

SUMMARY OF NEW CONCLUSIONS OF THE DISSERTATION

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Dissertation title: Decorative patterns on the Nhat Binh robe of the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1945)

Major: Theory and history of fine arts

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Scientific supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Doan Thi My Huong

Institution: Vietnam Institute of Culture, Arts, Sports and Tourism

New conclusions of the dissertation

- The dissertation establishes a theoretical foundation and an interdisciplinary analytical framework through which decorative patterns are approached as a visual language that functions to articulate gendered power and court ideology, rather than being regarded merely as ornamental elements.

- The decorative system of the Nhat Binh robe is shown to be coherent in both content and form, comprising five thematic groups (animals, representations of nature, geometric motifs, Sino-Vietnamese characters, and the Eight Treasures), as well as formal artistic features including line quality, composition, spatial distribution, color, and materials and techniques. On this basis, four principal symbolic axes are identified within this system: blessing, longevity, auspiciousness; wisdom, moral virtue, Confucian ideals; gender, femininity, fecundity; and cosmos, nature, eternity, thereby forming an ideological framework that reflects the interrelationship between decorative patterns, ritual practice, and courtly aesthetic concepts of the Nguyen dynasty.

- Three fundamental artistic characteristics of the decorative patterns are identified: the predominance of curvilinear forms as the primary organizing principle of formal structure; stratified, multi-directional compositional arrangements; and a relief-oriented decorative style. These characteristics make it possible to recognize a stylistic and symbolic coherence between the decorative patterns on the Nhat Binh robe and other forms of court art, thereby affirming the Nhat Binh robe as an integrated form of ritual art within the broader artistic system of the Nguyen dynasty.

- The dissertation contributes empirical materials and an academic basis for the study, reconstruction, conservation, and digital documentation of the ceremonial garments of Nguyen dynasty court women, while also opening up possibilities for applying the decorative system of the Nhat Binh robe in contemporary creative design, art education, and the development of culturally grounded fashion and cultural products.

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