

## Doll and COVID-19: Art and Belief during the Pandemic

Pathum Sookaromdee<sup>1</sup>, Viroj Wiwanitkit<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Private Academic Consultant, Bangkok, Thailand.

<sup>2</sup>Honoary professor, Dr DY Patil University, Pune, India.

### Abstract

COVID-19 is an important problem worldwide. The effect on art is little mentioned. The new thing in art corresponding to COVID-19 is interesting. Here, the authors present and discuss on some interesting features on art of doll and COVID-19. The cases from Thailand are presented. It can reflect the contemporary evolution of art and effect of local belief in art during a pandemic.

**Keywords:** COVID-19, doll, Art.

### Introduction

In 2019, a new disease emerged in China [1]. After its first occurrence, a rapid spreading of disease occurs and the disease pandemic already cause global crisis. COVID-19 is an important problem worldwide. It has a great effect on many aspects of normal human way of life.

The effect on art is little mentioned. The new thing in art corresponding to COVID-19 is interesting. Here, the authors present and discuss on some interesting features on art of doll and COVID-19. The cases from Thailand are presented. It can reflect the contemporary evolution of art and effect of local belief in art during a pandemic.

### Cases from Thailand

#### Doll wearing a facemask

Wearing facemask is a common recommended preventive behavior during COVID-19 crisis. It might become the “new normal”, the new way of life. The reflection on the art of doll is observed. Many dolls are designed for specific facemasks. Doll wearing a facemask becomes a new widely seen fashion.

#### COVID-19 doll

COVID-19 is caused by a new pathogen, SARS CoV-2. The pathogen is a corona shape virus and very small. Nobody can visualize it by naked eye. In contrast to its awfulness, some artists newly designed the new dolls with the COVID-18 shape.

COVID-19 doll becomes new artifact and might be the lovely belongings of the children during COVID-19 lockdown.



A. Doll wearing a facemask

SARS CoV-2 doll



B. COVID-19 doll (in the picture, it is an example of a locally sold product, the online sale is posted at <https://www.iconsiam.com/th/shopping/funny-gifts>)



คุณยายชาวอ่างทองทำตุ๊กตาแดงไล่โควิด-19 | เรื่องดีดีทั่วไทย

**C.Doll to chase away the disease (picture according to the local news report in Thailand available online at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SEvsHVqE2WY>)**

**Figure 1. Some ne arts of dolls during COVID-19 pandemic**

### Doll to chase away the disease

This is an extraordinary situation. With a rooted animism belief, some local people believe on amulet and superstitious power. The local people might use ritual way to protect them from COVID-19. The ritual doll to chase away the disease is a way. It might reflect new cultural based ritual art and it is also an example of local wisdom for spiritual health support during pandemic.

### Conclusion

Many new things on doll art occur according to COVID-19. It can reflect the new way of life during pandemic. It can also reflect the rooted belief to correspond to the emerging public problem.

**Conflict of interest:** None

### References

1. Hsia W. Emerging new coronavirus infection in Wuhan, China: situation in early 2020. Case Study Case Rep 2020; 10: 8-9. 2.