

BAMBOO BUDDHA IMAGE: SPECIFIC LOCAL HANDICRAFT TO RELIGIOUS SCULPTURE, CASES IN INDOCHINA

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ABSTRACT

The local handicraft is an interesting reflection on local humanistic. The handicraft is sometimes big and becomes an interesting structure. The religious sculpture based on local handicraft is very interesting. Here, the author discusses on the bamboo Buddha image, which is a specific transformation of local handicraft to religious sculpture seen in Indochina.

KEYWORDS: Bamboo, Buddha Image, Religious, Sculpture, Indochina.

INTRODUCTION

The local handicraft is an interesting reflection on local humanistic. The handicraft is sometimes big and becomes an interesting structure. The religious sculpture based on local handicraft is very interesting. Here, the author discusses on the bamboo Buddha image, which is a specific transformation of local handicraft to religious sculpture seen in Indochina.

CASE STUDIES

There are many Buddha images made from bamboo seen in Indochina, especially in Myanmar and northern Thailand. The local handicraft is belonged to the local Chan (Tai) culture. The bamboo weaving is a local skill of local people and they usually make the things by bamboo. The Buddha image is also made by bamboo and the big bamboo Buddha image becomes an interesting attraction of the local. The examples of some famous local Buddha image made from bamboo are shown in Figure 1.

DISCUSSION

New creation of the arts based on local handicraft is usually interesting and reflects local wisdom. Since bamboo is abundant in Indochina, the skill of local people on making bamboo based handicrafts is very high.

In fact, bamboo is an interesting natural material that is widely used for construction and handicraft performing [1 - 2]. As noted by Dixon and Gibson *"Although bamboo has been used structurally for millennia, there is currently increasing interest in the development of renewable and sustainable structural bamboo products [3]."*

The attempt to use the bamboo as material for construction religious sculpture is very interesting. The construction of the bamboo Buddha image becomes an interesting mater piece of local artifact. In Myanmar, this specific kind of Buddha image is called "Nee paya".

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(a).Bamboo Buddha image in Mawlamyine, Myanmar



(b).Bamboo Buddha image in Kalaw Myanmar

Figure 1. Buddha images made from bamboo

CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None

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