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## A BOOK CHAPTER

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## CHAPTER 10

# A SUSTAINABLE ARTWORK FROM FABRIC WASTE: JALINAN MEMORI

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Sharifah Maryam Syed Azman

## 10.0 Abstract

The Malaysian textile industry was the fifteenth largest producer and ninth largest in Asian Region. To overcome this issue, the practice of textile waste recycling is common in many countries. Sustainability practice can also be implemented through arts and craft. By utilizing textile waste, such as fabric scraps or leftover, artworks are also one of the mediums which can promote sustainability. *Jalanan Memori* is one of the sustainable artworks which promotes upcycling technique by using fabric waste. This artwork adopted exploration method on weaving techniques which is called *Kelara Tulang Belut Berhati*. Some of the elements of art which is visualised in this artwork are colours, form, shape and texture. Fabric scraps from chiffon materials, satin, and ribbons were used in this artwork. Four colours of purple, dark blue, white and yellow were chosen as these colours inspired from the UiTM logo. *Jalanan Memori* is an artwork which represented personal experience of the artist. With the current issues of sustainability, especially regarding fabric waste, this is one of the methods to show support in reducing the environmental impact. As educators, this is a responsibility way to reflect in art and design community.

## 10.1 Introduction

Fashion industries (textile, clothing, accessories, home textile, footwear) have a huge environmental impact, globally (Broega et al., 2017). Every year million tons of textile waste is being sent to landfills (Başaran et al., 2019). Textile wastes such as from fibre, textile and clothing can be sourced from the community, manufacturing industry and consumers. These are also known as pre-consumer, post-consumer and industrial textile waste (Ahmad et al., 2016). The Malaysian textile industry was the fifteenth largest producer and ninth largest in Asian Region. As in (Malakhamad et al., 2017), textile waste is the second highest pollutant factor. Not surprisingly, in Malaysia, the increase is apparent in water pollution caused by the textile industry.

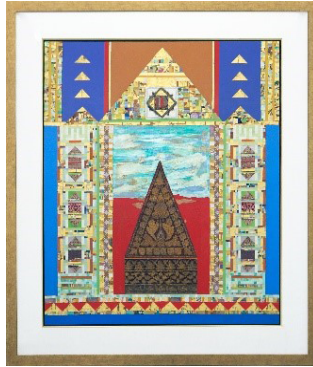


To overcome this issue, the practice of textile waste recycling is common in many countries such as United Kingdom, Germany, United States and Australia. The recycling of waste from textile helps to conserve resources and reduce the use of landfills. Apart from that, one of the world known fashion retail, H&M's has started the recycling initiatives, which is *Garment Collecting* event in 2013, where the customers who handed in their used garments were offered in-store discounts (Ahmad et al., 2016).

Sustainability practice can also be implemented through arts and craft (Eckhoff and Spearman, 2009). By utilizing textile waste, such as fabric scraps or leftover, artworks are also one of the mediums which can promote sustainability (Härkönen et al., 2018). Nowadays, there are many art museums and galleries which promote on environmental challenges, apart from art appreciation. The environmental themes, inspired artists to develop and build interests towards the current situation of the world. Through innovation and creativity, artists are able to express and present the environment in images, sculptures (Salehi et al., 2012), paintings (Brown, 2013), printings, photographs and decorative art. *Jalanan Memori* is one of the sustainable artworks which promotes upcycling technique by using fabric waste.

## 10.2 Methodology

The method in creating the artwork of Jalinan Memori was done by doing some literature search on suitable techniques of incorporating fabric waste into artworks. Database such as Google Scholars and ResearchGate were the medium for the literature search. The literature searched leads to the findings of various type of artworks from fabric waste, inspired by Malaysian artists. Table 3 shows the techniques of application of fabric waste in artworks.

**Table 3: Artworks from fabric waste**

Artist	Year	Technique
Sharifah Fatimah	2018	Acrylic, Fabric, Modelling Paste & Gold Foil on Canvas 
Hidawati Amin	2019	Collage and hand stitch 
Michelle Yap	2020	Collage and paint 

Based on the findings, it shows that collage and patchwork were the main techniques which are suitable to incorporate fabric waste in creating artwork. Apart from these two techniques, weaving technique was also considered in creating *Jalanan Memori* to show the result of the weaving, which reflected on the motif of the artwork.

### 10.3 Studio Research & Analysis



Figure 28: Artwork of *Jalanan Memori*

The weaving technique which has been applied in this artwork is called *Kelarai Tulang Belut Berhati*. There are many hand crafts which applied weaving technique such as basket, mat, woven food cover and woven wall for traditional houses. This artwork was inspired from UiTM logo. Some of the elements of art which is visualised in this artwork are colours, form, shape and texture. Fabric scraps from chiffon materials, satin, and ribbons were used in this artwork.

This artwork started with the motif design, which symbolises the memories of the artist of being a uitm graduate and finally a uitm staff. It was a delightful experience to finally be part of the educators who can share and educate the new generations. To conclude the experiences, *Jalanan Memori* was created. *Jalanan* in English is braid, and so *Kelarai* is one art which represented the weaving technique. Hence, the main technique applied in this artwork was *Kelarai Tulang Belut Berhati*. At the same time, the artist delivers the message of environmental, which is about upcycling. The main materials of weaving in this artwork were from fabric waste. Varieties of fabric waste were visualised through this artwork, such as scraps of chiffon and satin fabrics and leftover ribbons.

Firstly, the scraps of chiffon fabrics were cut into rectangle shapes in the measurement between 30 cm to 50 cm. Then, the scraps were arranged and weaved nicely as the main background, to symbolises the motif of a sun. Three colours of purple, dark blue and yellow were chosen as these colours inspired from the UiTM logo. It represented the knowledge which had been learnt by the artist. *Kelarai Tulang Belut Berhati* was chosen because the effect of weaving visualised the steps and

process taken to overcome all the challenges and obstacles throughout the years of being a student in UiTM. The dark blue and purple colours represented the hard work, patience and independence, while the yellow colour symbolises the sun which can be visualised at the centre of the artwork. Secondly, the white flowers represented the pureness of the knowledge which the UiTM lecturer had taught the artist. It also symbolises sustainability because the knowledge is not wasted, as the artist is now practicing the experiences with the new generations and also in daily life. Each flower represented different types of learning phase not only academically, but also spiritually.

#### 10.4 Artist Statement

This artwork is created to show to the communities of how sustainability in art can be made. Artwork is not just by drawing or painting, but it can be made by using different types of materials. Furthermore, with the current issues of sustainability, especially regarding fabric waste, this is one of the methods to show support in reducing the environmental impact. As educators, this is a responsibility way to reflect in art and design community.

#### 10.5 Conclusion

For a conclusion, *Jalanan Memori* is an artwork which represented personal experience of the artist. The main materials used in this artwork show that fabric waste is a serious issue which can be control or reduced through artwork making. It is hoped that the communities could inspired by this artwork.

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