

UNIVERSITI TEKNOLOGI MARA

**EXPLORING MALAYSIAN STREET
ART: A COMPREHENSIVE
ANALYSIS OF COMMISSIONED
WORKS THROUGH
ICONOGRAPHICAL
INTERPRETATION**

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ABSTRACT

The variety of visual art forms that exist in open spaces, particularly in urban areas, are now referred to as "street art," using a new phrase and special designation. It is a type of artwork that can be seen on the walls of streets and public areas. The two main categories are vandalism and commission. This research focuses solely on commission artwork because it is more prevalent and well-received in each state. In terms of historical development, the 'street art' genre first emerged in Malaysia after UNESCO designated two historical cities, George Town and Malacca City, as World Heritage Sites in 2010. As a result of this recognition, the 'street art' genre began to embellish both cities in order to promote and enhance the urban environment. As a result, this art form began to be used in other major Malaysian cities. This work's positive reception has developed in a variety of forms and interpretations. This study is based on 'street art' data collected from every state in Peninsular Malaysia. The artworks analyzed ranged from 2010 to 2021 and only focused on 2-dimensional works. The purpose of this study is to understand the formalistic elements and theme of 'street art' in Malaysia. This is due to the conclusion drawn from reading the literature, which was that the study's emphasis on aesthetic visuals in Malaysia's various states was not entirely enough. The theories of iconography and psychogeography are utilized to analyze the data of the "street art" work captured through photographs taken at each place in order to meet the study's objectives. The main focus for formalists is the size, format, subject, technique, color scheme, and perspective of space. While the theme consists of local activities, icons, events, and panoramas, The results of this study will reveal the identity of the 'street art' genre presented in the Malaysian context. It can also help the arts industry, especially street art performers, City councils, and NGOs, produce new forms of work in the future.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This thesis investigates the street art movement, which is currently a popular visual art form in Malaysia. Almost every major city in Malaysia has an artwork that decorates the walls and facades of buildings. The government, NGOs, and community became increasingly interested and concerned throughout the course of the year. As a result, a wide range of genres and styles emerged, each with its own unique appeal and meaning. As a result, because people have witnessed how it has developed and become more accepted over time, research has been conducted on this topic.

1.2 Background of the Research

This section will go into the activities that took place prior to the study's completion. Its goal is to gain an early understanding of the street art movement.

1.2.1 An overview what is known as “street art.”

Street art is a work of art that is often seen on large walls in the street, such as stockades and walls of buildings. It is also known as wall painting, not just snippets. Usually, these artworks have message or meaning in them. There are many types of street art that can be found in urban landscapes. Often, they show up on paving stones or in the “street furniture” that often comes with our cities, such as electrical boxes and benches. But what's often found is graffiti and murals. Street art is a relatively new term for expressing the genre of artwork in the open area (Catz, 2014; Castlmen, 1984).

Artists who have worked on the streets, on the other hand, have moved their work away from simple bricks and mortar and into other open-air sites. For example, the famous street artist, Banksy, has decorated beaches and livestock (Ellsworth-Jones, 2013). His artwork is heavily influenced by political and humanitarian issues, while Saltburn's yarn bombers have knitted over the town pier and erstwhile “street” artists have even taken to decorating threes with their creations (Cathy, 2018).

Certainly, some of the earliest manifestations of street art were the graffiti that