

The Usage of Waste as Media Art Work Creation

Taufan Hidayatullah

*Program Studi Ilmu Seni Rupa dan
Desain, Institut Teknologi ITB,
taufan0210@students.itb.ac.id*

Setiawan Sabana,

*Program Studi Ilmu Seni Rupa dan
Desain, Institut Teknologi ITB*

Abstract—This study aims to find out how the use of plastic waste has a bad impact on the environment as a medium for the creation of art works. To find out the use of this plastic, the experimental method of creating art works was carried out. The process of creation is through the stages of information, elaboration, synthetics, realization of concepts and creation of works. From this study, it is produced art works with collage techniques that use plastic waste. Plastic waste has the characteristics of materials that are elastic and tend to be slippery so that we need the ability to control it. If it can be controlled, this plastic material will produce various surface qualities. This plastic waste material generally has color that can be used as visual element. Plastic waste material can produce interesting visual images (texture and color) so that if it is well composed, it will produce unique artistic works. The use of plastic waste of the material of art works is beneficial to provide an aesthetic experience for the community as a spectator of artistic works and is expected to raise awareness about the importance of protecting the environment.

Keywords: *materials, plastic waste, creation, fine art*

I. INTRODUCTION

This study describes the use of plastic waste material as a medium for creating art works. Plastic waste material is a material that is produced from various human activities. Plastic waste material which is commonly found is in the form of plastic bags and food packaging. Nowadays, plastic waste has been a world problem because it has caused environmental disasters. Even though plastic has contributed to providing alternative materials for various human needs, when it is not used, materials which are made of plastic material cause major problems. Ecological disasters that are caused by the nature of plastic waste materials are difficult to decompose biologically. This is because plastic contains synthetic polymer materials [1]

Pollution which is caused by plastic waste occurs in various places. Plastic waste that is dumped and buried in the soil causes it to lose fertility. Bad behaviour of the people who dispose of garbage, including plastic waste into the river, cause it to be contaminated with solid material. Similarly, sea waters face similar threats. Indonesia is considered by the world community as a country that contributes greatly to the occurrence of plastic waste disasters in international waters [2].

In residential areas, especially in big cities in Indonesia, the problem of waste becomes one of the main problems that are difficult to solve. The high dependence of the city citizens on plastic and the use of excessive plastic materials which are not followed by the processing and sorting of

waste causes the problem of waste to be difficult to overcome.

Plastic waste is a big problem in big cities in Indonesia. From the observations that are made at one of the temporary garbage dumps (TPS) in Bandung city, namely at Ciroyom TPS, plastic waste is quite dominant. Some plastic waste in Ciroyom TPS contains economic value so that it is separated by scavengers to then be sold to others. But there are other types of plastic waste that have very low economic value so that they are ignored, namely plastic bags (crackle bags) and the packaging of consumer goods products (fig1). Together with inorganic waste, plastic waste that does not have economic value is then transported to the final garbage dump (TPA). This observed fact is interesting to be raised as an initial idea for the creation of fine art works.

In the process of creating art works, the work material is one of the important components that must be considered. Feldman conveys material or the material which is a physical element of art works such as paint, stone, glass, clay or metal [3]. Materials in art work have visible properties. The use of a material will influence the aspects of the technique and the tools that are used. The use of certain materials can influence the achievement of aesthetic qualities of the work. In fact, the innovation or novelty of the work can be seen from the use of art work.

There are several studies on the use of plastic waste material as a medium of art work. Dendi explains about plastic waste which is used for fashion products [4]. The research which is conducted by Kadek describes plastic waste as an environmental phenomenon in painting [5]. Meanwhile, Adnan explains about used goods which are used as materials for crafting arts in Tuk Salatiga Community [6].

Previous studies emphasizes the processing of plastic waste to produce works that have functional value and bring more plastic waste as a mimetic inspiration for painting. This study emphasizes more on the exploration of plastic waste material to produce art works as a medium of expression from creators in responding to relevant issues.

II. METHOD

Research on the use of plastic waste material as a medium for creating art works is an experimental research. Judging from the research model, this study is an artistic research. Borgdorff explains in artistic research that various aesthetic experiences, creative practices and artistic creation processes are communicated [7].

By following the creation process as it is presented by Art Consortium [8], this study follows the stages. First, the preparation stage is the stage of observation and information gathering and the search for ideas. Second, the elaboration stage, it is the stage of determining the main idea. Third, the synthesis stage, it is the stage of realizing the conception of art. Fourth, the concept realization stage into various art media. Fifth, the completion of the final form of art works.

The following is a chart of creating work process which is adapted from the creation process theory that is presented by Art Consortium (fig.2).

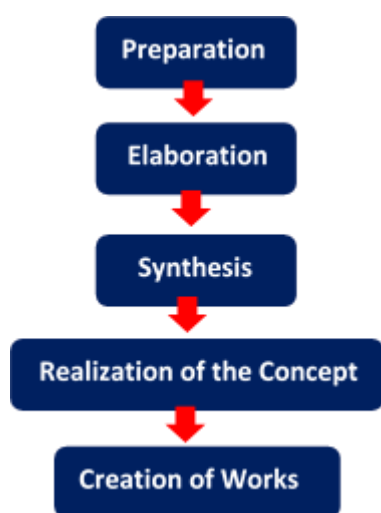


Fig. 2. Work Creation Process

III. RESULTS

Material work is an important element in the creation of art works. During the work process, an artist must master the material of the work in order to realize the concept. Material determination is determined based on the needs and objectives to be achieved.

From the research on the use of plastic waste material as a medium for the creation of fine art works, the results are obtained in the form of works that feature the exploration of plastic materials, especially plastic bags. The choice of plastic material is a creative decision that refers to the concept of the work to be conveyed. The concept of the work which is carried out conveys the dominance of the plastic materials use in various activities of human life. Thus, the use of plastic materials that are processed with various techniques is in addition to achieve visual quality but also to produce meaning.

IV. DISCUSSION

The discussion will be carried out in accordance with the stages of work creation. There are two works that will be reviewed, namely the work which is entitled *Kisah dari Sudut Kota/The Story from the City Corner # 1* and *Tamiang Meulit ka Bitis/Bad Deeds Finally Harm Themselves*.

Preparation

The creation preparation stage is carried out by observing in Ciroyom area which includes settlements and public facilities such as the Ciroyom garbage dumps (TPS), primary

schools, public roads and markets. In order to find out more the problems deeply, interviews are also conducted with the Chairperson of RW/ hamlet 04, Chairperson of RT/neighborhood 05, Chairperson of PKK RW/hamlet 04, Headmaster of SDN/elementary school Ciroyom, Chairperson of Appropriate Technology Development Section of Andir Sub-district, Head of Hygiene Section of Andir Sub-district and several residents who are living in Ciroyom. The observations and interviews are conducted in the range of September 2017 - April 2018.

From the observations in Ciroyom residential area, plastic bags are still used as the main device to wrap or bag things. Unused plastic bags are discarded. Some appear to be randomly dumped on public roads, especially food packaging. Plastic bags are also widely used to accommodate domestic waste. Plastic bags that contain domestic waste are hung in a fence or laid in front of the house before they are taken by RW garbage officers to be transported to the TPS. From the observations at the TPS, there is a lot of plastic waste. Plastic waste which has economic value is separated by scavengers. Among the unused objects made of plastic, plastic bags (crackle bags) are considered not to have economic value. Plastic bag waste is left to be transported to final garbage dumps (TPA).

Meanwhile, from the interview results with various parties it is concluded that waste is the main problem in Ciroyom area. This problem arises because of various things including the policy of waste segregation that does not work and the behavior of citizens both from Ciroyom area and from outside it who still throw garbage carelessly.

Elaboration

The abundance of waste that is not managed properly is a complex problem and difficult to control. The direct impact of this condition is the large volume of waste which is collected in TPS and TPA. On a broader scale, the conditions cause serious environmental disasters such as decreasing soil quality due to difficult to decompose plastic waste, deteriorating ground water quality and other problems. From the facts that are found, an idea is developed for the creation of works that responded to the environmental problems which are caused by plastic bag waste. With the remain highly use of plastic bags, the main idea of the work carried is dominance.

In critical theory studies, domination is said to be a form of power that influences all activities of community and community tends to accept it without being followed by a complete awareness. The form of dominance that develops in community manifests in various variations such as domination in the bureaucratic system, science, ideology, market law, etc. Domination at the end raises disorientation, alienation and a single culture that kills the culture of pluralism [9]. In the phenomenon of domination, there are always parties who are in a superior and inferior position, between the strong and the weak.

Synthesis

The main idea of domination is interpreted as a concept of art work that shows the dichotomy between the superior and the inferior. This concept will be translated into the form of painting by using materials that can show dichotomous properties so that the impression of dominance can be raised.

Realization of the Concept

By referring to the concept of work that promotes domination, the next step is to do visual exploration which includes aspects of shape, color and texture. In addition, the possibility of material, media and technique that are being used is explored. In order to convey the message from the work and to provide a different aesthetic experience to the community, the main material which is used is plastic bag waste and it is combined with other supporting materials. This plastic bag waste will be displayed predominantly.

Creation of Works

Work 1 (Kisah dari Sudut Kota/The Story from the City Corner I)

The domination of plastic use culture which then produces plastic waste is the theme of this work. In this work, a contradictory visual image is displayed, namely the visual images which are derived from plastic waste material with molten banana leaves. Plastic waste and molten banana leaves have different characteristics. Plastic waste is an industrial product that is very difficult to decompose, while banana leaves are part of organic matter that is easily decomposed. The use of different materials has a symbolic message that conveys that nature is currently facing the crisis and the threat of more or more dominant use of plastic material that is not followed by awareness in terms of its management (fig.3).

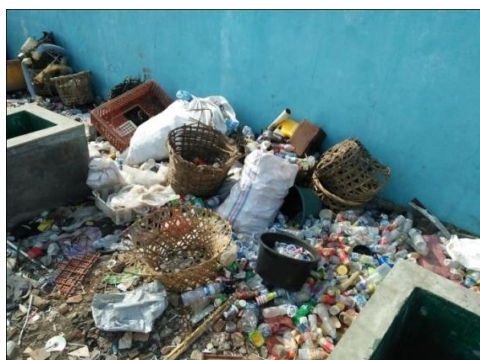


Fig. 3. Plastic waste materials as the material for works that are located around the TPS.

Source: Personal documentation (April 18th, 2018)

The work creation is carried out in Ciroyom temporary garbage dump. The process of creating this work is through the selection and sorting stages of the material to be used (fig.4). The material is used plastic bags that are found around garbage dumps, used packaging from consumer goods products and decayed and molt banana leaves.

The work creation begins with the creation of sketches in a multiplex media measuring 120 x 140 cm to facilitate the process of material composition. The part to be glued together is given a black base so that the color of the transparent plastic bag can be clearly seen. The plastic bags are then stuck by considering the color composition and plastic texture. In some parts, plastic packaging is also attached to strengthen the image of garbage. The last step, in certain parts acrylic paint is used to create the impression of depth (fig.5).



Fig. 4. Processing Stage of work which is done at TPS
Source: Personal documentation (April 19th, 2018)



Fig. 5. The Work which has been completed
Source: Personal documentation (April 29th, 2018)

Work 2 (Tamiang Meulit ka Bitis/Bad Deeds Finally Harm Themselves)

This work is inspired by Sundanese proverb that reflects the wisdom of thinking in dealing with an act. As generally in traditional culture, knowledge of wisdom can be found in various forms of culture.

The proverb *tamiang meulit ka bitis* means that an action will have an effect on itself. Bad deeds will bring harm to themselves. This proverb can be applied in various situations. Associated with environmental problems, human behavior that does not pay attention and respect the environment will ultimately harm humans themselves.

In work 2, it presents a form of *gunungan wayang*/mount shape in puppet play or *kayon* and illustrations of objects that usually appear in *gunungan*. In the performance of *wayang purwa*/puppet shadow-play, *gunungan* is a symbol of nature. *Gunungan* is a symbol of life. When it is observed, the images that are contained in it symbolize the entire universe and its contents [10].

This work uses multiplex medium. The field of work is divided into two. On the left side at the field of work, it is depicted animal objects (monkeys, peacocks, squirrels, bulls and tigers) and giant gatekeeper figures that are running with a fear look. Other objects such as *Nagasari*/Ceylon ironwood tree (*kalpawreksa* or *parijatha*), gems and gates have not changed.

The objects are painted in a decorative visual style according to the visualization of *gunungan*. The difference lies in the expressions and gestures of objects that are adjusted to the desired pose. At first glance it appears as a cartoon illustration style. The color composition of the painting approaches the color composition of the *gunungan* painting.



Fig. 6. Processing of plastic materials with gluing and burning techniques
Source: Personal documentation (April 29th, 2018)

On the right side, a collage appears from a plastic bag. The selected crackle bags are black, red, yellow and white. The plastic bags are stuck to the work area by using adhesives. They which are cut to the size that are adjusted to the needs are then arranged so that they appear to form flares. They that have been bonded are then burned in several places, resulting in melting and smelting between one plastic bag and another (fig.6).



Fig. 7. Works which have been completed and displayed
Source: Personal documentation (April 29th, 2018)

During display, this work is displayed with a slightly tilted position to the right of the drawing area (fig.7). The purpose of such display is to convey a symbolic message that dominating the use of plastic that is not followed by proper waste management will cause loss of natural balance. When a natural imbalance occurs, the loss will be received by humans.

V. CONCLUSION

The use of plastic waste material in the process of creating fine art has provided creators with an artistic experience. Direct interaction with the problems that occur in the community related to environmental problems is an important stage of the creation process. There are objective and subjective sides when trying to understand environmental problems that occur in community. Everything that is seen or felt is then poured into works that utilize plastic waste material. The process of finding and sorting plastic waste materials and other materials is a challenge. By conducting experiments that use such materials, the process of sharpening intuition in work occurs. These materials become a stimulus to continue exploring the possibility of the emergence of unexpected visual images.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Several parties have contributed to this research. Gratitude is conveyed to Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (Kemristekdikti) together with Education Fund Management Institute (LPDP) as the organizer of Indonesian Lecturers' Outstanding Scholarship (BUDI), Rector of University of Komputer Indonesia (UNIKOM) who has supported the activities related to further study of Doctoral Program and Chairperson of RW 04, Head of Ciroyom TPS and other officials as well as residents who have been willing to assist in conducting field research.

REFERENCES

- [1] Reni S.N., Berbagai Cara Penanggulangan Limbah PlastikElkawnie: Journal of Islamic Science and Technology Vol. 1, No.1, Juni 2015, p. 98
- [2] Yayan M., Reza B.Z., Muhammad Arif T., Azkiya B., Pangestuti U., Distribusi dan Jenis Sampah Laut serta Hubungannya terhadap Ekosistem Terumbu Karang Pulau Pramuka, Panggang, Air, dan Kotok Besar di Kepulauan Seribu Jakarta, Majalah Ilmiah Biologi Biosfera : A Scientific Journal, Vol 35, No 2 Mei 2018 :p 91-102
- [3] Guntur. Metode Penelitian Artistik, Surakarta: ISI Press, 2016.
- [4] Dendi A., Kahfiati K, Eksplorasi Sampah Plastik Menggunakan Metode Fabrikasi Untuk Produk Fashion, Jurnal Senirupa dan Desain, ITB. No 1, 2016 pp 1-10.
- [5] I Kadek A.A., Sampah Plastik dalam Fenomena Lingkungan, ISI Denpasar
- [6] Adnan S, Barang Bekas sebagai Bahan Berkarya Seni Kriya di Komunitas Tuk Salatiga: Proses dan Nilai Estetis, Arty: Journal of Visual Arts, 2012, pp 1-6.
- [7] Guntur. Metode Penelitian Artistik, Surakarta: ISI Press, 2016.
- [8] Junaedi, D. Estetika: Jalinan Subjek, Objek dan Nilai. Yogyakarta:Artciv. 2016.
- [9] I. Ginting S., Dominasi dalam Perspektif Teori Kritis. Pustaka. Volume XII No 1.42. 2012
- [10] Muhajirin, “Dari Pohon Hayat sampai Gunung Wayang Kulit Purwa (Sebuah Fenomena Transformasi Budaya), Vol. 8, No. 1, Fakultas Bahasa Seni Universitas Negeri, 2012, p. 42