



## Mirror As Inspiration In The Creation Of Artworks

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### Abstrak

Setiap seniman memiliki tujuan menciptakan karya seni yang tidak lepas dari perasaan spiritual yang dialami sehari-hari. Proses kreatif penciptaan karya seni ini digagas dari cermin yang akan dieksplorasikan pada karya seni. Metode yang dipergunakan adalah studi metode deskriptif kualitatif dan metode eksperimental. Permasalahan dalam proses penciptaan ini bagaimana fenomena yang terjadi ketika manusia merasakan perasaan tidak bahagia dalam kehidupan batinnya sehingga merasa tertekan, bahkan dinilai antar individu, baik secara fisik maupun non fisik. Hasil dari proses penciptaan ini adalah susunan puzzle yang merupakan metafora dari hasil refleksi sebagaimana hubungan spiritual jiwa dengan tubuh yang telah berpengalaman dalam perjalanan hidup dan perenungan hidup. Pesan yang disampaikan melalui karya ini adalah manusia harus saling memahami antara satu dengan lainnya.

### Kata Kunci

*Cermin; diri; jati; kehidupan; refleksi.*

### Abstract

Every artist has the goal of creating works of art that cannot be separated from the spiritual feelings experienced daily. The creative process of creating this work of art is initiated from the mirror which will be explored in the work of art. The method used is descriptive qualitative study and experimental method. The problem in this creation process is how the phenomenon that occurs when humans feel unhappy in their inner life so that they feel depressed, even judged between individuals, both physically and non-physically. The result of this creation process is a puzzle arrangement which is a metaphor for the results of reflection as well as the spiritual relationship of the soul with the body that has been experienced in living and contemplating life. The message conveyed through this work is that humans must understand each other.

### Keywords

*Life; Mirror; reflection; self; teak.*

### Introduction

Humans are perfect creatures created by God, God Almighty and born on earth to act as the most important individual and social creatures. Every human form has unique characteristics, both physical and non-physical, as well as different factors from one



human to another, although in every quality of life there is something good or bad that makes him lose his identity because of human appearance that is easily observed and judged by fellow humans. consciously or unconsciously. Humans often question themselves, even humans also need fantasies, emotions that are expressed through sadness, joy, or their own volition (Dewantara, 2017).

Art is an expression of feelings (in the broadest sense) which he knows to be the feelings of all mankind, and not his own feelings (Suhaya, 2016; Sumardjo, 2000). Creating this work of art cannot be separated from problems ranging from direct or indirect experience. Artists in creating their works of art aim to express something that has been felt and observed (Thohari, 2018).

What we see in the mirror, may indeed be very different from what we see on a daily basis (Rose, 1994). Every day someone who usually often looks at himself through the mirror what is there of us consciously becomes 'human' and 'I' is the same as human perfection. Humans have character, characteristics, and differences with other humans. Often other humans judge a person only from the outward appearance through each other's reflections without realizing what they really feel from the inside, making this person also dragged to reflect themselves (Dillistone, 2002). The phenomenon of contemplation and the process of self-reflection experienced by the author after observing this life and tracing between human beings in the environment and the internet is an endless moment to be used as an idea and source of inspiration for the birth of a work of art (Tabrani, 2017).

Artists are part of a social, cultural community and live in the surrounding environment who view their environment as an object of observation, contemplation that provides aesthetic and artistic experiences in their inner space (Setem, 2020). Every human being has a different level of sensitivity in experiencing moments and experiences, therefore it can be a differentiator in the expressive power of each person (Samovar, 2010). This creation work was initiated from the mirror as a source of inspiration. The themes in this creative process are implemented in the exploration process, so that the themes raised are according to the subject matter and forms in creating experimental artworks. The concept of a mirror is used as the main object in the creation of this artwork.

## **Method**

The method used in this creation is a mix method, namely 1) a purposeful sampling method used to collect works that are rich in information, especially the sampling criteria (Creswell, 2014; Sumartono, 2017), namely the work data is collected, selected and reduced according to the needs of creation. 2) work exploration method, namely the work process method, which explores ideas, ideas, which are implemented into the media, and the material and size of the work (Pandanwangi, 2015). The data of these works is the result of the creation made by translating the concepts that have been compiled.

The stages of data collection in the creation process are carried out by means of Literature Studies, namely collecting data from libraries, notes, data recap, and searching from cyberspace (Sumartono, 2017). Observation, which is a way to get and or collect information and data by observing various things that are directly related to the object of research in this case work (Sukapura Dewi dkk., 2008).



### Creation Framework

There are several stages in the creation of the work that the author goes through to process, starting from the search for ideas to presenting the artwork from the creation of the work. The stages of creation that are passed are as follows:

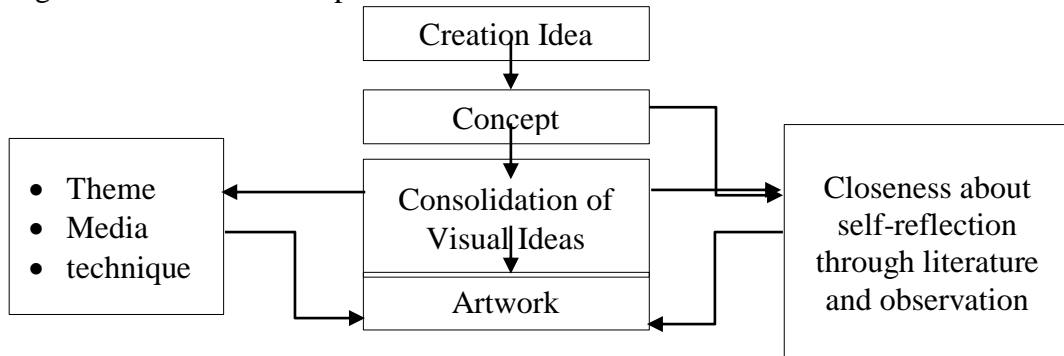


Figure 1. The flow of the stages of creating a work of art

### Exploration

Exploration and experimentation have been carried out in various aspects, such as in the selection of sources of ideas or the basics of creation which are not only oriented to the functional aspect, but have explored the potential sources of ideas from various aspects of people's lives (Andono & Rispul, 2012). The purpose of this exploration is to gain more knowledge by searching and exploring around life, whether it can be done by going directly to the location to get an experience or in a more modern way, namely with internet facilities. Exploration to challenge the concepts and themes raised in the creation of works experimentally. Initial thoughts about ideas that can inspire writers to visualize in the creation of art. In the exploration process, the author makes observations, thoughts, and reflections that are touched by inner phenomena. Exploratory observations carried out in the form of observations of objects that are metaphorized, namely:

#### *Mirror*

The mirror is an object in accordance with the theme that is appointed as the main object that provides inspiration in the creation of works of art. This visual metaphor used in this work is an important part in describing and describing the meaning in making art as a medium with the main visual form. This mirror visual metaphor has been collaborated since the story of a Greek legend named Narcissus who admired himself when he looked at his reflection in the water. So this mirror shows their true selves as well as whispers which are the other side of the inner voice.



*Figure 2. Echo and Narcissus, John William Waterhouse, 1903*  
(*source* : <https://surabayastory.com/2020/04/30/story-panjang-tentang-narsis-dan-sejarah-nya/>)



*Figure 3. Mirror illustration*  
(*source* : <https://kateahughes17.wordpress.com/2014/05/12/distorted-mirror-reflection/>)

*Figure 3* above, is an illusory reflection of the figure observing the reflection from the mirror, a doll named Barbie is often said to be beautiful and has a perfect shape, so the figure of a woman who looks at her through the mirror and wants to turn into herself is more than This makes you forget your identity. Emotionally, it seems that in the mirror, it can illustrate what the person in the mirror imagines. This will be explored in the creative process.

### ***Puzzle***

*Puzzle* is an arrangement of pieces of material either cardboard, wood or other materials that can form an object. This puzzle concept that is used as a visual in works of art is metaphorized in daily life and represents the aspect of 'self' which has its own intellectual characteristics, namely imperfections, shortcomings, and also advantages. Puzzles are assembled toys to arrange and form pieces so that they are united and connected. This is also a source of inspiration not just an ordinary game but interesting to visualize in works of art consisting of images and colors in various forms. If the pieces are linked, then they unite and form the self. If it is not properly connected or installed, then there are defects such as flaws and imperfections.



*Figure 4. Puzzle*

(source: <https://blogs.bcm.edu/2020/10/29/a-perfect-match-the-health-benefits-of-jigsaw-puzzles/>)

Literature study is carried out to collect and obtain references as sources and complements in the creation of works related to the themes and concepts raised by visiting libraries and online to learn and deepen several things that support the self-concept. This creation study explores visual ideas and concepts through the process of experimental works of art.

### **Formation**

Formation is a stage in the method of creating works from the results of exploration and experimentation that already has a picture that has been drawn and determines a theme that cannot be separated from the exploration process, so that the theme raised is in accordance with the subject matter and form in the process of creating a work of art. This stage does not rule out the possibility of a change in form due to the emergence of an idea in the middle of the embodiment process, which is felt that the results will be good.

In this process of formation, the urge to express the artist explodes, which is a purely psychological event, namely the artist's fantasy experience. Therefore it must be restrained and suppressed in his present consciousness, that it must be described in a basic material. But that can only happen through bodily movements, which are not moved directly by reason, but directly from feelings (Titi Andaryani, 2016).

### **Concept**

The concept of a work of art is the delivery of a thought-provoking message so that the artwork created has thought content that conveys the purpose of the work. Every artist who produces abstracts is imagination. Imagination experiments in works of art are imagining or creating works of art through the expression of shapes, colors, textures in the human imagination which are the benchmarks for making works of art. The author determines a theme that cannot be separated from the exploration process, so that the theme raised is in accordance with the subject matter and form in the process of creating the artwork.

In the creation of works of art, the artist determines the patterns and then the patterns are visualized into works of art. The basic concept of making this work of art begins with the mirror as a visual metaphor, which means that the mirror image can represent some aspect of



oneself or an object that is common to spiritual and physical relationships when self-reflecting several times has expressed feelings. This artwork explores the shape of various figures, mirrors, puzzles into each work with different visualizations.

## Result and discussion

### *Creation Process*

Each artist tends to have their own personality which is influenced by the unique abilities in their respective works. In the process of creating this work, the author uses experimental techniques. Primadi explained that the creation process was divided into two stages, namely the idea stage and the implementation stage. At the idea stage, it covers what happens until the idea matures. While the implementation stage is a follow-up to the idea stage. The two stages can be described in detail as follows: (1) preparation consisting of external and internal aspects (imagination, concentration, contemplation, meditation, etc.), (2) collecting materials, (3) empathy towards pre-ideas, (4) pre-incubation of ideas, (5) hatching of ideas, (6) external aspects of implementation, (7) integral aspects of implementation, and (8) high level of creativity (Primadi, 2000).

The stages in the process of realizing this work, the author tends to imagine several ideas that must be illustrated and carried out to stimulate the ability to find suitable ideas, but tend to be suddenly uncertain when finding interesting ideas. So the author opens his mind to consider between media and techniques so that they are adapted to the concept and visuals. Below are the works that were created, namely:

Initial creative process, considering various media and mediums to explore new forms. One of the author applied the magazine by tearing the parts of the figures that would be used in this artwork and pasting them on cardboard to make a collage. Next, painted imaginary figures formed with each part of the magazine clipping figure using acrylic paint spontaneously. The last step is to stick the cardboard on the canvas for display.

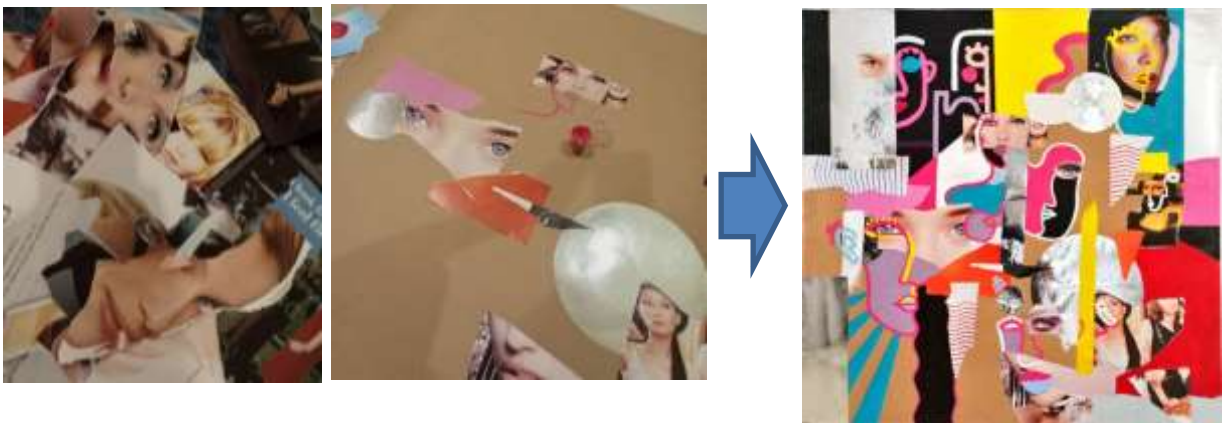


Figure 5. The initial work process to create a work entitled *Peek in the Mirror*, 90x90 cm, mix media on canvas. 2021.

This artwork visualizes mirrors that are everywhere, always accompanying humans in the world. And the object of this person figure represents the 'self' that has been described in the initial idea. And the figure implies 'self' implying the human 'self' who is feminine and feminine looking at the reflection in the mirror feeling worthless (feeling disgusted)



and and not confident in the 'self' even though the body 'self' belongs to the soul itself because it is only imperfection . Behind covering up your bad appearance by imitating others just because you are jealous of the physical surroundings that have perfection in your own eyes so you forget your true identity.

The next work is making imagination sketches which are expressions of the soul and human expression which are used as a source of inspiration to pour them into this work. The second stage, coloring the background using black acrylic paint to block the background. Figures of imaginary souls are colored with white acrylic paint directly without using pencils or sketches. The next step is to paste the metal foil which is used as a reflection object on the paper on the right. This artwork visualizes the human body using black acrylic paint.



*Figure 6* The creative process to create a work entitled Soul and Body, 100 x 80 cm, metal and acrylic paint on canvas. 2021

This artwork visualizes the figures on the right depicting body shapes consisting of babies, girls, boys, so that parents who were born on earth and can see themselves in front of their eyes through reflection or reflection with other human beings. The figure on the left depicts the spirit and soul to revive the human body every time it is born in life so that death is reborn in the next life meaning that the soul is older than this human body as our bodies belong to the 'soul' and 'spirit' created by God who Almighty so that you must be grateful and think in life even though you have weaknesses and shortcomings. As well as the form of the puzzle implies how to connect and unite the soul and body.



## Conclusion

The mirror is a metaphor for self-reflection, through every event that takes place in front of the mirror, the mirror has reflections that can be used as the main subject matter in the creation process. The message conveyed through these works of creation is that personal meaning is the result of a reflection of the spiritual relationship of the soul with the body that has experienced in living and contemplating life.

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