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## A BOOK CHAPTER

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Cawangan Perak



JABATAN SENI HALUS  
FAKULTI SENI LUKIS & SENI REKA  
UiTM CAWANGAN PERAK

## CHAPTER 1

# WOMEN'S FIGURE IN THE WORKS OF THE EXHIBITION OF SI + SA

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**Mohamad Quzami An-Nuur Bin Ahmad Radzi**

Nuraina Shuhadah Binti Haris Fadilah

Nor Farizah Binti Mahmud

Norseha Binti Ahmad Apandi

## 1.0 Abstract

Some artist implemented women figure as their main subject matter in their artwork. Women figures carried message in different ways. However, it will be based on overall art exhibition theme. The target audience also must be studied before doing any artwork especially when working with women figure. Past research stated, past artists had manipulated women figure in their artwork. They had used women figure as main subject matter follow with supporting element and visuals. In this paper, researchers had studied past literature on implemented of women figure on the artwork and discussed the artwork for Si+Sa exhibition at Shah Alam Gallery, Selangor, Malaysia.

## 1.1 Introduction

The Si + Sa exhibition which was held at the Shah Alam Gallery has given more opportunities and spaces for artists to present their ideas. This exhibition has combined the work of experienced artists and new artists. However, the work exhibited during this exhibition was successfully managed to bring new, creative and fresh ideas to the general setting.

A variety of two-dimensional visuals are highlighted in addition to the three-dimensional work during this exhibition. In general, each work produced supports the theme of this exhibition itself and is reworked with additional ideas according to their respective expertise. The author has identified the elements of female figures are used by some artists their production of their exhibition work.

## 1.2 Artwork of Women Figure

It was undeniable that, female figures were often used as the basic image or focal point of a work. Various works from local and foreign artists were used female figures as the main visual of their work. However, a variety of implicit and explicit messages can be found in these works. There were various writers and researchers who had previously discussed the works that used the figure of women based their final work.

For example, the masterpiece Monalisa was produced by the famous painter Leonardo Da Vinci has been studied using the design principles founded by Farah Ossouli, an Iranian artist in 2014. According to Keyghobad (2014), he has discussed iconic works from the Renaissance era including Monalisa in a retelling context involving political, cultural and social elements. Here it can be seen that there are meanings and also messages that can be studied from their works that mainly focusing the implemented based of female figures.

Other than that, the feminine theme was a theme that is often associated with female figures. The feminine theme was a very broad theme. Visual images of women wearing thick make-up with feminine features were among the techniques used by previous artists as mainly to highlight the feminine nature in women. The author has identified that feminism was widely used in paintings during the Renaissance era (Garher, 1989). Garner (1989) added that, the female figures will be combined with certain additional visuals and created the reflection of women's social life during that era.

Apart from that, the art movement Impressionism indirectly has also contributed to the used of female figures in the works of that era (Aida & Agus, 2013). With a combination of additional elements such as shape, movement and lighting effects make iconic works of art in this era. Although the theme of aristocracy was often used, female figures in various economic or caste levels are also visualized in their work. Aida & Agus (2013) added, artists in this era were argued that the presence of female figures will also help in giving a clearer message about their work to the general public.

In Malaysia, there were also local painters who interested implemented their studied of female figures in their work. For example, Wan Amy Nazira Abu Bakar in the RRRWARRR Exhibition !!! Maybank's Women Artists Show 2018 has used female figures in her work (Mazalan, 2018). She also translated the personalities and characteristics of women by using visuals of women wearing tiger costumes. Here it can be seen that, side elements in the work combined with female figures which played the important role in making more easier the translation of a work.

### **1.3 The female figure at the exhibition of SI + SA**

The author also identified several of works were produced using female figures in the Si + Sa Exhibition. This female figure has been crafted with various specific techniques and compositions in reference to the overall theme of this exhibition. Mohamad Quzami An-Nuur Ahmad Radzi, Muhammad Khalik Mustafa and Suriati Saidan are artists who used female figures in their art work for these exhibition.

Muhammad Khalik Mustafa and Suriati Saidan both developed their work using medium on paper. Mohamad Quzami's work more developed mainly using black and white photography techniques. As a result using the combination technique and medium of producing these basis final work finally successful led exhibited. The author argued that, both techniques and mediums should also be taken into account in obtaining quality results on a work of art.

In addition, the color of these three works indirectly created expression to this work. In this context Mohamad Quzami used black and white images photography techniques compared to Khalik Mustafa and Suriati Saidan both focusing more to color and expression their work in exhibition. Overall, the author realized that the creators have their own ideas which can be translated in works based the subject matter implemented female figures in this exhibition. The implicit and explicit messaged on the female figure in any work was still a subjective matter in the art work.

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