

Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions

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Abstract

This article is part of The Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions. The objective is to enable students and young people to apply the philosophy, concepts, teachings, beliefs and attitudes of Buddhism to create works of art. Through organizing a contest and exhibiting works of art in the name "Interpret Buddhism through the new generation" Which has been conceptualized from the research. Interpretation of Buddhist Teachings and the Creation of Contemporary art. With the assumption from this concept that Will be able to promote the skills of interpreting Buddhist principles in Thai society. And from the survey of youth's understanding of the creation of artistic works under religious topics It appears as a total of 84 works submitted to the event in both 2D and 3D categories, which were analyzed and summarized in descriptive research. This research project aims to stimulate target groups of youth and young people in Thai society. Interested in studying and interpreting the valuable principles of Buddhism and being able to truly apply that value in life. Inevitably brings benefits to a peaceful coexistence in Thai society. Conclusion from the operation of the research project as a platform that allows students or young artists to express themselves through the creation and dissemination of their works of art. Able to identify creative potential and skill in interpreting Buddhist principles from various perspectives, interesting and different among youth groups today (2019).

Keywords: *Interpret The Principles, Buddhism, Contemporary art, Young Contemporary Thailand*

INTRODUCTION

Religious principles of all religions are incorporated into the system of education both within and outside the textbooks. All people have the right to adopt philosophies, ideas, teachings and beliefs from different religions which can be applied in daily life (Harahap et al., 2023). The religion that most people in Thailand respect is "Buddhism" and is also important as the foundation of Thai culture as well (Parnwell & Seeger, 2008). This is because Thai people have respected Buddhism for a long time until the principles of Buddhism have been molded into the Thai way of life, becoming the cultural foundation of Thai people in every aspect. Both in terms of way of life, language, customs and traditions morality and fine arts (BHIRASRI, 2020). Buddhism is the birthplace of various arts. including painting, sculpture, and architecture (Bhirasri, 2016).

In every epoch, people have different attitudes towards Buddhism, what indicates the attitude towards Buddhism of the people of that era which can be seen through cultural traditions, rituals or beliefs that have been passed down to the present day (Nemati et al., 2014). The inherent relationship of art and religion can be clearly seen through the wall paintings which tell the story of the Buddha's life, Buddha sculptures, or it can be said that the temple and the Buddhist place all manifest their artistic beauty (Lee, 2023). There is a record of the 4th special lecture series for the group of people who

practice meditation by Lord Buddhadasa Bhikkhu on April 7-14, 1990 at the Suan Makkha International Surat Thani Province mention the true Buddhahood in one section, which reads:

“If it is a true Buddha, it is a 'dependent origination', not saying that 'existence' exists, 'not saying 'none existence' does not exist, it exists like the nature of "dependent origination" is concocted accordingly. According to the nature of the factors there is only a stream of improvements. It's always changing, can be calling it "existing" is crazy, calling it "nothing" is crazy. This is why we know Buddhism better. It's not "none", it's not "existing" or it doesn't exist at all. This is very important in order to understand Buddhism is to understand the matter of "ego" and "no ego" so well (Buddhadasa Bhikkhu, 2010).

From the aforementioned texts, Buddhism has a broad approach to study. Both in terms of knowledge of the Dharma teachings, rituals, religious beliefs, etc., Because Buddhism is not alone only one-sided or something specific but is what combines the various sciences of knowledge which can be both belief and science. At the same time giving opportunities for those who study or those who are interested can apply it in their own way of living.

The emergence of research The Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions has get the idea from the research of Professor Vichoke Mukdamanee. Under the collective concept of the research project that

“Creating contemporary works of art that incorporates the philosophy, concepts, teachings and beliefs of Buddhism as issues in the study and interpretation. By creating a 2 D painting and 3 D art installation to communicate images and symbolics with contemporary art which can create an appreciation of the impression of the essence of Dharma nature and modern objects. The integration of material media in the creation of painting, sculpture, mixed media and installation art. to analyze and synthesize the issues of cultural and philosophical progress that change, move and influence each other to convey teachings in Buddhism to people living in modern society to create and fuse love and faith in the coexistence of people in today's society.” (Research community, 2020).

With a common saying that Human beings can be formed by having body and mind (McGee, 2016). The body relies on beings as a source of nourishment. As for the mind, there is food for the mind as a source of nourishment, namely religion, general knowledge, and art. Lack of knowledge leads to ignorant beliefs, or lack of support for one's mind leads to materialistic beliefs that exist and are the only ones (worldly). The bridge, which connects the beliefs of material and spiritual beliefs, is art. Because whoever understands and knows the value of art that one has attained to that which is Ananta, Brahma, able to know with certainty the true happiness (niramissuk) (World, n.d.).

Modern art circles in Thailand since Prof. Silpa Bhirasri came to teach students of the Fine Arts School in 1933, he has provided both theoretical and practical knowledge (BHIRASRI, 2020). The practice allows Thai artisans to create works that are different from the traditional practice. Thai art is branched and developed both traditionally and internationally. There are artists who graduated from art institutes or studied on their own. They've created beautiful and valuable works that are accepted both in the country and abroad. This can be seen from information on the creation of important

exhibitions and art exhibition activities of Thai artists in many of art contests such as National art contest, etc. At present, the creation of art works of the new generation has a variety of creativity in terms of skill and craftsmanship, the style of work including the way of thinking in creating works. Religious story picking local arts and culture, personal experiences or attitudes towards society are what sparks and inspires. All of the above are part of the composition of the artistic medium (López-rodríguez & Rodríguez-pérez, 2024).

At present, religion is not lacking in the creation of idols or Buddhist places. Therefore, the emphasis is on creating new media to inherit existing doctrines by applying them to daily life, which is what society should promote. So that people can learn and understand the teachings of Buddhism in particular, the focus is on children and young people of the new generation by inviting them to study and interpret the essences in Buddhism which will bring benefits to the existence of the current way of life and lead to peaceful coexistence in modern Thai society (Lakusa & Pradoko, 2021).

In addition, bringing the artistic process to connect with this Buddhist topic is an important value that the researcher hypothesizes that it can encourage young people to develop thinking skills, interpreting it in their own way and expressing themselves through the creation of works of art that are diverse in both the conceptual dimensions and set rethinking about the beauty. By allowing artistic creations to be a part of promoting important religious values Because, on the one hand, the preservation of religion is not merely the creation of religious places or the maintenance of material factors. Rather, it encourages young people to develop skills for learning, interpreting, and recognizing the essence of doctrinal principles in the context of today's real life situations. It is something that will help maintain the religion to remain stable and benefit the society in the future.

Objective

1. To campaign for students and the general public who are youths to bring their philosophy, concepts, teachings and beliefs in Buddhism to create works of art.
2. To convey the principles of teachings in Buddhism to people living in modern society to learn through contemporary works of art.
3. To promote people who love and understand the teachings of Buddhism and the new generation in society to be interested in studying and interpreting the contents of Buddhism and applying them to live according to the current way of life. And lead to peaceful coexistence in modern Thai society.
4. To emphasize the value of Thai wisdom in the creation and development of contemporary art by presenting it to the public at both national and international levels.
5. To encourage students, youth and the general public to participate in the conservation and promotion of Thai arts and culture.
6. To study, analyze and summarize the results of the body of knowledge through interpretation skills of the new generation towards the current Buddhist principles from participating in the contest and the idea of creating works.

RESEARCH METHOD

The Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions. It is an action research combined with qualitative research through documents and works of art (Jokela & Huhmarniemi, 2018). Emphasis is placed on the process of creating a body of knowledge through training in

interpreting Buddhism and applying the issues arising from interpretation to create works of art (Zheng, 2024), (Pelowski et al., 2016). The operating procedures are as follows:

1. Questioning the relationship of the three components, namely Buddhism, art, and youth, focusing on the current “youth” by using art as a medium for youth to express their attitudes, perspectives, interpretations, dharma principles and Buddhist teachings. Religion through creative works Therefore, a creative contest project was organized "Buddhist Quotient: Interpreting Buddhism through the New Generation". In order for students and the general public who are in the age range to submit their work in both 2D and 3D formats without limiting the techniques and methods of creating works.
2. Organize lecture activities to provide knowledge to youth and those interested in the topic. "Interpreting Buddhism through the New Generation" on March 27, 2019 at the rotating exhibition room. Poh-Chang College Invited speakers 1) Dr. Vichaya Mukdamanee as a speaker to conduct the lecture 2) Mr. Thanonchai Sornsriwichai (Tor Phenomena) as a special speaker 3) Khun Nattapon Chaiyaworawat as a speaker Lecturers attending lectures. The content that is a body of knowledge for those who are interested is aspects of interpretation of Buddhist dharma principles, feasibility, connection between Buddhism and daily life. Including the thought process of creating works of art of the speakers and transcribed from the tapes of this lecture in letters for dissemination through online media.
3. Procedures for the creative contest after publicizing the contest activities and organizing lectures to invite students and the general public who are interested in submitting a contest on the topic "Interpreting Buddhism through the new generation (Buddhist Quotient)" from January-June 2019 before judging the contest have done after submissions are closed. There is a panel of experts to judge the award for the work.
4. Art exhibitions "Buddhist Quotient" was exhibited from 8-29 July 2019 at the Chaloe Phra Kiat Museum Building at Poh-Chang Academy of Arts of RMUTR. The opening ceremony of the exhibition took place on Thursday, July 18, 2019. On the opening day of the exhibition Awards were given to youth and selected works of students.
5. After the exhibition "Buddhist Quotient" on display at Poh-Chang Academy of Arts of RMUTR has disseminate to the public via online media then one private organization called Fame District @ Pattana Golf Club & Resort, recognizes the benefits and importance of disseminating youth's artistic creations. Therefore asked for permission to use the works that have been selected to be exhibited go transported for the public art exhibition at Fame District @ Pattana Golf Club & Resort, Sriracha District in Chonburi province once more. In order to disseminate people in the community or tourists to have the opportunity to watch the youth's artistic creations with useful content in their lives. Moreover, this exhibition also makes art more accessible to the community.
6. Prepare exhibition catalogues showing works of art both electronically and in printed media. By containing the creative works of those who participated in the contest to disseminate creative works and body of knowledge related by disseminating to personnel in the arts, including students, teachers and the general public who are interested in the way of creating works of art, concepts, perspectives on Buddhism among youth today.
7. Collective data from the operation to analyze according to research objectives. Prepare a research document ready to be published to the public (Rienjang & Stewart, 2023).

DISCUSS THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH

In this research project, the objectives were clearly achieved. All students and the general youth participating in the project demonstrated a good level of knowledge and understanding in the interpretation of Buddhist principles through the diversity of their own styles. And with a method of creating media without limiting techniques Out-of-the-box analytical thinking process for artistic creation as a result, students and youth are able to show their potential to the fullest. As a teacher who teaches knowledge able to extend learning materials and teaching in Advanced Creative Painting courses and Modern Art courses effectively the main characteristics can be summarized as analyzed from the works entered in the contest as follows:

1. Different Interpretations



(1)



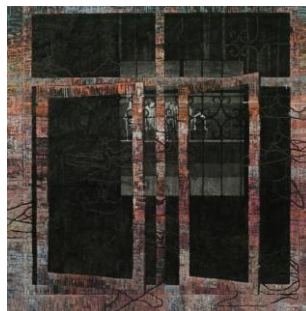
(2)



(3)



(4)



(5)



(6)

Picture (1) Saharat Techaprap, best friend, 142 × 170 cm, mixed media.

Picture (2) Channarong Dangprakam, Remaining the Value of Beauty, 170 × 160 cm, oil on canvas.

Picture (3) Treethep Silakrailat, Whoever Sees Dharma – Sees me, 170 × 145 cm, oil on canvas.

Picture (4) Nayot Onruang, Suffering, 140×100 cm, oil on canvas.

Picture (5) Sittisak Thongdeenok, Relationship of the Three Areas, 150 × 150 cm, mixed painting.

Picture (6) Thanet Dinsakul, On the Way of Prayer, 180 × 150 cm, acrylic paint and pen on canvas.

The picture of the work above, it can be seen that different interpretations can be divided into topics: Mental Formation, review of teachings, doctrines, beliefs about karma and external and internal considerations. The works (1) and (2) discuss the same subject but interpreted differently considered from the naming of the works, namely best friends and the value of remaining beauty 1. By the work of close friends interpreted the body as a normal thing that everyone has to meet. It is the most accessible and easy to understand for everyone. The use of the word close friend, which is associated with knowledge and understanding, is a descriptive term for such mental formation, demonstrating

the closeness of the person and this doctrine. While the title Remaining Beauty Value 1 is the question of what remains after the body decay which can be linked to the virtues of a person for future generations to remember.

Work (3) discusses the review of the doctrine by the name of the work “Whoever sees the Dharma - Sees me” proverbial one of the most cited phrases in Buddhism. Including illustrations that tell the story of Prince Siddhartha's birth from the original work of Hem Vejakorn that tells the miracle of the Buddha, inviting the new generation to ask questions about the story and leads to another review of the doctrine.

The fourth work discusses the belief in karma which the creator has interpreted karma as suffering. Although it might be different from the teachings of the old people. but not different from religious teachings. Because this belief in karma is suffering has been interpreted and spread by many noble monks such as Somdej Phra Buddhakosachan (PA Payutto) on the principle of karma for modern people which is consistent with the interpretation of this work (4).

External and internal considerations was taken as the subject of works (5) and (6) by the work titled “Relationships of the three areas”. It refers to areas of religion which arise in the form of teachings. The space of the self, which is the personal space that is often filled with one's own thinking and analysis. And the space of society which is bound by rules or rules that enable everyone to coexist. Making the three areas in balance with each other will bring balance in life. The sixth work titled "On the Way of Praying" to consider the interior space that show the rhythm of the color with the immobile movement. And order in each of the color spaces that this is akin to meditation. Which regulates the breathing regulation, including the intervals during meditation where there is stillness of emotions and thoughts.

2. Have an understanding and apply it to the modern era in terms of art.

If you look at the picture of the work that appears, you can see the relationship between the content and the work style, which is consistent in the presentation process. The work of the first piece (1) is interpreted as a close friend. Therefore, the proposed style is pop art by using the text that appears in the famous songs of a certain era. This may be a song that the creators love to use, including the distinctive feature of the Buddha image cut into the face. On the other side are the muscles that show humanity.

The second piece (2) raises an uncertain question can decay with some implications that will remain unchanged over time by using still life drawings that can be linked to lessons in art. There is a skull element to associate with the person. The paint tubes and canvases show the creative tool, the final result that will last when the entire creative process is complete: paint on the canvas. These reminded us of the creations of prominent artistic figures in history. That, although the artist's body has decayed, the works of art are still valuable and are something that future generations have studied today.

Work (3) Review of the doctrine. The creator chooses the art of borrowing (Appropriation art) is presented by picking up the work of the artist Hem Vejakorn and adapting it into a picture framed in a wreath-like flower which symbolizes demise. The lotus was adjusted to stretch more than seven flowers according to the story and the missing little Buddha. This raises questions about the traditional religious beliefs that have been passed down from generation to generation. At the same time, it caused a turn to review and understand again.

Work (4) Comparing suffering as Karma the creator expresses his emotional power (Expressionist). A distorted figure, with long, shriveled limbs, a small head, a broad body, in a distressing context, and the use of black, red, and orange, which provokes feelings of agitation and pressure. Work (5) discusses the relationship of the three areas with semi-abstract content. It is therefore presented by using a representation of the window pane, which has 3 parts: an open wooden window, steel grilles and inner space, which is a square room, by cropping the image partially until the picture is between the concreteness of the clear window. And the abstraction resulting from the image being cut and then expanded to fill the canvas Work (6) discusses the inner space reflected in abstract painting, presenting only the rhythm of movement and the combination of white, gray and black.

In addition to the important characteristics that are clearly displayed through the 2D works. There is also an interesting understanding of how to use shapes and content to create works of art which will be presented through 3D works as follows



(7)



(8)



(9)



(10)



(11)

Picture (7) Kirati Ketkham, *The Great Man*, 80 × 70 × 50 cm, mixed media.

Picture (8) Athiwat Poonpanich, *The Power of Meditation*, 50 x 120 x 120 cm, mixed media.

Picture (9) Thanakorn Chairak, *The Precious*, 106 × 61 × 44 cm, mixed media.

Picture (10) Parichat Phulanna, *Fear*, 45 × 60 × 17 cm, mixed media.

Picture (11) Thanyanuch Munsart, *Praew Praew*, 24.5 × 23.5 × 15.5 cm, mixed media.

The work name, *The Great Man*, takes the main form of a sculpture with the face of David, the most beautiful figure by Western artist Michelangelo. But there are parts that look like Buddha images. Convex part of the head, long earlobes, a point or unalome on the forehead. Cover the sculpture with a blue and red transparent box, which is a color that is used to create three-dimensional images in

movies. There is a hint of illusion and myth that envelops the outside of the Buddha sculpture causing a dimension that is distorted from reality. The harmony of shape and content therefore arises from the story. Historical information believes that the creation of the Buddha was influenced by European sculpture. By combining the sculpture of David, which is said to be the most beautiful man, combines it with embellishment and parody. Therefore came out as a work called the Great Man. The content is clear, creating a picture The definitive figure is David, which combines the characteristics of a great man, which should be a white sculpture. But when it was covered with a transparent box of blue and red colors, the perspective changed. It raises questions about what the eye sees and what the story perceives. To be able to see the truth requires wisdom, not just eyes.

Name of work: The Power of Meditation select a cylinder whose height is less than the width of a round shape. Reminds us of the spinning of a large wheel that can move. The creator has used the wood stencil until it became a decorative pattern, which is shaped like a decorative pattern inside the temple. By trying to make the four corners have the same pattern of the same size. This is reminiscent of Mandala, a prayer art used by Buddhist monks in Tibet to meditate.

The work titled "The Precious" presents a cabinet made up of glass looks like a cabinet with books from glass and openwork to a message placed inside the cabinet. The importance of this creative work is empty space, as we know that Buddhism teaches about making the mind "emptiness". This emptiness is the essence of Buddhism. Because in order to attain the teachings, the mind must first enter emptiness. The creator then put the emptiness in a box that looks like a book. The glass material allows the viewer to see through the different parts of the workpiece until you see the emptiness which is in the innermost part. This allows it to be interpreted that what is in the cabinet of scripture is emptiness. Leaving what is known as knowledge engraved on the box will lead to emptiness and understanding of the principle.

The work titled "Fear" is outstanding in terms of light and shadow. When light shines from the bottom corner and hits the top frame, a shadow shaped like the character in Edvard Munch's The Scream creates a frightening fantasy. Darkness and light are opposites with the belief that in the dark always hides something terrifying. According to Thai beliefs, ghosts live in the dark, lighting a prayer candle will help ward off evil spirits. This light and shadow also represent wisdom and ignorance. The so-called fear arises out of ignorance. We're afraid of the dark because we don't know what's hidden in the dark. But when the dark area was exposed to light, everything was clearly visible, the fear of the dark disappeared. That which is light is therefore wisdom, when wisdom considers ignorance the fear will disappear

The name of the work is Praew Praw, which brings together hundreds of gold sequins with the monk's alms as the internal structure. When the sequins are wrapped up to cover the entire area, it becomes an alms bowl with exquisite beauty. The stringing of large amounts of gold sequins to create this alms bowl is similar to covering a gold leaf on a Buddha image that, when the whole body is covered in gold, will make it even more beautiful. At the same time, it also indicates the power of the gilded person's faith. Any Buddha image with gold leaf covering it so that the black bronze body cannot be seen, would surely be filled with the power of faith. Therefore, the golden alms bowl from gradually a string of gold sequins can also represent the meaning of the faith by whom that make merit in the morning to the monks as well.

PRODUCTIVITY AND RESULTS

The research results in two aspects of productivity and outcomes as follows:

1. Applying research results for Benefits

In organizing a contest and exhibiting works of art under the name “Buddhist Quotient”, there were a total of 84 pieces of works submitted, comprising 70 pieces of 2D art forms, 14 pieces of 3D art. Will be divided into 45 prizes, namely 1) 6 2D art awards, divided into 1 excellent award, 4 consolation prizes and 1 special prize. 2) Awards in the category of 3D art, 5 prizes, divided into 1 excellent award and 5 consolation prizes; 3) an award for participating in an exhibition to publish works “Buddhist Quotient” is divided into 28 works of 2D art and 6 3D art works. All 45 prizes have been published through exhibitions and open to the audience who i interested as both students and the general public can visit free of charge.

2. Publication and Disseminations

All 4 5 awards have been published through exhibitions and public relations via social media Facebook under the name "Buddhist Quotient: Interpreting Buddhism through the New Generation" and the publication of a catalogue to collect and disseminate the work. 1 5 0 volumes, including published online in electronic catalog (E-Catalog)

Applying knowledge from research published in various formats such as books, textbooks, and lessons to be useful in academics, teaching and learning. In the academic circle and those whom interested in academics including the benefit of research results to research new knowledge and create possibilities for enhancing innovation and technology.

SUMMARY OF RESEARCH RESULTS

The Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions. It is a research project on important issues related to the study of skills in interpreting the teachings of Buddhism with a comprehensive understanding of the Thai social context of the new generation of youth today. There are both those who build on the traditional teachings and those who look back on historical knowledge. Before conveying what they thought and presenting it in the form of art according to their own potential

Interpretation of art and Buddhism of the people in the present era, or what the researcher defines as the new generation (2019) is not attached to the memory of the mural telling the story of the Buddha's life or sculpture of Buddha statue inside the temple anymore. The potential of the creators of works related to Buddhism today have stepped into interpretation through the medium known as contemporary art , although still appearing in modern forms of art , but it can be said that those forms remain responsive to the content the creators want to present. Even the use of still life and painting styles that can be traced back to the 17th century, but when tied to the story presented, this work has turned it into a contemporary work that tells the story of the present, not the past. Well a similar style is outdated, but with consistent content, the integrity of the artwork is achieved. This means that the styles presented are not confined to a particular era. But it is a medium that the creators want to choose and use in accordance with the content.

From the results that appear concrete through these works of art. It indicates that the new generation's interest in Buddhism still has a core similar to the teachings that have been heard since the past. However, these Buddhist knowledge has been linked and applied more to the current way of life. And the essence of Buddhism is no longer something that must be tied to temples, traditions or religious ceremonies. This research project aims to promote skills in interpreting Buddhist principles in creating contemporary art among Thai youths with the form of an art contest. Therefore, it is the

conclusion from the process data studied, analyzed and evaluated that the research objectives can be completely achieved.

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The Research Practice of Participatory Skills to Interpret The Principles of Buddhism and The Art of Young Contemporary Thailand with The Format of The Art Competitions. Received support and assistance from Poh-Chang Academy of Arts for information and event venues and by exchanging information from teachers, including many experts in many chance, such as seminars communication through online networks. All of them have helped to guide the completion of this creative research. I thank you for this opportunity.

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