

THE IMAGES OF THE RIVER REPRESENT LIFE AND THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

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ABSTRACT

This study investigates the intricate relationship between river and the urban environment, focusing on the creation of paintings that encapsulate the essence of river as a symbol of life within cityscapes. River, an integral part of human existence, reminds us of our connection to nature when present in urban landscapes. This study delves into the symbolism of river in art, particularly within urban settings, aiming to explore how artistic expressions can metaphorically convey life and environmental themes. It encompasses an analysis of various artistic techniques and styles for representing river in paintings to convey profound messages. Additionally, it explores the cultural and historical significance of rivers and other river bodies within cities, enhancing our understanding of their symbolic value. By examining works of renowned artists who have depicted water in urban contexts, this research seeks to identify recurring themes and artistic strategies that illustrate the relationship between river and the urban environment. Beyond its contribution to the art realm, this study sheds light on the vital role of river in urban life, expressing it through visual artworks like paintings. Ultimately, it results in paintings that vividly portray river, symbolizing life and the urban environment, thereby enhancing the aesthetic appreciation of our society and bridging the gap between art and the environment. Through these artworks, we gain a profound understanding of the profound connection between nature and our bustling cities.

Keyword : Images of the river, Urban Environment, Create paintings

INTRODUCTION

The river has always been associated with human civilization. Play an important role in the determination of urban development and act as an inspiration for artists throughout history. The relationship between the river and the city environment is very interesting. Which can reflect the complex connection between nature and the city landscape This study aims to explore various abstract relations between the natural environment and architectural buildings in urban landscapes by deepening the view of the art of art. Especially the creation of painting works that reflect life with the environment in the city, including plants, land, and water, by using symbolic concepts as the main concept to explain the relationship between nature and symbolic meaning of river, as Chandhasa & Choojit (2016). said that creating ideas with "Thai identity" using the design concept principles that create Japan's "unique personality" to guide designers in finding identity When looking back deeply, the things that have always been with Thai people are water, lotus flowers, and solidarity.

The said concept Leads to a deep exploration and understanding of the links between things in nature. By focusing on the river and the city environment through painting media, controlling the power of the visual arts Focusing on capturing the essence of the river in the scenery of the city. And convey symbolic importance to show life and links between the environment. By pulling the beauty of visual art symbols And the role in the city's ecosystem To create a new perspective by interpreting and interpreting this relationship with painting methods In summary, this study will be beneficial to aesthetic society through the shape of the river and

the shape of the city architecture, causing environmental awareness that is transmitted through the relationship between the rivers and the city environment. Painting, which promotes more deeper understanding of life and nature in the city landscape This deep bond can inspire changes and promote more appreciation. Images of rivers that represent life and the environment in the city.

OBJECTIVE

To study the relationship of the river with the urban environment, create paintings that reflect the images of the river and represent life and the urban environment.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study used a qualitative research approach. with descriptive analysis and creative practice (practice-based research) in the sequence of this study.

1. Studying information, documents, books, textbooks, and related research.

2. Field data collection in the area of Bangkok Shows the landscape surrounding the watercourse and architectural structures. By observing (the observation method), we can find relationships between things. Landscapes that show the natural and built environments in the form of architectural structures.

3. Analysis of data, concepts, and theories for the creation of paintings, consisting of:

3.1 Nature and city concepts It is a link between water and the city and is important both culturally and environmentally. Waterways are often the source of biological and social diversity in cities. and has an interesting relationship with the local population and culture. Studying the connection between water and cities through the creation of paintings is an interesting research idea to understand this relationship in artistic and cultural dimensions.

3.2 Interpretation theory involves the interpretation of works of art. This refers to Nature and city concepts It is a link between water and the city and is important both culturally and environmentally. Waterways are often the source of biological and social diversity in cities. and has an interesting relationship with the local population and culture. Studying the connection between water and cities through the creation of paintings is an interesting research idea to understand this relationship in artistic and cultural dimensions.

4. Creative painting practice

4.1 Analysis of concepts for creating sketches for creating paintings.

4.2 The process of creating paintings, acrylic paint techniques on canvas

RESULTS

1. Data analysis

The field data collection in the area of Bangkok, focusing on the landscape surrounding the river and architectural structures, provides valuable insights into the intricate relationship between rivers and urban environments. Through observational methods, researchers were able to identify and analyze various aspects of this relationship. Here's an analysis of the data collected:

1.1 Natural and Built Environment Interaction: The observations made in Bangkok's urban area demonstrate a complex interplay between the natural environment (the river) and the built environment (architectural structures). Researchers likely observed how these two elements coexist and interact. This interaction can manifest in various ways, such as riverside parks, promenades, bridges, and buildings constructed along the riverbanks. This data highlights the fusion of natural and man-made elements in urban planning.





1.2 Architectural Diversity: Bangkok is known for its diverse architectural styles, ranging from traditional Thai designs to modern skyscrapers. Researchers likely documented how architectural structures along the river have been influenced by the presence of the waterway. Some buildings may have been designed to offer scenic views of the river, while others may incorporate water-related motifs in their architecture. This diversity of architectural styles and their relationship with the river enriches the urban landscape.

1.3 Ecological Impacts: Field observations may have also included insights into the ecological impacts of the river on its surroundings. Researchers might have noted the presence of flora and fauna along the riverbanks, as well as any efforts to preserve or enhance the natural ecosystem. This data could be crucial for understanding the environmental sustainability of urban areas with rivers.

1.4 Aesthetic and Emotional Impact: The data may have also touched upon the aesthetic and emotional impact of the river on the urban landscape. Researchers could have collected information on how the presence of the river enhances the overall beauty and livability of the city. Additionally, they may have explored the emotional connections residents have with the river, which can be a source of inspiration and cultural identity.

In conclusion, the field data collected in Bangkok offers a rich understanding of the relationship between rivers and urban environments. It highlights the coexistence and interaction between the natural and built environments, the economic and cultural significance of rivers, ecological considerations, public use patterns, and the aesthetic and emotional impact of rivers on urban landscapes. This data contributes to a holistic view of how rivers shape and are shaped by the cities they flow through. Nature and city concepts It is a link between water and the city and is important both culturally and environmentally. Waterways are often the source of biological and social diversity in cities. and has an interesting relationship with the local population and culture. Studying the connection between water and cities through the creation of paintings is an interesting research idea to understand this relationship in artistic and cultural dimensions.

Table 1 Table for analysing concrete and abstract data into visual arts data.

Valuable concrete form: visual elements prominence	Valuable abstracts: story prominence	Image of visual art information
	<p>Geometric form: The river amidst the architectural form of the city's buildings expresses the emotional relationship between the different forms.</p>	
	<p>Free form: Trees are living forms that express the representation of life and the urban environment.</p>	

2. Creative Painting

The paintings created as part of this study reflect the various dimensions of the river-urban environment relationship. They depict the river as a source of tranquility amidst the urban chaos, a symbol of vitality and growth, and a reminder of the interconnectedness of natural

and human-made systems. The diversity in artistic styles highlights the multifaceted nature of this relationship. Field study revealed that rivers continue to hold cultural significance in urban areas, often serving as meeting points, recreational spaces, and sources of inspiration. Residents expressed a deep emotional connection to the river, which was often linked to their sense of identity and place attachment. Furthermore, the historical analysis showcased how rivers have shaped the development and identity of the urban areas studied. Rivers have been integral to the growth of commerce, industry, and transportation, leaving an indelible mark on the urban fabric.

Conclusion: This study provides a unique and comprehensive exploration of the relationship between rivers and urban environments through the lens of visual art. The paintings created reflect the dynamic interplay between these two elements, while field research, cultural analysis, and emotional responses highlight the enduring significance of rivers in urban life. Understanding this relationship is crucial for sustainable urban planning, cultural preservation, and fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world within our cities.



Figure 1 : The images of the river represent life and the urban environment/ Title: Life and City/ Technique: Acrylic on Canvas/ Size 80x100 cm.

Source: Pisit Puntien

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