

KALASIN TEXTILES : LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Sucheela Petkaew

Nongphue Thepnimit School, Sakon Nakhon Primary Educational Service Area Office 1, Thailand

Article Info : Book Review

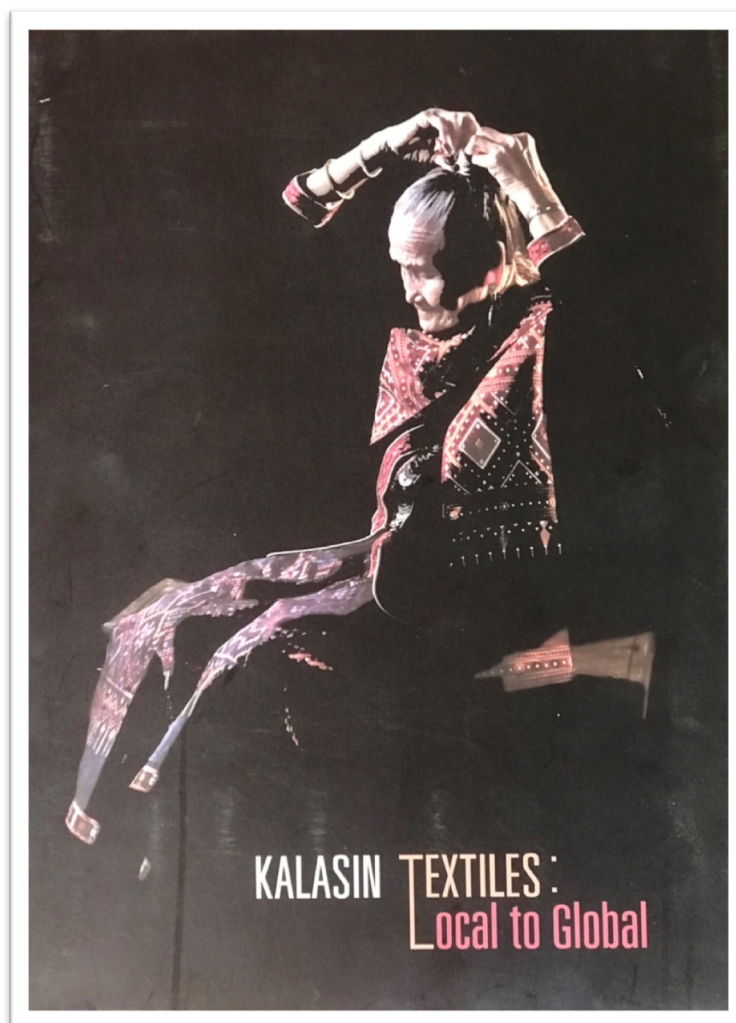
Article History : Received 24 April 2023

: Revised 25 April 2023

: Accepted 29 April 2023

Corresponding Author : Sucheela Petkaew

E-mail Address : sucheelepetkaew@gmail.com



Reference : Kittanut Yanpisit. (n.d.). KALASIN TEXTILES : LOCAL TO GLOBAL. Kalasin : Kalasin Publishing Co. Ltd.

Introduction

From Kittanut Yanpisit's editorial in KALASIN TEXTILES : LOCAL TO GLOBAL, published by the Center of Excellence of Kalasin Prae-Wa Traditional Textiles, Kalasin University, in which presents how much effort spent on local textile accumulation and weaved these pieces of art as local aesthetic combination of textiles to the eyes of global citizens. The book is categorized into two agendas; 1: world of locality and world as global community in construction of local to global in Kalasin University's determination, and 2: Inspiration from Her Majesty

Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother's vision and mission launched and kept on implementing for decades. From HM Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother's initiation and long-time royal projects in founding permanent movement of the art works on local textile. HM the Queen Mother has introduced globally numerous local textiles in occasions and the textiles reputation still be widely appreciative in royal and local projects as pieces of art works in international exhibitions inspired to base it firmly the Prae-Wa Center by Kalasin University now.

Critics:

KALASIN TEXTILES: LOCAL TO GLOBAL is divided into 3 combinations; Part I. Pha Saew: PhuTai weavers' local information, Part II. Ban Pone Phu Tai's Phraewa, and Part III. From local textiles to global fashion catwalk. The book is published in the best quality of printing technology, colorful and grand collections in both body of knowledge and pictures of Prae-Wa. It is aimed to be one of tireless and successful benchmark by the Center's teamwork. The Center of Excellence of Kalasin Prae-Wa Traditional Textiles, Kalasin University has already contributed concrete and creative advancement to local textiles study and the academic circle and proved the Center's readiness to exhibit 'Local' in 'Global' platform in the steady, elegant and remarkable steps.

Part I. Pha Saew: PhuTai weavers' local information Part I: It narrates all about the

background of Mekong's left-coast races/ethnics communities in their history recorded from the Dhonburi Reign to King Rama V. when these massive ethnic groups were forcibly evacuated from Lan Xang Kingdom, the left land of the Mekong which was under Siam Kingdom's rule at that time. In Siam Kingdom official archives recorded by H.R.H Prince Damrong Rajanubhap about Udon and Isan Counties at that time, it was when all the massive ethnic populations already settled down their communities and were ethnical sorted and grouped in HRH Prince Damrong's official visitation. In the after-war evacuation to the right land of the Mekong, Kalasin's PhuTai has had their cultural heritage with them and in their textile patterns woven as 'Pha Saew'. It is in-dept, cultural information recording of which required skills and artistry of ethnic weavers. The Center of Excellence of Kalasin Prae-Wa Traditional

Textiles concluded the important symbol that 'Pha Saew' is the symbol of skillful weavers in term of cultural artifacts. Pha Saew which is square-shaped, woven textile used as textile patterns record for a model piece of family weaving, contained cultural information by a family's weaver passed from generation to generation. The book collected Pha Saew patterns in high quality, informative and decently elegant pictures. The pictures are well-selected and categorized in groups; flora inspiration patterns, human and animal inspiration including to inspiration from human's artifacts making or objects, natural environment, beliefs and imagination.

Part II. Ban Phon Phu Tai's Prae-Wa: In this part, it narrates about Ban Phon Phu Tai's ancestor including Prae-Wa famous weavers and leaders who worked hard to introduce the famous ethnic textile to public perception. Ban Phon's Prae-Wa has been used by focusing on cultural utilization in family and community levels. Weaving Prae-Wa is seriously considered as the most skillful weaving and possessed by certain family members and important figures in the community. Prae-Wa silk textile is also accounted as family treasure by it is required great effort, perseverance, imagination and high skills. Prae-Wa can be lent across families to mark and to honor the important of a family ceremony. By many reasons Prae-Wa is considered a cultural heritage and inherited vigorously and effectively in the Phu-Tai ethnic families and communities until present days.

On Tuesday 29 November 1977, in the HM King Bhumibhol's reign when the royal visitation and royal working trip made, the HM the Queen Sirikit (the Queen Mother now) accompanied the late King with HM royal support personnels at Kham Muang District, Kalasin Province. HM. Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother noticed Ban Phon PhuTai, among the grand, local reception people, in their ethnic attires with artistic, unique, distinguish textiles. They proudly presented their ethnic identity in the (natural)resin-red shoulder cloth exquisitely woven by which impressed HM the Queen. In HM the Queen concern and great vision to revive and promote Prae-Wa of PhuTai, HM asked all the women weavers in their beautiful attires to share her opinions and point of views in the meeting. HM the Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother told the weavers that 'Prae-Wa is so uniquely prestige and very much exquisite as great as the queen of the silk textile.' By the royal promotion, PhuTai weavers who mostly were PhuTai women have been encouraged and empowered to take their roles as Prae-Wa revivor. The most outstanding revivor is Mae (prefix for senior woman) Khammai Yokasing who has been honored as the great teacher and who founded Ban Phon Prae-Wa revival works, and accoladed by The SUPPORT Arts and Crafts International Centre of Thailand-SACICT (Public Organization) as the National Arts Teacher in the year 2018. The other famous Prae-Wa weaver and weaving teacher is Mae Krue (senior woman and senior teacher) Khamson Srathong, who is honored as the

National Artist (Visual Art in Fine Arts for Textile Weaving) in the year 2016.

At present, the usual views of senior, young adult and children in Phu Tai community in their ethnic attires with their identity and beautiful shoulder Prae-Wa pieces are commonly seen in their daily life and illustrated in the photos by the well-known photographer, Nukool Kaenjan. In addition, numerous Prae-Wa weaving technics have been presented in delicate and exquisite Prae-Wa patterns.

Part III. From local textile to global fashion platform: In this part, it narrates the Center of Excellence of Kalasin Prae-Wa Traditional Textiles, Kalasin University's operation from the upper stream, midstream and end of the stream in order to meet

the goals in the Local to Global strategy. Mobilization of local textile to global stage required several tasks from working with local weavers to world class designers. However, by eyewitness international models in the in-fashioned, best-designed outfits made from local weavers' textiles is amazing and impressive experience for all related persons. It is, as well, perception of the gorgeous and stylish fashion in front of global community's audiences in Hong Kong Fashion Week 2019 is a progress. The well reception and appreciation has proved by Hong Kong business sector. It is on the way to increase global perception from different platforms toward Kalasin famous textiles co-organized from the ground at community enterprise with the academic partner in the form of Center's operation by the mission of the higher education institute, Kalasin University.