



Rama IX Art Museum Foundation

An Art Exhibition

“Song Huong - Chao Phraya : Colors of Two Rivers Meet”

by

Phan Hai Bang - Surapon Saenkham

An Art Exhibition

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An Art Exhibition "Song Huang - Chao Phraya : Colors of Two Rivers Meet"

Mekong Arts & Culture Scholars - in - Residence Program

A Collaboration between Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts Silpakorn University and College of Arts, Hue University, Vietnam

This Exhibition is one of the projects supported and organized by The Rockefeller Foundation

Rama IX Art Museum Foundation



on February 5 - 20, 2004
at Phra Phrombhichitr Architecture and Art Gallery, Faculty of Architecture,
Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

2004, College of Arts, Hue University, Vietnam

Message from the Deam

Song Huong - Chao Phraya : Color of Two Rivers Meet

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, We wish to express our sincere congratulations to the success of the on-going program of the Faculty, "Mekong Arts & Culture Scholars-in-Residence Program: A Collaboration between the Faculty of Painting Sculpture & Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Thailand and College of Arts, Hue University, Vietnam." This project is generously supported by a grant from the Rockefeller Foundation.

With the enthusiastic contributions and coordination from all concerned, the first component of the program-Artists Exchange-has now been successfully implemented in accordance with the originally planned objectives. The two selected artists, Mr. Surapon Saenkhram from Silpakorn University and Mr. Phan Hai Bang from Hue University, have spent residencies in the two respective institutions. The fruit of these residencies, during which the artists exchanged their experience, knowledge and creativity, is the current art exhibition entitled "Song Huong - Chao Phraya, Colors of Two Rivers Meet": Mekong Arts & Culture Scholars-in-Residence Program, A Collaboration between Silpakorn University and Hue University. The exhibition is scheduled to be held at Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand, from February 5 - 20, 2004, and 2004 at College of Arts, Hue University Vietnam

We offer sincerest gratitude to the Bangkok Office of the Rockefeller Foundation in agreeing to support the collaborative project and we look forward to achieving similar successes in carrying out the upcoming exchange of research scholars and students in the coming phases of the program.

We can believe the success so far achieved is the first step on the path of fruitful collaborations between Silpakorn University, Thailand, and Hue University, Vietnam, and that it will more generally enhance the good relations between our two nations in the future.



Associate Professor Preecha Thaotong
Former Dean and Program Initiator
Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts
Silpakorn University



Professor Thana Lauhakaikul
Dean of Faculty of Painting Sculpture
and Graphic Arts,
Silpakorn University

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Message from the Rector

New landmark in the Art Cooperation and Exchange

The closeness about the geography, culture and the traditional friendship between the two nations Vietnam and Thailand during the past time has brought the cooperation and exchanges on several fields of economy, politics and culture between the two countries. Continuing to remain and broaden the cooperation among the Art Universities from Vietnam and Thailand, the Mekong Arts and Culture Scholars in Resident Project between the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts - Silpakorn University and The College of Arts - Hue University has being realized. It not only further strengthens the relationship between the two universities but also pushes it to new values.

The first step of the artists in resident exchange project had been implemented effectively. Artist Surapon Saenkhram from the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts-Silpakorn University came and worked at the Hue College of Arts for 3 months. He had created a good relationship with colleagues, friends and artists in Hue. His creation and research has brought valuable experiences, helpful lessons to not only students but also lecturers of the Hue College of Arts. Mr. Surapon's responsibility, devotion with art labour is a good example for young artists. With the same spirit, artist Phan Hai Bang from the Hue College of Arts has been successful with his residency at Silpakorn University.

The exhibition of the two artists is a clear proof for the art cooperation between the two universities. It is also a new landmark that affirms the effectiveness, quality and values of the long cooperation between the Thai and Vietnamese Art Universities.

Wishing the friendly relation of the Fine Arts Universities between Vietnam and Thailand more and more strengthened, developed and gained many new achievements.

Truong Ngoc Thang

Rector

College of Arts, Hue University, Vietnam

Mekong Arts & Culture Scholars-in-Residence Program

A Collaboration between
Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University, Thailand
and
College of Arts, Hue University, Vietnam

Background

Vietnam and Thailand are located in an ancient and rich cultural area of mainland Southeast Asia and have had a long historical relationship with each other. That relationship has involved mutual influences and the exchange of knowledge, trade goods, arts and other cultural expressions dating back centuries, even millennia.

The two countries each have their own special national characters as reflected in their arts and culture: their customary practices and the creative expression of their cultures have been affected by different local environmental, historical, and technological contexts. As a result, there are important similarities and differences characterizing the two countries.

To explore these commonalities and differences the two universities carrying out the current collaborative program conceived of the idea of bringing together artists and scholars of the two countries to provide them with an opportunity to exchange ideas, to develop new art work, and to produce new knowledge, with the hope of stronger future cooperation and increased mutual understanding.

The Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts at Silpakorn University, the first fine arts university in Thailand now celebrating its 60th anniversary, has produced many well-known artists among its graduates, several of whom have established new arts colleges around the nation. The College of Arts of Hue University has had a warm and long association with the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts at Silpakorn University. Officers of the two universities have periodically visited each other and expressed strong interests in furthering their relationships. Recently, teachers and staff of both universities participated together in the International Sculpture Symposium at Hue University, which had partial support from the Rockefeller Foundation.

Overview of the Program

In late 2002, the two universities sought assistance from the Bangkok Regional Office of the Rockefeller Foundation to carry out a joint project entitled "Mekong Arts & Culture: Scholars in Residence Program." With the foundation's support, the program is providing opportunities for scholars and artists of both universities to work together, study, exchange and extend their knowledge of techniques and ideas in the arts and culture of the countries of the Greater Mekong sub-region. Through the collaboration of both institutions the program began in December 2002, and will continue through 2004.

The program has three main components:

1. *Artists Exchange*: One artist from each institution was chosen through a competitive process to spend three to four months in residence at the other institution. The artists chosen were Mr. Surapon Saenkham from Silpakorn University, and Mr. Phan Hai Bang from College of Arts, Hue University. Their residencies took place over the period from December 2002 to December 2003.

2. *Research Scholars Exchange*: Two scholars proposing to carry out a research project on the arts and culture of the other country, one from each university, will be competitively chosen for a three-month field research award. Their research will take place in March-May 2004.

3. *Students Exchange*: Ten students and one staff representative from each institution will be selected to spend two weeks in residence at the other institution. The program will take place from April-August 2004.

Artists Exchange

Under this program two artists were competitively selected to spend a period of three-four months working in residence in the other institution. The aim was to provide them with an opportunity to develop new art works inspired by the different surroundings in which they found themselves-the peoples, environment, art and traditions of the host country. It was hoped that they would:

1. creatively develop their own individual techniques and styles of working
2. exchange knowledge and techniques with the staff and students of the host institution
3. enhance mutual collaboration and stronger relationships between the two institutions
4. through their creative efforts in the other country, both learn of the local art and cultural wisdom, and provide knowledge of their own cultural backgrounds

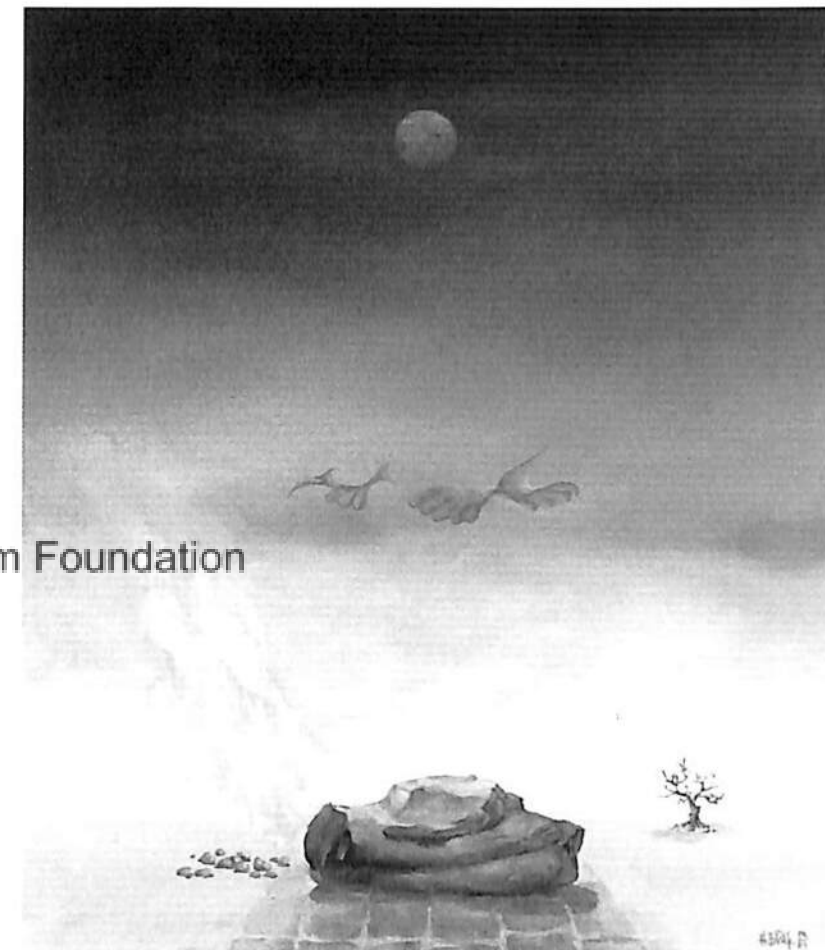
The artists chosen were: Mr. Surapol Saenkham of Silpakorn University and Mr. Phan Hai Bang of Hue University.

Lecturer Surapon Saenkham is a permanent teaching staff member at Silpakorn University who has extensive experience in teaching painting. He is well-known for his realistic paintings using both oil and watercolor techniques. His subject matter usually emphasizes the life styles of people as influenced by their surroundings. Mr. Surapon was in residence at the College of Arts, Hue University from late May to late August 2003. He created a number of art works inspired by his stay in the ancient imperial city of Hue, several of which are on display in the current exhibit.

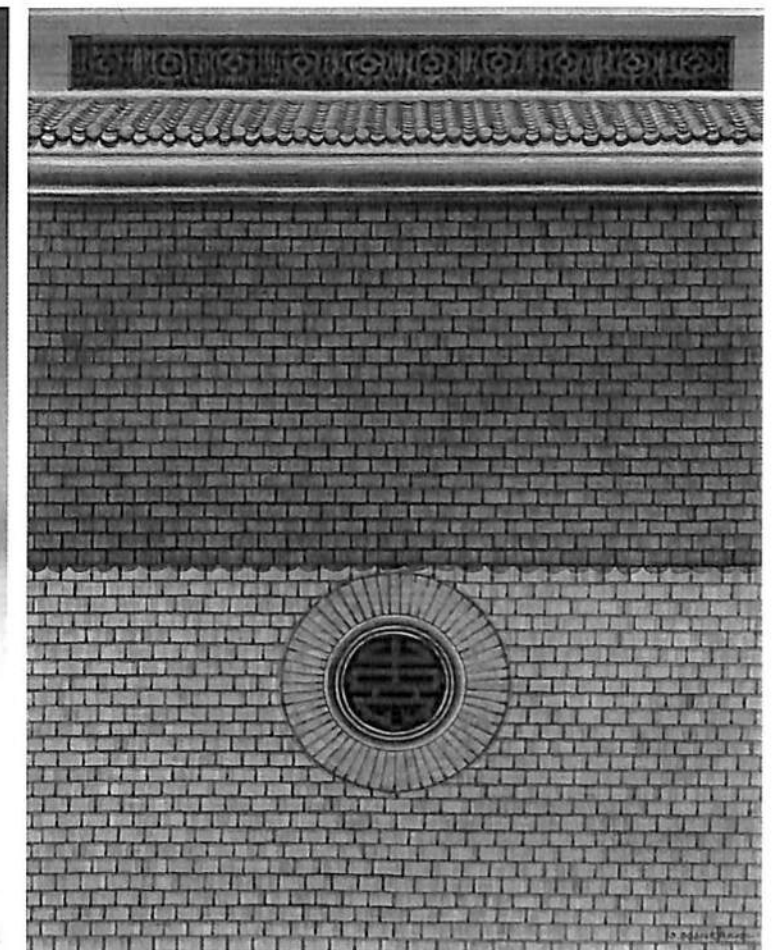
Mr. Phan Hai Bang is a permanent lecturer in the Department of Print-making, College of Arts, Hue University. He has long experience in teaching print-making, especially using monoprint techniques. He is also known for his surrealistic painting using oil and other media, which often combines innovative techniques. Mr. Phan Hai Bang was in residence at both campuses of Silpakorn University in Bangkok and Nakhon Pathom from June to August 2003.

The current art exhibition entitled "Song Huong - Chao Phraya, Colors of Two Rivers Meet" includes works created by both Mr. Surapon and Mr. Hai Bang during the course of their residencies. The works reflect their impressions and experiences of both Hue, the ancient imperial capital city of Vietnam situated along the Song Huong, or Perfume River, and of Bangkok, the Thai kingdom's capital along the mighty Chao Phraya River. The exhibit will run from February 5 to February 20, 2004 at the Phra Phrambichitr Architecture and Art Gallery at the Faculty of Architecture, Silpakorn University, in Bangkok.

Apichai Piromrak
January 2004



Phan Hai Bang



Surapon Saenkham

Phan Hai Bang

Personal:

Born: 1971
Birthplace: Hue, Vietnam

Education:

B.F.A. Hue College of Arts (1990 - 1995)
Upper B.F.A. Hanoi Fine Arts Industry University

Employment:

Lecturer at Graphics & Applied Arts Department, College of Art, Hue University

Memberships:

Member of TT Hue Association of Literature and Art
Member of Vietnam Association of Fine Arts

Contact Address:

Email: haibangartvn@yahoo.com; haibangartvn@hotmail.com
Website: www.geocities.com/phanhaibang; www.global-art.net

Exhibitions:

2003 "Solar plate etching" Exhibition, Danford Museum, Massachusetts, USA
2002 "Autumn + 2" Exhibition, Hue, Vietnam
"Small playing" Exhibition, Hue, Vietnam
"Vietnam Soul" Exhibition, Viet Fine Arts Gallery, Hanoi, Vietnam
2001 "Vietnam Asian Arts Awards," Phillip Morris Corp., Hanoi, Vietnam
2000 "9 + 1" Exhibition, Boi Tran Gallery, Hue, Vietnam
"Mekong Magic" Exhibition, Israel
2001 Exhibition amongst 4 Universities of Fine Arts Vietnam and Thailand
1999 Exhibition amongst 4 Universities of Fine Arts Vietnam and Thailand
1997 Exhibition amongst 4 Universities of Fine Arts Vietnam and Thailand

1997 Solo Exhibition Hue, Idecaf HCMC
1996 Exhibition of Hue's Artist, HCMC
1994 "Autumn" Exhibition, Hue



Awards:

2002 Alternate Fellowship of Vermont Studio Center, USA
2002 - 2003 Prize of Vietnam Fine Arts Association.
2001 Prize for Excellence, TT Hue Association of Literature and Arts
Prize of Vietnam Union of Literature and Arts Association
Vietnam Asian Arts Award, Philip Morris Corp.
2000 Prize of Vietnam Union of Literature and Arts Association

Artist's Statment for the Exhibition:

The arts are born from human life, nature and private experience. Men can not completely grow up if they do not know where they came from. They can not forget the past, and trying to do their best in the present means they can achieve a good future, and their efforts will make life better. So, I always start from real life--normal things, human beings, flowers, fruits, birds, candles. And then I mix some things together to look for a new form or new forms of imagination, to express my mind, my thought or my emotions about life, love, the human race, including my own experience, while borrowing from others' imaginations, too. Sometimes in my works, the imaginings and the space seem like dreams. And I try to make everything in my works say something to express my soul. New imaginings require finding many new meanings and they must have a power to express something to others.

For this Hue-Silpakorn exchange program, I kept my way of working and added many new impressions I got from a new land, the Land of Wats, the Land of Smiles, a land with a glorious past history and a place with rapid progress in the present. I was impressed by the many mural paintings in the wats and monuments. The influence of Buddhist religion in Thailand has had an important effect on its culture and arts, and the manner of its people. It can be expressed in structures, old monuments, ways of thinking, people's everyday manner, and the way people express their respect to the King and the Royal family.

But since the time of my residency was so short, it was not possible to find a way to express all of my impressions. So some of my works completed in Thailand are not satisfying to me. But probably more importantly, I was able to work on many new ideas and to develop the spirit and energy to continue this work in the future. I hope that I can get a chance to come back to Thailand again, and that I can do more research about Thai culture and arts in the future. And I hope that I can return to this nice country so that I can create even better works.

I would like to express my thanks to the Rockefeller Foundation Bangkok Office; to the Faculty of Painting, Sculpture and Graphic Arts, the Faculty of Arts, the Faculty of Education and the Art Center of Silpakorn University; to the College of Arts, Hue University; and to the many professors, ajarn and friends in and outside of Silpakorn University who gave me a chance and helped me in my journey. They all enabled me to complete my work successfully and to pursue my ideals of seeking joy in the arts. I was really so happy during my residency, when I could learn so much from my new Thai friends and could enjoy the pleasure of working in the arts at all times of the day. Thank you again!

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Surapon Saenkham



Born: February 15, 1954, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand

Education:

B.F.A., Painting, Silpakorn University
M.F.A., Painting, Silpakorn University
Accademia di Belle Arti di Firenze, Italy (pittura)
Universita degli Studi di Firenze, Italy

Employment:

Art Instructor, Department of Painting, Faculty of Painting Sculpture & Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University
Art Instructor, College of Fine Art, Fine Arts Department
Art Instructor, Satit School, Faculty of Education, Silpakorn University, Nakhon Pathom
1998 - 1999 Assistant to President for Student Affairs
2000 - 2002 Vice-President for Student Affairs
1998 - 2002 Member, The University Sports Board of Thailand

Contact Address (Studio):

191 Mu 7, Tambon Marphae, Amphur Muang, Nakhon Pathom, 73000, Thailand
Tel.: 0-2320-3293, 0-1838-3699

Solo Exhibition:

1998 Eremo di Santa Caterina, Rio nell'Elba, Isola d'Elba, Italia

Selected Group Exhibitions:

- 2003
- Seacon Square Art Exposition to Celebrate the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's 4th Cycle Birthday Anniversary.
 - Happiness: Art Exhibition by 120 Artists on the Occasion of 60th Anniversary of Silpakorn University.
 - Watercolours Art Exposition, Thailand, 2003.
 - 60 Years of Thai Contemporary Arts by the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts.
 - From Inside to Outside: 20th Art Exhibition by Members of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
 - Art for Suwannaphum by Members of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
- 2002
- 19th Art Exhibition by Member of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
 - Asean Culture Week 2002 Angkor, Siem Reap, Cambodia
 - Thai Contemporary Art Exhibition on the Auspicious Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of Silpakorn University.
- 2001
- 18th Art Exhibition by Members of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
 - Bond by White Group Art Center, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, October 2001.

2000

- Art Exhibition, Krakow Poland.
- Contemporary Fine Art Exhibition, Hanoi Fine Arts Institute, Silpakorn University, Hue College of Arts, Chiang Mai University, Bangkok, Thailand.
- Silpakorn Art Exhibition to Celebrate the Auspicious Occasion of His Majesty The King's 6th Cycle Birthday Anniversary, 5 December 1999.
- Art Gallery of Silpakorn University.
- Vietnam-Thai-Japan Contemporary Art Exchange Exhibition, "Artistic Experience of Chao Phraya River: Art Exhibition," Bangkok, Thailand.
- Contemporary Art Exhibition, Thailand-U.S.A.-Australia.

1999

- "The River of Kings" Art Exhibition, Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Khon Kaen and Songkhla.
- Art Exhibition "Message from Thailand", Helsinki City Library, Helsinki, Finland.
- Contemporary Art Exhibition by the Members of 4 Universities of Fine Arts from Thailand and Vietnam.
- The 1st Exhibition of "Art for Integrated Rural Development", Mezzanine Room, Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok.
- Art Exhibition in Commemoration of His Majesty The King's Sixth Cycle Birthday Anniversary by the College of Fine Art Alumni Association.
- 16th Art Exhibition by member of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
- Art for Integrated Rural Development, Queen's Hotel, Bangkok.
- Contemporary Art Exhibition, Thai-Italy.

1998

- Painting Exhibition "Inspiration from Luang Phabang".
- Solo Exhibition, Eremo di Santa Caterina, Rio nell'Elba, Isola d'Elba, Italia.
- 15th Art Exhibition by Members of the Faculty of Painting Sculpture and Graphic Arts, Silpakorn University.
- Thai Vision, Thailand U.S.A. and Australia.
- The Biggest Artistic Event in Asia in 98 Bangkok Art Exhibition, Bangkok Art Project.

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Awards:

1984

- 3rd Prize, Bua Luang Painting Competition, organized by the Bangkok Bank.
- 3rd Prize, Bua Luang Painting Competition, organized by the Bangkok Bank.
- Award Winner, 2nd "Toshiba Brings Good Things to Life" Art Competition.

1991

- Award Winner, Contemporary Art Competition of Thai Farmers Bank.
- Award Winner, 3rd "Toshiba Brings Good Things to Life" Art Competition.

1992

- Award Winner, Contemporary Art Competition of Thai Farmers Bank.
- Award Winner, 4th "Toshiba Brings Good Things to Life" Art Competition.

1994

- 3rd Prize, Bua Luang Painting Competition, organized by the Bangkok Bank.
- Award Winner, 1st Panasonic Contemporary Painting Exhibition.

Artist's Statment for the Exhibition

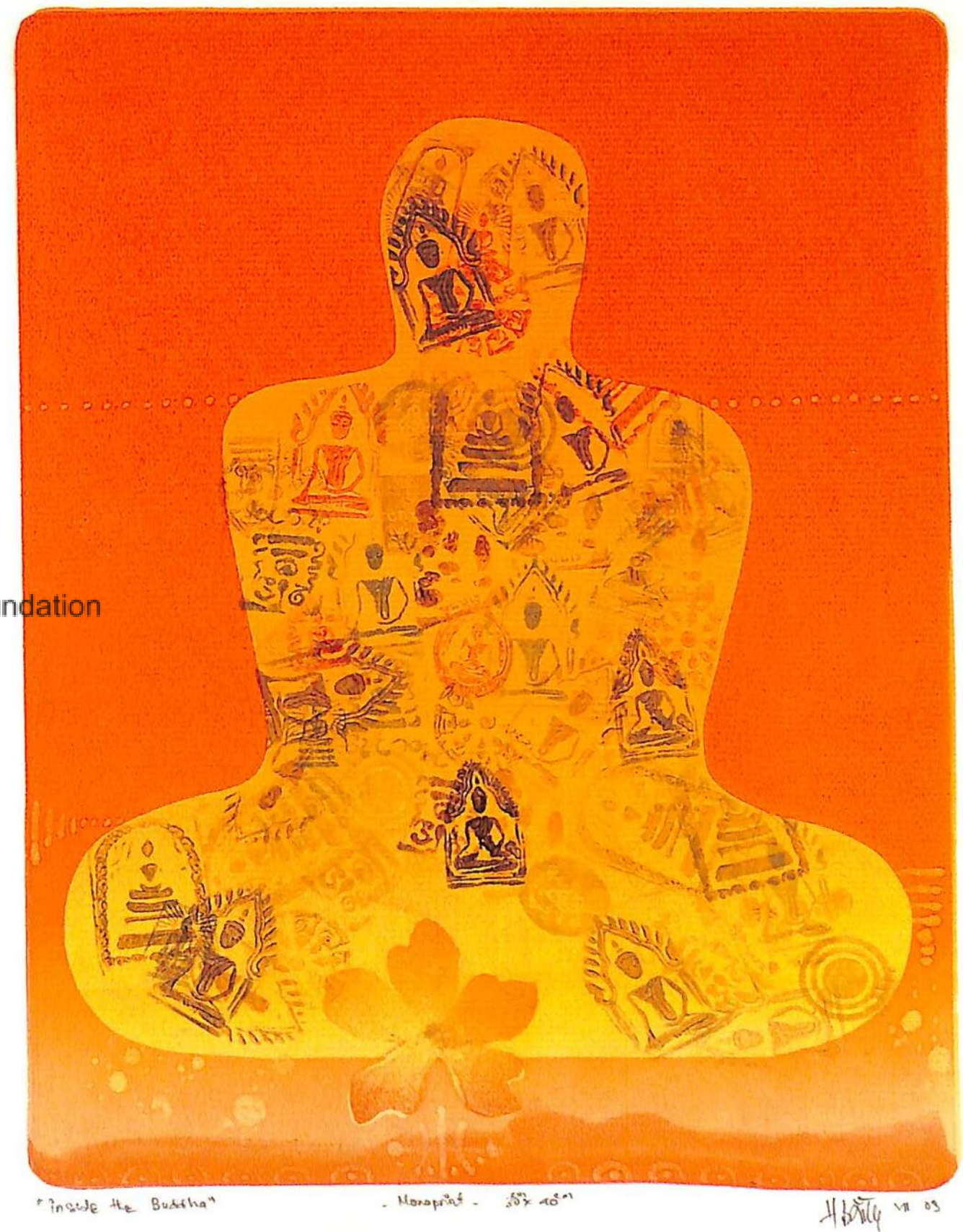
In was a good opportunity of my life having a chance to stay and visit many places of Vietnam: Hue, Hoi-An, Mi Sen, My Son. I observed its architecture and symbols which based from the belief in the old days and still remain inheritaged up to the present days.

I have created my works from the character of its architecture and local symbols by mainly using lines, color, figure, symbol, light and shadow. This is how I would like to reflect the structure of its architecture, symbols and figure or the belief, expressed the solid states of mind of the vietnamese which their strong faith in religious and ancestor became as signs of good fortune and self-reliance. This is the way I would like to express the power of mind with spirit of the fightership and gratitude in the land of mother.

Phan Hai Bang

Works of Arts

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Inside the Buddha, monoprint, 30 x 40 cm, 2003