

## **EXPANDED MEDIA IN THE MALAYSIAN CONTEMPORARY ARTS PRACTICE**

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*'When medium is used in such a way that the work contributes to our understanding or enjoyment of life, we experience the work of art' – (Preble 1989:2)*

*'**media** (plural of medium), in the arts, are the materials and techniques used by an artist to produce a work.' - According to the definition given by Wikipedia encyclopedia <sup>1</sup>*

Based on both the definitions above, the different forms of materials that are around us could contribute to the work of media arts. For the artists, each individual must understand the media thoroughly so that they can execute their creative ideas and concepts in their artwork. During the Renaissance Period, conventional medium or media were the preference for the artists. For example, a paint (water colour, acrylic and oil colour), charcoal, pencil, ink, clay, metal and fiber were the common media used by the artists. The common media consisted of an organic and synthetic components or elements. But, the use of media depended on the approaches and practices taken by the artists themselves.

The modern era was the beginning of expanded media in the arts. In the early 1900's, Picasso and Braque bravely produced artworks that were slightly different than common previous art practices. They introduced the collage painting, which expanded the methods in dealing with materials and techniques. Duchamp was another artist who brought changes by displaying a radical attempt on manipulating materials and objects as media. Obviously, the expansions of media were never stopped. Then appeared the assemblage, mix-media, and combine painting established by artists such as Kurt Schwitters, Robert Rauschenberg, Jim Dine, and Jasper John. Artistic people considered media to be important in developing the artistic individuality. Expanded media is applied to create the difference.