

PAINTINGS OF DIFFERENT LANDSCAPES

As the sun rises from the far horizon, the colors of the leaves of a tree change. . . But, is this perception the same thing of what really exists in nature?

Through the botany camp, we have learned a few things about nature and reality. To paint a landscape we must observe well. But as we draw, the painting is not realistic for the leaves are not completely green.

In fact, a leaf itself is green and a little bit of brown. But at any moment, the colors on the leaves might have been changed by the atmosphere, or the effect of light that performs upon the leaves. Therefore, when we put green into the painting, it is not realistic.

According to this experience, it is the painting of what we saw, our perspective, not what the tree really is. But even this perspective, does not always create a good picture. Sometime we didn't need to draw everything we saw, but we draw from our head.

Furthermore, each landscape has its own identity, so the painting depicts the difference of nature in different places through our vision.

Colors in the painting represent the environment of the landscape. In the painting of pine forest, brown is the main color. The dry leaves on the ground are brown and trunks also, but with different tone. And since we didn't have to draw everything we saw, the cloths wrapped around the trunks, signposts, and bins, were cut off from the picture to keep it natural.



For tropical rain forest where various plants flourish, the atmosphere is cool, trees look dark and gloomy. The whole landscape seems to be consumed by the green of vegetation. The green has brown and grey inside and this is the major color there.

In the landscape where a stream meanders through a gorge and water falls down the rocky slope, blue is an important color. The green of the forest has a lot of blue and a little bit of red. The overall yellow is the main color in the painting of a dipterocarpus forest. The fallen leaves are thick and yellowish. The trunks are black and the leaves on its top are yellow, brown and light green.

By the end of the trip, each of us did four paintings in all. Some of us found it difficult at the beginning. Following the instruction, we dispersed around the area and looked for a place to sit and paint, keeping a distance of five to ten meters from each other. It was not very easy. Despite a nice place with shade and comfortable rock to sit on, the view to paint didn't really satisfy us.

On the other hand, we found a nice view but there was no comfortable place. Once we seated on a proper place, we felt the view was so spectacular that we couldn't imagine it as a painting. Sitting almost solidarily in the forest made us feel as if we were little creatures among enormous trees which were staring at us.



We started painting our background and smiled to ourselves for it was a good start. Morning sun made us feel warm and relaxed as we painted in silence. Most of us seemed to enjoy the painting in this circumstance more than in class. But as the time went by, the sun above us rose higher and the colors changed. The shade we sat in then moved. The sun, the changing light, these made it more difficult to paint. We painted there for four or five hours. Even though the picture was not finished, we then packed up and went back to our rest house where we continued to work on the paintings. Even now, back in school, we still need to fix them a little bit more.

But what was the purpose of the painting? To become a painter? No. To observe and to be attentive? Yes. We learned that what we saw was not always true! And the paintings we did are the result of these purposes even though they may not be very perfect.

However, the long way we trekked, the ordeal of the wild, the activities effort we made, gives us assurance that our paintings are pieces of art which we can be proud of.

As the sun set at the far horizon, the colors of the leaves of a tree change once more. . .

Tang Mae Kanom Gong Sip Kan

