

## ABSTRACT

Thesis Title : Politics in The Temple's Sculpture  
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The aim of this research is to analyze the content of political and social criticism as communicated through temple's sculpture. As a form of communication, the analysis found a particular type of temple's sculpture interesting as a medium to counterbalance the political behavior of public figures or politicians.

What was discovered by this research was an interesting reality in the world of political turmoil since the historic even in Thailand on October 14, 1973. Many pieces of sculpture reaffirmed our hypothesis that in the real of Buddhist temple, many pieces of cultural folk arts reflected the reality in the political and social world. Artists were affected by the political and social events and, at the same time, the artwork try to reflect the righteous values at the crucial juncture of political and social phenomena.

Through the analysis of contextual frame of reference or the "discourse" analysis, the artwork analyzed in this study pointed to the same direction of political events as convoyed by the mass media. It was also a reflection of the artists' idea, opinion knowledge. Therefore, what was reflected might not be the ultimate reality, as

it was once observed by Michel Foucault.

However, the artworks were not only a medium of presentation for serious critical message. It was also a form of entertaining arts through its satirical content.