

Illuminated Boat: Forms and Aesthetics in Nakhon Phanom's Illuminated Boat Festival

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Article History	Abstract
<p>Received: 06 June 2023 Revised: 15 August 2023 Accepted: 08 Oct 2023</p> <p>CC License CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0</p>	<p><i>This research on Illuminated Boat: Forms and Aesthetics in Nakhon Phanom's Illuminated Boat Festival seeks to 1) examine the evolution of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province, 2) examine the forms and aesthetics of the illuminated boat tradition in Nakhon Phanom Province, and 3) create contemporary paintings based on the styles and aesthetics of the illuminated boat traditions in Nakhon Phanom Province. This study employs a qualitative research methodology. The research target groups in Nakhon Phanom Province consisted of 10 experts, 10 practitioners, and 5 other related individuals. Utilizing surveys, observations, and interviews as methods for document and field data collection. In data analysis, hearsay history concepts, cultural ecology theory, structural-functional theory, cultural diffusion theory, and symbol interaction theory were utilized to collect and analyze data. The presentation then uses this information to create a modern painting based on aesthetic theory and concept art elements presented in a descriptive, analytical manner with illustrations. According to the results, the evolution of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom province can be divided into three distinct eras: 1) the era in which boats were constructed by worshipping aquatic spirits. 2) The period of constructing illuminated boats in accordance with Buddhist beliefs 3) The era of illuminated boat construction in Nakhon Phanom province was founded on the concept of artificial traditions. It was discovered that there were variations in the acquisition of culture in accordance with social conditions and economic development. The model of the illuminated boat in the province of Nakhon Phanom was determined to be the application of the wisdom of building an illuminated boat according to local traditions and adapting it to the materials, equipment, and knowledge of modern construction for speed, stability, balance, beauty, grandeur, and grandeur in terms of the aesthetics of Nakhon Phanom's illuminated boat. It was discovered that aesthetics result from seeing the illuminated boat and contemplating the details of the illuminated boat until a sense of emotion develops. It is an aesthetic that was created from faith until the illuminated boat of Nakhon Phanom attained its own identity.</i></p> <p>Keywords: <i>Illuminated Boat, Forms, Aesthetics, Illuminated Boat festival</i></p>

1. Introduction

Nakhon Phanom Province is situated on the Thailand-Lao People's Democratic Republic border in the northeastern region of Thailand. With the Mekong River separating the borders of both countries, this province is endowed with abundant natural resources. The terrain allows for effective communication and transportation. The province of Nakhon Phanom, which was formerly the territory of the Sri Kottabun Kingdom and the city of Marukha Nakhon, is historically significant due to its topography.

The majority of the population in Nakhon Phanom Province consists of two races, Chinese and Vietnamese, as well as eight ethnic groups: Phu Thai, Yo, Sek, Kaloeng, So, Kha, Thai Isan, and Thai

Kuan (Nataya Karaneyakit, 2011). In 2011, the Thai government promoted Nakhon Phanom Province as a frontier economic zone. It was designated as a cultural tourism economic development zone for peripheral regions in 2016. Promote income generation in the community by attracting tourists to the traditions and culture of Nakhon Phanom Province, particularly the worship of Phra That Phanom Stupa and the illuminated boat festivals.

The illuminated boat of Nakhon Phanom Province serves as the boat employed during the festival dedicated to floating illuminated boats. This event takes place on the 15th day of the full moon in the 11th lunar month, specifically referring to the 15th day of a full moon in the 11th lunar month. The act of constructing boats is often intertwined with other cultural and religious beliefs, such as the veneration of water spirits or Naga, as well as the influence of Buddhism. The economic development of the province of Nakhon Phanom, which is mostly driven by tourism, is characterized by its aesthetic appeal, impressive scale, and strong foundation in religious beliefs. The tourism industry in Nakhon Phanom Province contributes to the economic growth of both the province and the nation, owing to the concerted efforts of community members in fostering cultural connections. The Nakhon Phanom Provincial Illuminated Boat holds significant appeal as a prominent destination for tourists (National Cultural Commission Office, 2007).

The illuminated boat is notable for its unique design. The composition of a boat includes its structural components, overall form, materials employed in its construction, and the techniques utilized during the manufacturing process. When the lanterns on the boat are illuminated, the boat will assume its whole aesthetic and impact, presenting itself to spectators in an assortment of forms as the lights emitted by the varied lantern shapes are artfully interconnected. The conveyed message to the audience highlights the significance of the boat's aesthetic value, while also expressing the delight, satisfaction, contentment, and self-expression of the boat builders in Nakhon Phanom.

Based on a comprehensive analysis of relevant scholarly literature, it is evident that the illuminated boat situated in Nakhon Phanom Province has garnered significant attention from both domestic and international tourists, so establishing its reputation as a prominent illuminated boat on a national level. In their study, Moonkham and Na Thalang (2020) conducted an investigation of the prospective tourism opportunities inside the Special Economic Development Zone of Nakhon Phanom Province. The research revealed that the government and private sectors in Nakhon Phanom Province have effectively collaborated with various other sectors in order to sustainably stimulate the tourism economy. This concerted effort has yielded substantial revenue from tourists who visit the province specifically to witness the illuminated boat parade during the illuminated boat festival. Furthermore, it is widely recognized that the illuminated boat festival held in Nakhon Phanom Province holds the distinction of being the most renowned event of its kind in Thailand. The residents of Nakhon Phanom province engaged in the construction of an illuminated boat, motivated by a spirit of volunteerism and a desire to showcase local pride. This endeavor involved the utilization of their physical and mental capabilities, without any remuneration, thereby deviating from prevailing societal norms. In a case study conducted by Rungnapha Inphuwa (2018), the author explored the importance of community involvement in cultural tourism. The study focused specifically on the province of Nakhon Phanom and revealed that local residents played a vital role in the preservation and development of cultural tourism. Through active engagement in various activities such as practice, preservation, planning, and decision-making, the residents contributed significantly to the establishment of a thriving and sustainable community with economic prosperity.

The existing research on the illuminated boat in the province of Nakhon Phanom has not thoroughly investigated its evolution, forms, and aesthetic aspects. As a result of this, the researcher developed a keen interest in investigating the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province, specifically focusing on its various forms and aesthetic attributes. This research investigates the progression, attributes, and artistic qualities of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province, with the aim of comprehending the transformations in different facets of the illuminated boat, the forms and attributes it possesses, and the aesthetic value that is evident in the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province.

Objectives

To examine the evolutionary development of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province and to examine the various forms and aesthetic characteristics of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province.

Scope of the study

Contents

The research on illuminated boat: the forms and aesthetics of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province investigates the evolution of the illuminated boat, the forms of the illuminated boat, and the aesthetics of the Nakhon Phanom Province illuminated boat festival.

Areas of Study

The province of Nakhon Phanom is the focus of the researcher's investigation. The area was chosen because: 1) it still preserves Thailand's most notable and traditional invention, the illuminated boat; 2) it is an ancient city with ancient civilizations, the kingdom of Sri Kottabun and the city of Marukha Nakhon; 3) it is a border area along the Mekong River with a population of two races and eight ethnic groups; and 4) it is a border special economic zone designated by the Thai government.

Expected Outcome of the Research

Discover the evolution of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province. Explore the forms of the illuminated boat, and the aesthetics of the illuminated boat festival in Nakhon Phanom Province.

2. Materials And Methods

The subsequent target groups have been identified: 1) The expert panel comprises individuals from diverse backgrounds, including both public and private sectors, who possess a vested interest or expertise in the illuminated boats of Nakhon Phanom Province. 2) The practitioner group encompasses skilled artisans involved in the construction of illuminated boats. 3) The associated group comprises members of the general public who actively engage in the illuminated boat festival in Nakhon Phanom Province.

Research Instruments: Questionnaire Survey, Observation Guideline, And Interview Questionnaire

Data Collection: The process of acquiring information from various sources, including field observations and written documentation. The field investigation encompassed the study of ecology, physical geography, sociocultural aspects, way of life, and social access. The researcher employed a combination of participant and non-participant observation methods, with both structured and unstructured interview approaches.

Data analysis: The data was evaluated by categorizing all of the information in order to obtain conclusions that aligned to the study's objectives. Examine the completeness of the data after it has been acquired from both documents and the field. The data was then evaluated using a triangle examination method. The researcher employed two different types of data analysis: 1) Document data analysis, which ensures information accuracy by examining documents from diverse sources to determine the validity of concepts and theories; and 2) Field data analysis. It is an examination of data gathered via the use of various research data collection instruments in order to draw conclusions through data analysis by classifying data, applying theory as a data classifier, and evaluating data by comparing data. It is the comparison of facts based on previous events or phenomena.

Dissemination: This study used a qualitative research process to investigate the history and current state of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province, with the data used to analyze factors influencing the evolution of the illuminated boat, forms of the illuminated boat, and aesthetics in the Nakhon Phanom Province illuminated boat festival. In accordance with the objectives, the data analysis results were presented using descriptive approaches such as tables and photos.

3. Results and Discussion

In this study, the data obtained via survey forms, observation forms, and interview forms were examined by the researcher in alignment with the study's objectives. The findings of the analysis indicated that:

An evolution of the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province. The evolution of the boats utilized in the illuminated boat ceremonial during the Buddhist Lent Festival in Nakhon Phanom Province may be categorized into three distinct eras.

1) The historical period characterized by the construction of illuminated boats as a means of worshipping water spirits. The requirement for early human settlements to be located in river basins in order to engage in agricultural and animal husbandry activities necessitated the development of strategies to address water-related challenges. In ancient times, individuals partook in the practice of making river offerings, as it was rooted in their belief system that encompassed the existence of apparitions or other metaphysical entities. These findings align with the research conducted by Pathom Hongsuwan, (2011) on the Sacralization of the Mekong River. Hongsuwan's study focused on folk narratives that explore the river's origin and characteristics, revealing that the mythology of the Mekong Basin community has attributed a sacred status to the river. The Mekong River has a substantial historical record of human habitation, which may be traced back to prehistoric times. The statement suggests that the Mekong River holds a sacred significance and is regarded as the birthplace of ancient civilizations. A ritual emerged as a means to pay tribute to the Mekong River. A customary tradition that emerged as a response to the potential occurrence of calamities along the Mekong River is engaging in fire-based rituals, including the act of floating illuminated boats, releasing lanterns, and partaking in the festival known as Loi Krathong. During the peak of the eleventh and twelfth lunar months, the Mekong River exhibits heightened water flow. Individuals often turn to a higher power or force beyond their own capabilities as a source of solace and reassurance in times of fear. Based on contemporary beliefs, it was customary to engage in the veneration of spirits and naga gods as a means of safeguarding oneself.

2) The period during which lit boats were made in accordance with Buddhist principles. The ascendance of Buddhism in the Kingdom of Sri Kottabun led to the displacement of animism as the prevailing religious system. Consequently, this transition facilitated a process of cross-cultural assimilation, wherein Buddhist principles became integrated with the customs and way of life of the Nakhon Phanom people. Consequently, the concept of constructing an illuminated boat was supplanted by a devotion to the veneration of Buddha. The aforementioned statement aligns with the findings of Pinit Intirard's (2012) study on the Indigenous Knowledge pertaining to the Illuminated Boat Procession of the Thai-Lao Ethnic Group in the Mekong Sub-region. The present study posited that the construction of an illuminated boat represents an optimal amalgamation of Buddhist principles and traditional customs associated with the veneration of water spirits, commonly known as Nagas. By juxtaposing the historical significance of Lord Buddha with the culmination of the Buddhist Fast and the veneration of the Buddha's footprint, among other practices.

3) The period during which lit boats were fabricated in adherence to a invented tradition concept. The notion of manufactured tradition shares conceptual similarities with symbolic interactionism, positing that individuals within a community must engage in collective activities voluntarily and without external inducements or coercion. The aforementioned good tradition serves as a manifestation of the community's profound affection and unity. According to Thanet Wongyannava's (2013) study, it can be argued that the manufactured tradition acts as a manifestation of communal unity and solidarity within its members. The citizens of Nakhon Phanom voluntarily contributed their physical and mental efforts towards the construction of the illuminated boat, without any remuneration. Through adhering to the traditional method of using lanterns to ignite the fire, they successfully crafted resplendent and lavish illuminated boats. The illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom are a contemporary adaptation of a traditional practice, which has gained popularity among tourists. According to a study conducted by Phromphatsorn Chunhaunthip (2017), the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province are regarded as a distinctive celebration that attracts considerable interest from both Thai and international tourists.

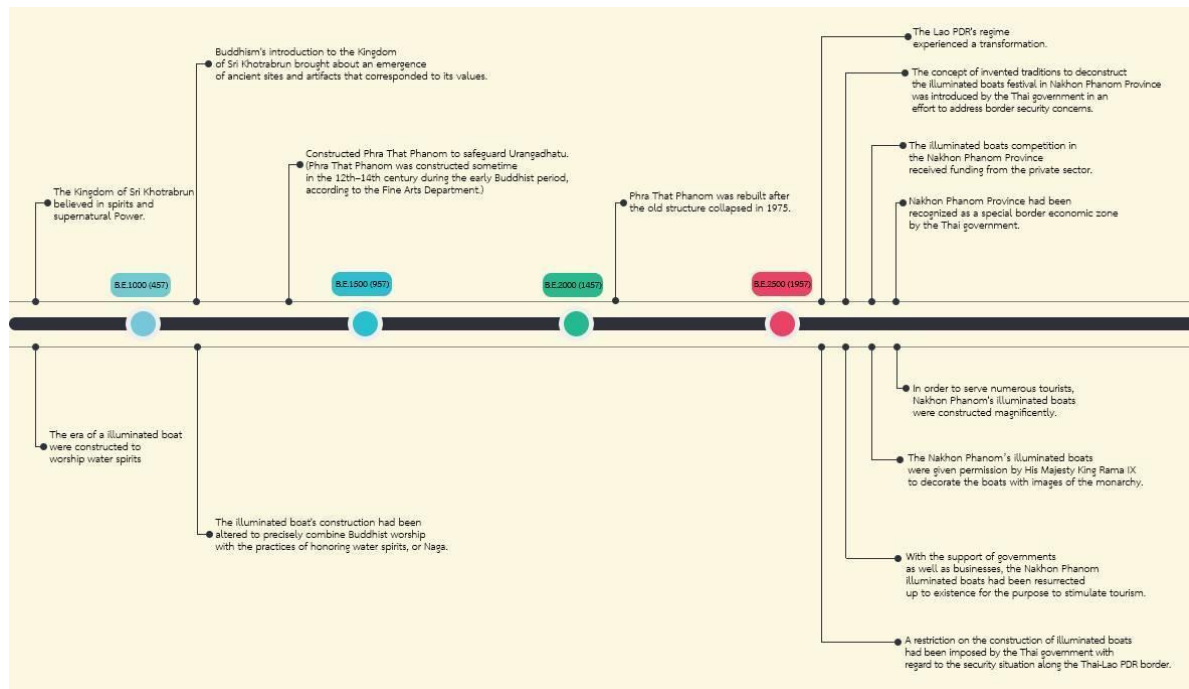


Figure 1: Timeline of Nakhon Phanom's Illuminated Boat's Evolution

Forms and Aesthetics of Nakhon Phanom Province's Illuminated Boat

The illuminated boat of Nakhon Phanom Province. According to the examination of the lighted boat model from Nakhon Phanom, the shape, outline, size, and strength of each illuminated boat are determined by the illuminated boat's structure. The construction of an illuminated boat structure, similar to general construction work, includes infrastructure systems such as beams, pillars, structures, construction models, physical information about the construction site, calculations of weight or force acting on the structure, assumptions, procedures, and structural strength analysis using multiple methods. This is congruent with the findings of Aruz Petcherdchoo (2012), who researched the structure's sustainability and durability, indicating that it is critical to be aware of the environmental implications on the construction site and to design measures to reduce those impacts during construction. The construction, in particular, must be resistant to environmental disturbances and calamities that may occur through soil, water, or air. The illuminated boat is made up of three major parts: 1) the structure of the illuminated boat, 2) the arrangement of the illuminated boat's shape, and 3) the lantern of the illuminated boat.



Figure 2: Structure of Nakhon Phanom's Illuminated Boat

The form of the illuminated boat varies throughout different communities within the Nakhon Phanom region. However, the classification of the eight most prevalent shapes is as follows: 1) Depiction of the Buddha, 2) Depiction of the Monarch, 3) Depiction of the Naga, 4) Depictions of the prominent Buddha Stupas in Nakhon Phanom Province, 5) Depictions of the Natural Surroundings of Nakhon Phanom Province, 6) Depictions of the Symbolic Fauna, 7) Depiction of the Suphannahong Boat, and 8) Depictions of a Noteworthy Societal Phenomenon. The various manifestations depict the ways of life, societal patterns, and cultural practices of the inhabitants of Nakhon Phanom Province.



Figure 3: Shapes of Nakhon Phanom’s illuminated boat

On the Mekong River, which has a turbulent current at the end of Buddhist Lent, a large illuminated boat with a length of approximately 50–80 meters and a height of approximately 30–50 meters must be constructed using a combination of materials that are durable, strong, meticulous, and safe. The following nine components comprise a boat with illumination: 1) Bamboo trunks, 2) steel, 3) a 200-liter plastic tank, 4) steel wire, 5) rope or old motorcycle tire sections, 6) 100-ml coffee cans, 7) yarn, 8) diesel fuel, and 9) other items. Bamboo is the primary material because it is a typical environmental component. Sanur Lapha (2020: interview) reported that the provincial officer requested the use of bamboo as the primary material for the illuminated canoe, with the addition of industrial materials for safety and ease of construction.



Figure 4: Construction materials for the illuminated boat at Nakhon Phanom

There are three categories of construction techniques for illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province. 1) A technique for constructing the illuminated boat out of bamboo; 2) A technique for designing the illuminated boat's shape; and 3) A technique for constructing the illuminated boat's lanterns. Each technique requires the skill of the illuminated boat architects in order to create a balanced, beautiful, and well-organized illuminated boat. It must also be sturdy and resilient for the protection of both the audience and the constructors.



Figure 5: A technique for building the illuminated boat

6.2.2 The aesthetic value of the illuminated boat in the province of Nakhon Phanom is derived from the manner in which audiences can observe each of the images exhibited there. "Visual Elements" comprise an appealing image in an illuminated boat and are composed of the following 1) points: caused by the brightness in a row of lantern lights generated by lighting the lanterns in the illuminated boat; 2) Lines: formed by lighting on lanterns positioned in various orientations; 3) color: a combination of the yellow-orange light from the illuminated boat's lantern and the brilliant hues of the fireworks (purple, blue, green, and red); 4) shape and form: it is illuminated by the light of the boat lanterns, which are organized in lines addressing various directions and combine to form a variety of shapes and forms, including an image of the Buddha, an image of the King, an image of the Suphannahong Boat, an image of the significant Buddhist Stupas in Nakhon Phanom, an image of constructions, an image of the Environment of Nakhon Phanom Province, an image of a significant social trend, an image of the auspicious 5) value: watching light with a light value due to the light of lanterns in an illuminated boat is the lightness of the color or the appearance of light and shade in illuminated boats. Because of the near-far dimension, illuminated boats take on a variety of shapes. 6) Space: the space surrounding shape and form, the distance between shape and shape or form and form, and the space inside form that emerges in the illuminated boats of Nakhon Phanom. These areas help to make the boat appear vast and inviting rather than constraining or opaque. It also adds a sense of beauty and relaxation by providing the graphics on the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom attractive proportions. and 7) texture: texture is formed by the reflection of light from lanterns on illuminated boats, light reflected in the Mekong River, or fireworks effects, such as the shiny texture of the Mekong River surface caused by the fire of the lanterns on illuminated boats or the soft texture of pyrotechnic smoke, and so on.

The illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province are beautiful because they make people happy as they are impressed, amused, satisfied, and admired. The three categories below represent the aesthetic components or prominent beauty values found in Nakhon Phanom's illuminated boats: 1) beauty stemming from their perfectly balanced structure; 2) admirability stemming from their innovation in terms of design, color, and atmosphere; and 3) excellence stemming from the spectacular image of the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province, which are great, lovely, superb, and fantastic.



Figure 6: An Appearance of Aesthetics in the Illuminated Boats of the Nakhon Phanom Province.

In the province of Nakhon Phanom, an illuminated boat artist who has mechanical knowledge and skills, is an accountable person, has extensive experience creating illuminated boats, and is constantly improving his work, is in charge of designing and supervising their construction. According to Khamdee Khamket (interview, 2021), the design and supervision of the construction of the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom is quite challenging because they are large illuminated boats with a variety of variables that could lead to issues at any time, including time constraints, budgets, equipment materials, environments, and a number of others. In order to create illuminated boats that are distinctive and modern, artists must use contemporary ingenuity when designing and overseeing the construction of illuminated boats.

According to the findings of an investigation into the growth of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province It was discovered that the constructed illuminated boats were based on artificial traditions. It is able to elevate the illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province from a community tradition to a national tradition, thereby creating an internationally recognized cultural identity. By modifying the content, format, and methods for building illuminated boats with the assistance of the public and private sectors, this is consistent with the research of Siraphon na Thalang (2013), who explains that artificial traditions in Thailand are widespread, particularly the use of artificial traditions to create a sense of community identity for tourism and commerce. As a public activity for the community in Nakhon Phanom Province, the construction of the illuminated boat based on a traditional invention demonstrates the affection and unity of the people in the community for preserving and advancing the community's traditions.

The illuminated boat in Nakhon Phanom Province exhibits a distinctive aesthetic characterized by its unique illuminated boat shape. The diverse range of meanings conveyed through various visual representations in Nakhon Phanom Province encompasses the Buddha Figure, depictions of the monarchy, representations of the Naga, significant stupas, scenic landscapes, auspicious animals, the Suphannahong Boat, and socially significant phenomena. These visual elements reflect the prevailing social and cultural conditions within the region. The diverse forms employed in this context serve the purpose of symbolizing nationality, auspiciousness, abundance, and the prevailing conditions within contemporary society that mirror those of Nakhon Phanom Province. The findings mentioned above are consistent with the study conducted by Isariyaporn Sangpanya (2019), which explored the social life of the Tai Sipsongbanna community. This research drew upon a Tai Lue proverb to highlight the importance of traditions as essential elements of their social and cultural heritage. The aforementioned traditions not only encapsulate the fundamental principles of indigenous knowledge but also function as a mechanism for safeguarding the communal identity of the society. The Nakhon Phanom Provincial Illuminated Boat's design is regarded as a symbolic embodiment of the socioeconomic and cultural elements, governance, and harmonious coexistence among the inhabitants of Nakhon Phanom Province.

The points created by the lanterns on the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province are what create the brightness in the steamboats, which contributes to their attractiveness. In a single illuminated boat, approximately 30,000 to 50,000 lights will be assembled. When viewed from a distance, a series of colored dots will appear in various gorgeous shapes, awe-inspiring those who observe the lights and demonstrating the perseverance required to create with faith. The yellow-orange hue of the boat lantern evokes a sense of Buddhist faith, giving the illuminated boats of Nakhon Phanom Province a distinct identity. It is attractive and of interest to a large number of tourists, who expect government policies to

have a positive effect on the provincial economy in Nakhon Phanom. Consistent with the findings of Orathai Mooncome and Chawalee Na Thalang (2020), who conducted a study on the study of tourism potential in the special economic development zone of Nakhon Phanom Province and discovered that the Government and private agencies of Nakhon Phanom Province work together to continuously drive the tourism economy, the present study confirms that Government and private agencies of Nakhon Phanom Province collaborate to continuously drive the tourism economy. Therefore, the province of Nakhon Phanom's steamboats are distinctive and the most renowned in Thailand.

4. Conclusion

The study on illuminated boats: the forms and aesthetics of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province revealed that the evolution of illuminated boats from the past to the present can be divided into three distinct eras: 1) The period in which illuminated boats were built to honor water spirits or Nagas. Nakhon Phanom Province in the Mekong River Basin has an ancient custom of using illuminated boats to worship water spirits. This tradition consisted of constructing a floating boat in the shape of a boat and illuminating it with offerings so that it could float down the Mekong River; 2) The period during which the illuminated boats were constructed in accordance with Buddhist beliefs. When Buddhism infiltrated the Kingdom of Sri Kotrabrun in the eleventh century, there was a transition from animism to Buddhist beliefs in the intergate. The design of the illuminated boats used to worship water spirits in accordance with conventional environmental beliefs has been altered to reflect the significance of the end of Buddhist Lent, which is associated with the Buddha's ascent to Tavatimsa heaven in the myth of the day the Lord opened the world. As a result, individuals begin to venerate both Phra Chulamanee and the Buddha's footprint; and 3) the period during which the illuminated boats were constructed in accordance with a made-up tradition. The Thai government has elevated the local practice of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom to a national tradition, and together with contributions from the corporate sector, this has resulted in the creation of dazzling and magnificent illuminated boats. It is a tradition that conveys the province of Nakhon Phanom's inhabitants' affection, harmony, and collaboration.

There are four distinct forms of illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom as follows:

1. Structure of the illuminated boats; it determines the size, stability, shape, and layout of each illuminated boats. The illuminated boat is composed of three main components: 1) The illuminated boat's structure, 2) The layout of the illuminated boat's shape, and 3) The illuminated boat's lantern.

2. Form of the Nakhon Phanom's illuminated boat; the eight most common shapes are classified as follows: 1) Image of the Buddha, 2) Image of the King, 3) Image of the Naga, 4) Images of the significant Buddha Stupas in Nakhon Phanom Province, 5) Images of the Environment of Nakhon Phanom Province, 6) Images of the auspicious animals, 7) Image of the Suphannahong Boat, and 8) Images of a significant social trend. These forms are a reflection of traditional spiritual ideas associated with the environment of Nakhon Phanom Province, Buddhist beliefs, and the stability of the government sector and significant social phenomena.

3. Constructing materials for illuminated boats; a illuminated boat is made of the following nine materials: 1) Bamboo trunks, 2) steel, 3) a 200-liter plastic tank, 4) steel wire, 5) rope or strips of an old motorbike tire, 6) coffee cans (size 100 ml.), 7) yarn, 8) diesel fuel, and 9) other items.

4. Construction techniques for the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom Province. there are three techniques of construction for the boat: 1) a technique for building the illuminated boat out of bamboo. There are four methods of constructing bamboo together: binding, tightening, tying, and striking; 2) a technique for creating a form of the illuminated boat. There are four methods for creating the form: sketching, expanding, assembling, and installing; and 3) a technique for making the illuminated boat lanterns by four methods: making wicks for lanterns, stuffing wicks for lanterns, hanging lanterns, and lighting lanterns. Each technique requires the builder's experience in order to create illuminated boats that are balanced, lovely, tidy, and durable.

The aesthetic value of the illuminated boat in the province of Nakhon Phanom consists of three parts: visual elements, aesthetical elements, and artistic elements.

The visual elements of the illuminated boats in Nakhon Phanom are those that can possibly be observed, such as include: 1) points: caused by the brightness in a row of lantern lights generated by lighting the lanterns in the illuminated boat; 2) Lines: formed by lighting on lanterns positioned in various orientations; 3) color: a combination of the yellow-orange light from the illuminated boat's lantern and the brilliant hues of the fireworks; 4) shape and form: it is illuminated by the light of the boat lanterns, which are organized in lines addressing various directions and combine to form a variety of shapes and forms; 5) value: it is the lightness of the color or the appearance of light and shade in illuminated boats; 6) Space: the space surrounding shapes and forms that emerges in the illuminated boats; and 7) texture: a sight to the outward physical appearance that results from the phenomena of light from a lantern or fireworks that can see and feel different features, such as softness, shine, gracefulness, roughness, etc.

The three aesthetic elements of an illuminated boat are as follows: 1) the beauty of the illuminated boat's form, including its shape and proportions; 2) the admirability of its colors, forms, and unique atmosphere; and 3) the excellence of the greatness, splendor, and excitement that appears in the illuminated boat.

The artistic elements are those who create and construct illuminated boats with expertise, abilities, and attention to detail in terms of content, form, and technique. An illuminated boat's construction rests on the illuminated boat artist's faith. The builders of illuminated boats must use contemporary ingenuity to make their vessels stunning and give each boat a unique identity.

Recommendations

Research findings' recommendations

The findings derived from research can be utilized to enhance the dissemination of knowledge regarding the evolution in the history of Nakhon Phanom Provincial Illuminated Boats across various time periods. This can be achieved by showcasing these findings on the official website of the Nakhon Phanom Governor's Residence Museum. Furthermore, this information can be effectively employed to stimulate the growth of the tourism sector in Nakhon Phanom province.

Recommendations for future research: The evolution of illuminated boats on the Mekong River should be studied. The factors affecting the change in beliefs in building illuminated boats on the Mekong River should be studied.

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