Fabric Printing Design, an Inspired from the Five-Color Porcelain (Benjarong)

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Abstract—The study is about the designed and decorative fabric printing that derived from the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong). The researcher examined the pattern and creativity of the decorative design of the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong) by the artists in order to apply for contemporary arts so that young generation will acknowledge the importance of the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong). The research methodology is both quantitative and qualitative. The researcher conducted an in-depth interview with the operator of five-color porcelain (Benjarong) at Ampawa, Samutsongkram. The information from the interview can be useful and implemented for designing the fabric patterns. The researcher found that there were many formats and designs of the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong) from the past to the present. Its unique design can be applied for the fabric patterns and ready-to-wear clothes properly. After advertising and showing the work of the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong) publicly, there were more young people interested in the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong) than expected which exceeded the objective with positive attitudes towards the Five-color porcelain (Benjarong).

Keywords—Decorative fabric printing, Five-color porcelain (Benjarong).

I. INTRODUCTION

Benjarong porcelain is considered to be one of Thailand’s most precious crafts. It clearly represents the culture, taste and unique Thai identity since the Sukhothai era despite the fact that it initially came from China. In the past, Benjarong was the work of craftsmen only made for the high royals. At present, the production of Benjarong porcelain is widespread in all regions of Thailand. Ordinary people can use it and it is very well known.

Benjarong is a type of porcelain that is painted on the base and has its patterns drawn in the same way as ceramics. It is made from porcelain ware. It is a type of pottery coated and painted with enamel. It is the work originated in China near the end of the 20th Buddhist century. Thai Benjarong porcelain is painted with 5 colours namely white, yellow, black, red and indigo-green, hence the name Benjarong which means 5 colours. These 5 colours are considered the main colours of Thai Benjarong porcelain. Sometimes, more colours may be used. These additional colours include pink, purple, orange and brown [1]. Designs drawn on Benjarong are usually ancient designs which have been inherited from the Ayutthaya period. They reflect the villagers’ wisdom, cultures, Thai beliefs and Thai ways of life. These designs include

The aesthetic importance of such colourful designs of Benjarong mentioned above does not only suggest a valuable craftwork but also clearly reflects the culture, tradition, ways of life and beliefs of Thais in the past. These designs are symbolic of Thai identity. They are thus highly valuable.

Therefore, the researcher recognises the importance of the Benjarong porcelain. It is worth conserving and preserving for the benefits of the younger generations. The researcher studies the patterns of designs and creative ways of producing Benjarong designs of artists or artists in the past and adapt them to create designs for printed fabrics. The process combines past beauty and present clothing value thus producing a valuable contemporary artwork. The new creation will respond to the needs of the new generation. The people of younger generations will be able to realise aesthetic values and neatness of a valuable Thai Benjarong craft.
II. OBJECTIVE

1) To study, analyze and estimate of Knowledge of Benjarong.
2) To conduct a data in (1) to apply in design of fabric printing.

III. METHODOLOGY

A. Process of Study

This is a creative research. The research studied data from documents and photos of various work. This is in order to attain knowledge base about the designs of Benjarong and to appropriately adapt them to the design of contemporary printed fabrics. The researcher collected data from document-work and field work at the National Museum and Benjarong entrepreneurs who have been in business for many years. These entrepreneurs include Benjarong makers of Amphawa community. The researcher also studied data by listening to opinions of experts. Then the researcher used all data gathered as guidelines to the development of creative work in designing printed fabrics for the benefits of arts and culture development, conservation and disseminate contemporary designs of printed fabrics which are valuable to the clothing design industry domestically and internationally.

B. Research Process

Designs drawn on Benjarong are usually ancient designs which have been inherited from the Ayutthaya period [1], [2].
A. Resulting Designs of Printed Fabrics and Clothes from the Study of Benjarong Porcelain

1) Work from the Fabric and Clothing Design Inspired by the Study of Benjarong: Set 1

This work is a result of a study on designs, colours and structures of Benjarong. These were adapted to designs of fabrics and clothes. Outlines of high vase and incensed stick pot were used as basis for design structure. Designs used were taken from that of Benjarong including ThepPhanom, ThepPhanom-DokBua, ThepPhanom-PrajamYam, ThepPhanom-Majchanu, PhanPruksa, ThepPhanom-NorasinghSongKreuung, KledTao, KhaluangYai, KanokPlew, PheeSua (Butterfly), and KhonJoongSunak (Man leading a dog). Colours used are in proper tones for designs. They were taken from Benjarong porcelain under study. In this set, the emphasis was on darker tone. Black, grey, red, white and gold were the main components. Appropriate techniques for creativity include fabric printing, perforating, tucking and applying gold lines for example.

2) Work from the Fabric and Clothing Design Inspired by the Study of Benjarong: Set 2

The work in this set was inspired by the study of designs, colours and structures of Benjarong porcelain. These were adapted to the design. Outlines of high vase with big opening...
or wide bowl have been used as basis for designing of structure. Designs were taken from Benjarong. These include Singto, KanKod, KleebDok Mai Loe Thong, DokBua and Cho Dok Mai designs. Colours used were suitable for the design. These colours were from colours of the Benjarong studied. This set mainly used black, grey, orange, white, jade green and copper orange. These are main component colours. Techniques that were suitable for pursuing creativity include fabric printing and perforating techniques for instance.

3) Work from the Fabric and Clothing Design Inspired by the Study of Benjarong: Set 3

The third set of work from the fabric and clothing design inspired by the study of Benjarong was inspired by the patterns, colours and structures of Benjarong which have been adapted to design these pieces of work. Outlines of round Benjarong jar have been used as basis for designing of structure. In terms of designs taken from Benjarong, they include ThepPhanom Chong Krajok, DokBua, KhaLuangYai, ThepPhanom-Ratchasri, Garuda, ThepPhanom Song Kreung, Ramayana Hanuman, PhumKhao Bin KanYaeng, ThepPhanom-Prayamyam, Suwanmatcha, KanokPlew, Kinnaree, Garuda-Pah, Kled Tao and Prayamyam Dam Khod. Colours used were suitable for the design. These colours were from colours of the Benjarong studied. This set of work mainly used red, black, white, golden yellow and green. Techniques that were suitable for pursuing creativity include fabric printing, tucking and fabric draping for instance.

B. Publication of the Work

Interviewing, data collecting from Benjarong entrepreneurs and posting posters and publicising media on clothing design and printed fabric design from Benjarong entrepreneurial venues, Amphawa Community, SamutSongkram

C. Public Exhibitions

1) Fashion Shows with Materials from Clothing Design and Printed Fabric Design from Benjarong Studies

2) Exhibitions in Fairs (TGFW2011)

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