

EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

AN INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF
PROFESSOR MC SUBHADRADIS DISKUL (27-28 NOVEMBER 2023, BANGKOK)

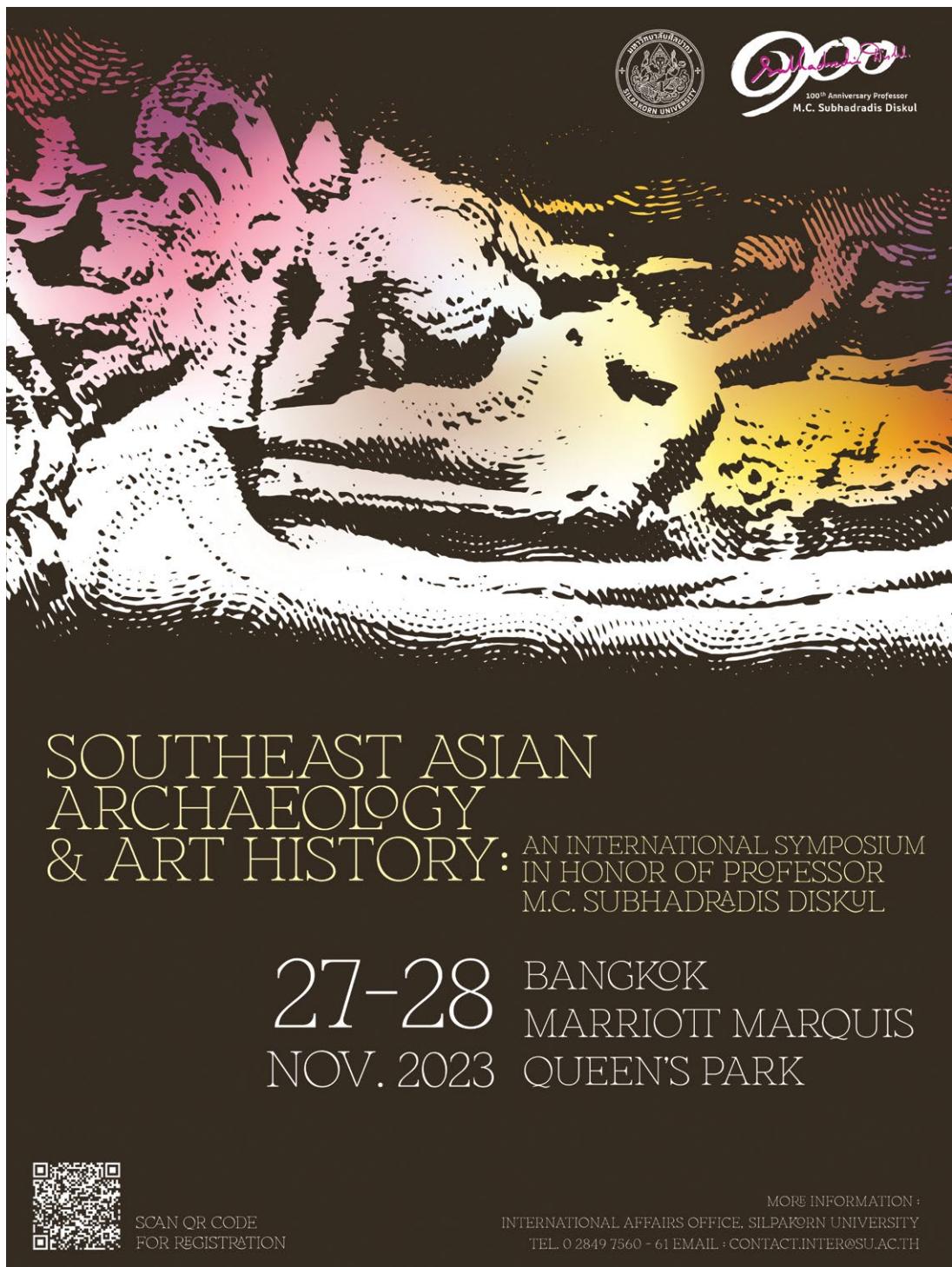


FIGURE 1: Poster of the symposium © Silpakorn Corporate Communication

Southeast Asian Archaeology & Art History: An International Symposium in Honor of Professor M.C. Subhadradis Diskul, held on 27–28 November 2023 in Bangkok, was a momentous event commemorating the centenary of Prince Subhadradis's birth [FIGURE 1].

A notable figure in Thai archeology and art history, Prince Subhadradis's tenure as President of Silpakorn University and Dean of the Faculty of Archeology and Graduate School significantly impacted Thai education and research. He initiated several educational programs and established a fund to support archeological and art historical studies in Thailand.

The symposium started with a welcoming address by Prof. Emeritus Khunying Khaisri Sri-Aroon from Silpakorn University. A video presentation honored Prince Subhadradis. The opening ceremony featured a special talk by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn [FIGURE 2].

Assist. Prof. Dr Chirapat Prapandividya from the Royal Society of Thailand then delivered a compelling presentation on selected Sanskrit inscriptions found in Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia, highlighting their historical and literary significance. Dr Nandana Chutiwongs provided a heartfelt remembrance of Prince Subhadradis, emphasizing the deep respect and gratitude felt by the academic community (read in *absentia*). Prof. Emeritus Dr Santi Leksukhum concluded the first day's morning session with an in-depth exploration of Sukhothai and Si Satchanalai from past to present, offering a comprehensive historical analysis.

In the afternoon session, Prof. Dr Sakchai Saisingha from Silpakorn University addressed Prince Subhadradis's intriguing questions on Lanna art. The presentation delved into several key areas, including the naming and timeline of Lanna art, the origin of the



FIGURE 2: Opening speech by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn
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Emerald Buddha, the classification of the Sihing image, and the dating of Vajrāsana buddha images. This was followed by Assoc. Prof. Dr Gregory Kourilsky from the École française d'Extrême-Orient (EFEO, Bangkok Center) who discussed the dual nature of inscriptions as both texts and works of art.

After a brief break, discussions resumed with Prof. Dr Chedha Tingsanchali from Silpakorn University examining the relationship between Śrīvijaya art and Indian art, focusing on sculpture. The first day concluded with Assist. Prof. Dr Achirat Chaiyapotpanit's presentation on the arrangement of Wei-tuo Bodhisattva in temples of Chinese and Annamese Mahayana sects, providing fascinating insights into religious iconography.

The second day opened with Assoc. Prof. Dr Saritpong Khunsong from Silpakorn University discussing the transition from "Lopburi Art" to the archeology of ancient Khmer communities in Thailand, particularly during the Baphuon period. Mr Sirang Leng, from the University of Heng Samrin Tbongkhmum, Cambodia, then presented on the relationship between Siam and Cambodia through the lens of crowned buddha images in Battambang province. After a short break, Mr Souliya Bounxaythip from the Ministry of Information, Culture, and Tourism, Lao PDR, shed light on graves and grave goods at the Western Tailings Storage Facility (WTSF) of the Sepon Mining Company. Prof. Dr ML Pattaratorn Chirapravati from California State University closed the

second day morning session with a thought-provoking presentation on the refashioning of Siamese identity during the 19th century, focusing on the desire for rebirth during the time of Maitreya, the future Buddha.

In the afternoon of the second day, Assoc. Prof. Dr Jeerawan Sangpetch from Chulalongkorn University discussed the history of art and multidisciplinary research concerning the crowned buddha "Prah Fang, Swangkhaburi" at Wat Benchamabopit Dusikanaram, Bangkok. Assist. Prof. Dr Pipad Krajaeun from Thammasat University then explored U Thong art and its connection to multiple polities in the Chao Phraya River Basin.

The symposium concluded with a round table discussion on the future of art historical and archeological heritages, skillfully moderated by Prof. Dr Rasmi Shoocongdej from Silpakorn University. Esteemed discussants included Prof. Emeritus Dr Santi Leksukhum, Prof. Dr ML Pattaratorn Chirapravati, and Assoc. Prof. Dr Christophe Pottier from EFEO (Chiang Mai Center). The reflections and discussions provided a fitting end to the symposium, highlighting the ongoing relevance and future directions of Southeast Asian archeology and art history [FIGURE 3].

The symposium was a resounding success, fostering a deeper understanding of Southeast Asian art and archeology while ensuring the legacy of Professor MC Subhadradis Diskul continues to inspire future generations.



FIGURE 3: Round table discussion © Silpakorn Corporate Communication

CREDITS & ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We extend our sincere thanks to Professor Emeritus Khunying Khaisri Sri-Aroon, advisor to this event, Assistant Professor Dr Sompid Kattiyapikul, Chairman of the Symposium Organizing Sub-Committee, and all

sub-committee members for their invaluable contributions.

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APPENDIX: SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

Monday 27 November 2023

09h00 Welcoming Addresses

Prof. Emeritus Khunying Khaisri Sri-Aroon, Silpakorn University, Bangkok
 VDO presentation in Honor of Prof. MC Subhadradis Diskul
 HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, Bangkok, Kingdom of Thailand

10h15 Chirapat Prapandvidya, Royal Society of Thailand, Bangkok:
 “Selected Sanskrit Inscriptions Found in Thailand, Laos and Cambodia:
 Their Historical and Literary Significance”

10h45 Nandana Chutiwongs (read *in absentia*), National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden:
 “Professor MC Subhadradis Diskul: Lifetime Remembrance of Deep Respect
 and Gratitude”

11h15 Santi Leksukhum, Royal Society of Thailand, Bangkok:
 “Sukhothai-Si Satchanalai (1433 CE to the Present)”

12h00 Lunch Break

13h30 Sakchai Saisingha, Silpakorn University, Bangkok:
 “Professor MC Subhadradis Diskul’s Questions on Lanna Art”

14h00 Gregory Kourilsky, EFEO, Bangkok:
 “Inscriptions: Texts or Works of Art?”

14h30 Coffee Break

15h00 Chedha Tingsanchali, Silpakorn University, Bangkok:
 “The Relationship between Śrīvijaya Art and Indian Art: Focusing on
 Sculpture”

15h30 Achirat Chaiyapotpanit, Silpakorn University, Bangkok:
 “The Arrangement of Wei-tuo Bodhisattva in the Temples of Chinese
 and Annamese Mahayana Sects”

Tuesday 28 November 2023

- 09h30 Saritpong Khunsong, Silpakorn University, Bangkok:
“From ‘Lop Buri Art’ to the Archeology of Khmer Community: A Case Study of Prasat and Reservoir in Northeast Thailand during the Baphuon Period”
- 10h00 Sirang Leng, University of Heng Samrin Thbongkhmum, Cambodia:
“Thailand and Cambodia: Their Relationship through Crowned Buddha Images in Battambang Province”
- 10h30 Coffee Break**
- 11h00 Souliya Bounxaythip, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, Lao PDR:
“Grave and Grave Goods at Western Tailings Storage Facility (WTSF) of the Sepon Mining Company”
- 11h30 ML Pattaratorn Chirapravati, California State University, Sacramento:
“May I Be Reborn at the Time of the Future Buddha Maitreya’: Refashioning Siamese Identity during the 19th Century”
- 12h00 Lunch Break**
- 13h30 Jeerawan Sangpetch, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok:
“The Crowned Buddha ‘Prah Fang, Swangkhaburi’ at Wat Benchamabophit Dusitwanaram, Bangkok: History of Art and Multidisciplinary Research”
- 14h00 Pipad Krajaejun, Thammasat University, Bangkok:
“U Thong Art and Multiple Polities in the Chao Phraya River Basin, Thailand”
- 14h30 Reflection and Discussion: Round Table on Future of Art Historical and Archeological Heritages**
- Discussants:
Santi Leksukhum, Royal Society of Thailand, Bangkok
ML Pattaratorn Chirapravati, California State University, Sacramento
Christophe Pottier, EFEO, Chiang Mai
- Moderator:
Rasmi Shoocongdej, Silpakorn University, Bangkok
- 16h00 Closing Remarks**