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IV - BA Philippine Arts
PA 199 Topic Proposals

Topic 1: Sculpture Culture: A Cultural Semiotic Analysis on the Selected Works of the Sculptors of Paete Artist Guild (PAG).

Statement of the Problem:

Paete, Laguna has a rich history in sculpting and has produced numerous skilled and talented sculptors who have also formed an association that is still active in the present. Sculpting and woodcarving are deeply embedded in the town's culture and identity, with the art form incorporated in the community's celebrations, festivals, and beliefs. The study of the paper aims to analyze how the cultural identity of Paete, Laguna is expressed in the selected works of the sculptors of the Paete Artist Guild (PAG).

Research Question: How are the culture and beliefs of Paete, Laguna expressed in the sculptures of the selected works of the sculptures of Paete Artist Guild (PAG)?

- **Sub-questions:**

- What are the present cultures and beliefs in Paete, Laguna that are related to the town's sculpting heritage?
- What are the artworks by the sculptors of the Paete Artist Guild (PAG) that most represent the town of Paete, Laguna?

Research Objectives:

1. Identify the culture and beliefs in the community of Paete, Laguna that are related to the sculpting heritage of the town;
2. Identify the salient works of the selected sculptors of the Paete Artist Guild (PAG);
3. Determine the signs and symbols found in the gathered sculptures of the Paete artists, and
4. Analyze the interpretations from the sculptures and how it relates to the culture and beliefs of Paete, Laguna.

Topic 2: Carving a Community: A Study on the Contributions of the Artists in Sustaining the Cultural Identity of Paete, Laguna.

Statement of the Problem:

Presently, the sculpting and carving industry of Paete, Laguna seems to be in decline as it is currently facing issues such as lack of human resources, scarcity of wood supply of the prized batikuling wood, management and government problems, and lack of public knowledge. In spite of these matters, the artists of Paete, Laguna expanded their roles as creators by contributing to their community such as establishing programs, workshops, and exhibits that help sustain the carving industry and cultural identity of Paete, Laguna. The study aims to investigate and analyze the role of artists in revitalizing the carving industry of Paete, Laguna and sustaining its cultural identity.

Note: This topic proposal is inspired by an undergraduate thesis paper from the University of the Philippines Baguio (UPB) entitled “Cordilleran visual art expression an analysis of the role of artists and social interactions in upholding cultural identity in a case study of local visual artists in Baguio City,” (Dela Rosa, 2023).

Research Question: What are the contributions of the artists of Paete, Laguna in revitalizing and sustaining the town’s cultural identity and sculpting and carving heritage?

- Sub-questions:
 - What are the roles of an artist in sustaining a town’s cultural identity?
 - How can the sculpting and carving industry of Paete, Laguna be sustained?

Research Objectives:

1. Identify the current state of the sculpting and carving industry in Paete, Laguna;
2. Identify the contributions of the artists of Paete, Laguna in sustaining the town’s sculpting and carving industry;
3. Examine how these contributions have influenced the town’s sculpting and carving industry, and
4. Provide recommendations on how to improve and sustain the current state of the sculpting and carving industry of Paete, Laguna.

References:

- Bayocot, M. (2021). Practices and Challenges Encountered by Woodcarving Industry in Paete, Laguna: Basis for Sustainability Program. *Practices and Challenges Encountered by Woodcarving Industry in Paete, Laguna: Basis for Sustainability Program*, 79(1), 19–19. <https://doi.org/Practices%20and%20Challenges%20Encountered%20by%20Woodcarving%20Industry%20in%20Paete,%20Laguna:%20Basis%20for%20Sustainability%20Program>
- Dela Rosa, D. (2023). *Cordilleran visual art expression an analysis of the role of artists and social interactions in upholding cultural identity in a case study of local visual artists in Baguio City* [Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. University of the Philippines Baguio. Up.edu.ph. <https://tuklas.up.edu.ph/Record/UP-1685675941131591320?sid=144376503>

Topic 3: Creativity Against the Tides: Mapping the Visual Artists of Baler, Aurora

Statement of the Problem:

Baler, Aurora hosts an artist community, including the Dimalangat Arts Community, as well as an artist village which aims to foster creativity to the townspeople by providing workshops and artistic spaces (Bulwagan ng Dangal, 2010). In the present, there is a lack of vitality in the arts community of the town as the last known exhibit by the Dimalangat Arts Community was in 2010, and the artist village seems to be idle as there are no updates since its inauguration in 2012 (Bulwagan ng Dangal, 2010; Sunga, 2012). The study aims to investigate and analyze the current conditions and challenges of the visual arts community of Baler, Aurora.

Research Question: What are the current conditions and challenges faced by the active visual artists of Baler, Aurora?

- Is there an active visual arts community in Baler, Aurora?
- What are the possible recommendations for supporting or reviving the visual arts community of Baler, Aurora?

Research Objectives:

1. Identify the active visual artists and artist community and organizations of Baler, Aurora;
2. Identify the available programs, resources, and physical spaces that support the local visual artists of the town;
3. Examine the current issues and conditions faced by the visual artists of the town, and
4. Provide recommendations on revitalizing the visual artists community of Baler, Aurora.

References:

- Bulwagan ng Dangal. (2010, March 15). Art from Baler: A Visual Art Exhibit of Dimalangat Community. Upd.edu.ph.
<https://bulwaganngdangal.upd.edu.ph/event/art-from-baler-a-visual-art-exhibit-of-dimalangat-community/>
- Sunga, T. (2012, March 18). Artists' Village rises in Baler, Aurora. Lifestyle.INQ.
<https://lifestyle.inquirer.net/39869/artists%E2%80%99-village-rises-in-baler-aurora/>

Topic 4: Bata, Bata, Makakasali Ka: An Analysis of the Inclusivity of Museo Pambata to Children with Autism from Ages 6 to 12.

Statement of the Problem:

Currently, the country is in need of more inclusive educational and learning spaces for children with autism as mandated by the Republic Act 7277, also known as the Magna Carta for Disabled Persons in the Philippines (Cahapay, 2022). Museo Pambata is an institution that provides a learning and interactive environment for children outside the regular classroom at schools (Museo Pambata, n.d.). The goal of the study is to investigate the programs, environment, and measures of the Museo Pambata and determine if the museum is inclusive to children with autism of ages 6 to 12.

Note: This topic proposal is inspired by an undergraduate BA Art Management thesis paper from Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU) entitled "Art Spaces, Safe Spaces: Designing Autism-Inclusive Materials for the Ateneo Art Gallery," (Fernandez, 2024)

Research Question: Are the programs, policies, and environment of Museo Pambata inclusive to children with autism from ages 6 to 12?

- **Sub-questions:**

- What are the museum's available programs in making the Museo Pambata inclusive to children with autism?
- What are the areas for improvement in the inclusivity of the museum to children with autism?

Research Objectives:

1. Identify the current programs, policies, and measures of the museum on its suitability for children with autism from ages 6 to 12;
2. Determine the suitability of the environment of the museum to children with autism;
3. Identify the current issues and shortcomings of the museum relating to the inclusivity to children with autism, and
4. Provide recommendations of policies, programs, and measures in making the museum more inclusive to children with autism.

References:

Cahapay, M. B. (2022). Efficacy for inclusion and intervention practices of teachers of children with autism in the Philippines. *International Journal of Didactical Studies*, 3(1). <https://doi.org/10.33902/ijods.202211438>

Fernandez, N. V. G. (2024). *Art Spaces, Safe Spaces: Designing Autism-Inclusive Materials for the Ateneo Art Gallery* [Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. Ateneo de Manila University.

Museo Pambata. (n.d.). About Us. [Museopambata.com.ph](https://www.museopambata.com.ph). Retrieved October 15, 2024, from <https://www.museopambata.com.ph/>

Topic 5: The Art of the Wave: A Semiotic-Hermeneutic Analysis on the Tareptepist Works of Sherwin Paul Gonzales, a Visual Artist from Baler, Aurora.

Statement of the Problem:

Sherwin Paul Gonzales is a multi-awarded visual artist from Baler, Aurora who is also known as the proponent of tareptepism, a Filipino art style inspired by the form of waves or ripples in water (Kunst Art Filipino, n.d.; Sherwin Paul Gonzales, n.d.). According to Gonzales, tareptepism, from the word *tareptep* which means to playfully tap on water, aims to incorporate multiple influences, cultures, and experiences in the art style, akin to how ripples, when converged, create unique forms (Sherwin Paul Gonzales, n.d.). The objective of the study is to analyze the signs and symbols found in his tareptepist art works, leading to a deeper understanding of the new Filipino art style, Tareptepism.

Research Question: What are the characteristics of the art style Tareptepism?

- **Sub-questions:**

- What are the signs and symbols found in the tareptepist works of Sherwin Paul Gonzales?
- How can an artwork be considered as a tareptepist artwork?

Research Objectives:

1. Identify the background of the artist Sherwin Paul Gonzales;
2. Identify the tareptepist works of Sherwin Paul Gonzales;
3. Analyze the signs and symbols found in the tareptepist works of Gonzales, and
4. Interpret the meanings and contents from the paintings in relation to the influences, experiences, and cultures that are present in the work.

References:

Kunst Art Filipino. (n.d.). Sherwin Paul Gonzales. Kunst Art Filipino. Retrieved October 15, 2024, from <https://kunst-art-filipino.eu/sherwin-paul-gonzales/>
Sherwin Paul Gonzales. (n.d.). The Artist. Sherwin Paul Gonzales. Retrieved October 15, 2024, from <https://sherwinpaulgonzales.wordpress.com/the-artist/>

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