THAILAND

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Hoop Takraw:
Unique Thai Ball Game

Hun Krabok:
Traditional Puppet Theater

Nang Talung:
Small Shadow Puppet Theater

Loy Krathong:
Reverence of the Goddess of Water

Traditional Thai Kite-flying

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Traditional Thai Martial Art

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Lickey:
Globally Loved Thai Dish

Tom Yun Kung:
Traditional Thai Reed Mouth Organ

Kan:
Traditional Thai Reed Mouth Organ

Hoop Takraw is a traditional Thai volleyball that has been a beloved pastime among Thai people since the Ayutthaya era. Teams consisting of 5 or 6 players usually wear brightly colored shirts and are divided into two teams. The objective of the game is to keep the ball in play for as long as possible by hitting it over a net at a height of 4-5m, where players try to keep the ball in play. The game ends when the ball touches the ground or falls outside the court boundaries.

Hun Krabok is Thailand’s traditional puppet theater, which has survived since the reign of King Narai of the Ayutthaya Kingdom in the seventeenth century. Hun Krabok generally depicts episodes or fables found in literature, with the main elements consisting of masks, puppets, and props. Each puppet has a distinct personality and characteristics, and the puppeteer’s skill is evident in the way they manipulate the puppets.

Nang Talung is a traditional style of shadow puppetry from the southern region of Thailand. Records note that Nang Talung originated from Phra Nakhon, the birthplace of puppet theater as the people of Phang-Nga embraced it from Indian puppet theater and created new forms. In the past, Nang Talung was an essential part of festivals and was performed in various settings. Today, it is mainly staged as an outdoor performance, although it is gradually disappearing primarily due to the development of modern media. In response, Nang Talung troups are attempting various innovations such as adding Western instruments to their performances.

Loy Krathong is a ceremony that expresses reverence for the Goddess of Water. It is held on the night of the full moon during the last lunar month of each year, in late November or early December on the Western calendar. The event seeks forgiveness for the use and pollution of water by humans, and participants craft lotus-shaped floats using banana leaves ( blasphemy), hold them against the wind to offer prayers, then set them adrift and watch them float, made across all of Thailand. Loy Krathong includes a twilight lighting contest, which attracts participants from other traditional Thai crafts and showcases their traditions to future generations.

The people of Thailand enjoy flying kites in March each year. Each region boasts its own type of kite, crafted in various shapes. The tradition of kite-flying began as a ritualistic act to pray for luck during the Sukhothai Kingdom and became popular among people of all social backgrounds. Although in more recent times it has become somewhat commercialized, it remains a popular traditional game in Thailand. This video describes the method of crafting a kite and the rules and techniques of kite-flying using Pajaro and Chula kites.

Muay Thai is the national sport of Thailand and a traditional martial art that excites audiences around the world. Although Muay Thai was originally a combat art developed for national defense, as peace prevailed it became a form of a lifetime of fitness entertainment enjoyed by many. Muay Thai fighters train to manifest cosmic energy through body movements known as yin and yang and perform a ritual called meridian fights to express their gratitude to their instructors. This video shows the true meaning of Muay Thai and the spirit of the Thai people through aspects of Muay Thai making.

Thai Fruit Carving is one of Thailand’s traditional craft techniques. It originated in the Sukhothai Kingdom but was renewed through efforts made during the Rattanakosin Kingdom to restore and renew Ayutthaya culture, which further advanced carving techniques in the royal palace in Bangkok. However, this art was not limited to the upper class, but instead became a shared way to decorate food in everyday life.

Today, fruit carving is an art form that is continuously developed and innovated through the fusion of the traditional and the modern. This video shows the various essential elements of a Likey performance and the story of the members of a troupe that continues Likey as a family business.

Lickey is one of Thailand’s oldest performing arts and is characterized by a high degree of audience participation. The roots of the name Likey can be traced to the Cape Verde word toh, meaning “singing to please the Lord.” Stories in Likey are often inspired by classical works of literature and popular stories, divinities, and comedies.

In modern times, new stories have been added to the repertoire, and Likey performances are now enjoyed by people of all ages. Today, Likey is a popular form of performance enjoyed by many.

Tom Yun Kung is a popular traditional noodle dish that is prepared by households across all of Thailand. It often consists of green curry-based sauce with garlic, onion, coriander, kaffir lime leaves, lemon, and chili peppers. Ingredients that are readily obtained in every region of the country.

Tom Yun Kung is a simple menu item for every Thai restaurant from tiny villages to fine-dining restaurants, and has some of the most delicious dishes in the world. This video describes the flavor of Tom Yun Kung and introduces the wide range of production processes involved in making this dish.

The kan is a traditional Thai instrument from the northeastern region of Thailand, which can be played solo or as an accompanying instrument. During the reign of King Rama IV, playing the kan was banned in Bangkok due to considation that it might induce popularize the traditional Thai-style music of the central region. The kan is now popular among children, who enjoy it as a traditional pastime. The kan is made of bamboo pipes, a metal, and a wood stave. This video describes the production process of a kan.