



Waste Dilemma in The Current Era in The Creation of Works of Art

Ni Wayan Niken¹, I Made Ruta², Tjokorda Udiana Nindhia Pemayun³

¹²³Fine Art, Faculty of Art and Design, Indonesian Institute of the Arts Bali, Indonesia

E-mail: niken9897@gmail.com

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ABSTRACT

Work creation report entitled "Waste Dilemma in The Current Era in The Creation of Works of Art". This idea arose from personal anxiety that every day we found rubbish everywhere. This problem gave rise to a strong urge to present visualizations of various forms of waste, especially plastic waste, in painting. The aim of using waste in this research is to provide an overview of what waste looks like if it is left for too long and accumulates. The method for creating works goes through three stages, namely, direct observation in the field, exploration, and embodiment in a painting. The work will later display realist techniques with a combination of paste as texture such as plastic, dried acrylic paint and scraps of used cardboard. As well as new findings on the texture of wood dust (saw residue). The trash objects are arranged in such a way with splashes or melted accents on each side of the object to attract attention. The game of value (level of brightness or darkness) also plays a very important role in giving dimension and depth to a work of art. The author to realize how trash objects can look very dirty and disgusting. Messy or careless placement makes waste even more unsightly. This aims to make everyone aware of how dangerous an dirty waste is if left to pile up for years on earth.

1. INTRODUCTION

Garbage is the remainder of human daily activities. As time goes by, people's need to use plastic has an impact on the accumulation of plastic waste everywhere. Waste is a problem for every human being, for example the problem of transporting waste, and there are still very few places for waste disposal. Currently, people know the bad effects of waste, including causing floods and other diseases. Plastic waste and bottles that are thrown away carelessly can also clog waterways and sewers. The impact of littering can damage the view, create unpleasant smell, cause low to high level flooding, cause various diseases and can pollute the environment [1].

Waste is a global problem that is getting worse along with population growth and industrial development. The impact of waste on the environment is like a bomb ready to explode at any time. The accumulation of waste in landfills pollutes the soil and groundwater [2].



If you look closely, currently various plastic products have certain codes. The code states the type of plastic that forms the material, making it easier to recycle. An example is the 3R triangle code with a number in the middle. The number indicates the type of plastic and is sometimes followed by an abbreviation, such as: PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate), is generally found in beverage bottles or other liquid consumer products. HDPE (High Density Polyethylene) density polyethylene found in detergent bottles, or high usually. PVC (Polyvinyl Chloride), usually found in pipes and other furniture. LDPE (Low Density Polyethylene) or low polyethylene, usually found in food packaging. PP (Polypropylene), commonly found in beverage caps, straws, and several other materials [3].

Excessive consumption of plastic also results in a large amount of plastic waste. Because it does not come from biological compounds, plastic is difficult to degrade (non-biodegradable). Plastic is estimated to take 100 to 500 years to decompose perfectly. Plastic bag waste can pollute the soil, water, sea, and even air. Plastic bags are made from a by product of gas and oil refining called ethylene. Oil, gas and raw coal are non-renewable natural resources. The more plastic we use, the faster we deplete these natural resources [4].

It is these microscopic plastic fragments that can be found everywhere, from the sea to agricultural land. The existence of micro plastics poses a serious threat to ecosystems and the environment because it can harm wildlife that may consume them and contaminate seafood that is ultimately consumed by humans. The ecological impact and potential health risks associated with micro plastics have become a global issue that requires serious action and distribution. Apart from that, plastic factories are also the largest contributors to carbon emissions in the manufacturing sector. The production process of single use plastic also contributes to climate change. So this plastic production produces greenhouse gas emissions, especially during drilling for plastic raw materials such as oil and gas [5].

The waste problem is so big in our environment if it continues to be ignored. So the aim of this research is none other than to give an idea to readers and the wider community, what a place would look like if it was filled with lots of rubbish and what would be caused by this incident. The author's hope with the results of this research is that readers can immediately become aware and participate in protecting the natural environment together. So that very undesirable things such as disease outbreaks and environmental damage can be resolved quickly.

This research is very important for people to be able to reflect on the current state of the earth which is filled with rubbish. It is hoped that this research can expand public knowledge about the importance of maintaining environmental cleanliness and what its application is like in the real world. The limitations of this research are far from perfect, hopefully in the future this research can be better.

2. METHODS

2.1. Exploration

At this stage, the visual form that will be highlighted in the work is trash. Various types of waste are poured onto the canvas to connect with the predetermined theme, namely the dilemma of waste in the environment. The author saw from the street environment how rubbish was strewn everywhere, especially plastic bags and plastic bottles. This rubbish makes the road environment unsightly. There are also piles of rubbish in the former burnt market building, no one cares about cleaning it up. The rubbish is left piled up and flooded with continuous rainwater. This can cause mosquito larvae to breed in puddles of water. Visual exploration in the form of sketches. So in the creative process you definitely don't miss out on sketches. Sketching is the step in creating a work of painting. By making a sketch first.

Artists will easily know how to determine the position and shadow of the initial shape of an object as well as what colours to use. Sketches make the work process easier.

2.2. Improvisation

At this stage, experiment with media such as :

- a. The materials that will be used will vary. So the canvas will be filled with texture to make it look voluminous as in the example, using scraps of paper or patchwork to create different textures. Also uses paint splashes as texture.
- b. There are two techniques that will be used, namely :
 - Splashing techniques, rollers, melting paint. This technique will be used when creating backgrounds rather than paintings and realized in such a way that it looks artistic, of course also still having the impression of depth.
 - Realist technique, just let the background run amok. However, the main object in the painting is still done in a realist style. So it's a combination of abstract at the back and the painter's realist skill in the main object of the work later.

Visual exploration does not escape the form of sketches. So in the work process you definitely don't forget the name sketch. Sketching is the first step in creating a work of painting. By making a sketch first. Artists will easily know how to determine the position and the shadow of the initial shape of an object as well as what colours to use. Sketches make the work process easier. Organizing visual elements that for the aesthetic value of works of art. In the work that will be created, we will combine two painting elements, namely abstract elements in the background and realist elements in the object, into one continuous and beautiful looking whole.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Creation Concept

The idea of using trash as a theme for the work, came from a feeling of discomfort when seeing a lot of trash scattered everywhere. Like on the highway, abandoned burnt-out buildings, rivers, gutters and many more. With this phenomenon, the author felt interested in raising it in the form of a painting.

3.2. Stages of Creation

The stages of creating a work start from the very beginning, namely :

- a. Prepare the tools and materials that will be used to create the work, such as canvas, brushes, paint, pencils, palettes, cloths and so on.
- b. Determine the idea of what object will be made, determine the position of each object so that it is interesting to look at.
- c. Make a basic sketch. So after determining the idea, make a sketch start by using a 2B pencil so that it is easy to erase when wrong. The sketch is made thinly. If you are sure, the sketch can be thickened again using black paint. The goal is that when you start the colouring process you are not confused about finding the shape of the object to be painted.
- d. After the sketch is finished. Continue to the colouring stage. Starting from the background with a mixture of colours so that it does not look monotonous and too contrasting with the object.

- e. When applying colour to the background, in addition to using a mixture of several colours, splash and melt paint techniques are also added, as well as a little collage from used paper, plastic, sawdust or leftover acrylic paint that sticks to the background painting palette.
- f. After the background is finished, the next step is to colour the object according to the reference photo that will be used. Find out how the original shape of the object is. In this process, using a realistic style in its development.
- g. Finally, proceed to the finishing stage. So after the background and object have been created. Improve the work you create by adding new object and new painting techniques. Like adding wild splashes that create an artistic impression in a painting.

Figur



Figure 1. Scattered Everywhere

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [1] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Scattered Everywhere

Size : 90cm x 70cm

Year : 2024

In this work, it shows an atmosphere where garbage is scattered around the figure of a face as a symbol of a human. This work is meaningful, when garbage haunts life. Wherever we are, it is surrounded by it. It is very terrible if it is left alone, the longer the garbage will pile up and overflow. With mixed media (acrylic paint and oil paint) using abstract techniques in the background and realistic techniques on the object. Don't forget a little melt as a sweetener for the work.



Figure 2. Slum Housing

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [2] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Slum Housing

Size : 90cm x 70cm

Year : 2024

This work shows the atmosphere when a house or residence is full of garbage. Because of the garbage, the house that should be clean, fragrant and comfortable becomes dirty, smells bad and is far from comfortable. This is what a house looks like if it is filled with garbage, to the point that animals can also be affected by the garbage itself. With mixed media (acrylic paint and oil paint) using abstract techniques on the background and realistic techniques on the object into one unit. Added melted paint as a sweetener for the work.



Figure 3. Untidy

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [3] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Untidy

Size : 60cm x 40cm

Year : 2024

This work depicts the atmosphere of a messy place full of garbage, almost blending with the ground, so that it is not clearly visible to the eye. This is actually very dangerous because plastic waste will not dissolve by itself like rotting leaves. Plastic waste will remain intact for hundreds of years until it becomes small pieces and disintegrates.



Figure 4. Full of Rubbish

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [4] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Full of Rubbish

Size : 60cm x 40cm

Year : 2024

This work describes an atmosphere full of garbage. Where one place is filled with scattered garbage. All kinds of garbage are there such as used bottles, plastic bags, used plastic chairs, used buckets and so on. Left alone, piling up more every day.



Figure 5. Polluted River

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [5] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Polluted River

Size : 90cm x 70cm

Year : 2024

This work describes the atmosphere of a river polluted by garbage. Almost all sides of the river are filled with garbage, and plastic waste is dominant. The lack of awareness of the community around the river to maintain the cleanliness of the river. They even throw garbage continuously into the river. Moreover, with the presence of illegal settlements on the side of the river which adds to the slum atmosphere there. The river has now become very dirty and the fish there are dying because they cannot stand the water that has been polluted by garbage.



Figure 6. Dirty

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [6] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Dirty

Size : 70cm x 35cm

Year : 2024

This work depicts the atmosphere of how dirty the garbage looks. With bottles, cans and other garbage piled up and seems to have been neglected for a long time. So flies like to live there. If this is left alone, it will pollute the air with the unpleasant smell of garbage.



Figure 7. Dirty

[Source: Ni Wayan Niken, 2024] [7] or Research Team, 2025]

Title : Dirty

Size : 40cm x 25cm

Year : 2024

This work illustrates how the garbage looks very dirty. Moreover, there are cockroaches in the garbage. Who does not know that cockroaches are animals that like dirty environments or places. So is the clear that there are so many bacteria in the cockroach's body. This is the cause of disease for humans. If the cockroach lands on our food. It will transmit disease to us.

4. CONCLUSION

Plastic waste is a major problem that has become a major phenomenon in the country, especially in Indonesia. Waste output in various countries is now in second place after China. The increasing number of residents and their activities, makes the volume of waste continue to increase. Plastic is a chemical material. This means that plastic is not a natural material, but rather an artificial or synthetic material. Plastic that have become waste are dangerous and difficult to manage. It takes decades or even hundreds of years for plastic to decompose properly. However, the problem is that the negative impact of plastic waste is as big as its function. Plastic if used not according to its function is very dangerous, if disposed of without special handling is also dangerous for the environment. Plastic waste cannot be simply thrown into the ground. It takes 1000 years for plastic to be decomposed by the soil in a completely decomposed manner. Because of its difficult to decompose nature, plastic is also the cause of flooding because it clogs water channels. So that when the rainy season arrives, it causes flooding.

Answer to the problem formulation. The problem of garbage is still abundant on this earth, it will not be resolved if public awareness of the dangers of garbage is still very minimal. It can have a big impact on the ecosystem on earth. Because garbage such as plastic waste if buried for a long time in the ground will make the soil poisoned by hazardous substances from the garbage. Moreover, if it pollutes the river, it will cause animals living in the river to die because the water is poisoned and filled with garbage. Hopefully, over time the community will be aware and care about the surrounding environment.

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