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The Chicken Metaphor in The Creation of Painting Works

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to examine the creation of paintings with chicken as the subject. The results of the study showed that chickens are animals that have close relationships with humans, both in everyday life and in culture. Chickens also have symbols that can be interpreted broadly, such as courage, struggle, independence, and so on. In paintings, chickens can be visualized in a variety of styles, from realistic to abstract to expressionism. The use of chicken visuals in painting can be packaged in a variety of themes, such as everyday life, culture, and symbolism. In conclusion, chickens are an interesting subject to be used as a theme in paintings. Paintings with chicken as the subject can be a means of expressing oneself and the ideas that exist within oneself.

Keywords: Chickens; Painting; Subject; Symbol; Style; Theme

INTRODUCTION

Human life is always closely related to the universe and the surrounding environment. Nature presents a diversity of plants and animals that are interrelated, creating harmony and interdependence between humans, animals and plants. A good and balanced relationship between all living creatures can complement each other's needs.

Rosa Kemala stated, "Good nature can undoubtedly be a big advantage for human life" (2011:26). This statement illustrates that humans can gain great benefits from the existence of nature and the life around them.

Plants and animals, including chickens, are an important part of human life. Humans can take various benefits from their existence. The author, through his observations of the lives of chickens, felt inspired to express the values and souls of chickens into works of fine art.

Painting works of art become a medium of expression for writers to communicate thoughts and souls through visuals. Fine art has the power to steal the attention of the viewer through the sense of sight. As stated by Soedarso (1990), art is human work that can communicate the artist's feelings to other people through visual language.

The author lives in a village in Malang City, where the life of chickens provides its own color and memories. Roosters crowing in the morning, fights between chickens, and various chicken activities are part of the author's life. This experience became a source of inspiration to create works of art depicting the life and values of chickens.

In this context, the author wants to use chickens as metaphorical objects in paintings. By involving the values of chicken life, the author will transform them into a canvas with a personal style. Through this work, the author intends to express thoughts, feelings and personal experiences by relating them to the life of chickens.



Figure 1. Photo of the work entitled "Fighting Chicken"
91cm x 136 cm, 1979
(Source: Kreasisenifoto.blogspot.com)

In previous literature, many artists used certain objects as metaphors in their works. For example, Affandi, with his paintings which use chickens as the main object, depicts expressionism and romanticism in his painting style. Ugo Untoro also creates works about horses, reflecting his sadness after losing a horse he kept.



Figure 2 Photo of one of Ugo Untoro's works entitled "Under Hundreds of Son"
(Source: archive.ivaa-online.org)

Through this research, the author will create a work of painting using chickens as a metaphorical object. It is hoped that this work can provide a deeper understanding of the life of chickens and how these values can be translated into a form of visual art. Apart from that, it is also hoped that this work can be a contribution to academics who are interested in creating art as a final project.

With the aim of understanding the life of chickens and presenting chickens in works of visual art, the author hopes that this work can make a positive contribution to the world of fine arts and become a means of expression and communication that can be enjoyed by art lovers.

METHODS OF RESEARCH

Methods for Creating Painting Works

Creating a work of painting involves a series of steps and procedures described by Gustami (2007:329). These steps include searching for ideas, concepts and foundations for creation as a first step. The creative process then continues by designing the work through rough sketches, which aim to determine the best visuals before applying them to the canvas. The final step is a work process that involves finishing.

Place and Time of Creation

The creation of works of art is carried out at the author's residence, with a flexible starting time, whenever the author feels he has found the right feeling or mood, and finds inspiration. In this creation thesis, the author begins the process by looking for inspiration through contemplation and observation of chicken figures and their behavior. This inspiration is then combined with the author's memories of

important moments in life, both beautiful and bitter. This combination becomes the basic foundation for the next step, namely exploring the visuals until you find a mature idea or concept.

Creation Materials and Tools

Determining tools and materials is an important stage in preparing to create a work of art. The tools used include brushes, palettes, bottles filled with water for rinsing paint, dry cloth, pencils, lighters and knives. Meanwhile, the materials used include 1000 gram black and white poster paint, tissue, Korean glue, glue gun, HVS paper, wax, canvas and paper.

Creation Management

Once the writer finds ideas and inspiration, the process begins by designing basic visuals on paper. This is done as a starting point for making a simple sketch to determine the location and shape of the object that will be represented in the work. Considering that new ideas often emerge during the visualization process on canvas, sketches on paper are only rough or basic designs that will be developed according to personal imagination.

The title "Metaphors of Chickens in Paintings" gives each work a unique identity and meaning. Even though it has a big theme about the life and outpouring of the author's soul, each work still maintains the visual style and metaphorical elements of chickens combined with the author's feelings and expressions. Once the tools and materials are ready, the next step is visualization on canvas until completion. The completion of the work is marked by an exhibition, where the works are presented and appreciated by the general public.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The author discusses ten works of painting he has created. Each painting contains deep meaning and refers to life events and the author's personal experiences. The following are the results and discussion for each work:

Work One: "HANDS"

In the first painting, the author was inspired by the human hand as the main tool for creation and destruction. This painting depicts the duality of the human hand as a source of good fortune through work and positive activities, but also as a tool that can hurt and destroy. The shape structure emphasizes dynamic visuals with a contrasting color combination of black and white, creating a strong center of attention.



Figure 3. "HAND"

Acrylic and Poster on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Two: "KEEPING"

This painting depicts a mother hen vigilantly guarding her chicks. The author relates this image to the role of parents or teachers who supervise and protect their children or students. The structure of the form emphasizes elements of fine art, such as lines, light and darkness, dimension and balance, with the dominance of black on the hen as a point of attention.



Figure 4. "GUARD"

Poster Paint on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Three: "REBUILD"

This painting depicts roosters fighting over food, reflecting competition and elbows in the world of work. The use of cloth that says "Urip" (life in Javanese script) adds to the meaning of life's competition. Mixed media techniques with torn effects and textures give dimension to paintings, creating dynamic visuals.



Figure 5. "ATTACK" Mix Media on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Four: "FATHER"

Sketch of the face of the writer's late father. This painting depicts the father's tough character, but also a figure full of love and struggle for his family. The use of chicken feet in different shapes represents various human abilities. This painting uses dry and wet brush techniques with an emphasis on rough strokes on the canvas.



Figure 6. Texture in the Painting "Rebutan" 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Five: "EGGS"

This painting depicts chicken eggs in various shapes, reflecting the diversity of life and birth. The author relates the shape of the egg to the diverse conditions of family and human life. The mixed media technique using materials such as tissue and paint gives texture and dimension to this painting.



Figure 7. "FATHER" Poster Paint and Ink on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Six: "KEEPING LIFE"

This painting depicts a mother guarding life in her womb. The mother hen incubating her eggs is a symbol of resilience and protection. The mixed media technique using sticks, tissue and plastic creates a texture that depicts a life full of challenges.



Figure 8. "COUNTS" Mix Media on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Works Seven: "MOTHER"

This painting depicts a hen with a deformed shape as a symbol of persistence, mother's love and female strength. The structure of the shape features a large belly that represents pregnancy, and a pointed beak signifies strength and protection. The use of various media creates textures that convey strength and resilience.



Figure 9. "MOM" Mix Media on Canvas 150x100 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Eight: "IN THE CARRIER"

This painting depicts the author as a rooster being carried by a keeper. A mother hen who is trained and protected by her keeper reflects a relationship with God as nurturer and helper. The use of various media and techniques creates textures and visuals that support the meaning of the painting.



Figure 10. "IN A CARRY" Mix Media on Canvas 150x100 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Nine: "FINDING A NEW PARENT"

This painting was inspired by the loss of the author's mother. The author conveys feelings of grief and loss, but also the discovery of the figure of God as a new parent. The use of brushstroke techniques and mixed media with written elements provides a dimension of meaning and visual aesthetics to this painting.



Figure 11. "FINDING A NEW PARENT" Mix Media on Canvas 100x70 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Work Ten: "THE STRUGGLE"

The final painting depicts a mother hen fighting a snake to protect her chicks. It reflects conflict and competition in life. Mix media techniques and material selection create strong textures and visual effects. This painting closes the series of works with a message about struggle and sacrifice in facing life.



Figure 12. "STRUGGLE" Mix Media on Canvas 200x150 cm, Kunto Adi Rumekso
(Source: Personal Documentation)

Overall, this collection of paintings not only reflects the author's technical expertise in painting, but also serves as a window that reveals the author's emotional journey, life experiences and personal views on the world. Each painting has a story and deep meaning, providing an aesthetic and reflective experience to the viewer.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the collection of paintings displayed by the author opens our eyes to the meaning hidden behind a simple object such as a chicken. Chickens, often thought of simply as livestock or objects in battle, are presented in these paintings as symbols of life, struggle, and spiritual meaning.

The author succeeded in depicting life by using chickens as a metaphor, embedding stories and deep values in each painting. Obstacles in the process of creating work are also a reflection of the obstacles in life that writers face.

The importance of this work lies not only in the technical aspects of the painting, but also in the author's ability to convey the story and meaning behind each work. These paintings are the author's personal expression, filled not only with academic responsibility, but also with the success of conveying profound messages.

SUGGESTION

As a suggestion, these works can be valuable references for fellow academics or artists interested in similar themes. This writing can be used as a basis for further development in the exploration of art and the meaning contained in everyday objects. It is also hoped that writers will continue to develop and produce works that will further enrich the world of art.

The author also provides openness to receive constructive input and criticism, so that it can become evaluation material for future improvements. Errors and shortcomings that may exist in this work and writing can be used as lessons for improving quality in the future.

Thus, this work of art not only provides academic satisfaction, but also contributes to enriching the meaning and values in the art of painting and provides inspiration for those who understand and appreciate the meaning contained therein.

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