



Follow-up of the 2007 National Artists Announced by the Office of the National Culture Commission of Thailand, Ministry of Culture, in Literature/ Visual Arts/ Performing Art.

Sathit Thinwatbunthong

Faculty of Fine Arts, Srinakharinwirot University, Thailand

Corresponding author: sa_thim@hotmail.com

Abstract

The key purpose of this study was to follow up the 2007 awarded national artists announced by the Office of the National Culture Commission of Thailand, Ministry of Culture, in Literature/ Visual Arts/ Performing Art in the context of outstanding works, creativity concept, social communication, creativity principles, experiences and livelihood of six national artists (five currently alive and one died). Individual national artists' representative works were analyzed. In this study, all national artists named Krisada Aroonwong Na Ayutthaya, Decha Warachune, Yanyong Olarnrachin, Kowit Anakchai, Charn Buabangsorn, and Nakarin Chathong.

The results showed as follows.

A study of *creativity concept* recognizing the elegance, durability, and utility based on the appropriate social context indicated that some national artists recognized the innovative experiments which experimental results could be applied creatively through mixed media techniques while others applied personal experiences of journey to create the imagination. In regard to works recording through photographs, some national artists applied the arts and religion as useful guidelines in writing and making speech to transmit the peacefulness and tranquility to the society while other made advantages of personnel living experience to compose songs that reflect the contemporary society. In addition, some who are fascinated with local arts profoundly devoted their strength and mind to bring forth development as we've seen today.

Social communication is a way the national artists communicated and express their ideas to the public in pattern of desired devotional behavior explicitly and continuously through which their artworks served as medium. Until today they still serve as media, keeper, and developer of arts and cultures.

Creativity principle indicated that representative artworks analyzed were different between expression contents. In Visual Art, three national artists in different fields; architecture, printing and mixed media, and photograph, recognized the punctual accomplishment that meets scheduled timetable and architectural uniqueness of the works. In regard of printing and mixed media, they recognized the expression in the combination of geometric form, representing objectivity, and organic form, representing mental and emotional vividness through photographing, and placed importance on narrative story, picture composition and quality materials. In Literature, there was only one national artist. The art education and religious study were connected together as principle in composing the writing; poets, articles, and novels in harmonious way. In Performing Art, there were two national artists which musician and writer applied their realistic experiences in extraordinary contemporary context to compose songs. In regard of folk performance, Nang Ta Lung, it emphasized the uniqueness that reflected the rural way of living, in combination with arts and culture that represent the amusement and public access in the way that folk performance could be maintained sustainably.

National artists' personal experience and lifestyle demonstrated that the differences in experiences faced by individual artists, depending on their way of living as national artist. They were industrious to create works constantly and uniquely. They also sacrificed themselves for public through their knowledge and competence, particularly in artistic talents through which they were given opportunity to serve the society. Despite some of them have suffered their unfortunate fate without social attention; the power of artistic creativity remains alive and powerful. Some artists became disabled while others still produce the creative works regularly and constantly. Certainly, this is the way representing the differences and diversification in the life of the national artists who still alive.

Keywords : Follow-up, Artists, Literature, Visual Arts, Performing Art

Introduction

King Buddha Loetla Nabhalai graciously maintained the national arts, sciences, and craftsmanship in all progresses. He was an excellent artist in all fields from literature to sculptures, writing, and art objects, all these affirmed his remarkable talent and skills.

In reign of the King Buddha Loetla Nabhalai, he benevolently commanded to build the palace's structural extension following the King Buddha Yodfa Chulaloke's reign, consisting of the main palace with 3-side porticos, big and small wells, mounted roofing along the isles; 2-3 roofing each isle, 2-floor foreign-styled seats used as seat to watch the performance; Thai grand

orchestra, riverside fortress, and high citadel to view the boat racing contest, as well as the inside of the royal park. All constructions were made elegantly and splendidly.

The King Buddha Loetla Nabhalai's remarkable talents in addition to architectural and sculptural artworks, it included dramatic works and music which have been popular from time to time, as well as drama composition entitled "Unroot", "Ramkian", "Inaow", "Sangthong", "Kraithong", "Kawi", etc. In music, three-stringed fiddle is a favorite musician instrument he was so adept that he built a three-stringed fiddle (named "Sai Fa Fad") as beloved instrument. (Kom Chad Luek: 2008). In respect of creating the

artworks by the awarded national artists, they have been socially recognized of knowledge and capability. More importantly, those artworks have been developed continuously with love and faith irrespective of incentives or praises. Until they become apparently recognized, the goodness, reputation, and admiration follow expressively under the social context. Even though receiving nothing as reward, the national artists continue to produce the creative artworks constantly. Of course, the national artists' artworks unveiling to the public sight represent the value of individual artists as recognized national artists explicitly. In 2007, six following artists were honorably proclaimed as '2007 national artist'.

Prestige Professor Capt. Krisada Aroonwong Na Ayuttha, national artist in Visual Art (Contemporary Architectures) with several outstanding design accomplishments, won the 'Gold Medal Award' through design works from Amporn Garden New Building and the River City Trade Center, and appointed as excellent architect on

the 60th auspicious anniversary of the Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASS). He was a great patron contributing the architectural profession as lecturer who pioneered the development of architect sciences in accordance with professional practices.

Professor Decha Warachun, national artist in Visual Art (Printing and Mixed Media), devoted an effort to artwork creativity since 1968. The initial artworks were characterized of geometric shape, representing the tranquility rather than objects, and organic shape represented the movement of life where silk screen technique was applied. His work results had been awarded the national art objects so many times that he was exalted as excellent artist in printing. Later, he created artworks using the mixed media and he discovered the Faux Finish techniques (copper) and had been granted the outstanding award from the contemporary museum, Las Vegas, U.S.A.

Yanyong Olarnrachin, national artist in Visual Art (Photograph), graduated in Photograph and Film from Bangkok Technical College, generated artworks for over 42 years until today. All pictures are natural and vivid, reflecting the story and affection that won the champions domestically and internationally. Of them, two pictures entitled "Fly Alone" and "Green Stream" won champions granted by the King Bhumipol who chose the pictures himself.

Kowit Anakchai, national artist in Literature. His pen names include "Khemanantha", "Chappong", "Sahatsanai", "Muninantha". His writing integrated Buddhism intellect and Thai art and culture harmoniously and elegantly. His perspective was so intellectual in analysis and criticism that describes the phenomenal and social changes explicitly, and Buddhism teaching has been succeeded to new generation religious

people profoundly.

Charn Buabangson, national artist in Performing Art (Musician – Writer) was an originator of Thai Luk Thung and Luk Krung songs by which the accordion was first used for Luk Thung songs until it becomes a symbol of Luk Thung songs today. He was skillful in composing songs and arranging the harmony. His well-known songs include “Krathom Praiwan”, “Protherd Doungchai”, “Siangkraun Jak Korea”, and “Lam Tuey”, etc.

Nakarin Chathong, national artist in Performing Art (Folk Performance – Nang Ta Lung) was interested in performing Nang Ta Lung since childhood. He practiced performing the show with local filmmakers until he was skillful to perform it when he was 16 years old. He narrated in both official and local voice of no less than 20 different sounds. In addition, he performed showing Nang Ta Lung in any styles, resuscitating and transferring knowledge to a lot of children, including carrying out social activities.

Six awarded national artists aforementioned, who maintained and succeeded Thai cultural uniqueness, are considered ‘good exemplar’ in examining the creativity process and approach.

Advocating, search, analysis, and following-up those national artists in this study provide the new components of knowledge to understand the thinking process in relation to the artwork creation in different formats, reflecting the notion and profound wisdom told by the national artists through each kind of artworks.

New knowledge includes as follows, architecturally, the architect should be unique in reflecting his self-identity distinctively and explicitly to public. In poetry, the artistic knowledge as Dharma-based fundamental thinking has been transmitted to the public, integrated in multi-dimensions to bring about the national artworks.

Additionally, it’s fundamental to integrative pedagogy that plays role in creating the artworks to the extent that improves Thai artists’ life quality and their sustainable creation.

This present study examined the family status quo, existent role of the artists, welfares provided by government agencies, creativity role and social role.

Aims

1. To examine the distinct work results produced by the awarded national artists, creativity approach, social communication, and creativity principles.
2. To examine experiences and livelihood of national artist in relation to creating artworks

Methodology

Six artists who were named ‘2007 national artist’ were selected. The work results produced by national artists were analyzed. The national artists’ work results demonstrated the origin of creativity concept, social communication, creativity principles. Descriptive analysis was performed, and then the conclusion was made as guideline for knowledge components. The representative work results were used as example in analysis. The informal interview method was also used.

Results

The analysis of the representative work results showed as follows;

Krisada Aroonwong Na Ayuttha

Source of Creativity

The origin of creativity concept and inspiration to create the works in architectural modal was analyzed. Krisada demonstrated the concept regarding of the utility and social service. According

to Krisada, main creativity concept in create the architectural works consisted of three approaches. Firstly, the project owner and architect must be consistent in concept in term of the investment profits and decision on investment. The most understandable agreement was then made between project owner the architect. As the construction project must be completed within a defined period, the concept and planning made jointly between the parties must be in harmony with the reality and probability. Secondly, the elegance and convenience in usage and values was emphasized. Meanwhile, space must be utilized thoroughly and stably that convinces the habitants in term of residence and stabilization. Thirdly, the cognitive potential and imagination generated by the architect was focused. It's necessary for architect to reason and explain the project owner the concept in acceptable way. The knowledge about the personal identity was focused so that the project owner recognized the worthy elegance presented according to the architect's imagination.

With three concepts mentioned above, Krisada places an importance in the aesthetics based on reasonable appropriateness, which he uses term "sufficiency" as inspiration to create his architectural works.

Social Communication

With experience of architectural works and creativity in different modalities that were notable to the public, and several work results that have been awarded, Krisada was a patron contributing the architectural profession as instructor who initiated and developed the Architecture Sciences in modernized and harmonious way that would be beneficial to person and general public.

Creativity Principle

To create the architectural works, it's required to realize the benefits in term of utility and elegance. In addition, wisdom and liaison skill is needed to be accepted cognitively and imaginarily by employer. One important thing Krisada always realized in the architectural creativity was sufficiency, elegance and simplicity.

Experience and Livelihood

Krisada Aroonwong Na Ayutthaya was a notable architect with several awards. He was a university instructor and becomes leader in the architectural arena in Thailand. He was elected as Bangkok Governor. He now dies.

Decha Warachun

Source of Creativity

Analysis of the origin of creativity concept stemmed from the experimental effort that led to new and innovative techniques. The geometric form and organic form were emphasized and represented in printing works, including the different types of materials, for examples, stainless steel, aluminum, bronze, and copper. The artistic expression placed importance on experiment and seeking for innovation.

Social Communication

Decha's art works have been characterized of art for art in regardless of the story context. Throughout his life, he served as university instructor, arbitrator at national and international level, and instructor disseminating the national artist's work in the universities nationwide. To create the distinctive artworks with the mixed media techniques, it reflects the long-standing artworks that have been recognized to public apparently. Consequently, Decha's artworks

become the protocol to the next generation youth and serve as inspiration to create the mixed media artworks which has been rarely produced among Thai artists.

With outstanding works through mixed media, his works become the protocol to new generation youth and the inspiration to create the works by means of mixed media techniques which have been rarely found.

At Rangsit, his established studio gave the students an opportunity to view his works and the collection of works. This reflected Decha Warachun's work to the public sight.

Creativity Principles

A number of artworks presented by Decha, the abstract artworks have been produced using the form, shape, color, and surface to combine with natural form, with integrated position that has been characterized of mixed geometric form, representing the object form, and causality in agreement with organic form, representing the lives, mind, and emotion.

Experience and Livelihood

Decha loved in art since childhood. I advanced his education at School of Arts and Crafts, and Silpakorn University. He produced the abstract works through printing and mixed media. I was humble and simplistic in livelihood.

Yanyong Olarnrachin

Source of Creativity

With experience of travel and the love in photographing, Yanyong Olarnrachin always carried his camera during travel. He gained the different viewpoints from places where he visited and worked. His most favorite pictures included white and black colored photos which were popular in

his period. He embraced three approaches in photographing; 1) artistic value that communicated the society the story and event, 2) positioning that represented the elegance and innovative challenging viewpoints, and lastly 3) photographing technique that presented the photographing potential, especially materials and other supplies.

Social Communication

Yanyong's photographic works in context of expression involved the way of living of up-country people in different manners at different emotions. Hundreds of photographs reflected people and society that had not been interested socially, for examples; photo entitled "Emotional Smoke", "Grandmother with Decayed Walking Stick", reflecting the concern of the aged who were neglected and lived lonely.

Creativity Principles

Yanyong took many chances travelling the tourist destinations in Thailand. In bureaucratic sector, he had engaged of photographing the identity card and other functions. On the other hand, he travelled and found the interesting views to take photos. Almost photographs could describe the story and event. He worked accompanying with photographing; the art he loved to do.

Experience and Livelihood

Yanyong was interested in photographing when he was young. He was ambitious to run his own photo shop. I studied photograph and worked for government agency. In his leisure time, he went out to take photo at different places. I loved fascinatingly taking photos of natures and people's life through white-black color photo techniques until today.

Kowit Anakchai

Source of Creativity

Kowit devoted himself as priest to religious service for sixteen years. I lived as priest at Mokplaram for 4-5 years. I was ordained since age of 29. Before ordainment, I graduated from Silpakorn University in the Faculty of Interior Art. However, his thought was opposite. He perceived studying as wastage and unable to develop mankind, consistent with Buddhism practices that he later studied.

Social Communication

Kowit's diverse works had been publicized to community and society. It taught people to understand the Buddha's teaching. His creative works came in different forms; poet, novel, essay, articles, Dharma preaching, comparative religion, academic articles in relation to culture, art, and Thai local wisdom, which were published to people's sight since 1970. Until present, there are 60 items totals; core content presented is Buddhism Law.

Creativity Principles

Kowit's creativity principles involved exposing oneself to experience the learnt people, travel for new knowledge. He was a good exemplar in practice that he learnt from the virtual senior. He acquired additional knowledge from Buddhism teaching and become an example of life that follows the way of Dharma.

Experience and Livelihood

After graduating the Applied Art, Kowit turned his life and was ordained in South, and studied Dharma with Bhuddhart Piku at Mokplaram for 16 years. Afterwards, he wrote books, lecturing Dharma, art, and way of happy living.

Charn Buabangsorn

Source of Creativity

Despite Charn Buabangsorn loved singing, he was not successful in singing. He turned life to compose songs which he discovered himself. To compose song, he was inspired from the events he involved, for examples; song "Shapeba", sung by Ariya Parichat. The idea was ignited from the occurrence. The song was composed in own handwriting at the dining room, and sound record was done in the next day. Charn was adept in writing songs with little time. His prior famous songs included "Kramthom Praiwan", sung by Somyos Tasanaphan.

Social Communication

After retirement, most songs composed by Charn were served to up-countries, for examples, provincial song of Chonburi, Pathumthani, and Utradit. He was willful to devote himself to serve the nation at local and national level with all his knowledge and competency. His devotion and effort has been apparent. He devotes his ability and time creating the artworks irrespective of remuneration or wages. His industriousness has been so evident continuously that he has been recognized in music arena constantly.

Creativity Principles

In addition to composing song and accompanying, playing accordion was a part of song composition. The accordion was integral part in Luk Tung songs and Luk Krung songs. Both type of singers joined singing to reduce the existing gap at that period.

Experience and Livelihood

Charn was skillful in composing songs. He could compose a song quickly through his

imagination and experiences he participated voluntarily and involuntarily. He could perform the musician instrument well.

Nakarin Chathong

Source of Creativity

Nakarin Chathong was grown-up and cultured with folk play since childhood, so he loved and admired Nang Ta Lung, which became part of his everyday life. As familiarity leads him to pleasure, he was so especially interested in performing Nang Ta Lung because he found the way of survival and life improvement consequently. Until today, Charn composes total 112 pieces of Nang Ta Lung. The story not only provided good ideas, but entertainment, essences, idea, proverbs, and virtue philosophy. Nakarin is reflective artist. His belief and notion has been expressed and conserved in format of the primeval Nang Ta Lung, transmitting to the next generation youth of the value of local performance that has influenced the goodwill and strong relationship among people in the community, and succeeding the local arts and cultures sustainably.

Social Communication

With intention to conserve the local performance in Nang Ta Lung since his childhood, his intention remains the same today and he truly commits to succeed the heritage and dissemination to general public. Additionally, with his adeptness in performing Nang Ta Lung and folk play, Nakarin joined the government projects, for examples, public relation and campaign on local election, establishing master plan for Songkha Lake development, public relation for Southern province improvement and development. Nang Ta Lung has been developed explicitly and acceptably at national and international level.

Creativity Principles

Regarding to the key principles in conducting performance, Nakaring tries at his best to maintain the different formats of performance as mostly as possible, along with renovating the format of Nang Ta Lung through which the use of language matches the country's situation at that time, meanwhile its uniqueness has been retained most of the time. In B.E.2504, his work was rolled-out with warm welcome under the name "Nakarin Chathong Film, Student's Beloved One" and "Wat Kok Samankun Film" Until B.E.2526, he became aware that performing Nang Ta Lung show would be a promising career, especially folk play which was considered 'local art', a symbol of heart. The shows were consistent with community and society. In particular, the distinctive play like 'Nang Ta Lung' was maintained forever.

Experience and Livelihood

Nakarin Chathog was fascinated with the folk performance and Nang Ta Lung since childhood. He was contributed by relatives who were skillful in Nang Ta Lung, development had been progressing unit he established his own Nang Ta Lung band that has been renowned in South.

Discussion

A study of following-up of the 2007 national artists awarded by Office of the National Culture Commission of Thailand, Ministry of Culture, in Literature/ Visual Arts/ Performing Art. Six national artists' works were analyzed to determine six representative works. Three following important points were unveiled.

Source of Creativity

Truthfully, the approaches of artwork

creation are different in content and principles, the artistic creators apply their imagination as origin of creation. The imagination is based on independence as fundamental to initiate new works. Individual artists' original thinking varies from artist to artist. For examples, the architectural artists are always aware of the community and social benefits and the existence of the architects's uniqueness appropriately. In visual art, the artists pay attention to the mixed media materials where form, shape, color, and surface are emphasized primarily. Regarding to photographic works, it heavily relies on individual's journey and travel as inspiration in choosing the reflective angle that reflects emotion and feeling about the events experienced. In poetry, it mainly involves the integration of arts, religion, and nature as inspiration to transmit the artistic works. In song composition, the artists apply the experiences and occurrences surrounding in daily life in each period as concept to create their artworks. In local performance, the conservative approaches are usually applied aiming to transmit the next generation youth, to succeed the performing art heritage, and to strengthen the community in sustainable way.

Social Communication

Religious and cultural-related works stemmed from artist's imagination as guideline in creativity. Analysis and comparison could provide the contemporary way which Buddhism has impact on people's lives currently. The sufficiency economics approach was promoted focusing on the utility and creativity primarily, including energy-saving, elegance, simplicity, modernity appropriately and harmoniously with people's way of living and community they live.

Creativity Principles

1. Artist's creativity requires diligence, patience, accumulated learning that brings forth development. It also includes update and continuous production of works that are valuable to general public' mind.
2. Natural way of living, learning from the experiences, and natural expression can generate the valuable creative works
3. Abstract works that have undergone the examination and experiment can lead to the innovative dimension of the imagination that will be presented to the society.

Experience and Livelihood

- 4.1 Prestige Prof.Krisada Aroonwong Na Ayutthaya produced the wining architectural works. He was a Governor of Bangkok. (He dies now)
- 4.2 Prof. Decha Warachune produces works continuously. He was an outstanding artist, being happy with teaching career.
- 4.3 Yanyong Olarnrachin profoundly loves photographing. He always carries the camera whenever making journey. He likes white-black photograph and develops the film at his own house.
- 4.4 Kowit Anakchai is current sick of Parkinson disease. He lives alone and orders meals with the neighbors. He does not write new book, but having the old ones revised and updated.
- 4.5 Charn Buabangson is now sick of paralysis with the help from wife and daughter. I earn living with the government funding primarily.
- 4.6 Nakarin Chathong succeeds the folk performance and Nang Ta Lung acceptable to southern people. He truly commits to link the ethics with performance in harmony.

In summary, of six national artists, one dies, three continue to produce work continuously, and two are sick of paralysis and unable to produce works. The national artist with Parkinson disease can perform function to some degrees. However, five national artists have been supported the salary from the government. Three national artists who are healthy physically and mentally continue producing the creative works in accor-

dance with their way of living, and devote the effort to the fine and applied arts arena as committee and instructor, etc. to disseminate knowledge to community and society continuously. All national artists who are alive say the same word that they desire to devote themselves to public through his knowledge that would transfer to the public and new generation youth beneficially to nation.

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