

Founder's, Corrado Feroci, Museum



Professor Silpa Bhirasri (Corrado Feroci) was a truly remarkable and unforgettable man fully deserving the sobriquet given him by his adopted land “THE FATHER OF MODERN ART IN THAILAND” He was born in Florence, Italy in 1892 and studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence. After graduating in 1914 he became a professor at the Academy and taught there until 1923 then came to Thailand at the invitation of the Royal Siam Government. He was appointed a sculptor of the Royal Fine Arts Department in 1924. He founded the School of fine Arts in 1933 and the University of Fine Arts (Silpakorn University) in 1943. He was a professor and dean of Faculty of Sculpture from 1943 until his death in 1962. After the World War II Professor Feroci changed his name to SILPA BHIRASRI and became a Thai citizen.

Among his many works of art, some of his best known are his statues of King Pra Buddha Yod Fah (King Rama I), King Vajiravudh (King Rama VI), King Taksin Maharaj, Tao Suranaree, and Prince Narisaranuwadtiwongse. His writing includes many books and articles on ancient and modern art in Thailand as well as on general art history, aesthetic and theory of art. Professor Silpa Bhirasri will be remembered for his devotion and contribution to art in Thailand. He was held in respect, reverence, almost by his students who learned from him something of the discipline and dedication which underlies all art. They learned at the same time that without the truly human element, the love and passion for life and for people there can be no art. His influence upon Thailand is profound and permanent.

Professor Silpa Bhirasri (Corrado Feroci)

- 1892 : Born in Santa Giovani, Florence, Italy on the 15th of September.
- 1907- 1914 : Studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence.
- 1914-1923 : Professor at the Academy of Fine Arts of Florence.
- 1927-1930 : Worked on the stature of King Phra Buddha Yod Fah (King Rama I)
- 1930 : Comanded to look after the bronze cast of the statue in Milan, Italy.
- 1933 : Founded the school of Fine Arts, became a teacher and administrator of the school. Taught art, art history, style of art, etc.
- 1938 : Graduation of the First group of students of the School of Fine Arts, Took a nine month leave and visited his homeland in Italy.
- 1943 : Prime Minister H.E. Field Marshal P. Pibulsongkram visited the School of Fine Arts and purposed to the Council of Ministers to raise the status of the School of Fine Arts to the status of university of Fine Arts (Silpakorn University) .
Became a Professor and Dean of Sculpture. Taught art, art history, style of art, aesthetic, art critigve.
- 1944 : Professor Feroci became a Thai citizen and changed his name SILPA BHIRASRI.
- 1949 : Faced with servere economic problem of Post World War II period. Left Bangkok for Italy and considered to resign. He returned to work after Thai government approved the new scale of salary. Organized the 1st National Exhibition of Art.
- 1962 : Worked on a project for establishment of a gallery of modern art. Died in Bangkok on 14th of May.