

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISSERTATION

**Doctoral candidate:** Vu Thanh Van

**Dissertation title:** *Visual art of water puppets in the Red River Delta*

**Major:** Theory and history of fine art **Code:** 9210101

**Scientific supervisor:** Prof. Dr. Bui Quang Thanh

Assoc Prof. Dr. Ngo Tuan Phong

**Institution:** Vietnam National Institute of Culture and Arts Studies

### CONTENT OF THE ABSTRACT

#### 1. Aims and object of the study

*Aims of the study:* In-depth research on the expressions and characteristics of water puppets's visual art in the Red River Delta, aesthetic cultural value, visual art of water puppets, the basic factors that make the difference in water puppetry art of localities in the Red River Delta and its contribution to Vietnamese Fine Arts.

*Objects of the study:* Visual art of water puppets in the Red River Delta

#### 2. Methods of the study

*Methods of collecting secondary documents:* Collect, collect documents related to the visual art of water puppets,... analyze, compare, synthesize, systematize relevant theories and perspectives, summarize the documents, create a theoretical basis for practical research.

*Investigation method:*

Investigation through referendum and discussion: Direct investigation (through 39 discussions and interviews) and indirect investigation (through 156 survey forms polled the audience watching the water puppet show); The survey subjects included researchers in traditional visual arts and visual art of water puppet, managers of the water puppetry guilds, artisans and puppet artists at puppet guilds and The Vietnam national puppetry theatre. Through it to learn about experience, emotions, cognition, the talents of artists who create and perform water puppets in the Red River Delta aim to provide theoretical and practical information for the research topic.

*Investigation through field works:* Survey, take photos and take notes and record audio about the processes of creating and performing water puppets, experiential tours, observe to learn about puppet making art activities (in water puppet guilds, Puppet theaters, Museums, and water puppet display areas). Collect visual data to capture authentic, trustworthy information.

*Statistical, analytical and comparative methods:* Collect information from documentary sources, from field surveys and interviews, investigate, analyze and compare to produce objective scientific research results.

### **3. Main results and conclusions**

*3.1. Main results:* The research results of the thesis have resolved the issues raised in the research tasks and scientific hypotheses of the topic:

- Affirming that visual art of water puppets originates from the natural and social environment of the Red River Delta, expressing the characteristics of local folk art and the cultural identity of the community.

- The methods of artistic expression, techniques for creating water puppets, and the results of decorating and creating water puppet images are always closely linked to the emotions, perceptions, and creative ideas of the artist. Closely related to the art of folk theater performance, creating water puppets is not just a description or copying from nature but a distillation of the real characteristics of the depicted object, using sculptural techniques of simplification, abstraction and exaggeration, emphasizing some details to express the personality, emotional state, and feelings of the puppet character, suitable for conveying the content of puppet shows.

- Containing valuable historical and cultural experiences, visual art water puppet art is a unique branch of Vietnamese folk art, which is a blend of social and cultural experiences from real life with the creative imagination of plastic artists. It is like a bridge connecting the feelings and thoughts of the visual artist with the feelings and thoughts of the water puppet viewers.

*3.2. Conclusions:* The research results of the thesis are a contribution to a certain extent to the theory and practice of research in the field of Theory and history of art. The thesis contributes to filling the gaps in in-depth research from an aesthetic perspective on visual art of water puppet in the Red River Delta. The research results will be useful documents providing specific insights and experiences for the art-loving public, researchers, lecturers, and students majoring in fine arts about traditional water puppetry and about water puppetry and about Vietnamese folk art.

**Scientific supervisor**

**Doctoral Candidate**

**Prof. Dr. Bui Quang Thanh**

**Vu Thanh Van**

**Assoc Prof. Dr. Ngo Tuan Phong**