

“MURAL” AS A RESISTANCE MEDIA FOR ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION IN DENPASAR

I Ketut Sutarwiyasa

STMIK STIKOM Indonesia
sutardesign@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

“Mural” is from the word “Murus”(Latin) which means wall. Broadly speaking, the definition of “mural” is drawing or painting on wall, wall or other broad media that is permanent. Murals can usually be found on outdoor walls, especially those facing or can be seen from the road. The development of mural art in Denpasar is quite good, this is inseparable from the support of the local government. The Denpasar of Government encourages villages to innovate by developing creative arts in the environment. Mural art is expected to be a place of creativity for artists and young people to add to the beauty of the surrounding environment. Making the mural was facilitated by villages in Denpasar. In addition, mural arts are expected to become a new source of income and empower the surrounding communities that are managed to become new tourist destinations in the middle of the city. Aside from being a means to beautify the face of the city, murals also become one of the aspirational media, especially those that contain social criticism, anxiety, and disappointment expressed by artists/local communities, such as some mural arts created around the Badung Market - Denpasar. The murals were made by emphasizing the protest message about the increasing environmental pollution in Denpasar. The message he delivered also looked unique by displaying a figure of a dancer or Balinese person who uses a nose mask, so that it is very easy for people to digest. This is in line with Marxist aesthetics which say that works of art can be very dependent on the environment, both in terms of content and form. The closeness of mural art to the public was used as a medium of resistance in the hope that the issues of environmental pollution raised could reach the people who saw the mural.

Keywords: Mural, Resistance, Environmental Pollution

INTRODUCTION

Environmental pollution is a very serious problem to be overcome as soon as possible, because it involves safety, health, and our lives. Anyone can participate in solving this environmental pollution problem, including us. Starting from the smallest environment, ourselves, to the wider environment, namely the government. The problems of environmental pollution that we must immediately overcome together include pollution of ground and river water, soil contamination by garbage, acid rain, global climate change, ozone layer depletion, radioactive contamination, and urban air pollution.

In big cities, the contribution of motor vehicle exhaust gas as a source of air pollution reaches 60-70%. The use of fuel oil in the transportation sector, especially gasoline, will emit compounds such as CO (carbon monoxide), and also carbon dioxide (CO₂). Excessive CO₂ emissions are the cause of greenhouse gases that cause global warming which results in climate change, therefore there must be a serious effort to reduce these CO₂ emissions. One of the major cities in Indonesia that is actively implementing CO₂ emissions reduction is the Denpasar City, because it is the city with the highest level of pollution in the Bali Province.

The biggest cause of air pollution in the city of Denpasar is due to the operation of motor vehicles in the Denpasar City area which is already out of balance with the available roads. The increase in air pollution in the Denpasar City is also caused by the increasing number of migrants living in dense urban areas. Therefore, various environmental problems faced by Denpasar City require consistent and integrated management and control of environmental impacts. This is related to efforts to increase stakeholder participation and

changes in community behavior in protecting the surrounding environment. Therefore, the mural artists in Denpasar have a concern for the environment in which they live, by taking part in voicing their criticisms / protests that are not only addressed to the community, but also to the local city government, so the mural art media is chosen to convey these aspirations.

DISCUSSION

Mural is a street art that has long been present in Indonesia. Even since the Japanese colonial era Mural has been found in this country. The form can be in the form of graffiti, paintings, or a combination of the two that use the existing media on the roadside wall. To make it, this mural art does not require permission from the government or the building owner because it is called street art. It was said that the issue of this permit which later made the murals was classified as vandalism. In addition, it is called street art because it utilizes street walls, this work is truly present on the road so that anyone who passes by can enjoy the work of art.

The development of murals at the present time is even more widespread we can find on every wall in the corner of the city, including in the Denpasar City. The friendliness of the city towards the art world encourages murals to continue to flourish here. Murals that we can find in this city are of various types. There are commercial ones intended for the promotion of a certain product, some contain moral messages and the values of the local community, and there are also those that contain criticism of the local government. This last type will be further discussed in this paper, especially those relating to criticism of environmental pollution.

Mural artists try to reconstruct their understanding of reality in the resulting work. They poured their anxiety back on environmental conditions, especially those that occurred in Denpasar City. It's not difficult to find murals that contain criticism of artists to the government or those who are considered elite groups. This phenomenon is of interest to the writer because they take action, express ideas and ideas they have through street art or murals. These artists have hopes that their images or artwork will have an influence on society. Because the effects of increasing environmental pollution have also been felt by the surrounding community. Mural is considered as a media to fight, criticize, and remind the public and the government of the dangers of environmental pollution for future generations.

They tried to communicate ideas and express their criticism of the government in taking policy as the dominant party in Indonesia's current democratic system. It needs to be understood that murals are visual presentations in public spaces. So the mural has a social function. Just as in the era of independence, murals were used as a medium to ignite the people's enthusiasm against colonialism, today murals are also used as resistance media to government policies or the capitalist system. Murals can not be understood just like what is in the picture. There is another message that artists want to convey through their artwork, namely resistance. Through murals, the wall on the side of the road in Denpasar becomes something that has meaning. They become a sign that seems to live and talk to people passing by and watching them. As shown in picture 1, three Balinese dancers who use masker, we can easily understand the meaning and purpose of the maker, namely they want to convey that the Balinese people in general are very disturbed by air pollution that occurs in their area.



Picture 1. Balinese dancer with a masker

Their identity as artists is constructed through the street art they produce. Then from there people will also be more familiar with the problem that environmental pollution that occurs in the Denpasar City can be miserable for the lives of the community and its future generations.

The mural was chosen as a medium that was considered easy to understand because its form and contents were adjusted to the socio-cultural conditions of its people. Because murals are on the street walls that can be accessed by the general public, the presence of murals can be important to shape public opinion. Anyone passing by the mural, intentionally or not, will see the mural and read the message the mural is about to convey. Although the interpretation of each person who reads can differ from the murals presented, but with high ideas and artistic touches it makes it easy for the audience to understand what the contents of the mural are. As in picture 2, it depicts a mother holding her child wearing a masker over the nose. We can clearly conclude the meaning contained in the mural, namely that environmental pollution (air) that occurs at this time is very dangerous for parents and new generations.



Picture 2. Mother and son with masker

Thus, a mural made by mural artists in the Denpasar City is an image made with the aim of criticism and resistance, which contains the meaning or message to be conveyed to the city government and the wider community. The message contained in the mural is a social problem that occurs, especially in environmental pollution where the mural was made so as to be able to represent the circumstances in accordance with the context in which the social space is produced. The mural was made with the hope that people care about the environment, as well as the government of Denpasar City to make strategic policies to address the environmental pollution.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Mural art is a place of creativity for artists and young people to add to the beauty of the surrounding environment. The mural was facilitated by villages and villages in the city of Denpasar. In addition, mural art is expected to be a new source of income and empower the surrounding community which is managed to become a new tourist destination in the middle of the city. Apart from being a means to beautify the face of the city, murals are also one of the media to convey aspirations, especially those containing social criticism, anxiety, and disappointment as outlined by artists/local communities, such as some mural art made around the Badung Market - Denpasar. The murals were made with a message of protest about the increasing environmental pollution in the Denpasar City.

The message it conveys also looks unique by displaying the figure of dancers or Balinese people who wear nose masker, making it very easy for the public to digest. This is in line with the marxist aesthetic which says that artwork can be highly dependent on the environment, both in content and form. The closeness of mural art with the public is used as a medium of criticism with the hope that environmental pollution issues raised can reach the people who see the mural. The development of murals in the Denpasar City which continues to increase must be realized by various parties, both the general public and the government. The public as a mural reader and wall provider as a medium for making murals must be more understanding about murals so that they can determine actions in responding to murals that are appropriate and should be appreciated and given permission to draw on the wall. The community should also be more sensitive to various problems that occur in their social environment, especially with the messages delivered through murals, it should be easier to understand these things and can do something to respond to social problems that are happening in Denpasar City.

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