

**MINISTRY OF CULTURE SPORTS AND TOURISM
HO CHI MINH CITY UNIVERSITY OF FINE ARTS**

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**Abstract of the dissertation
DECORATIVE ARTS IN SOME TYPICAL COMMUNAL
HOUSES IN BINH DUONG**

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Art Theory and History

Code 9210101

Under the guidance of the Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Minh

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SUMMARY OF THE DOCTORAL THESIS

PhD candidate: Nguyen Thi Ngoc Diep

Title: Decorative arts in some typical Communal Houses in Binh Duong

Major: Art Theory and History

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Supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Minh

Institution: Ho Chi Minh City University of Fine Arts

CONTENT

Research purpose and objective

The thesis purpose is to determine theoretical basis of decorative arts in Communal Houses in Binh Duong. Thereby, a scientific basis is formed for identifying decorative art expressions in some typical Communal Houses in Binh Duong so that characteristics of Communal House decoration art in Binh Duong are identified with folklore values, Vietnamese traditions and local characteristics. These values play key roles in preserving original visual elements to promote the values. Village houses are applied in modern architecture with some combined designs and decorations in the context of economic integration and globalization nowadays.

The research object is decorative art characteristics in some typical Communal Houses in Binh Duong through decorative images, forms and languages.

Research methodologies

The thesis uses analytical method of Fine Arts, which is applied in analyzing the characteristics of the decorative arts of Communal Houses in Binh Duong. It is simultaneously combined with interdisciplinary approach of History, Culture, Ethnology, Cultural Semiotics, Philosophy, and Aesthetics to clarify the characteristics of research subjects in many different aspects. At the same time, the number of methods of field research including survey, interview, statistics,

and comparison are applied to clarify the statements and hypotheses to find out new findings and avoid lameness when comparing which may lead research results to be arbitrary.

Main findings and conclusion

1. According to historical phases of social development of Binh Duong ancient land, the local cultural characteristics have been formed with the inheritance and acculturation of Northern culture, interference with Chinese culture and high impact of aesthetic thinking process, and local people's artistic creation.
2. The identification and shaping of decorative art styles in Communal Houses in Binh Duong reflects nature of local traditional decorative arts in comparison with domestic and foreign regions with the aim of raising and promoting the high artistic value. Those decorative art characteristics are expressed by reducing the majesty of the *Four Supernatural Creatures* (embracing dragon, unicorn, tortoise and phoenix) and replacing with typical local fruits. The form of community in the new land has formed a multi-ethnic cultural area, demonstrating the acculturation with Chinese culture. Decorative carving materials are not only on wood but also on concrete, bronze, ceramic, even advanced to the extent of using colors to paint decorative landscapes on concrete walls with near and far technique... The technique of carving is a typical form of shaping in block style. Symmetrical classical layout is the main, showing the solemnity of a sacred place. Harmonious contrasting color scheme is mainly used with three main colors of vermilion red, golden yellow, and lacquer.
3. Traditional decorative arts value in locality with ethnic and indigenous characteristics is reflected in following characteristics of Communal House decoration art in Binh Duong. First, *estimation* is displayed through principles of artistic estimation method. Second, *normality* exists in every

life aspect. Third, *inheritance* is through the flexibility of the artist's shaping due to its deeply human nature spreads throughout society, locally and regionally. Finally, *intersectionality* and profound cultural value are found in many different religious forms in Binh Duong.

4. It is highly urgent to preserving traditional cultural values and historical relics while contributing to economic development in the integration period. Therefore, preserving values of Communal House decoration art in Binh Duong asks for practical solutions that should be carried out synchronously and effectively. Also, it is necessary to pay more attention to a few points when conserving, which is “*the first and foremost is original elements*”. Repairmen are strongly asked to be really skillful with knowledge of traditional decorative arts in the South. Secondly, Anti-termite should be done with the technique of peeling off trees’ outer bark. Finally, Han Nom cultural heritage needs copying and stamping carefully and exactly.

5. The promotion has been implemented and applied in a number of modern designs and architectures like theaters, vacation houses, villas, resorts, restaurants, and cafes in which modern styles are incorporated with the traditional elements. These styles are applied to find ideas for some advertising graphic designs, stylize games and comic characters, decorate apps, create epic paintings.

Supervisor

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