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Art and Expression

ART + COMMUNITY

**SOCIAL
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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

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THE REMEMBRANCE OF MALAM BERINAI EXPRESSED THROUGH DIGITAL ART

a chapter by

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Abstract

“MALAM BERINAI,” also referred to as “henna night”. Henna was a dried and powdered leaf of the *Lawsonia inermis* and is frequently used as a skin, hair, and nail color as well as a kind of body art. Particularly in Islamic and Hindu civilizations, the origin, which originated in India, has become a tradition. This custom is typically followed a few days before the solemnization or Malay wedding to foster closer ties among family members. The final moments of the subject before becoming someone’s wife were depicted by the artist using digital art in adobe illustration 2020 that create for the AICAD Art Exhibition Virtual 2021 theme Tales of the Cities. This artwork was a real event that gave inspiring to the artist to illustrate her best friend to keep as a memory for her.

Introduction

“Malam Berinai” or Mehndi was originally ‘from India that introduced by the Mughals during the 12th century AD (Kaufman. R, 2016). Henna or Mehndi was a very old custom and antique art form of the Asian subcontinent that entails decorating hands and feet with henna. Throughout that time only the royal and wealthy used to decorate themselves by the artist or beauticians created the pattern intricately. In India, the mehndi ceremony is essential to have at their weddings. Every region of the country does the mehndi or malam berinai tradition, where the bride’s hands are covered with the exquisite red henna color. Most often, traditional Indian designs are made on the bride’s hands during these celebratory or wedding occasions. In addition to what has been stated by Cartwright (2008), Egypt may have been the place of genesis since it was one of

their artistic traditions that henna has been used for centuries as a cosmetic and for its medicinal properties. Due to the migration of people from many civilizations across the continents, who brought their artistic creations with them and so shared them, it is impossible to identify exactly where henna art was originated.

Henna designs will be beautiful and come in four different styles floral patterns reminiscent of Arabic paintings made up most of the Middle Eastern aesthetic and North African fashion utilizes flowery designs to mimic the contour of the hands and feet. Furthermore, the designs from Pakistan and India feature teardrops and line motifs. Lastly is from Indonesian and Southern Asian fashions mixed Middle Eastern and Indian patterns using blocks of color on the very tips of them toes and fingers mixed Middle Eastern and Indian patterns.

Malay’s Culture during Malam Berinai

In the Malay culture, the tradition for the whole family, friends, and relatives will gather at the bride’s house or celebrate malam berinai before the wedding takes place of the bride and groom with the specific theme that has been chosen. Stated as by Nasution, Sibarani et.al (2016) Malay people believe that in an effort to give the bride a sign and the family’s approval for the bride and groom to start a new life, henna is applied to the bride. The pattern usually will be chosen by the bride as the design will be the motive of floral and on the other side for broom the use of henna is usually not on the whole hand but only on the tips of their three fingers. By looking at the existence of henna in world culture in general and the Islamic world in particular, so the Malays see henna as a culture that is viewed

well and then practiced internally in the context of the wedding ceremony, especially on malam berinai. Malam berinai is usually performed at night after Isya prayer. This plays a significant role in the Malay society's symbology of brides as part of Malay wedding ceremony.

Artist Influence

What inspired the artist's artwork was the real event experienced by the artist herself with her best friend Malam Berinai. The ceremony of malam berinai is located at the bride's house which is full of family and close friends with the Bollywood theme. The moment of the ceremony for the bride is when the bride sheathing Bollywood clothes with full accessories and all the bridesmaids on her side to make sure everything was fine on that day. Artist takes the inspiration from the moment of the bride as she wants to reminisce the last day before the bride becomes someone's wife conveyed in the artwork. Art can translate individual and communal memories into something that can be shared and understood by many people (Perander, N. 2019)

Methodology

The purpose of the study is to identify a memory of a particular event known as episodic memory. Stated as by Cherry (2022) epistolary recollections of an event are particular to each person since everyone experiences and perceives the world differently. These are memories of a particular moment from a personal past (Tulving, E, 1993). Your first date, your first day of work, your friend's birthday party, and your sister's graduation are examples of episodic memory. Besides, the overall memory of the event itself, episodic memory includes the location and time of the event. In this study, the artist uses the artwork to convey the memory of the specific events that she experiences. As Langford (2007) said that 'Memory is not secluded living only inside our brain, we start to remember when we are connecting with the world. Things surrounding around us stimulates the mind and creates a map of memories for us.

With the use of digital art, the subject was the bride with a full look of the theme chosen and henna in her hand.

Studio Research & Analysis

The artwork is using digital art to illustrate the picture captured by a camera of the subject during the moment malam berinai. The artist uses multiple layers to create the details of each part of the subject in Adobe Illustration. So, the process of the artwork with the digital picture as artist reference to trace the silhouette and lines and followed by the details of the subject. In terms of selection color, the artist is using eye drops to get the same tone as the actual photo. In this artwork, the actual picture that the artist wants to convey by illustrating the last moments of the subject before getting married.



Figure 1: The actual picture that captured during "malam berinai"

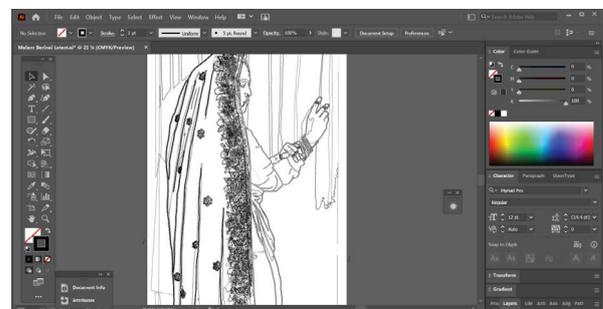


Figure 2: Trace silhouette and lines

Delete or toggles visibility on the layers of the actual image as will only be left with the line tracing that has been done. Afterward, insert certain colors based on the actual images using an eye dropper to get the exact tone of the images. Lastly is to remove lines or strokes that want to be removed and align all the layered of the image based on the size and composition.

Artist Statement



Figure 3: Artist Artwork

Inspired by the memories of the artist's past experience, this artwork was created from the moments the artist wants to remember as her memories. As Lippard (1997) inscribes 'Everybody comes from someplace, and the places we come from - cherished or rejected - Inevitably affect our work'. This artwork was a tradition usually held a few days before the solemnization or wedding to strengthen the relationship among family members. Other than that, some people believe it will avoid any harm things in life, especially to the newlyweds. The artist used digital art to picture the last moments of her best friend before becoming someone's wife. Said Tulving. E (2000) the type of memory that he concentrating on is more related to human experience than biology or neurology. Henna with the color of ruby filled the fingers as a sign of bride-to-be. Aside from coloring the fingers with henna, lots of traditional designs will be drawn onto the palm of hands or on the hands

even on their feet. Stated by Perander, N. (2019) applied arts can develop means to examine and manage these type place memories, find ways to hold on to the lost places, to keep them as part of who we are.

Conclusion

In the final moments of individuals, there were various ways of conveying an emotion using their past experiences either hidden or express in artworks. However, it is up to the viewer as well from their perspectives on seeing the art. Till. K (2008) suggest that the scientific field of memory studies would benefit from a closer collaboration with art. By using digital art, it was one of the ways to express the emotion of an individual to remember the final moments of something special. Based on the research, the moments were episodic memory that are recollections of events. For instance, how the artwork regarding malam berinai was made. The visual of the audience to understand and see the storyline of the artwork that the artist trying to portray. As stated by Perander, N. (2019) shared memories create bonds and a feeling of togetherness in people. In the end, the episodic memory could be made into visual memory that can be seen and share the feelings of the moments with others together.

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Saya yang menjalankan amanah,

SITI BASRIYAH SHAIK BAHARUDIN
Timbalan Ketua Pustakawan

nar

Setuju.

27.1.2023

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