

# BRIDGING ART AND COMMUNITY: AN ENTRY POINT TO FORMATION OF ART KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT

Mohamad Faizuan Mat<sup>1</sup>, Sylvester Wielding Jussem<sup>2</sup>, Mohamad Zamhari Abol Hassan<sup>3</sup> and Hishamuddin Siri<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup> Universiti Malaysia Sarawak

## ABSTRACT

Visual art scene and their surrounding communities have failed to work cooperatively to address art knowledge development issues. Fortunately, some visual artists and public universities have begun to change and support towards art knowledge development and their communities. We believe that art can bridge people together and develop art knowledge among the community. We also believe in active participation and by giving it back to them. However, what are the mechanisms to bring art to the society and what is the benefit that we can offer to the society? This paper highlights the roles of art in benefiting towards our community. Samples of our curatorial works that emphasized community and art knowledge development in previous project will be discussed.

**Keywords:** Art Knowledge; Art and Community; Bridging Art; Knowledge Development; Community Project; Gives Back

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this increasingly challenging world, we often hear about natural disasters and other disasters. It raises fear and becomes a threat to the society. However, in other words, we forget that the biggest catastrophe in the world is social disasters. They are many causes for social disaster. Social change of the world has become one of the reasons. Family, social, economic and political issues of the world are making people lost its humanity. For those who experience mental illness with no medication look forward to religion. On the other hand, the alternative medicine is through art. Speaking about art, we are not referring towards individual participation. Moreover, we are not referring to (for-profit making) institution. We refer to those who are willing to contribute to the society and the development of art knowledge. Why art? Who are the community? What is the role of art? Pursuant to Mat (2017) that there is a scarcity in presentation of art knowledge development through art in Malaysia. Perhaps, due to the inaccurate methods of presenting knowledge through visual arts or not to eligible audiences. Therefore, the importance of art knowledge and its contribution towards community development will be highlighted.

## 1. LITERATURE REVIEW

### 1.1 Why Art?

As (Pooke, 2008) explains a broader definition of art encompasses global activity, which produces work with aesthetic value including performance, visual art, architecture and filmmaking. "For example, architecture has always had a close connection to painting, sculpture and drawing, two instances being classical revival in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and the Bauhaus aesthetics of the 1930s which frequently integrated fine art with design, craft and architecture" (Pooke, 2008, p. 5). However, in contemporary world/