

The Reflection of Catastrophe and Extinction in Witthaya Hosap's Contemporary Fine Arts

In scientific view, it is quite incredible and nonsense to imagine the doomsday or the end of humankind. However, the imagination sounds interesting to people believing that the day is coming. It is shown that the climate rapidly and continuously changes so humans have to confront crises and even disasters. The imagination of the confrontation is formed as projection of futuristic society in concepts of Utopia and Dystopia. In the concept of Utopia, it begins from literature and becomes the prototype of ideal life and society. On the other hand, the ideal is rejected by the concept of Dystopia that is pessimistic, gloomy, and collapsed. Furthermore, the disasters are recorded in fine arts inspired by beliefs and prophecies about doomsday.

“The Reflection of the Catastrophe and Extinction” in Witthaya Hosap's contemporary fine arts was inspired by the environmental changes: politics, economy, trade, war, terrorism, and disaster. The changes cause humans' emotions, such as fear or insecurity about the future, so the humans create “images” of unhappened events by their own ideas to awaken the audiences to keep up with the current problems. Moreover, a management of the changes is realized by observing the surroundings, news, novels, films, computer games, etc. The management is to escape from the real world or recreate the world integrated with the current urban reality. Hence, the arts were created to build up the understanding and acceptance of the changes. The audiences are going to perceive the meanings or concepts harmoniously through the features of the visual art and the symbols.

For this thesis, the artist developed the arts by adopting the concepts of Utopia and Dystopia, and investigating the works of related artists. As a result, the arts projected surroundings, architectures, animals, and objects. The projection performed the result of the environmental problems and said that the Dystopia might happen if the humans still ignore it. By using acrylic painting and marker pen on canvas, and focusing on using symbols for conveying the meanings or concepts, the two-dimensional fine arts helped the audiences to perceive the meanings or concepts harmoniously. The images of Utopia and Dystopia, in this thesis, demonstrated that the projections of the disaster in the fine arts were boundless and timeless although the different arts were painted by different concepts and interpretations: the religious concepts, the comparisons between the catastrophe and society, and the references to the true events. By analyzing shapes and symbols in the arts, the chaotic images of the catastrophes and

the risk of extinction were projected. Nevertheless, hope and survival were also inserted in the arts as hope, belief and bright light.