

The Sculpture of Thailand

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ประเทศไทย
และ ราชอาณาจักรไทย



His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit of Thailand
have graciously consented to act as
patrons of this exhibition



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Australia 1976/77

The Art Gallery of South Australia	Adelaide
The Western Australian Art Gallery	Perth
National Library of Australia	Canberra
Art Gallery of New South Wales	Sydney
Queensland Art Gallery	Brisbane
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery	Launceston
Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery	Hobart
National Gallery of Victoria	Melbourne
Mildura Arts Centre	Mildura



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Photographs: Brian Brake

Design: Arthur Leydin

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Theodore Bowie, editor
M C Subhadradis Diskul
A B Griswold

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arranged by the Visual Arts
Board and funded
by the Australia Council.



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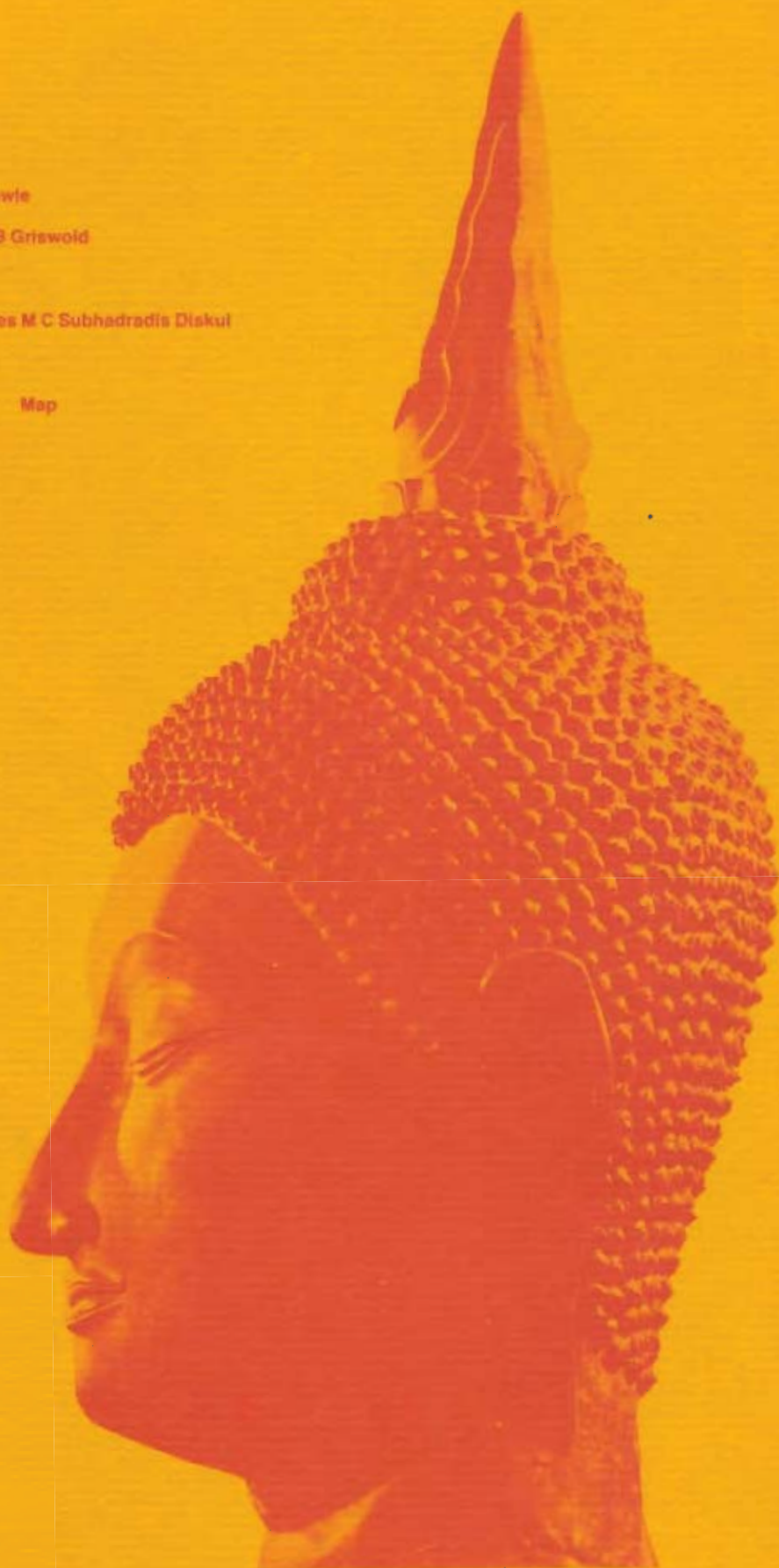
'Images of the Buddha': A B Griswold

Chronology

Catalogue and plates: Notes M C Subhadradis Diskul

Appendix

Selected bibliography Map





Under the auspices of the Asia Society, New York, a very beautiful exhibition of *The Sculpture of Thailand* opened in the Autumn of 1972 in the Asia House Gallery, New York. It then toured North America and Hawaii for showings in Cleveland, Ohio; Bloomington, Indiana; Montreal, Canada; Seattle, Washington; Dallas, Texas and Honolulu.

It was our hope that the tour would be followed by showings in Australia, but factors arose which necessitated its return to Thailand.

The majority of the works in this exhibition touring Australia were also selected for the United States tour. It has been made possible by the very gracious co-operation and generosity of the Government of Thailand exercised through its Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Education. It is an act of real generosity to allow such treasures as we see in this exhibition to be seen by the Australian people. There is a grace and dignity in the sculpture of Thailand that gives it a high place amongst the art of all mankind.

From the outset of our negotiations for the exhibition I have had cause to appreciate the very courteous assistance given by Captain Sompop Piromya, former Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts in Bangkok. I know I gave him difficult decisions to make by asking for works of very high quality and great value. During my visit to Bangkok in May 1975, to negotiate for the exhibition and to select additional pieces, I was also received with the utmost courtesy and helpfulness by Mr Binich Sompatisiri, Deputy-Director-General of the Fine Arts Department, and Mrs Chira Chongkol, Director of the National Museum, Bangkok.

Many people have contributed towards making this exhibition a reality. I gratefully acknowledge the support of the Ministry of Education and the present Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts, Mr Rangsit Chaosiri. Many other officers of the Ministry of Education have been helpful in various ways — Miss Maneerat Thoumchareon, Assistant Curator, who gave me access to the works, Mr Nikom Musigakama, who offered helpful advice and Mr Kamthornthep Krataithong who has taken care of arrangements at the National Museum, Bangkok.

We are, of course, highly honoured that His Majesty, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has graciously allowed us to include his bronze sculpture, *Budda Subduing Mara*, in the exhibition and to His Majesty and Her Majesty Queen Sirikit for their patronage of the exhibition.

We are also extremely grateful to the lenders of many other key works in the exhibition — Prince Piya Rangsit, Dr Viroj Kanasut, the James H W Thompson Foundation Bangkok; the National Museums of Ayudhya, Bangkok, Chainat, Kamphaeng Phet, Sukhothai, U-Tong and the Art Gallery of South Australia.

We are very grateful to the Asia Society, New York, for permission to use in the Australian publication, material which was prepared for the American catalogue and for continued assistance in several other ways, mainly through the good offices of Virginia Field, Associate Director of the Asia House Gallery. We also appreciate the ready approval of contributors to the Asia Society Catalogue for their material to be used again. I thank Prince Subhadradis Diskul who prepared the catalogue notes, Mr Theodore Bowie, Department of Fine Arts, Indiana University, and Mr A B Griswold of the Breezwood Foundation, Monkton, Maryland. The Asia Society Catalogue was a valuable document and the Australian people are fortunate that the scholarly work it embodied has again been made available.

In negotiating and preparing for this exhibition I have been greatly assisted by His Excellency the Australian Ambassador to Thailand, Mr M L Johnston, who helped to make my visit both pleasant and productive. I acknowledge also the extremely valuable part played by Mr S A Barney, First Secretary, Information, at our Embassy in Bangkok, who has carefully watched over our arrangements in Thailand.

As *The Sculpture of Thailand* travels to each State in Australia it will remind us also that the Australian Government's policy of indemnification of major exhibitions and its generous support for the arts through the Australia Council, enables the Australian people to enjoy exhibitions of the highest quality and significance. *The Sculpture of Thailand* is such an exhibition.

John Baily

Chairman Visual Arts Board

His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

Prince Piya Rangsit Bangkok

Dr. Viroj Kanasut Bangkok

James H W Thompson Foundation Bangkok

National Museum Ayudhya

National Museum Bangkok

National Museum Chainat (Jayanada)

National Museum Kamphaeng Phet

National Museum Sukhothai

National Museum U Tong

The Art Gallery of South Australia