



BALINESE MASKS AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR IDEAS IN THE CREATION OF PAINTING WORKS

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ABSTRACT

Mask art is one of the cultural arts products of the Indonesian people that we still encounter a lot. In various regions, masks have different roles and functions because each region has different customs and beliefs. Apart from being associated with dance, Balinese masks are also often used in theatrical performances or a combination of dance and theater, because Balinese masks themselves have many different characters. Balinese masks themselves have many meanings of life in them which the author then packages into a work of painting which contains messages and knowledge that can broaden insight for a wide audience. The creation method used is a method of creation by creating works of painting in a systematic way. The stages of creating a work of painting which outlines the design of the process of creating a work of art according to the stages of creation from getting the inspiration (idea), designing, to realizing the work of art is a creation method developed by Hawkins. The author chose Balinese masks as an idea for creating this painting because Balinese masks themselves have many different characters, Balinese masks themselves have many meanings of life in them. Which is then packaged by the author into a work of fine art containing messages and knowledge that can broaden insight for a wide audience. This makes the author create paintings using masks as objects combined with the shape of the human body to support the creation of inspirational ideas.

1. INTRODUCTION

Mask art is one of the results of Indonesian cultural arts that we still find a lot. Masks found in various regions have different roles and functions because each region has different customs and beliefs [1]. The differences include masks that function as manifestations, worship, dance equipment, and others. The existence of Balinese masks is associated with dance art. In addition, Balinese masks are also often used in theater performances or a combination of dance and theater, while history says that the existence of masks is the same as the development of dance in Bali, because both are related since pre-Hindu times, until now. Balinese masks are made of wood, pule and kenaga wood are woods that are usually used as



materials for making masks. Each mask has a different set of rules, the existence of these differences is to divide the types of masks and their functions.

Masks are one of the main devices in the mask dance, a traditional Balinese dance art. In every Balinese mask dance performance, the dancers appear in special costumes and wear masks. The mask worn by a dancer shows the character they are playing in a story performance that is presented in the mask dance, usually taken from a chronicle or previous legend. The author raised the concept of Balinese masks because the author is involved in the Balinese mask industry and also the environmental factor where the author lives in Singapadu which is famous for its Balinese mask works that are very typical in the area. The author is also interested in the character of the existing masks, because each mask has a different meaning, expression, and character, and also has a different function. Balinese masks have different meanings, characters such as government, people, religious leaders, kings, parents, and various other characters. The masks raised by the author represent the nature that exists in humans.

By taking inspiration from the mask, the author can create visual works that contribute to the meaning contained therein, which are packaged in surrealist painting style, and the author can also contribute and introduce masks to the general public. Based on this description, the author uses the concept of Balinese masks as the basis for ideas and develops them in the creation of paintings. The materials used are canvas and acrylic paint. Visually, it is manifested symbolically about the human character symbolized by the Balinese mask.

2. METHODS

The Creation Method is a way to create artwork systematically. Hawkins in his book *Creating Through Dance* translated by RM. Soedarsono (2001: 207), states; the creation of good painting and dance art always goes through three stages: first exploration; second improvisation; and third forming (formation or composition) [2].

In this method of creation, the author did not fail to conduct a short interview with partner I Made Galung Wiratmaja. In this discussion, he said that in this method of creation, it actually just flows, starting from the exploration stage where he said that the themes that are often taken are topics that are currently popular in his environment. After finding the theme, I Made Galung Wiratmaja also improvised by applying the right techniques to his work. In its manifestation, Galung Wiratmaja initially started from abstract expressionism then continued to landscape and continued to abstraction figures where the initial figure appears to be facing away from us in the object of the painting. From the many manifestations that he has done, Galung Wiratmaja has no limits in expressing and being artistic [3].

2.1. Exploration

Exploration is the initial stage in the creative process, I have done many experiments in the process. From the beginning of determining the concept I have experimented to find what topics are realistic in today's era, where there are many metaphors of words in expressing the character of people symbolized by Balinese masks.

2.2. Improvisation

Improvisation is the emphasis of medium experimentation, where in this artwork I use various materials, tools and techniques. In determining the materials, tools and techniques, I also experiment so that they can match the artwork I create, I use acrylic paint to make it look like a texture on the painting so that it can strengthen the background color I create.

2.3. Forming

In the process of forming a work, various experiments have been carried out. At this stage, the artist determines the form that is considered appropriate by combining exploration and experimental trials. The formation stage begins with a sketch and begins with making a background using a pseudo technique or almost similar to a watercolor technique, after making the background the author begins the formation of a character or figure that has been sketched previously, by adding several objects or symbols that are in accordance with the theme of the work, after that the author completes several objects, the author emphasizes and again responds to the background to make it look more beautiful.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. RESULTS.

3.1.1. Humor



Media : Acrylic Paint on Canvas

Size : 100 cm X 80 cm

Year : 2024

Description of the Work:

Bondres is a depiction of a commoner with a unique character wearing various caricature masks, such as boes (wide and thick lips), cungh mrongos (cleft and protruding), cungh pesek (smooth and protruding lips) [3]. The Bondres characters in their behavior and way of dialogue are shown in a unique and exaggerated way, such as kete (stuttering), bongol (deaf, bega (gap), geEem (sick). The green background in this painting symbolizes peace, this cubist form symbolizes a feeling that complements each other. The

blue color symbolizes feelings, calmness, and peace, the dark green color symbolizes prosperity, and the white color symbolizes a sense of peace and tranquility.

3.1.2. Ideal Leader



Media: Acrylic Paint on Canvas

Size: 100 cm X 80 cm

Year: 2024

Description of the Work:

My work depicts a brave and mighty leader wearing a military suit that adds to his authority. where this person has the power and authority of a country where I depict a body wearing a military-style suit and wearing an Arsa Wijaya mask, where the Arsa Wijaya mask is a wise, authoritative, and graceful leader. has a gold crown that symbolizes the perfection of a king / leader. The purple background color symbolizes elegance and wisdom where the scratches on the background symbolize firmness. The moss green color symbolizes growth and life.

3.1.3. Women's Anger.



Media: Acrylic Paint on Canvas

Size: 100 cm X 80 cm

Year: 2024

Description of the Work:

In this work of mine, I present a visual of a woman with a half-rangda face where the woman's anger is symbolized like a rangda mask with a long, protruding tongue meaning always hungry and always wanting to prey, a fiery tongue symbolizing merciless burning, glaring eyes symbolizing anger and savagery, long fangs symbolizing cruelty and savagery [4]. The gray background color symbolizes good and bad. Maroon evokes energy and courage in a person, pink tenderness and calmness. However, both elements cannot stand alone and need each other.

3.1.4. Sidakarya.



Media: Acrylic Paint on Canvas

Size: 100 cm X 80 cm

Year: 2024

Description of the Work:

Sidakarya comes from the word "sida" which means to achieve, and "karya" which means goal or work. Sidakarya has the meaning of achieving a goal or completing a job. [3]. The Sidakarya mask also symbolizes that the work or work that is being held has been completed well. My work wants to depict someone wearing a white robe which I symbolize as a person of holiness. Where this person has supernatural powers, depicted with a body wearing a robe and wearing a Sidakarya mask is a priest or saint. The brown background color I interpret as meaning strong, reliable and the meaning of life force. The bluish green color symbolizes calm and clarity where the bluish green shape is flowing water, where the robe itself is torn which I interpret as not judging someone from their appearance alone.

3.2. DISCUSSION

The concept is the main stage of compilation in the formation of scientific knowledge and human thought. A concept is an idea, notion, imagination or picture. The concept is built from a hot topic in the environment. [6]. Exploration is the initial stage in the creative process, I have done many experiments in the process. From the beginning of determining the concept, I have experimented to find what topics are related to today's era, where there are many metaphors of words in expressing the character of people symbolized by Balinese masks. I have done basic research from articles and have had discussions with artists, so the concept of "Balinese Masks Become Inspiration in Fine Art Works" was formed. When the concept was formed, I also experimented while working, starting from exploring materials, tools, media to trying techniques that I had never tried before. In the improvisation stage, the author used various

materials, tools and techniques. In determining the materials, tools and techniques, I also experimented so that they could match the artwork I created, I used acrylic paint to make it textured in the painting so that it could strengthen the background color I created. After completing the exploration and information process, the author carried out the process of manifestation by realizing the determined concept and also the materials and media that had been determined. The aesthetics in this work still involve the Balinese mask tradition in a painting that can be said to be modern. The authenticity of the work lies in the technical part, where in the background section the author gets a new technique in making the background and that too is indirectly obtained in the experimental process in making the work.

4. CONCLUSION

Painting is an expression of feelings or inner experiences of a person that is packaged in such a way as to convey a message in the form of a work of art that can influence and even awaken a wider audience. The author chose Balinese masks as the idea for creating this painting because Balinese masks themselves have many different characters, Balinese masks themselves have many meanings of life in them. Which is then packaged by the author into a work of art that contains a message that contains messages or knowledge that can add insight to the wider audience.

This makes the author to realize a painting with a mask object combined with the form of the human body to support the creation of an inspiring idea. While the medium I use is acrylic which is applied to canvas media. The technique I use is the plaque technique. In the process of creating the work, the author displays various Balinese mask objects with various colors and several displays of supporting objects to clarify the meaning or message to be conveyed, with techniques and visuals from I Made Galung Wiratmaja S, Sn. which was developed into an update for the author.

The author was inspired by the characteristics of the artist which I then combined with my favorite painting style. By combining the characteristics of the artist, it is hoped that the author can create new characteristics in creating paintings. The messages that the author presents in the paintings are based on journal research and articles. These messages are visualized with composition adjustments, to supporting objects that can clarify the message to be conveyed.

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