

Leaf Print: Environmentally Friendly Artwork

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ABSTRACT

Fine Art develops at all times. Creativity is essential to produce novelty so that fine art works are not stagnant. In addition to the needs for novelty and creativity, it is also necessary to produce art works that are environmentally friendly. Eco print, a technique that was originally used only for batik creation, is an environmentally friendly craft creation technique. It can also be used to produce other art works such as paintings. Eco print or in this case leaf printing is a form of fine art creation technique used in this experiment. This article is compiled based on an experiment using Creative Artistic method, particularly eco print, that has successfully produced attractive and environmentally friendly leaf prints. The creation of leaf print works is a contemporary graphic art technique that is expected to produce novelty and environmentally friendly works. It is hoped that the works produced can support the government in promoting environmental protection, reducing hazardous waste and highlighting the importance of producing creative, novel and environmentally friendly art works among academic circles.

Keywords: Leaf print, graphic art, fine art.

INTRODUCTION

In fine arts, there are two polarizations, those based on tradition and those based on modernity. Both develop side by side and create their own genres. Modern-based art longs for novelty, while tradition-based art perpetuates existing cultures [1] Tradition-based art revolves around traditional fields such as *wayang* (Javanese traditional puppet) and *batik* (Javanese traditional cloth). These works are parts of culture that also serve as reminders, so that the Indonesian people, especially the Javanese, do not forget their origins as Javanese [2].

Fine art develops at all time. Fine art has many branches such as painting, graphic arts, and sculpture. Fine art is different from design. Fine art focuses more on the media to express oneself. Although graphic art is not as famous as painting or sculpture, graphic art has progressed from time to time. Thus, it is not surprising that there are many exhibitions, competitions, and graphic arts communities that are developing today. Nonetheless, graphic arts also needs technical and conceptual innovations [3].

Let's leave the discussion about graphic art with its intricacies for a moment. The author will not discuss

graphic art because there have been many discussions about it in journals and other art books. The author will discuss alternative print art that is currently phenomenal, eco print. Eco print is growing rapidly, and it has been widely used in batik creation techniques. Eco print batik, batik made using eco print techniques, is growing rapidly. The eco print technique is indeed a new technique in the world of batik creation which is in great demand today, because this technique is an environmentally friendly craftsmanship technique.

Eco print has not been explored to its full potential. Most of the uses of eco print that are known to the public are only limited to the batik industry, bags, etc. The beauty of eco print technique is undeniable. Artistic visuals supported with environmentally friendly features are the main selling points of this technique. Given the appeal of eco print as a technique for batik creation, the author has the idea to explore this technique in the realm of art creation or expression media, such as in the creation of graphic arts.



Figure 1. Eco Print (Source: <https://radarkediri.jawapos.com/read/2019/07/27/148331/batik-ecoprint-rini-djoyo>)

CONTENT

Every artist or designer needs experimentation to produce works or designs that fit their desires. The more experiments that are carried out, the more varied the work that will be produced [4]. Exploration and experimentation in the use of eco print techniques have not been maximized, and a lot of experimentation and exploration are needed to obtain novelty and variety in the work. In this article, the author combined eco print and graphic arts techniques, especially relief printing techniques. The two techniques are combined to obtain novelty.

It is important to use various media, especially those that are environmentally friendly such as leaves which are used as the media in the creation of *wayang godhonk* (Javanese leaf puppet) [5].

A lot of innovation and creativity emerges from something that was vague or not yet clearly visible. Innovation and creativity require courage, flexibility of thinking and the desire to keep obtaining novelty. After going through the process, new innovations and creativity will be clearly visible [6].

RESULT

The methodology of art creation, or the artistic creation process, consists of experimentation, contemplation and creation. a. Experiment is a step to try various materials and techniques, especially the selection of leaf media (eco art) combined with high printing techniques in graphic arts, b. Contemplation is an inner wandering in search of metaphors, c. creation: the creation of work [7].

Creativity is also very important to support art works, because with creativity, the art works produced will be varied and have novelty [8].



Figure 2. High Print: a popular technique among graphic artists (Source: <https://mikrofon.pikiran-rakyat.com/seni/pr-105791000/cynical-narrative-medium-kritik-denny-lewat-seni-cetak-tinggi>).

DISCUSSION

In this article, the author applied leaf print or high print using leaf media. The use of leaves as a medium in making eco art works, especially as a medium of expression, is in accordance with today's

developments that must be environmentally friendly. There are many ways that designer artists can use to appreciate the environment, one of which is what the author did. In the art creation method, there are three stages of the artistic creation process:

A. Experiment Stage

At this stage, the author involved students in the creation of the works. The involvement of students aimed to produce works that are varied and have novelty.



Figure 3. Experiment stage involving students to get maximum results (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).



Figure 4. Experimental stage involving students to get maximum results (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).



Figure 5. Experimental stage involving students to get maximum results (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).

B. Contemplation Stage

At this stage the writer sought metaphorical forms by praying to God Almighty and using sketches to find the results.

Leaf shape has various metaphors. Leaves as a form of metaphor can be interpreted as something that grows or develops as well as humans, animals and so on. Leaf shape has many interpretations.

Metaphor is a powerful means in the creation of art. With a metaphor, a work of art will have a stronger force [9].

C. Creation Stage

At this stage, the author began to work using eco art, especially print using leaf media by paying attention to composition and presenting the works in online exhibitions.



Figure 6. The creation stage involving students to get maximum results (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).



Figure 7. Eco print works as a medium of expression (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).



Figure 8. Presentation of eco print works as a medium of expression at exhibition events (Photo Source: Sigit Purnomo Adi).

CONCLUSIONS

Making art works using eco print is a method that can help preserve the environment because it uses environmentally friendly materials such as leaves and used paper. Using this method to create works of art with its artistic creation process is considered fit because the method is quite simple and easy to apply in all fields.

Eco art can not only be applied as batik techniques and art crafts, but as a medium of artistic expression such as paintings, sculptures, and other graphic works.

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