



Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts

TEXTURE STUDY ON OIL PAINTING

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TEXTURE STUDY ON OIL PAINTING

FOO MEI YING

This project is submitted in partial fulfillment of
the requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Applied Arts with Honours
(Fine Art)

Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK
2015

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Final Year Project Report

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ABSTRACT

The researcher is focusing on the combination of collage technique with oil painting by using waste material to create a unique texture. The materials chosen for the creation of the texture are plastic bag and egg shell. The subject matter of the artwork is a crumpled self-portrait image, which is aimed to represent the personal ‘confusion’ of the researcher related to her own life and experiences. The purpose of introducing a rough surface texture is to enhance the expression of confusion and increase the artistic value of the painting.

ABSTRAK

Penyelidik memberi tumpuan kepada gabungan teknik kolaj dengan catan minyak dengan menggunakan bahan buangan untuk menghasilkan tekstur yang unik. Bahan-bahan yang dipilih untuk menghasilkan tekstur adalah beg plastik dan kulit telur. Subjek matter adalah imej renyuk potret sendiri, ia mewakili 'kekeliruan' peribadi penyelidik yang berkaitan dengan kehidupan sendiri dan pengalaman. Tujuan memperkenalkan tekstur permukaan yang kasar adalah untuk meningkatkan ekspresi kekeliruan dan meningkatkan nilai seni kepada karya tersebut.

CHAPTER 1

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Nowadays, the peoples are challenge conventional and normative idea of previous art (Foster, 2009). Researcher chooses the unconventional materials to create a texture which are plastic bags and egg shell. The texture is applied in oil painting. Commonly, texture is divided into tactile texture or actual texture and visual texture. Tactile texture is the real texture that can be touched and felt; visual texture is an illusion of texture such as texture of drawing and painting. Researcher applied both of them on the painting.

The research is focusing on the method of combining the textures with an oil painting. Researcher explores the material and creates suitable textures by using plastic bags and egg shells.

1.1 HYPOTHESIS

Normally the oil painting is present in the conventional way. Oil painting still can be explored and developed. Researcher expected to use the waste material to invent a new texture and apply in oil painting. The materials that researcher has chosen are plastic bag and egg shell because both of them have the potential to create a collage oil painting. Plastic bags and egg shells were then seen as waste materials, which are causing pollution (Ellis, Kantner, Saab, Watson, & Kadonaga, 2005); (King`ori, 2011). By using the plastic bags and egg shells to create a painting, it will change the values of the painting. The research of texture study is aimed to identify whether the waste material can be combined with oil painting and increase the artistic value of the painting.

1.2 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- i. To identify the method of combining textures with an oil painting.
- ii. To create a new textures.
- iii. To experiment oil painting using both mediums.

1.3 RESEARCH QUESTION

- i. How to combine the texture with an oil painting?
- ii. How to create textures on an oil painting?
- iii. What medium is suitable to create texture in oil painting?

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher describes the history, definition, processes and techniques about the plastic bag and egg shell's application on oil painting. Researcher also studied the significant of texture in an artwork.

Texture

Texture is referring to the surface quality and the look or feel of an object. Commonly, texture is divided into tactile texture or actual texture and visual texture. Tactile texture or actual texture are the real textures that can be touched and felt (Ocvirk, 2009); visual texture is an illusion of texture in two-dimensional such as texture of drawing and painting (Bowers, 1999). By using waste material on oil paintings by means of the collage method, will create the tactile texture.

Texture can also define space; the blurred texture makes the object seem distant. In contrast, the object appears to move forward when the texture has strong contrast. This is one of the principles of atmospheric perspective (Ocvirk, 2009). According to Russell (1993), texture is a surface quality that attracts the senses of both touch and sight. Lewis (1972; 19) mentioned that "...sight, sounds, tastes, smells, and touches can evoke emotions." Therefore, texture can enhance the expression of emotion. The message of the artwork can be transmitted by tactile sensation. Besides that, texture is one of the elements that serve to express the feelings. De Melo & Paiva (2007) mention that the artist's desire

to express an anger emotion. So, he seeks for the suitable medium need be, to understand the feeling of anger. Finally the artist succeeds to express the feeling by using words, sounds, lines, colors or textures. The emotion is important for appreciating and attributing value to the arts.

Researcher found the theory of “texture as emotion in artwork”. Texture is referring to the quality of the surface in an artwork which is roughness or smoothness. The rough surface is more contrast comparing to the smooth surface. The artworks which incorporate rough surface textures are seen as more dynamic, emotionally active and as having more depth (Niranjan & Ahmed, 2014). Therefore, the plastic bag and egg shell texture can enhance the feeling of emotion in a painting.

Texture will confuse human’s eyes. Tuceryan & Jain (1998) stated that “The success of the tiger in camouflaging itself is a failure of the visual system observing it.” Human cannot see a tiger in the foliage. The repetition of the pattern makes the texture complex. This is related to psychophysics and texture science. Therefore, texture is a suitable medium to be used in paintings, in order to express the feeling of “confusion”. The repetition of the pattern and texture in collage painting will create an illusion, the combination of the tactile texture and visual texture will make human eyes confused.

Collages

Collage derives from a French word for “paste” or “glue”. Collage is considered as mixed media. In the twentieth century, artists have invented new techniques and combined new materials with the paintings. For example, Picasso and Braque were pasting scraps of printed paper and fabric onto their painted canvases (Russell, 1993). Researcher uses collage method to combine waste material with oil painting. The addition of actual textures

like plastic bag and egg shell on the surface of the canvas enables one to achieve a rough effect. Rough texture surface can enhance the expression of emotion in the artwork because it is emotionally more active comparing with a smooth surface.

Plastic

The ingredients of plastic bags are petroleum and natural gas (Lajeunesse, 2004). Grocery bags are made from high-density polyethylene (HDPE) (Eco-sense, 2002). Besides that, there are two other types of polyethylene, which are low-density polyethylene (LDPE) and linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) (Lajeunesse, 2004). LDPE is used to make very thin, filmy bags, such as food packaging, dry-cleaning bags, trash bags and grocery bags (Stevens, 2002). LLDPE is thicker than HDPE and LDPE, has a glossy surface, such as the shopping bags used by businesses in the malls. These three basic types of plastic bags have been used by the researcher to carry out the painting experiment.

According to Heuman (1999), identifying the materials and understanding their chemistry is important to develop conservation standards for plastic. Heuman had discussed that the conservation of the plastic sculpture. Plastic is an impermanent material but at the same time, plastic does not change and degrade, it is also a durable material. For example, plastic bag is a long lasting material. It is made from polyethylene; it takes hundreds of years to break down (Eco-sense, 2002). Besides that, it is a non-renewable resource made from ethylene (Lajeunesse, 2004).

Heuman stated that the plastic regarded as an impermanent material unsuitable for durable uses, such as sculpture, because it changes and degrades so easily. Although plastic may not be a durable material to be applied on artworks, nowadays many artists make use of plastic in their artworks. For example, Jessica McCambly transforms white plastic bags

into installation artworks, which title is “Float, 2011” (Figure 1). The artist wants the audience to interact with her artwork, to lie down on the ground as a kid, and to get lost by looking at a cloud (Carone, 2011). Furthermore, John Dahlsen, an environmental artist, has used plastic material as the main medium to create a painting. The painting was entitled as “Self Portrait from Found Plastic 2009” (Figure 2) (Cummings, 2009).



Figure1. Jessica McCambly, “*Float, 2011*”.



Figure2. John Dahlsen, “*Self Portrait from Found Plastic 2009*”.

Plastic is one of the materials that have been explored by contemporary artists as rapidly as they are invented especially for sculpture. They found that plastic has fascinating possibilities that enhance the expression in an artwork (Russell, 1993). Cummings (2009) stated that “Art in all forms is about expression, feelings, thoughts, and moods and conveying those to others.” Furthermore, Cummings has also mentioned that “The plastics enhance the paintings and bring them to life, while turning ugly trash into pure beauty.” Therefore, the waste materials can enhance the expression and feeling of an artwork after converting them into artistic material. According to Cummings (2009), Plastic Art can define as the artwork that using found plastic bags and other kinds of plastic to create an artwork.

Sugii (2008) mentioned that plastic bags have very useful characteristics. They are waterproof, hygienic, light and strong. The durability of the plastic art work is influenced by the environment. Heuman (1999) found that the long-term behaviour and properties of all materials are influenced by both internal and external factors. The change of materials will be slow under good conditions. Plastic, wood and canvas will response to the heat and light, they will oxidise, change colour, corrode, soften or brittle (Mills & White, 2012), become yellow, crack, absorb moisture and swell (Lunin, 1990). Therefore, the plastic bag and egg shell collage on oil painting should be displayed in a stable environment, avoiding extra heat and light to extend the painting’s life. Besides that, polyethylene’s melting point is between 100°C to 120 °C. (*Designing and Manufacturing Plastic Bags*, 2009). Heat will change the properties of the plastic bag.

Eggshell

Eggshells are waste materials which can be found everywhere. People always throw the eggshells away and the waste disposal causes environmental pollution (Amu, Fajobi & Oke, 2005). The pollution problem can be reduced by transforming the eggshells into artistic mediums (King`ori, 2011). Amu *et al.* (2005) mention that the eggshell consists of calcified shell and shell membranes. The eggshell and shell membranes contain protein. Eggshell also comprise calcium and several of others micro element, which is magnesium, boron, copper, iron, manganese, molybdenum, sulphur, silicon and zinc. According to Hunton (2005), the main ingredient in eggshells is calcium carbonate, which is about 97 %. The element of calcium carbonate also can found in chalk, limestone, sea shells, coral and pearls. Besides that, the chemical composition of an eggshell is very similar to lime as a soil stabilizer. Soil stabilizer is used as subgrade materials in road construction works.

Eggshells can be used in artworks to create mosaics and textured paintings with a 3D effect (Glatz & Miao, 2009). Wahyudi Susanto is an Indonesian artist, who makes used of eggshells to create mosaic calligraphies and mosaic paintings. He cleans the eggshell with detergent and water, dries them under the sun to remove the odor of egg. In the process of making mosaics, he uses glue to paste the eggshells onto the surface of the canvas and secures them with the back of a brush (Reuters, 2012).

The egg has different meanings in different societies. A white eggshell is symbolizing the meaning of purity. The shell's contradictory fragility and strength is added to the egg's mysteriousness. It can be "tough" and "weak" at the same time. Egg has been described as the form of encircling "manifest nature" in Hindu terms and egg means "strong" according to Christians (*Egg Art*, n.d.). It also symbolizes the life cycle which is

birth, death and rebirth (Werness, 2006). In China, egg is associated with the birth of a son; in British Isles on the other hand, with fortune telling (*Egg Art*, n.d.). Egg is also related to YIN/YANG¹ symbol in the perspective of Taoist (Hall, 1994).

Werness (2003) stated that “As in Western art, eggs symbolize fertility and immortality.” Werness (2006) shown that egg have all the element of life. Conventionally, the egg is a strong mystical and symbolic force object. It also symbolizes hope for abundance and concept of birth (*Egg Art*, n.d.).

¹ YIN/YANG is defined as a universal philosophical concept. The concept was deeply rooted in Chinese philosophy. YIN/YANG symbol is including the meaning of harmony and balance within the universe.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this research, researcher used several research methods to collect the data. The research methods used by the researcher are qualitative and quantitative methods. The qualitative method includes primary and secondary data. This research mostly used the primary data which is gained from the experiments. The secondary data includes books, journals and internet resources. Some of the experiment process incorporates quantitative method, such as the calculation of timing during the experiments.

3.1 Qualitative Method

Qualitative methods used in this research are observation and secondary data analysis. Observation methods used to collect data through visuals. Secondary data is obtained through journals, books and internet sources. The qualitative method helped the researcher to understand the general information and properties of the waste material and to identify the suitable material to be used in oil painting and lastly to identify the most effective techniques.

3.2 Quantitative Method

Researcher identifies the timing of burning plastic bag during experiment and also the drying duration of the oil paint.

3.3 Observation

Before continuing the research of application of waste material on oil painting, researcher referred to previous research and the artist's artworks, which made use of similar idea and materials. Researcher observes the response of the materials during the experiments.

3.4 Experiment

Researcher carried out experiments by using waste materials, which have been chosen. During the experiment, researcher deconstructs the waste materials and transforms them into artistic materials. The aim was to invent a new texture that can be applied in oil painting.

3.5 Secondary Data

The secondary data that researcher obtained are from books, internet and journals. Internet has been an important resource for the researcher in the process of experiments. The information from internet has given researcher detailed ideas in developing the artwork. The secondary data is used to support the facts available.

Summary

After all the data is collected, researcher understood deeper the properties of the materials that have been chosen. Researcher explored and carried out experiments on plastic bags and eggshells. And finally researcher will applied the most suitable texture into the personal artwork to prove that plastic bags and eggshells can be combined with oil painting and that can increase the artistic value in an oil painting.

CHAPTER 4

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.0 Introduction

This topic is related to the achievement of research objectives. It also explains the suggestions and the comments from other lecturers and audience, which helps researcher to improve and strengthen the final work.

4.1 Research Subject in Artwork

The research subject is focused on the texture study. Based on the objective, there are several approaches and methods that have been used to explore the waste materials, to deconstruct them and to transform them into the desired artwork.

4.1.1 Waste Material as Research Subject to Create Artwork

In this research, researcher refers to the artists that are using waste materials as their subject matter to create artworks.

Plastic bags

There are several artists that use plastic bags to create artworks, such as Jessica McCambly and Jon Dahlsen. McCambly used the reclaimed plastic bags to create a hanging installation. She transforms the plastic bags looped into a giant web. Dahlsen on the other hand use plastic bags to create painting. Both of their aim is to turn the trash into

art. Based on the research findings, researcher also carried out experiments to deconstruct the waste material and create a unique texture which can be applied on oil painting.

Eggshells

Eggshell has been used by some artists to create their artworks; including Willis Otieno, Wahyudi Susanto, Jean Dunand and Richard Anbudurai. Willis Otieno and Wahyudi Susanto prefer to keep the natural colour of the eggshell. Richard Anbudurai on the other hand, uses the egg shell to create eggshell painting (Figure 3). He paints on the surface of eggshell after pasting it onto the canvas. The research findings prove that it is possible to combine the painting with eggshells. The egg shell can be applied onto canvas by several approaches: mixed with the paint before application or paint after pasting them onto canvas.



Figure3. Richard Anbudurai, “Returning Home”
Eggshell painting.

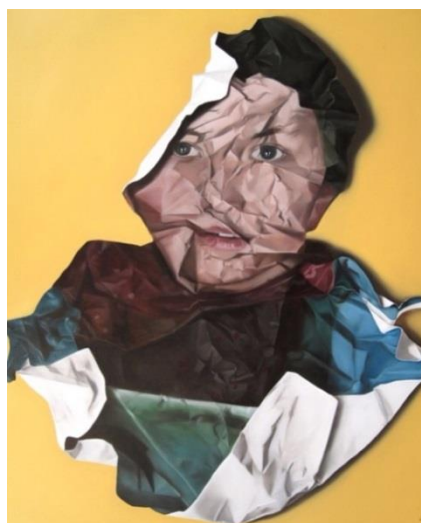
4.1.2 Collage as Research Subject to Create Artwork



(Figure 4)

Richard Burtet uses the collage technique in his oil paintings and achieves an abstract quality (Figure 4). The collage patches in his painting are following the shape and line of the image. The mediums used in this collage are oil paint, gold and silver leaf. The artwork talks about memories; he applies the texture on the background to enhance the expression.

4.1.3 Crumpled Image as a Research Subject in Artwork



(Figure 5)

Vesna Bursich's artwork (Figure 5) is a photo realistic painting created by using a crumpled image concept. She paints paper dolls and cuts out the crumpled figures. She bents and collaged them (Crest, 2012).

4.1.4 Installation Concept in Artwork

Researcher applied the idea of installation in the final artwork. Sun. K Kwak is an artist that uses black masking tape as a medium to create a site specific installation (Figure 6). The shape and flow of the installation is similar with the splash of water. The installation is applied on a wall and floor; it has created a space for the audience. Researcher refers the flow of her artwork and applied the idea on the final year project.



(Figure 6)

4.2 Artwork in PRA-CIPTA

By following this context, researcher has been produced an artwork for the Pra-CIPTA Project (Figure 8). Researcher has been able create an oil painting artwork by applying the texture that has been created with waste materials. In the beginning,