

Strategizing Alternative Visual Artworks Medium through Upcycle Textile

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Abstract

This research aims to provide a procedural process of recycled textiles as an alternative medium in visual artwork. In this study, recycled textiles are not processed to become fibers. However, textile waste will be segregated, selected, sorted, cut and combined as new materials through vernacular techniques. The study is divided into a Recycled Textile Analysis Innovation (RTAI) and a Recycled Textile Production (RTP) for visual artwork adapting from Multiple Creative Talent by Calvin W. Tylor. The significance of this study will be showcased through the 'Lestari Perca' exhibition to promote awareness in recycling textile through art-making.

Keywords: Recycle textile; Alternative Medium; Visual Artwork; Fine Art

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1.0 Introduction

In the last 15 years, clothing production has doubled its production, from 50 billion units to over 100 billion units a year with the phenomenon of 'fast fashion' (Ellen, 2017). This trend is noticeable in the UK, where the number of garments sold increased by 60% in 1995–2005 (Morley, 2006). This business model encourages consumers to buy more and this will result in excess waste. So it is no wonder why so much dumping of textile waste is produced. In Malaysia, Kloth Care, Selangor Youth Community, Life Line Clothing Malaysia and SWCorp are among the statutory bodies that are very active in running recycling campaigns. Various activities, campaigns and competitions are conducted to draw the community's attention to the importance of recycling. This includes the 'Fabric Recycling Movement' campaign, which started in 2018 to this day. From August 2018 to May 2020, Kloth Cares has successfully collected textiles around the Klang Valley, Malacca and Negeri Sembilan. During the 22 months of the campaign, 608,000 kg of textile waste was collected, and this amount is equivalent to 3.6 million pieces of clothing. (Kloth Cares Fabric Recycling Movement Data, 2020).

Under responsibility, researchers are motivated to produce studies on recycled materials and turn them into works of art by taking hold of textile waste as the primary material in creating visual artwork. Throughout this study, the concept of innovation and creativity will be accentuated for producing quality work through the theory of Multiple Creative Talent (Taylor, 1956). Furthermore, to improve the skills in handling these recycled textile materials. It is believed that these skills are essential and should be developed simultaneously with academics.

These skills are also important for helping to develop thinking skills necessary for evaluating knowledge to develop new knowledge or solutions for a problem. As a complex process, the approach would include cognitive, affective and psychometric measures. This statement reinforces the main purpose of this research; thus, valuable and innovative work is produced.

Producing work from recycled materials requires high precision and creativity. The artist needs to think about manipulating waste to the aspect of the final quality of the work, to substantiate that it is equivalent to works that are used in oil paints, acrylics or other materials

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produced. In Malaysia, several artists are consistent with this recycled media. As an example, a work by Nor Tijan Firdaus. He ventured into the electronic waste media with a resin finishing on its surface. Tijan was able to accomplish the techniques by using the waste materials proficiently. Among his works are 'Guernica After Pablo Picasso 1937' and 'After School Pupils.' Mohd Fairuz Paisan is an artist who uses media from used woods. This media can be handled well by Fairuz on account of his carpentry skills. Among his works are 'Tajur Ikan - The Story Behind the Fish' 2018 and his latest work was obtained by buyers in his solo exhibition, 'Bungo Ponggo - Burning Flower' 2020. Mohd Razif Mohd Rathi is a sculptor who uses HDPE plastic media melted down and reshaped to produce sculptures. Among his sculptures is 'The Aftermath Thinker' 2016, which had won second place in the 3R competition, and his latest work was called 'The Last Hope' 2020. This is among the examples of artists who consistently used recycled media in the production of their works. Specifically, no artists or researchers consistently use recycled textiles as the main medium in their work. This research will focus on analyzing textile waste from the initial process to the final process in the production of works, as there is still no specific study on the use of this media. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) consist of 17 Goals consented by the United Nations (UN) at the UN General Assembly in September 2015, in New York, USA, to be attained in 2030 as a plan for humanity's development and welfare and earth. This goal continues the Millennium Development Goals, which ended in 2015 and is part of UN General Assembly Resolution 70/1, Agenda 2030. (Department of Statistics Malaysia, 2020) The conceptual framework of this study uses an interdisciplinary concept integrated with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and SDG 12, i.e., target 12.8 stated by 2030. This ensures that everyone in every part of the world will have access to the information and awareness relevant to sustainable development and lifestyle in line with the demands of nature.



Fig. 1: 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) according to United Nation 2015

2.0 Research Motivation

Daroyah.A (2020) has stressed that artists, designers and art practitioners need to take waste as a new material in art production activities. She also called on these creative people to create work by turning waste into something that could bring in income. This statement prompted researchers to produce research on recycled textiles as the main material for producing visual artwork. According to waste statistics, Malaysians estimating to produce almost 38,000 tons of waste every day. With that being said, an estimated 32.4% of waste can still be recycled. Textiles are among the recycled waste generated other than plastic, paper, iron, and aluminum (National Solid Waste Management Department, 2012). This statement supports the scope of the researcher's studies to select recycled textiles as the main media.

2.1 Scope of The Study

The scope of the study for this research will be focusing on the creation of 2D and 3D visual artwork based on recycled textiles in the perspective of innovation and creativity based on the theory of Multiple Creative Talent by Calvin W.Taylor by applying the fourth principle; Creativity and innovation. The conceptual framework of this research is an interdisciplinary concept in which art is integrated with the concept of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 12). The main key concept of this art is innovation, technique and style in analyzing recycled textiles using the Multiple Creative Talent Theory by Calvin W.Taylor.

Following the studio project, the process of sketching and idea development will be produced by various sewing techniques, such as embroidery, paste patchwork, collage, weaving or a combination of two or more techniques. In contrast, the exploration of style will emphasize the characteristics, quality, ideas and style of textiles and designs produced. The use of sewing machines and heat guns is among the tools used during the exploration process.

The main purpose of this study is to look into the potential of recycled textiles as innovative and creative visual artwork. These 2D and 3D works will be displayed in the final exhibition of 'Lestari Perca' in public areas to raise awareness and share the message of environmental sustainability.

Therefore, the objective of the study has been segregated into 3:

- Analyzing the potential usability of recycled textiles in the production of visual arts works.
- Create and identify the techniques and styles during the production of artwork visuals.
- To fabricate artwork through the usability of recycled textiles for exhibition.
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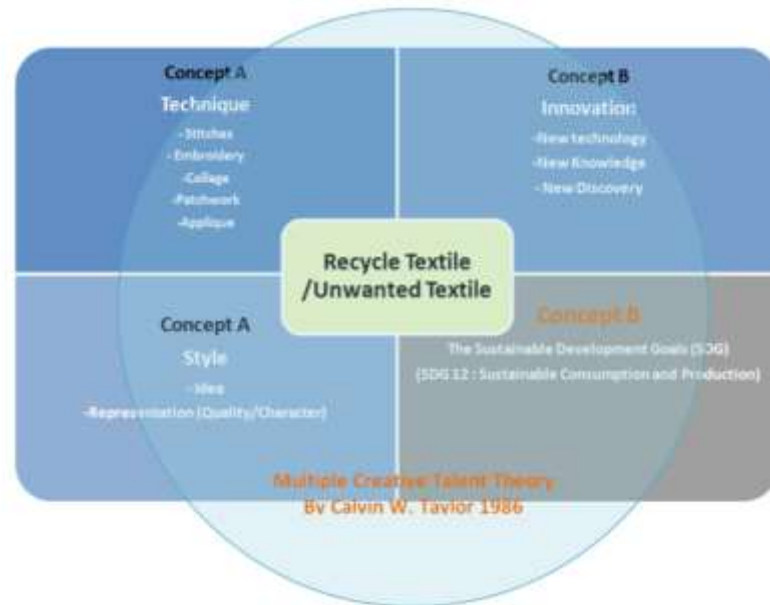


Fig. 2: Research conceptual framework: Interdisciplinary

3.0 Methodology

This study uses the Art-Based Research method and research question model. The production of creative work and documentation of work movements will occur throughout this study through creative and innovative exploration in a studio. The study is divided into two parts, which are a Recycled Textile Analysis Innovation (RTAI) and the Recycled Textile Production (RTP) for visual artwork adapting from Multiple Creative Talent by Calvin W. Taylor (the year 1976). Taylor has suggested five types of creativity to show the level of difference in the creativity process that takes place in one individual with another. The types of creativity are (1)expressive, (2)creation, (3)inventive, (4)innovation, and (5)imaginative.

This study focuses on the fourth creativity which is Creativity and Innovation, it is a stage that involves the modification of existing basic concepts to new ideas. At this stage the artist begins to make innovations through modifications applying their own styles and techniques. Educators can help and guide the artist to identify the correct method of implementation. Artist have also begun to act outside of conventional methods and come up with alternative methods for every plan they make.

The exploration of this innovation analysis uses various techniques used in embroidery, patchwork, collage, weaving or a combination of two or more techniques. At the same time, the exploration of the style produced will focus more on the nature, quality, ideas, and style of textiles and designs. Both processes will occur simultaneously. The theory of Multiple Creative Talent by Calvin W. Taylor will be applied when this exploratory process occurs. Upon completing the analysis process of recycled textile innovations, the findings obtained will be processed to produce visual artwork. The innovation of these findings will be arranged in the composition of the artwork. The 2D and 3D visual artwork produced will be displayed in the final exhibition 'Lestari Perca' in public spaces to view and appreciate the sustainability of nature.



Fig. 3: Research conceptual model of RTAI and RTP adapted from Multiple Creative Talent Calvin W. Taylor (1976)

Figure 3 on top represents the procedural model shaped by authors through 3 main steps of how the Theory of Multiple Creative Talent by Calvin W.Taylor and the aspect of formalism (basic principles of art) being adapted through the overall process. These three levels performed as fundamental principles within the studio work. From collecting materials, cleaning, exploration, innovation findings, production of 2D and 3D artworks.



Fig. 4: Work process Step 1 (RQ/RO1)

Step 1:

At the initial stage of Step 1, the researcher must take the textile waste at the Cloth Care recycling center and the first studio work is the waste segregation process. The textile waste that is shredded, dirty and damaged will be cut and discarded. Once the cleaning and washing process is done, selecting the type and quality of the textile waste will take place. This is in line with RQ/ RO1: To analyze the suitability of waste, this process will be recorded systematically for data collection.

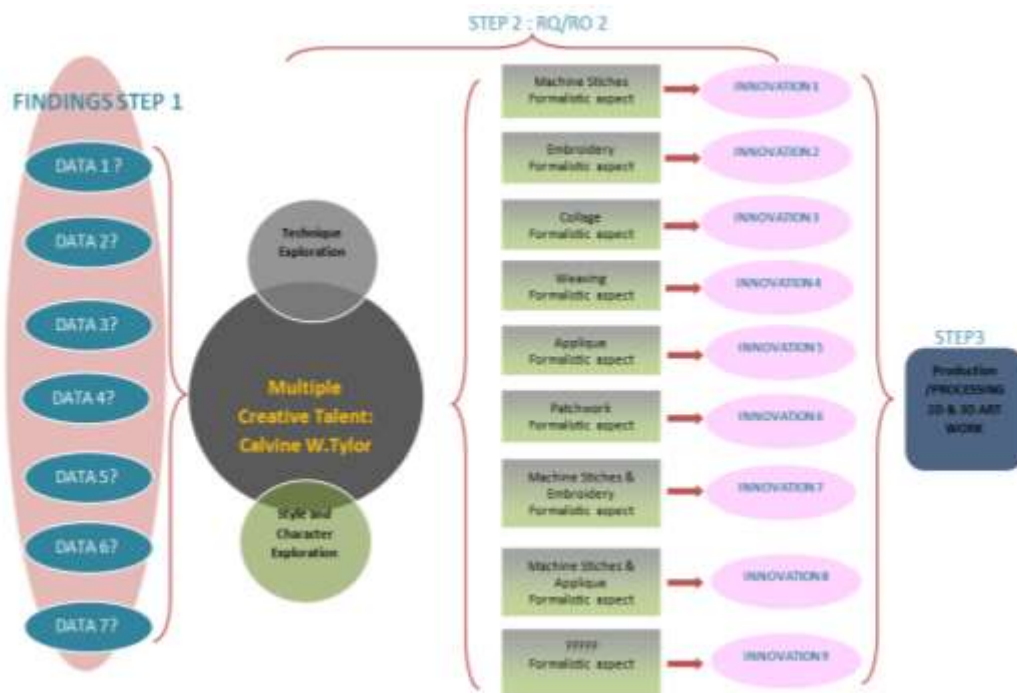


Fig. 5: Workflow for Step 2 (RQ/RO2)



Fig. 6: Technique and Style Exploration – Artwork Fabric manipulation samples.

Step 2:

In this second work movement, the studio work is still in progress; a review of the initial analysis data will be prepared for the process of technical exploration and style exploration. These two processes will run simultaneously. This phase is in line with RQ / RO 2: Creating and identifying waste techniques, styles, and innovations. The Theory Multiple Creative Talent by Taylor and its formalistic aspects will be applied in this exploratory process. Each stage starting from data survey, exploration, and idea generation, will be recorded.

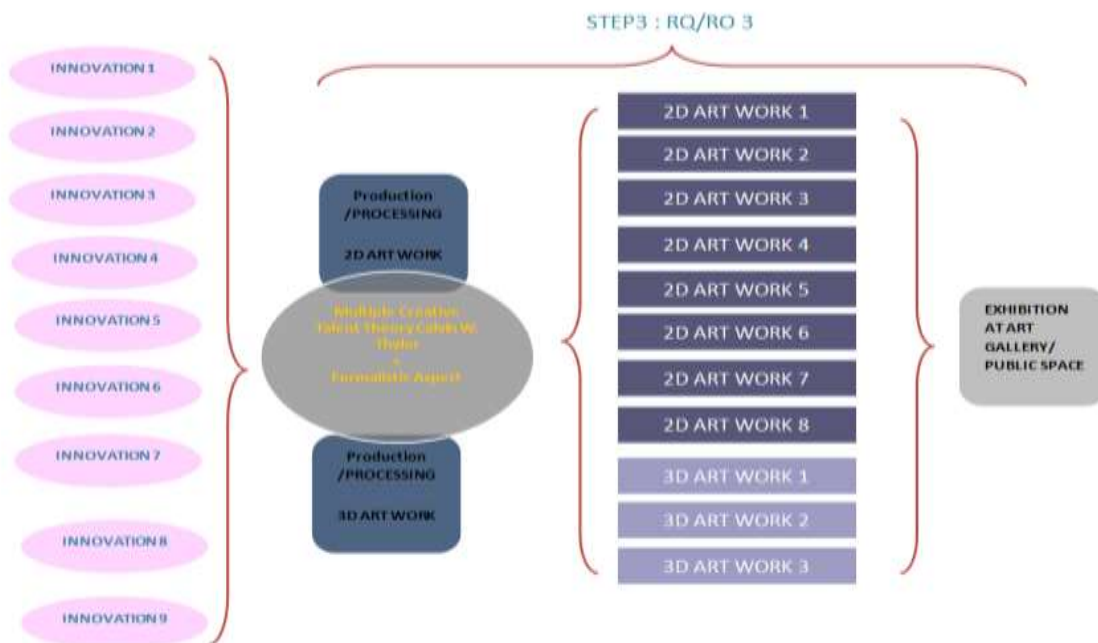


Fig. 7: Workflow for Step 3 (RQ/RO 3)



Art work in progress
Calico used as based of artwork.



Composing artwork through
computer



Applique technique,
marking process before stitching.



Machine sewing process, layer 2
various colors



Closeup image, each layer will use
a different yarn color to create the
distance.



Work in progres. Using discarded
textile, applique, collage and
embroydery technique.

Fig. 8: Production / Processing of artwork.

Title : My Messy Journey 2021



Title : Mystical Land 2021



Title : Love Message 2021



Title : Bunga Kuyit Kelapa Tumbuh 2021



Title : Poly texture 2021



Title : Bunga Kuyit (work on progress) 2021



Fig. 9: An example of artwork by exploration technique and media from Recycled Textile.

Step 3:

Step 3 will be answering the question of RQ / RO3 as evidence of the usability of textile waste materials' potential for environmental sustainability. The technical and style innovation analysis findings in Step 2 will be composed in the production of 2D or 3D works. Taylor's theory of Multiple Creative Talent and formalistic aspects are still applied in this process. Eight from 2D works and 3 3D works of various sizes will be produced. The studio work movement will be systematically documented. The work created will be displayed at the '*Lestari Perca*' exhibition held in a public space to give a message to the public on environmental sustainability.

4.0 Findings and Discussion

Throughout the procedural presented overviewing from literature and researchers research design, the study's findings indicate the potential to strategize an alternative visual artworks medium through upcycling textile. This research is important as a documentation process as a reference to artists, craft entrepreneurs, academics, and art students. Nevertheless, this research also provides opportunities to generate an idea for craftsmen and craft product designers working with limited material resources. It proves that by using recycled materials, the cost of producing works can be reduced. Artists who use recycled textiles do not need other media such as oil paints or acrylics in producing artwork. The process of using recycled materials can be provided as a new idea and problem-solving (with limited materials and high capital) in generating their creativity. In addition, it can reduce the costs involved in waste disposal management.

5.0 Conclusion & Recommendations

In conclusion, this research study promotes Sustainable Development Goal, especially in upcycling waste material, which aligns with the Solid Waste Management and Public Cleansing Act 2020 (Act 672); recycling means collecting and segregating solid waste to produce products. Recycling occurs when materials are processed and produced as the same product. It turns waste materials into valuable resources. In addition, it serves as a resource for environmental, financial and social benefits. Materials such as glass, iron, plastic, paper and textiles are collected, separated and sent to the processing centers by converting them into new products or materials.

The output from this study is represented through visual works generated from the findings of the recycled textile analysis. This research also benefits artists, craft entrepreneurs, academics, and art students as academic literature materials and techniques through a document of a published report. As for the artist, experimental ideas from recycled textiles can represent a new medium for artistic works while cost-efficient through its material availability. In addition, it educates the community as the reuse of discarded textiles can decrease the waste clothes disposal impact through creative innovation approach.

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