

Plastic as A Media of Installation Artworks Based on Recycle Art

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Abstract: The study aims to create an installation artwork using plastic bottles of mineral water as the media, and by using glue and string as the supported media. The study was conducted at NN Studio which is located at Rt 04/07 Kismorejo, Jaten Karanganyar, by applying the method of brainstorming, exploration and evaluation. The exploration process is carried out on the aspects of media, shapes, shaping techniques, and displays. The creation of works uses the same type of plastic bottles of mineral water with the same size and considering the aesthetic potential of shapes and colors, and the ease of forming techniques. The shaping of the bottle applies the cutting technique using scissors or cutter according to the created design. The adjoint technique of plastic bottles uses clear colored glue to align with the color of the bottle. The resulting shape of the installation artwork predominantly applies a spiral shape with different curves and gap. The choice of shape is driven by the desire to change a media image that has a straight or rigid impression to become an installation artwork that has impression to be flexible, dynamic, and sturdy.

Keywords: *Plastic, Media, Installation Artworks, Recycle Art*

Introduction

The lives of most of our society, especially those who live in urban cities, live modern lifestyles. This condition creates a consumptive lifestyle. The people do not only consume goods for practical purposes, but they use goods excessively, thus placing consumption on prestige needs. This condition is characterized by a flood of various products for daily needs, both domestic and imported production consumed by the society.

A lifestyle is no longer merely a personal attitude and a person's signature or habit of an individual, but becomes something adopted by groups of people. Lifestyle becomes popular and is followed by many people. The unique nature of lifestyle is no longer maintained. The transmission of lifestyle as a success of capitalism influences its consumers to use mass products for the benefit of capitalists as producers (Takwin. 2006: 37). The success of capitalism has trapped society into a consumer lifestyle that continues to strengthen consumptive culture.

One of the consequences of this condition is the presence of used goods or residual waste from various types of materials in our environment. Plastic waste makes problem for the environment, because of the characteristics of plastics which are difficult to decompose by the soil. The problems must be solved wisely and creatively. One of the things that can be done is to recycle plastic waste to support the life sustainability. The existing plastic waste can be interpreted in an environmental, economic, and aesthetic context.

A trash in an aesthetic context can be interpreted as waste as an art medium. Soetrisno (2006: 81-82) states that art which is able to enlighten society, makes it unsettling to think, then there the art moves towards transformative art. The artist's attitude to being critical of the situation, then caring, then choosing the medium of expression, and jointly creating a transformative vision is a decisive step in favor of artists not to dissolve in the mass who have been mastered by the standardization of tastes and industrial art.

Plastic waste can be in the form of food packaging waste, household appliances, mineral water bottles, children's toys, etc. Plastic waste can be used as a medium for the creation of fine artworks. The availability of various types, shapes and characters of plastic waste provides various choices for artists to determine the type and shape created. In connection with the art medium, Kusmara (2018: 27) states that the art medium is a part of the art embodiment process, as a way for artists to entrust artistic value, demonstrate technical skills in material processing, and show awareness of the importance of a choice in art knowledge toward the numbers of media choice.

Plastic waste exploration can be a challenge for the artists in realizing works of art that have creative value. Installation artworks made from plastic waste from the remaining mineral water packaging is one of the alternative choices, in order to compile waste into installation artworks that is aesthetically valuable. The awareness of artists creating recycle artworks gives its own meaning in the aesthetic, economic and environmental context. The recycle approach is an alternative approach that can be applied because it can contribute to solve some of the problems related to the environment and the visual diversity of the artworks especially the installation artworks.

Methods

The creation of installation artworks from plastic media was occurred in March - April 2018 at NN Studio located at RT 04/07, Kismorejo, Jaten Karanganyar Surakarta. The creation process applied several methods as follows:

- 1) Brainstorming. The process to stimulate the emerging of creative ideas, although it is often used by a large group, the brainstorming process can also be carried out by just one or two people. Susanto (2011: 63). The application of brainstorming involves all of the team members so that they can explore various concepts, forms, media and techniques of work, to plan the display when the artwork is exhibited. All the opinions were accommodated, then the best opinion which suited the purpose of creation, was chosen.
- 2) Exploration. The searching for several alternative forms in the workstation was by adjusting the characteristics of the media, technique, color, composition, and display. In this process, it could be that planning and embodiment occurred, because in the realization of the work involves intuition that can change at any time.
- 3) Evaluation. Evaluation is done during the process of work, step by step of formation is done, so that in the end it will result a finished work. The application of this method allows the installation of parts of the work in the process of formation.
- 4) Exhibition. The exhibition as a medium of joint learning for the parties involved, as well as the media to publish the work so that the community can appreciate it. The appreciator can directly interact with the artworks and and the creator, so that various things that the appreciator wants to know about the work can be accommodated by the artists.

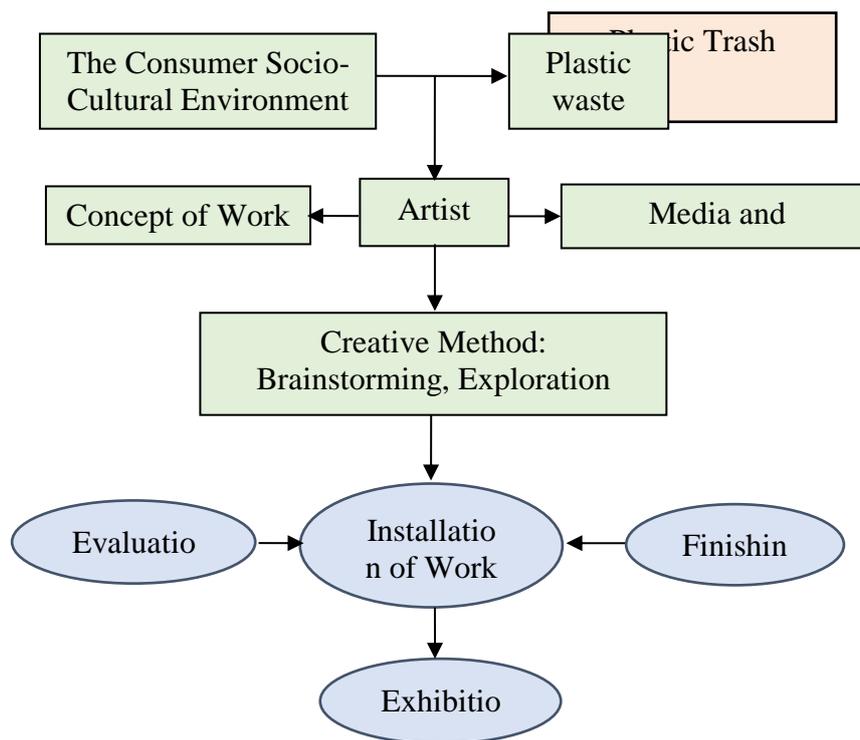


Figure 1. The flow of the research problem solving framework

Artists in creating art installation using plastic waste in the form of mineral water bottles from consumer communities can apply creative methods in the form of brainstorming and exploration. In the next stage, it is also necessary to apply the evaluation methods in each stage of initial setup until finishing in order to produce an interesting works. An Exhibition of works need to be done so that the artworks can be appreciated by the public as a medium to build community appreciation.

Results and Discussion

Result

Based on the process of creating installation works, it can be explained the stages of creating as follows:

- 1) The process of brainstorming was about the concept of work that will be created involving the production team. The implementation of brainstorming aims to produce the concept of work to be made, it is related to aspects of themes, shapes, colors, production techniques and display techniques. The concept of the work to be made is a spiral installation work without representing certain objects from the material of plastic material mineral water bottles. The work created aims to explore the possible forms that can be achieved from plastic bottles without changing their characteristics.
- 2) Making sketches of works, sketches made using pencil and paper. Sketches made as general, not detailed, they were used as a guide in the production process.
- 3) Preparation of tools and materials according to the needs. Materials used include plastic bottles, glue, and strings to hang, while the tools used include: scissors and cutters to cut, and shooting glue to heat the glue.

- 4) Intense observation of the plastic bottle media aimed to understand its characteristics so that in treating the media it does not experience significant obstacles. Observations are made on the lid to another part of the bottle.
- 5) Cutting each bottle using a cutter or scissors according to the addressed parts' shapes that are in the sketch. The cutting process is not carried out on all available media, but according to the needs of each part of the work first.
- 6) Connecting each bottle that has been cut by connecting the top of the bottle is inserted in the bottom by gluing. At this stage the parts of the work are produced which are then ready to be connected between the parts so that a clearer and bigger form created. This process is followed by an evaluation of the results for the desired results.



Figure 2. The connecting process and the results of the connection

- 7) The pieces of works are unified in accordance with the concept. The arrangement is done by hanging parts of the work using string, then connecting the parts of the work using glue. At this stage, the evaluation process is always carried out to achieve maximum results. The choice of shape is driven by the desire to compose a media image that has a straight or rigid impression to become an installation artwork that is impressionable to be flexible, dynamic, and sturdy.



Figure 3. The work at the stage of the joint

- 8) After the installation artwork is completed, then it is exhibited. At the time of the exhibition, an artwork discussion was done to examine various matters related to the success and weaknesses, especially related to aesthetic aspects.



Figure 4. Artworks in The Exhibition

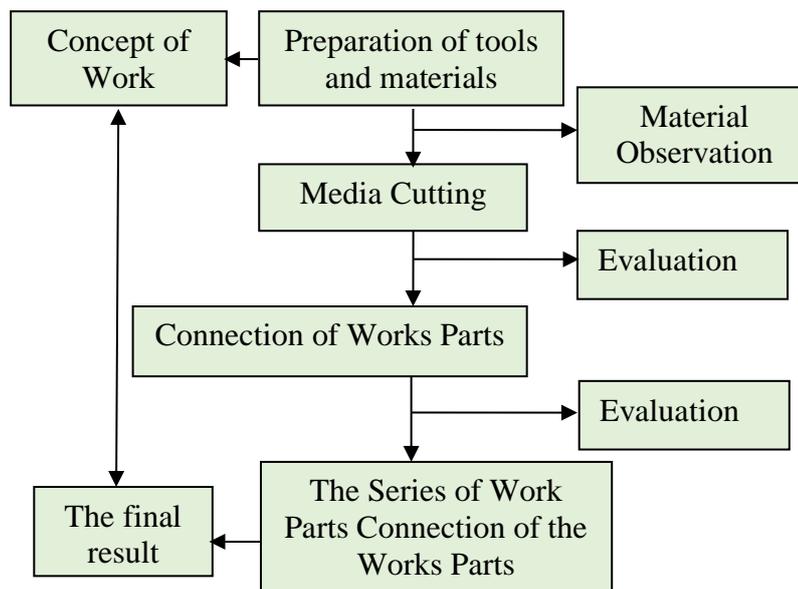


Figure 5. The stages of the artwork created can be made

Artists who are working on bottle installation begin their work from preparing equipment in the form of a cutter / scissors, shooting glue and plastic bottles and glue. The following step is start cutting each bottle in accordance with the available concepts and sketches. Furthermore, combine each bottle, followed by each part of the artwork up to the desired shape according to the concept of the work.

The creation of installation artworks using plastic bottle based-media is basically made with the following considerations: 1) plastic waste bottles of mineral water are so easy to find in such quantities that there are many in the environment around us with a fairly cheap sale value, 2) the waste of the bottles that is not managed properly is very disturbing to the environmental and health hygiene of the community, 3) the bottled mineral water has aesthetically pleasing shape and color so that it has potential to be used as an installation artwork that has an aesthetic value without having to change its original shape, 4) the process of creating the artwork does not require complicated techniques, sophisticated equipment, and varied additives, 5) various alternative shapes produced can provide additional diversity to the forms of fine artworks both applicative and non-functional that have been produced from bottles of mineral water.

While the evaluation results found a number of successes and weaknesses of the artworks as follows: 1) the success of the artwork as follows: the natural color of the material is quite

interesting so that the artwork that does not get coloring treatment, it is already interesting enough, the resulting shape is quite dynamic because the realized spiral shape has large, medium and small arches will be able to reflect light as one of the attractions of the work, 2) the weaknesses of work include: the formation process lasts a long time because it involves a lot of intuition, difficulty in moving or displaying the work when it is exhibited because if you do not use good quality glue, it will be broken easily, need to using the type and size of various mineral water plastic bottles to avoid monotonous and make it more varied.

Discussion

Based on the results above, the research results can be analyzed as follows:

The stages of creating the works described above are basically general stages which can still be identified again in more specific and detail stages. These stages can be a reference when working with the tendencies of the same work. The role of intuition, availability of tools and materials will lead each artist to work on the application of different stages. Basically, the artist in the work will always be related to the intrinsic conditions that exist in him in the form of the soul of taste / intuition and body / physical body, then integrated with external factors such as the availability of tools and materials, as well as other infrastructure.

In the frame of creativity, every artist in when they work will always be faced with the effort to seek and respond, to treat every tool and material in order to create the work of art which is a representation of his inner voice. He is always in the process of always having dialogue with the mind and the media he is facing, so that there is an effort to unite between the non-physical and the physical as an inseparable unity. The process of art that relies on creative attitudes often makes the work produced by each artist is different each other.

In line with what was elaborated by Marianto (2014: 122) that creative action often starts from seeing ordinary things, which normally was nothing. Through observation, the usual will be extraordinary. If it is seen in a different way than usual, it will be seen or felt, to be something new, different, even completely foreign. The finding does not lie in the search for new landscapes, but in how to have a new perspective. Basing on this exposure can be interpreted that in working of recycle art, when we are faced with a medium of mineral water bottles from plastic, then we will build possible spaces in treating the media. Are we going to cut, tear, burn, tie, etc. the bottle is a choice that can be applied. Creative treatments require us to treat the plastic bottle into a creative product, which is to provide novelty, especially aesthetics, to create an artwork with similar media that has been existing or available.

The creation of installation artworks with a medium of mineral water bottles from a plastic, recycle art approach is basically not only aimed at the results achieved, but also has environmental considerations. A large amount of mineral water bottles in our environment can be reused by composing them into products of art that are aesthetically and economically valuable. In other aspects, it can also open up space for artists and community members to be aware of the importance of environmentally artwork. The existence of the environment as an important part of the survival of the community must be given special attention so that artists can contribute to creating an environment that is clean, comfortable and healthy to live in.

In the other contexts, the creation of recycle art-based artwork basically places the artwork as a medium, media to build the spirit of reflection and transformation. The artwork as a medium of reflection, appreciator, or society can reflect environmental conditions that are dirty and damaged by plastic waste so that it can be a stimulant to create an environment free of plastic waste. The artwork as a medium of transformation, can be interpreted that the work or artists are

able to invite people to think creatively so that plastic waste can be a stimulant for community empowerment. Various methods applied in the realization of the artwork make the work familiar with the contextual life of the community. The artwork as a result of thought that is not individual, but the result of joint artworks that place artists not as individual beings but as social beings who live side by side with the society.

Conclusion

Basically the artist in the artwork will always be related to the intrinsic conditions that exist in him in the form of the soul of taste / intuition and body / physical body, then integrated with external factors such as the availability of tools and materials, as well as other infrastructure. Every artist in the artwork will always be faced with the effort to seek and respond, treat the set of tools and materials in order to realize a visual composition that is a representation of his inner voice. He is always in the process of always having dialogue with the mind and the media he is facing, so that there is an effort to unite between the non-physical and the physical as an inseparable unity. The creation of an artwork based on recycle art installation was able to open space for artists and community of awareness in empowering mineral water plastic bottles for the creation of aesthetically and economically valuable artworks. The process of creating the artworks that is done is not intended for economic purposes only, but also there is an environmental aspect as the driving force. The resulting installation artwork is one of the answers to the problem of plastic waste that is present in everyday life, so that the artwork is not distant with the community's contextual life.

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