



**HOPES:
INDONESIAN GOOD WATER QUALITY AS AN IDEA
FOR PAINTING ART CREATIONS**

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Abstract

This research aims to create artwork with ideas originating from an actual phenomenon regarding the poor quality of river water and the contamination of beaches and seas due to factory waste and garbage in Indonesia. Water is a basic human need such as for consumption, bathing, irrigating fields, and other activities. Based on this, water quality really needs to be maintained for the survival of a higher-quality human being. The data is obtained through documents and literature studies. This research used a combination method of practice-based research and practice-led research method. This research produces a two-dimensional painting that is representational-deformative and has symbolic meanings. This painting uses pop-surrealism style and acrylic on plywood media. This artwork visualizes the writer's hopes about the quality of Indonesian rivers and seas that will improve in the future so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy its beauty. This creation is useful as a medium of criticism and as a medium of education to society related to the phenomenon or topic of water pollution in Indonesian territory. This phenomenon should be aware of and must be fixed immediately to reduce the negative impact that is harming the environment.

Keywords: water quality, hopes, painting

INTRODUCTION

Water is a daily necessity that is very important for human life on earth. Other substances cannot replace the function of water in life. Water is an inseparable aspect of Indonesian people's life, which is a maritime country because 70% of its territory is water. In addition to primary uses such as consumption and sanitation needs, many Indonesian people use water sources as a place to support economic activities, traditional events, and tourist attractions. According to Otto Soemarwoto [1, p. 3], the environment is a variety of objects along with the conditions of the surrounding environment that influence the life of an individual. Based on this, the role of water as one aspect of the environment cannot be separated from human life, it can be viewed from various perspectives such as social science, economics, culture, and other scientific aspects.

The level of public health in an area is influenced by the condition of the physical environment and socio-cultural community [2, p. 111]. Knowing the role and the quality of water which is very important and has many benefits for life, it is the obligation of humans as living beings to continue to maintain its purity. "Water quality is a term used to describe the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of water" [3, p. 1]. Human interactions involving water in each activity will more or less have an impact on the environment. However, it is necessary to know and be aware that many human activities



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have a negative effect on water quality and the environment. Activities that harm the environment and affect water quality, such as disposing of garbage in river or beach areas, poor management of household waste (domestic sewage) to things that are taken for granted such as not routinely vacuuming. Other causes of the water crisis are over-extraction of groundwater, severe pollution of water sources, economic conflicts of interest fueled by inadequate policies, and degradation of the environment and water sources [4, p. 19]. Indonesia has abundant water sources, both groundwater and surface water.

It is undeniable that Indonesia has enormous and growing challenges regarding water quality. According to Bappenas [5, p. 118] clean water crisis areas are currently expanding in Java, with the area of water hotspots increasing from 6.0% in 2000 to 9.6% in 2045, while water quality is also expected to decline. Most of the Indonesian people experience the impact of decreasing water quality such as droughts, and floods, and the difficulty in getting clean water. In the process of its development and life, human activities that continue without taking ecological considerations will reduce the supply of water [6, p. 112]. "Population growth and development activities are increasing the demand for water resources" [7, p. 33]. Indonesia's growing population and bad habits in managing waste create a sustainable problem. Pollution due to these factors is predicted will continue for decades and will create polluted water sources in all areas around settlements or areas where people live. Water pollution affects the entire biosphere of plants and organisms that live in these bodies of water [8, p. 188]. Prevention and improvement efforts in various sectors need to be carried out, to maintain water quality.

Unfortunately, clean water supplies are scarce and not evenly distributed well across some parts of Indonesia. About 65% of available water is heavily polluted [9, p. 205]. Hunger, malnutrition, cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, and many other diseases linked to water scarcity and poor sanitation continue to threaten most of the world's population [10, p. 199]. According to data from WHO in 2019 [11, p. 1] an estimated 485,000 people die each year from diarrheal diseases caused by contaminated drinking water. Based on these actual phenomena, the issue of water quality needs to be continuously voiced so it can be heard and provide enlightenment to the wider community. Sustainability is not only centered on individual human beings but involves a larger scope, namely the human population with other groups of living things in nature. Basic needs such as clean air and water provided by nature are a shared responsibility to care for them. It also gives impetus to the importance of a water perspective about how water is valued, cared for, and managed.

These issues regarding water quality certainly have broad ecological, social, and economic impacts, especially for a maritime country like Indonesia. It takes a concerted effort from all walks of life in responding to this complex water challenge for the welfare of future generations. Based on this case, the issue of water quality in Indonesia is still appropriate and very necessary to be raised as a research topic to provide a new perspective for the community. The arts and culture sector can have a role in water conservation efforts, namely by bringing a message about the importance of water conservation. Art and culture can be an alternative in providing awareness, conveying messages, and sparking action to promote sustainable management of water resources. Artists can inform and express their thoughts in the artistic process. Therefore, the author wants to work on the topic of Indonesian water quality as a form of contribution to the conservation of water resources.

RESEARCH METHOD

The methods used to create this art consisted of practice-based and practice-led research methods. The creation used practice-based research methods in general; namely, the researcher conducted particular research or observations, then entered the empathy stage, merged into one with the problem being studied, and had the experience felt by the research subject. The practice process emerged new knowledge, which was then processed into a working concept and poured into a painting. Practice-based research (practice-based research) is an original investigation carried out in an effort to obtain new knowledge where the knowledge is partly obtained through practical means and through that practice the result is in the form of artifacts such as images, music, designs, models, digital media, and such as shows and exhibitions [12, p. 29].

Meanwhile, the creation using the practice-led research method was that the artist did the work first and then explored different meanings or interpretations to find new facts or understandings through practice in their subjects. In addition to conducting research or observations, the author also conducted a literature review method according to the topic of creation raised through books and journal articles. According to Smith and Dean [13, p. 6] Practice-led research sees artwork as a form of research and the creation of artwork that produce research knowledges that can then be documented, theorized, and generalized, although individual contributors may use these and related terms.

DISCUSSION

1. The Creation Process of The Artworks

There were multiple mediums in the creation of artwork. The following media were used in the creation of this painting:

a. Media

Artwork is the visual transformation of an ideal form. An artwork is therefore not realized without the presence of media in the form of tools, material,s and working mediums. The medium in painting is a means of expressing the thoughts of the creator. The media the author used to create the painting consisted of plywood, A4 paper, pencil, eraser, acrylic paint, poster paint, wall paint, various type of brushes, and black pen.

b. Technique

Ideas can be pulled out optimally when creators master their working techniques. Mastering different painting techniques gave an opportunity to further development of the idea into visual form. Several techniques were used in the creation of this painting: plaque, color grading, and shading techniques to enhance the quality of the work. The plaque technique of painting uses layers of paint applied in a concentrated, viscous state. The gradation technique was a color transition technique from the dark to the light side. Shading techniques is used to shape and enhance the light and dark of the painting objects.

c. Visual Concept

Transforming the concept of an idea into a work of art requires a visualization process, and transforming an idea into a representative visual form or symbolic meaning can accurately describe the idea. Paintings made in a representative form mean paintings have undergone changes through simplification or stylization but are still recognizable as the origin of these natural objects [14, p. 3]. From its visualization perspective, representational painting uses forms of objects or figures that are abstracted, transformed, distorted, and distilled.

This painting's art creation theme is the "HOPE" about the quality of Indonesian rivers will improve in the future so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy its beauty. The main object of this painting is a child, as the representative of future generations. There

are several additional objects in the artwork such as fishes, trees, river stone. Furthermore, the pastel and bright colors on the background were chosen to support a happy, pure, and clear atmosphere. The color composition used tint value on the background and shade value colors on the youth representation object so that the audience could be directly focused on the main object.

d. Sketch of Artworks

After the idea concept was 'translated' into a visual concept, the next step was to make a fast sketch and turned in to final sketch. The sketch of the artwork was made on A4 size drawing paper and visualized with a HB code pencil. Below is the final sketch of the artwork that was produced in the process of creating this creation:



Figure 1. Final Sketch

[Source: Arum Wilis Kartika Ayuningtari, 2020]

2. The Artworks Final Result

Title	: Riverpool
Year	: 2020
Size	: 60 x 80 cm
Media	: acrylic on plywood
Technique	: plaque, color grading, and shading



Figure 2. Riverpool

[Source: Arum Wilis Kartika Ayuningtari, 2020]

The artwork was made in 2020 and has title "Riverpool". The title of this work is a combination of two words, river and pool. As stated in the title, this painting has a river in the background. This can also be seen in the presence of longitudinal water flows such as rivers and objects in river ecosystems. The main object of this painting is a representational form of a child playing with fish in the middle of the river. An additional object in the shape of three fish has a tint value color and glowy colors create a bright effect in its surroundings. This painting has a variety of bright and vibrant colors. This is intended to support the theme of the work in the form of "HOPE".

A water resource that needs a lot of attention in Indonesia is the river. Due to easy access to various sources of water supply, rivers have been used more frequently for the development of human societies [15, p. 3]. At some point, when the capacity of the river reaches its limit, pollution of the river will occur and various new problems will arise [16, p. 220]. We already know that some rivers in Indonesia have been polluted. This water source is contaminated by various pollutants such as household waste, factory waste, industrial waste and so on. Therefore, when the rainy season has arrived, various regions in Indonesia are hit by floods. This disaster caused various prolonged problems such as economic downturn, and various diseases such as diarrhea.

This artwork is a form of the author's hope that our future children and grandchildren as the next generation can still enjoy the benefits and beauty of good water sources. This is visualized by depicting figures of children interacting with the river ecosystem by playing in the river with fish. Good water quality is also depicted through the visuals of a garbage-free river and living creatures in the form of fish that look fat, healthy, and prosperous, symbolized by the shiny golden color of the fish. The depiction of children's interaction with fish illustrates the harmonious human relationship, blending into the natural environment of the river. The depiction is used to express the author's hope that the community must have a kind attitude towards the river environment in order to create a healthy, sustainable, and joyful ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

Research on the creation of artworks that departs from the topic of Indonesian water quality is expressed representationally and symbolically in the form of visual paintings. This creation is a form of personal expression of the phenomenon embodied in paintings with acrylic on plywood media. This creation explains the author's expectations regarding the condition of the Indonesian water source or water quality will improve and get better qualities to be utilized and enjoyed by the next generation. This work of painting creation is made as a medium of criticism and education for the community or society as the audience, especially for people who pollute or litter in the natural environment, especially water areas.

It is hoped that the painting will bring positive energy to the audience by offering a perspective of looking closely into the better future. It is hoped that the result of this painting art creation will provide enthusiasm or encouragement to the Indonesian people as the audience to continue striving towards a healthy, environmentally friendly or sustainable lifestyle.

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