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 as published in the book, Shanka's Children's art number 53–58 for the total of 101 pictures.

2.2 Analysis of such paintings by each issue applying percentage and recording such analytical results in descriptive essay with sample of such paintings.

3. Conclusion of analysis of paintings of children winning gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 and presenting in descriptive analysis by essay, table and picture.

Conclusion and Discussion

From the study of paintings of the children winning gold medal prize from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 published in the book, Shanka's Children's art number 53–58, totaling 6 issues, its results can be described as follows:

1. Content

From the analysis, it is found that most of the painting's content mostly related to way of life for 33.67% ranging from way of life in the rural area, urban way of life, family life, career, market, recreational activities during vacation. The 2nd most found content involved traditions and cultures accounting for 20.79% of the total number of pictures. Such paintings reflected local cultures, festivals, religious activity, local sport activity, wedding ceremony and social belief followed by the content about the individual for 18.81% which reflected individual of each race and individual expressing feeling or posturing and then followed by the content about local performance accounting for 14.85% which included painting reflecting about painting of martial arts, folk musical performance, folk dance and folk performance. Paintings about child plays were least found for 2.97% including playing kite and playing in the garden. The content of paintings winning the gold medal from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002-2007 were varied in reflecting way of life, arts and cultures of the country of the children winning the prizes. This may be due to the criteria regarding content are quite flexible allowing the contesters to freely choose the content they are interested in or favored of which are in line with the concept of promoting children art of Sannarong Singhaseni stating that environment factors are crucial and influential for artistic work creation including place of birth, ethnicity, religion, belief, tradition an norm, physical environment, geography, nature, human-animal-forest, current situation of the country, scientific and technological knowledge, computer, living standard, poverty, draught and abundance (Sannarong Singhaseni. 2003: 27-30). It is also in consistent with what has been stated by Aree Sutthiphan about visual arts that it normally covers social and religious belief, person

and history, tales or myths, folk tales, male and female which directly involve human being (Aree Sutthiphan. 1992: 62-63). In addition, it also corresponds with opinion toward content of paintings given by Sangkom Thongmee that the Shankar's International Children's Painting in India during 2002-2007 which has been held continually for almost 60 years is the first forum or institution organizing children art completion and interested by children around the world. The awarded work represent high quality of work relating to tradition, culture and way of life (Sangkom Thongmee. 2007: interview) and the fact that most of the paintings winning the prize having content relating to way of life indicates the tendency in judgment by the referees for gold medal prize.

Results from the analysis also indicate that most of the content of paintings reflected way of life, tradition and culture of the country of the children winning the prize. From the review, countries of children winning the prizes included 22 countries as follows: India, Silanka, North Korea, Turkmenistan, Bulgaria, Mongolia, Ukraine, Erythria, Kazacstan, Thailand, Poland, Multi West, Germany, Zech Republic, Indonesia, Turkey, Bangladesh, Burma, Malaysia, Russia, Slovak Republic and Egypt. For the instance, content of painting reflecting way of life, tradition and culture of each country were such as: For India, they included paintings of female with red spot on the forehead in Hindi style, dressing in the bride costume, Sari and decorated with necklace, bracelet, nose ring, bangle and colorful dress. It is also found that dressing of local Indian people will choose colorful dress e.g. red, yellow, green and indigo. The fabric pattern may be geometric shape or flower etc. For Ukraine, it was found that there were some paintings demonstrating the content relating to Loi Krathong Festival. For Bulgaria, there were some paintings relating to firewalk and wedding ceremony expressing

dressing in colorful cloth fresh colors e.g. red, orange, deep blue, yellow, green, purple and black. For Thailand, the paintings showed the posture of greeting called “Wai”, elephant tour, water market, Thai classical performance called “Khon”, life along the canal and river etc. For Burma, the paintings showed national dressing by female and male called “Sarong” with different fabric patterns and some female were also found applying talcum powder on their both cheeks.

2. Painting Materials

The painting materials mostly used was poster color accounting for 43.56% of the total number of paintings due to the fact that poster color is convenient for use with water as a solvent and suitable for paper, giving glossy texture and bright colors, suitable for picture requiring more details (Somphob Jongjitphotha. 2552: 102–103). From the review, the age range of children winning the prize were between 12–15 years old; 27 paintings for 12 years old, 19 paintings for 13 years old, 34 paintings for 14 years old and 21 paintings for 15 years old, respectively. This can somewhat show the tendency of judgment passed by the referees for gold medal prize as this age range has skill and knowledge to apply complicated materials. It was followed by water color (38.62%), water color in combination with pastel (1.98%), and the least percentage found were painting material from oil color, acrylic color, pastel, water color in combination with oil pastel (0.99%). Paintings by oil color, acrylic, pastel and water color in combination with oil pastel were least found for 0.99%. It can be concluded that painting materials used for the painting winning the gold medal were varied and freely chosen by the children’s interest and age of such children including poster color, water color, oil color, oil pastel, acrylic and pastel and paintings applying poster color were mostly found.

3. Painting Method

Painting methods used were found in correlation to painting materials e.g. poster color, water color, oil pastel, pastel, oil color and acrylic color. From the study, each painting material could have variety of painting methods according to the nature of such material. Painting method by poster color included flat washes, brush line style, impasto and shaking-off color. Painting method for water color included wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry and dry-on-dry. Painting method for oil pastel included smooth and harmonization, smooth and overlaying, scratching, sketching and lining. Painting method for pastel includes smooth and overlay, scratching, sketching and lining. Painting method for acrylic and oil color included smooth and harmonizing, brush lining, impasto, painting and spreading and tinting. These are in line with Somphob Jongjitphotha’s stating about painting methods or techniques sort by painting materials that painting method for pastel includes smooth and harmonizing, texture building, and double layered. Painting method for chalk color includes harmonizing by fingers, double layered painting, smooth and harmonizing and texture building. Painting method for water color includes wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, dry-on-dry and painting on the prepared plain surface. Painting method for poster color includes shading, impasto, double layered and scratching by knife tip and shaking-off color by tooth brush. Painting method for oil color and acrylic color are similar to each other but acrylic color will be more rapidly dried out than oil color including continuous painting, harmonizing, brushes lining, outlining and smoothly harmonizing between the outline and content and impasto. (Somphob Jongjitphotha. 2009:89–118). It also indicated from the review of paintings winning the prizes that they reflected high skill, meticulousness and courage in applying different painting methods according to painting materials.

Visual elements were applied for creating the works to be well corresponding to such methods e.g. light and shade, texture etc.

4. Picture Structure

From the study of pictures from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007 totaling 101 pictures only on the issues of color choice and color composition, picture emphasis, picture balance and picture composition, the Researcher wishes to discuss on the research results of the said issues as follows:

4.1 With respect to color choice and color composition of pictures from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007, it is found that paintings using visual natural color were mostly found for 60.40%. Such may be due to the fact that children winning gold medal award were around 12–15 years of age who normally begin to give attention on the correctness of shape and story and can realize and create dimension, light and shade that can give more reality to the picture than younger children. They can develop more skill and try to express their imagination and reality as they wish (Sannarong Singhaseni. 2003: 27–30) followed by picture applying contrast colors accounting for 22.77% while paintings using the overall warm color tone were least found (3.96%) in consistent with principle of color application in the painting works of Sakon Phungamdee mentioning 3 types as follows: natural or actual color, application of color by principle and by the artist's view (Sakon Phungamdee. 2002:51–55). In addition, it is also in line with application of color by its special characteristic; by their common use and contrasting use (Somphop Chongchitpotha. 2009:62–63).

4.2 With respect to emphasis of pictures from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007, it is found that paintings using larger shape than the remaining components to create emphasis were

mostly found (28.72%) followed by using clashing color or different color tone (22.77%) and by focusing on details (21.78%) while making dominance by allowing the shape to be centered accounted for 12.87% of total number of pictures and by focusing on light and shading (8.91%). Paintings with emphasis on boundary line were least found (3.96%). These are in line with the concept of emphasizing or making dominance given by Pheerapong Kulphisan stating significance of color contrast or different tone, applying distinctive line or shape from the rest components of the picture, emphasis of color depth to be different from other area to be in the center. (Pheerapong Kulphisan. 1988: 64) and are also consistent with creation of prominent point for painting or any artistic creation by Suansi Siphangphong including color decoration, emphasis by line, light and shade and space (57.43%) Suansi Siphangphong. 2534:94)

4.3 With respect to picture balancing of pictures from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007, it is found that most of the paintings applied balancing method by different objects between left and right (75.25%) followed by balancing by the same or similar object (24.75%). These were in line with concept of the balance of visual arts given by Suphachai Singyabusaya explaining that there are 2 types of balance, namely, balancing left and right with the same or similar objects and with different objects (Suphachai Singyabusaya. 2003: 109–110).

4.4 With respect to picture composition of pictures from the Shankar's International Children's Painting Contest in India during 2002–2007, it is found that the paintings using perspective composition featuring short, medium and long distance perspective and categorized into 3 levels including eye-level perspective, upward perspective and downward perspective were mostly found for 57.43% of total number of

pictures followed by close-up composition (36.63%) not focusing on the content while the prominent part outbalancing the rest components of the picture and overlapping and dissolving were least found (5.94%).

The analysis relating to picture structure shows the tendency that judgment and selection of painting to be awarded with gold medal prize has emphasized on natural or actual color, making featuring object to be larger than and distinctive from the background, balancing the picture by different components between left and right and applying perspective composition. These may be due to such picture can express the content that can best reflect way of life, arts and cultures of each country including better conveying the emotion, feeling and atmosphere than other types of picture.

Recommendations

From the study, it showed that the content of painting related to way of life, culture and customs, individual, local performing arts, child plays, human and pets and human nature. Way of life was mostly used as the theme of paintings and thus is suitable as a subject of painting by children. It is further found that poster color was mostly used for painting and therefore, painting by poster color may be promoted among the children age 12-15. In addition, it is also found

that methods for painting were varied according to property of painting material which can be used for development of painting techniques for the student. Perspective composition was largely found and thus it is recommended to develop skill for picture composition using perspective one by holding more activities in this type of picture and the instructor should not use this analytical result as a guideline for children in submitting their works in the contest merely for winging the prize.

Suggestions for further study

The program used for study printed only paintings winning gold and silver medal. Silver medal paintings, in particular, are awarded as many as 200 prizes each year which allows us to see variety of paintings in terms of age of artists, painting materials, painting method, content as well as country of the winner. These have led to other issues to be focused for future study as follows:

1. It is recommended to analyze paintings winning silver medal.
2. It is suggested to analyze patterns or prominent features of paintings winning the prizes from each country.
3. There should have analytical study for painting methods which are new to be a guideline for creation of painting works in the future.

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