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ARTE: Art and Expression  
Presents

# arts & local culture

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## INTRODUCTION

**ARTE: Art and Expression** is a biannual book chapter, published under collaboration of Department of Fine Arts, Faculty of Art & Design, UiTM Perak Branch with Galeri Al-Biruni under the supervision of Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia. 'ARTE' is an amalgamation of english word 'Art', and malay word, specifically Perak slang 'Ate' which translate as conversation starter. 'ARTE' uses the concept of book chapter that platform art enthusiasts to express their inner-creativity in the form of literacy conjecture

## VISION

Art and expression as aspiration towards stylistic and artistic practices

## MISSION

- To enhance the culture of research and academic publication among academician and artist for international recognition
- To promote intellectual, cultural and knowledge sharing through artistic expression
- To celebrate the diversity and differences in arts practices thus creating and intellectual platform for artist to express their interest in art

## PUBLICATION FREQUENCY

Biannual Frequency: Two (2) books per year (March and September)

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# CHAPTER 16



## SURVIVING LOCKDOWN: THE MAKING OF FINAL PROJECT FROM FINAL YEAR AD117 STUDENT

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### **16.0 Introduction**

In general Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is defined as illness caused by a novel coronavirus now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2; formerly called 2019-nCoV), which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China (Cennimo, 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious global health threat (National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD), 2020) and this virus until now (2021) has not recovered. In Malaysia, all sectors are affected, including the education sector. Various measures have been taken to curb the spread of the virus among students and staff. One of them is to conduct online learning activities.

This article will describe how final year student work themselves in studio practice base using online classroom delivery methods, especially when Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) moved all classes to Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode effective April 13 2020 until the end of the semester for all its campuses nationwide. As lecturers continue to strive to provide the best materials to teach in an environment of the new norms of online learning, the same goes for the students. First, it can be said that in this online class situation it is the students who will face the problem. Quoting a statement from Kellin Wong, caretaker of Universiti Malaysia Sabah's (UMS) student representative council stated that there is a real challenge of internet coverage, especially for students living in rural areas. "Also, our biggest challenge is that some of the students have poor internet access in their hometowns. It is difficult for them to reach out for such online assessment and lectures," she said, confirming that the issue was not about gadget ownership but more on internet connectivity (Lim, 2020). For students in studio based is no exception impressed with this method

let alone in general learning in photography requires face -to -face sessions especially in technical matters. As photographers, we have a lot of power and, as the saying goes, a lot of responsibility. How we portray our subject is how they are seen by a huge audience. How they are portrayed is internalized into the public psyche (McGlynn, 2020). From innovative approaches to traditional assignments, to learning new skill sets, in life as in photography, sometimes a shift in perspective makes all the difference (Friends with Vision, 2020). We are bombarded with a multitude of photos on social media every day and at the same time, we only see other people’s successful careers, but do not get insight into the defeats that occurred along the way (Scholl, 2020). But for each of the photographers, it is all about self-expression towards the images that had been snapped by the camera. Looking at the current trend, photography, independently, got such an overwhelming response from people, not only in Malaysia, but the whole world (Azman M. F., 2020).

In the lockdown scenario, it has been proven how efficiently the final year student handle the final work outcome journey in the situation MCO (Movement Control Order). They use all the experience of taking pictures and guidance from the lecturers they have. Creatively they build a studio at home using all the do-it-yourself (DIY) equipment or purchased it through an online sales service. Directly without delay, they attend online classes and run the studio physically at home. Although at first it was a bit awkward, but after the work started to be produced, their motivation to complete the final work project continued to be lively until they managed to complete it all. Throughout the production process, the dedication of each student is evident by maximizing the best possible practical especially in advertising, by using LED lights, studio tents and various other DIY equipment to produce quality lighting as they practice in the studio on campus. All of these are the result of their learning as well as experience before the Covid-19 disaster.



Figure 80: AD117 final year student in his in-house studio during 2020’s lockdown



Figure 81: Student shooting with DIY equipment during 2020's lockdown



Figure 82: AD117 final year student in her in-house studio during 2020's lockdown

In conclusion, with the limitation of equipment and movement, all AD117 final student are able to finish all their final year project during the 1st MCO. They are the first batch that

completed the studies, going through 100% online classes. Even some of the artwork was not really “up to standard”, but these students push themselves to the limit. Their dedication, hardworking, responsibility, survival and professionalism had been put into the highest level. Truthfully, this visual is a conversation about what is done and what can be conveyed, besides aiming to make the audience aware of the artist’s creative process while creating, which describes the meaning of so-called artist work that usually describes literary language in visual form (Azman M. F., 2018).

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