

# THE BODY PAINTING AND COSTUME DESIGN SHOWCASE 2022 BY SSRU THEATRE

**Sun Tawalwongsri\* , Pukkaporn Pimsarn\*\* , Wanasak Padungsestakit\*\*\***

*\*,\*\*,\*\*\* Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University,  
Bangkok, Thailand,*

*E-Mail: \*sun.ta@ssru.ac.th, \*\*pukkaporn.pi@ssru.ac.th, \*\*\*wanasak.pa@ssru.ac.th*

## ABSTRACT

The article “The Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022” aims to study “Body Painting” work’s student of Department of Performing Arts (Theatre Arts and Creative Entrepreneurship), Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University in the Flora Flower concept, inspired by Suan Sunandha Palace's watercolor paintings. Research methods include studying the collection of documented data, analyzing watercolor painting data, observing the student's design process, interviews, recording of photos and videos for the design and management of exhibits. According to an analysis, 28 works of “Body Painting”, can be classified into 3 characteristics according to each set of concepts: the flower of love, flower of water and the flower of farewell, respectively. Most students choose the style of Roses, Orchids, Lillie and Anthurium for creating the works, respectively. Because of these flowers are unique in color. There are many variations of the design style, including flower-specific paintings, background paintings, and composition designs. This time, the exhibition was held at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Center (BACC). There are live broadcasts and interviews behind the scenes of the runway run by Fashion Influencers via online channels on Facebook and TikTok, which raising awareness Inspire and promote the field of study for students and interested parties. This project can incorporate Suan Sunandha's art and history knowledge courses through students' performance arts skills as well.

**Keywords:** Body Painting, Costume Design, SSRU Theatre, Flower painting in watercolor, Suan Sunandha

## INTRODUCTION

The Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022 presents the work of students in theatre arts and creative entrepreneurship, which integrates teaching and learning from four subjects. Body Painting of first year students is an integration between Visual Arts for Performing Arts subjects taught by Sun Tawalwongsri and Makeup 1 subjects taught by Wanasak Padungsestakit and the performances of the Costume Design of the 2nd and 3rd year students from the course Costume Design 1 and 2 taught by Pukkaporn Pimsarn. This project is held for the 12th year, every year has a different theme. Due to the 12th anniversary and the support of the project from The Office of Arts and Culture, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University this time, the theme of the exhibition is Flora Flower, inspired by the Suan Sunandha Palace's watercolor paintings.

Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University is an important historical site. In the past, King Rama V ordered the construction of a forest park as a place to rest his posture. His Highness found a rare fruit flower plant and planted it in the garden and named it "Suan Sunandha" in memory with Her Majesty Queen Sunandha Kumarirat, His Majesty's beloved and gracefully built a palace to be the home of his wife, Chao Chom and a daughter [1]. At that time, the lady of the inner court and the governor favored painting flowers with watercolors as their hobby. The Suan Sunandha Palace's watercolor flower paintings range in age from 87 to 100. Some of the pieces were lost and caused by fire [2]. The most ancient picture is a lily, dated March 3, 1917. Currently, there are 131 paintings in this collection at The Office of Arts and Culture [3].

For this reason, in the Visual Arts for Performing Arts and Makeup 1 subjects, the concept of watercolor flower painting was applied as the part of teaching and the issue for creating of body painting by students. There are invited speakers, curators, experts in design and body painting to teach in the course to provide information on the knowledge of flower watercolor painting and train students to make-up to become professionals from the first year. The work in the Visual Arts for Performing Arts course will be the development of body painting design while the work in the Make up 1 course will be a make-up practice and body painting experiment, as well as a real walking show. The project is held at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Center (BACC), an off-campus art gallery. The objective is to create a new standard for students to create works that can be displayed professionally in the public. Including to create awareness and PR of the field as well. The show will be divided into two parts: 1) Watercolor flower painting exhibition and Costume Design exhibition from 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and 2) Body Painting and Costume Design fashion show on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

## **OBJECTIVE**

1. To study the creative process of the Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022
2. To investigate the body painting design and exhibition of a first-year performing arts students of Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University

## **METHODOLOGY**

This study was qualitative research, a case study of The Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022 of Department of Performing Arts (Theatre Arts and Creative Entrepreneurship) students. The researchers gather information, inspiration and information on creative processes to analyze, discuss and summarize performance. With this condition, the Case Study Research has focused on studying about the In-depth Study and exploration of the contemporary phenomenon under the context of the real environment [4] by applying the equipment and the research steps as follows: 1) Explore information on academic documents, photos, books, research, articles and online information related to the creation of student exhibitions. 2) Apply direct experience of being a teaching and learning process organized, project manager and working with groups of students in the course to gain insights into the study to be analyzed, presentation and discussion. 3) Interview teachers, alumni and collaborators involved in the creative process to gather creative insights from various parties.

And 4) Organize information, opinions, interviews and observations for analysis, discussion and response at creative exhibits.

**Figure 1.**  
**The exhibition of Suan Sunandha Palace's watercolor paintings.**  
**Photo Courtesy of Sun Tawalwongsri**



## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The study found that the first part is an exhibition, Watercolor Flower Paintings and Costume Design. The curators grouped the painting exhibitions into 3 categories: 1) flower-specific paintings, 2) background paintings, and 3) composition designs to display as a group on different walls. Whereas the exhibition Student Costume Design was inspired by the costumes in the images of the female patterns, which is a Thai dress that has been influenced by Western costumes in those days by expanding the pattern structure, reducing or adding details in the decoration of 13 sets of shows and bringing these sets to walk in the fashion show on the last day. The second part is the fashion show of Body Painting and Costume Design. There are 4 presentation sessions: 1) 2 sets of flower-inspired fashion shows by alumni. 2) An exhibition of costume design by students inspired by images of female bosses, totaling 13 works. 3) Body Painting performance inspired by watercolor flower paintings. It consists of 5 body painting works by artists and 28 body painting works by first-year students. and 4) the artist's work, Costume Designer inspired by historical events of Sunanda Kumariratana, The Queen Consort of King Rama V. is the finale. Body Painting from a first-year student 90 people, grouped into groups of 3, can produced 30 works. But during the course, there are students who drop out in the middle of the semester and are not ready to submit their work, causing only 28 works to be exhibited. Although the inspiration for creating works came from the watercolor paintings of the Suan Sunandha Palace, which each group of students can choose the drawings that they are interested in and search for information for designing. However, the teachers wanted to split the set of works by adding abstract concepts to make the clear distinction between sets. Each of these concepts comes from the incident that Sunandha Kumariratana, his beloved wife, died in a boat accident, it was called "Pha Nang Ruea Lom".

For this reason, the teachers placed abstract concepts into three groups: love, water, and death. Students' performances could be divided into three groups: flower of love, flower of water and the flower of farewell (death). The results can be summarized as follows:

**Table 1**  
**The Concept and Title of Body Painting**

SET 1: flower of love	SET 2: flower of water	SET 3: flower of farewell (death)
Chain of Love	Under Water	Passing of the Time
Broken Love	Deep Water	The Rose of Dead
Sun and Moon	Life of Anemone	Tortured to Death
Pure Love	Wave of Destruction	Dead Living Death
True Love	Poseidon	Loss of Life
Sweet Love	Reborn	Delegate
The Edge of Universe	Under the Ocean	Dead Booming
Difference	How It Moves	Death Doomed Love
Lady Meng Jiang	The Global Warming	The Inevitable Future
Symbols of Love		

Three groups of students developed designs inspired by Sunandha Palace's watercolor paintings. The roses, orchids, lilies and anthuriums were selected for the most designs, respectively. Since 1. There are many paintings in the rose and orchids. 2. Characteristics of motifs, patterns, lines of these two types of flowers are simple, can be easily truncated for good design and can be quickly painted on the body. In terms of the use of color and image details of each concept are as follows: Set 1 flower of love, students chose roses and orchids in a variety of tones by choosing to use bright colors such as pink, orange, green, white mostly, as well as drawing symbols that connect love in various ways, such as couples, women and men, Sunday and Monday, mother and child, etc.

**Figure 2. Chain of Love in Set 1 flower of love**  
**Photo Courtesy of Thai Cat Walk by Dark [5]**



In Set 2, flowers of water, have different flower selections, such as anthuriums and lilies. a few roses and orchids have flurries. Sporadic roses and orchids are inserted. The colors used are blue, blue, black and cut with yellow, orange gold, pink and highlight the flowing water in

many different ways, including animal, fish tidbits, or symbols that convey to the river, the sea, and the ocean, etc.

**Figure 3. Under the Ocean in Set 2 flower of water**  
Photo Courtesy of ThaiCatWalk by Dark [6]



In Set 3, the flower of farewell or death, emphasis on the use of double colors, white, black and red as the main color. The flower choices remain as roses and orchids in various shapes and designs which represent death in many different ways. For example, skeleton drawings, skull, human heart, blood vessels, anatomical muscle structures, etc., inserted by contrast between drawing lines and color of flower painting with 21 male models and 7 female models.

**Figure 4. The Inevitable Future in Set 3 flower of farewell**  
Photo Courtesy of ThaiCatWalk by Dark [7]



**Figure 5. The Body Painting Design Development of The Inevitable Future**  
Photo Courtesy of Pichamol Butdee, Pacharawannaporn Samanbutr and Kirana Burapawarakun



In 12 years of work, painting male model is more convenient than female model, for example, male has a flat and wide body area suitable for placing the design and easy to organize the painting area. While the model has a curved chest which is difficult to paint follows the desired design. In addition, in the social context, it is difficult to find female models for body painting, most of the models are transgender women.

An overview of the performance, students can work professionally. This project trains students to work systematically and learn how to work like a real fashion stage through the deployment process of teachers and alumni from the preparation stage, model coordinate, regulations for making body painting, dressing up to work as a designer, makeup artist and stage crew like a professional and connection between seniors and juniors. This professional work training must be practiced for first year for students to learn from the practical work experience while studying at the department in order to be able to accept freelance jobs in Meetings, Incentive Travel, Conventions, Exhibitions if there is collaboration between university and external organizations.

**Figure 6. The Finale of Body Painting Showcase 2022**  
**Photo Courtesy of ThaiCatWalk by Dark [8]**



## CONCLUSION

From a collecting information, the student's production pipeline in *The Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022*, an analysis, discussion, performance and an overview of the project. It shows that the way students are represented in public areas is beneficial in many dimensions both in terms of creating the identity of graduated students in the field of performing arts and publicize department and university. The research results can be summarized as follows:

1. Makeup and apparel design are key skills that enable students of theater art to have specific skills, creating the identity of graduated students in accordance with the university's strategy to develop students and disciplines to become professionals and become Niche Guru University.
2. The integration between the course and the exhibitions has led students, teachers and alumni to a joint effort and is focused on the 21st century learning skills is the four C s: Critical think, create creativity, collaboration and communication, for students and make clearly educational outcome.



3. The exhibition of educational achievements at the Bangkok Arts and Culture Center (BACC) aims to raise the standard of the work towards professionalism because student works must be tested, edited and selected through the screening committee to present the work to the public. In addition, the exhibition at the art gallery has gained a new group of audiences even more.

4. The use of professional models, lifestyle, fashion and entertainment influencers, media in the fashion industry, beauty queen industry and other related media are expanding awareness of the project, department and university across multiple platforms and social media.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The researcher would like to thank all faculty staff of the Department of Performing Arts (Theatre Arts and Creative Entrepreneurship), Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts for their encouragement and support, and the Office of Arts and Culture, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University for its financial support.

### **REFERENCES**

- [1] The Office of Arts and Culture, Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University. (2021). Flower painting in watercolor by ladies-in-waiting of H.H. Princess Saisavali Bhironmya, the Royal Consort of King Rama V. Bangkok: Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University.
- [2] Chanaphop Wanona-oran. Interview. 2022.
- [3] Sihawong P., Padungsestakit W. and Tawalwongsri S. (July 1, 2022). The Costume Design from Watercolor Paintings of the High Commissioner of Princess Suddhasininat Piyamaharaj Padivaradda. In The Proceeding of National and International Conference on Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (pp. 99-109). Bangkok: School of Humanities, University of Thai Chamber of Commerce.
- [4] Yin, R. K. (2003). Case Study Research: Design and Methods (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, In.
- [5] [6] [7] [8] Thai Cat Walk Photo by Dark. (2022). The Body Painting and Costume Design Showcase 2022 by SSRU THEATRE SPACE.[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM1PyejT4Y0A7Fom5u7nOvtaZSVc5KnQVv0IErOe\\_O4FDBYWER4d7grGm8w1Aw-NQ?key=X3N2V096a1JPUlg5QjBYTk9nbjFKZ3hIcEN5TV](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipM1PyejT4Y0A7Fom5u7nOvtaZSVc5KnQVv0IErOe_O4FDBYWER4d7grGm8w1Aw-NQ?key=X3N2V096a1JPUlg5QjBYTk9nbjFKZ3hIcEN5TV)