



BETTER WORLD

ART INSPIRES BALANCE FOR A BETTER WORLD

In a world where all living beings are deeply interconnected, biodiversity-encompassing microorganisms, plants, animals, and humans-forms the foundation of life. Any loss in biodiversity disrupts this delicate balance, endangering survival. This year, the SUSTAINABILITY EXPO spotlighted nature and biodiversity as the central theme of its

art competitions. Students, art enthusiasts, and artists from Thailand and ASEAN were invited to create works reflecting life's interconnectedness. The competitions welcomed diverse art forms, including photography, paintings, sculptures, and upcycled creations.



Now in its fifth consecutive year, the **TRASH to TREASURE Art & Design Contest** aimed to inspire creativity by breathing new life into discarded materials. The contest encouraged participants to transform waste into valuable and socially impactful creations, serving as a tangible example of circular economy principles and reuse. It featured two categories: 2D and 3D art. The exhibition also showcased winning works from the contest's debut in Vietnam.



This year, the work "Shell-Egg Weaving" by Ms. Piyapat Nakpech and Ms. Supaporn Sansuk from the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at Thammasat University won first place in the 2D category. As textile design students, they experimented with weaving plastic threads alongside yarn to intertwine seashells and eggshells, symbolizing a world rich in biodiversity. In the 3D category, the first prize went to "Trash Bonsai" by Ms. Suthasinee Sriwai and Ms. Orachon Wanpairoh, also from the Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts at Thammasat University. As textile and fashion design students, they had accumulated a significant amount of leftover fabric. They interpreted the contest's name, 'TRASH to TREASURE,' and transformed these scraps into a valuable bonsai tree. Using a variety of colors and sewing techniques, they shaped each branch to symbolize the diverse ecosystems on Earth and their ability to coexist in harmony.

The theme of biodiversity was creatively interpreted, sparking inspiration among the creators in the **13th White Elephant Art Award**. This competition called on Thai artists to explore and express the concept of art in realistic or figurative styles, with works presented in both painting and sculpture. Through their creations, these artists brought to life the story of biodiversity—illustrating how each life plays a distinct role, yet is intricately interconnected, supporting and nurturing one another. They also starkly highlighted the catastrophic consequences of disrupting the natural balance. Mr. Teerapon Phopaesri, the winner of the White Elephant Art Award, shared the story behind his work "The Land of Life," which was meticulously crafted using a wood carving technique.



"The Land of Life" by Mr. Teerapon Phopaesri.

He sought to explore humanity's ability to adapt to the natural environment and foster a harmonious coexistence among all living beings, enabling safe and comfortable living for everyone. This interconnectedness has given rise to diverse cultures, each with unique characteristics. His aim was also to inspire a deeper awareness of the importance of conserving and preserving nature. By protecting biodiversity and maintaining ecosystem services, we can improve the quality of life for all, creating a beautiful, equitable, and sustainable environment.

Thailand's rich biodiversity was beautifully captured through the lenses of the contestants of **the 3rd A Moment in Nature Photography Competition 2024**.



Organized by the Royal Photographic Society of Thailand under Royal Patronage, in collaboration with the Foundation for Khao Yai National Park Protection, the competition aimed to deepen appreciation for Thailand's natural resources and celebrate the breathtaking beauty of the country's national parks, while also raising awareness about conservation and the crucial work of those dedicated to protecting these ecosystems. Mr. Jakapan Chaumchuen won the "Natural Environment and Plant Species" category with his stunning photo, "Dawn at Pha Daeng Luang." The image, capturing the golden sunrise light filtering through trees and reflecting on water at Pha Daeng Luang in Mae Ping National Park, perfectly conveyed



"Dawn at Pha Daeng Luang" by Mr. Jakapan Chaumchuen.

nature's tranquility at dawn. In the "Moments of Life" category, Mr. Natanun Kanjanakuha won with "Watch Your Back," taken at Doi Suthep-Pui National Park in Chiang Mai. The photo shows a black baza perched on a log as a young shikra swoops in from behind, beautifully illustrating the delicate balance of life in the wild.

For the second consecutive year, **the ASEAN SX Photo Contest** was held to promote and raise awareness of sustainability efforts across the 10 ASEAN countries, and this year's competition was held with the theme "ASEAN Biodiversity." The exhibition showcased



"Watch Your Back" by Mr. Natanun Kanjanakuha.

winning photographs from each country, as well as the ASEAN Grand Prize-winning image. This winning photo, taken by Mr. Ho Trung Lam, captured a stunning coral reef in Hon Chong, Nha Trang, Vietnam. Mr. Ho Trung Lam, a dedicated photographer of coral reefs, waits each year for the special period between June and July, when the receding tide unveils the coral's beauty. He captured breathtaking images of the reef with the city's glowing skyline in the background. His photograph powerfully highlights the urgent need to preserve our natural environment, as the richness and biodiversity of our world are under threat. It serves as a call to action, urging everyone to unite in preserving the environment around us.



"Coral Reef in Hon Chong, Nha Trang, Vietnam" by Mr. Ho Trung Lam.



For the third consecutive year, Chaya Nitikorn Vintage Studio, located in the BETTER WORLD zone, offered professional photo services at 99 baht per picture, with all proceeds donated to charity. Inspired by biodiversity, the studio featured two backdrops: a forest scene and an underwater setting, complete with a model of "Moo Deng," the famous pygmy hippopotamus. This year, Chaya Nitikorn also had the honor of welcoming Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn, who visited the studio and had her portrait taken on Tuesday, 1 October 2024.

The SUSTAINABILITY EXPO 2024 not only showcased remarkable artworks but also hosted the **DUO SHOTS KNOCKOUT X eisa competition under the theme "Creatively Different."** This event aimed to inspire young participants to express their unique identities. The competition was a collaboration between the Royal Photographic Society of Thailand and the Education Institute Support Activity (eisa) program by Thai Beverage Public Company Limited. Students from nine universities participated, and Mr. Heman Samrongphan from Thonburi Vocational College emerged as the winner, taking home a cash prize of 10,000 baht.



DISCOVER THE DIVERS OF BANG KACHAO THROUGH 10 PHOTOGRAPHS UNDER THE THEME "FOLLOW THE RIVER"

Rivers, often seen as the lifeblood that sustains ecosystems, nurture life, and shape cultural identities. This belief inspired the **National Geographic Thailand Photography Contest 2024 "10 Photos Tell a Story Season 9,"** which sought exceptional photo essays depicting stories through 10 images. This year's theme was **FOLLOW THE RIVER: A PHOTO JOURNEY THROUGH THE HEART OF SOUTHEAST ASIA.**



Ms. Pimlapat Thanompan's black-and-white photo series, "The Divers of Bang Kachao," earned first prize. The series portrays Bang Kachao's treasure divers, a profession steeped in tradition and passed down through generations. Before each dive, divers conduct rituals to honor their mentors, seeking protection and good fortune. Equipped with a 20-kilogram stainless steel helmet connected to an oxygen hose, they entrust their lives to their crew above as they scour the riverbed for treasures such as jewelry, Pod Duang money, ancient coins, and ancient Chinese porcelain. However, the challenges of this profession have risen. The Chao Phraya River near Bang Kachao is now teeming with boat traffic, while layers of silt and urban waste continue to build up. As a result, these divers face increasing danger, and they are mostly hired for specific tasks such as retrieving items lost in the river or salvaging parts of sunken boats. What was once a livelihood tied to uncovering remnants of the past is now a rare and precarious endeavor.

