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**New Norm Documentation:  
Solidarity of solitary in art making**

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**Abstract**

Positive Covid-19 instances are becoming more common every day. To reduce everyday cases, the government has taken a variety of actions. It logically follows from the absence of cohesiveness among the community. This work of art aims to provide social commentary by using assemblage paintings as a record to promote communal cohesion. Overall, the results demonstrate that a few social groups' steadfast contempt for Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) has led to the failure of countless programmes. In order to reduce the incidence of infection, the populace must be united and accept government orders.

Keywords: Painting, Mixed Media, Assemblage, Covid-19

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**1.0 Introduction**

This research focuses on how the research data related to the material, as well as the ideas or theories that were utilized in the production of the artwork. In this chapter, the focus is on the methods of data collecting employed to obtain the most appropriate information for this study. There will also be some discussion over the validity and dependability of this research. In the end, it will discuss the methodology of the established analysis. When examining the character of this study, these considerations were taken into account at the same time.

**2.0 Literature Review**

The researcher has reached a firm conclusion on the problem that has been resolved by numerous studies and whose title is "New Norms Documentation: Solidarity of Solitary in the Artwork Making." The researcher chose this topic because it is still a contentious issue and because it is relevant to the global scenario that is currently taking place. As a member of one of the communities affected by the new rules due to the pandemic breakout, the researcher seized the chance. The researcher's primary goal is to produce material that serves as social commentary or a personal response to promote awareness of solidarity in the fight against COVID-19. The researcher felt compelled and inspired to respond to the surroundings and current events with this notion. Because it is one of the significant times and has become a part of national and global history, researchers believe it to be crucial for both themselves and society as a whole. It is the job of the researcher to create art reflecting this current topic that can be stored in personal archives or used as significant records. The researcher was intrigued by an excerpt from sister Nur Fitri's article titled "Make a full PKP, if the people are still stubborn" that appeared

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in the Harakah newspaper on June 3, 2021. The researcher concurs with the newspaper comment since it is our responsibility as members of society to work together and not place blame. In this study, the researcher highlights the "solidarity in solitary" action of self-lockdown as a responsibility and proactive measure that needs to be carried out by individuals at the same time that the government effectively carries out its obligations. It was a show of support for the researcher's attempt to equate a positive case graph and break the Covid-19 chain. A licenced counsellor, Abu Harith (2019), claims that "self-lockdown" is a sign of empathy. Additionally, it shows that we stand with, comprehend, and empathize with every frontline worker who is putting in great effort to combat the still-active Covid-19. Especially among individuals who take a deep interest in national events, the researcher's soul-searching works are infused with subtle and symbolic aspects that inspire a sense of togetherness. In order to encourage the audience to learn from what happened and view it positively, the researcher sought to create a new series of assemblage pieces. It is our duty as members of society to raise awareness of the value of social cohesion. Self-lockdown is one of the duties or "solidarity activities" that must be carried out in order to deal with this calamity.

Solidarity of solitude requires that every community "self lockdown" in their own homes and cut itself off from the outside world. The adoption of new standards that are "strange" and "abnormal" (extensive hand washing, germ paranoia, maintaining social distance, etc.) is not a problem to normalize in life all day, claims Rachev (2020) in his article on "Lockdown Theory". Not being paranoid or being composed enough to keep your distance from others is the issue. That phrase can be read to mean that, although it is the best course of action in the fight against Coronavirus, it is very difficult for society to be temporarily cut off from society.

Social commentary is the use of rhetorical techniques to make a statement about a certain social issue in terms of race, politics, morals, or even religion. A study by Husaini, Musaffa, and Adzrool (2013) found that one alternative strategy for changing how society perceives and sees social issues is to provide social commentary to the general public. Social commentary or social critique is undoubtedly nothing new because it has been around for a very long time, and the techniques utilized have evolved over time.

The medium of art is strong and effective for making social commentary. An artist is a very special person since they are a social issue's reflection, translator, and sometimes even mediator. In order to exercise social commentary without any figurative subject, the researcher alternately used another metaphor to associate the topic with the ongoing issues on Covid19. This was done so that the researcher could engage in social commentary without any figurative subject. To make work that avoids using conventional mediums is not a new approach.

Suhaimi Fadzil is a contemporary artist who is well-known for his work referred to as "arch-painting." This term refers to a blend of non-conventional mediums in one piece of artwork. The significance of unity and racial peace in Malaysia is emphasized in work titled "Warung Kita: The Tarik and Nasi Lemak.". The artist pick-themed stall because Malaysia is a country rich in foods other than the ability to unite people where the 'warung' is a place to watch the races of India, China, and Malay sit in a harmonious atmosphere while enjoying their meal. Artist pick-themed stall because Malaysia is a country rich in foods other than the ability to unite people. It is an experimental piece that makes use of objects that hold many meanings and may frequently be found at stalls. This piece of work is appropriate for use as a reference since it is intricately connected to the investigation in which the application of methods results in the realization of unity. The researchers chose to use building toy blocks as the primary material because the fundamental idea behind the play required a sense of unity. According to the experts, the toy block is a representation of hope and desire, and in the context of the circumstance that we are currently in, unity is hope.

Thaler and Sunstein (2019) contend that the artistic interpretation of social commentary can aid those who view it from a different perspective in better understanding their surroundings and becoming more receptive to the possibility of influencing social behaviour. It is the responsibility of the artist to make art more accessible and understandable so that society may fully benefit from it and perhaps effect change in societal issues.

Contrary to Danto's (1995) assertions, works that incorporate social commentary no longer fit within the framework of art history. According to Danto, "whatever art there is will be made without benefit in terms of a convincing narrative. It is not his perspective that there will be no more art." To address specific social issues in the creation of artistic works, however, one must approach art theory from this perspective. It is unadulterated, authentic, and palpable, but it is also the most adaptive in society and has a quick effect.

This section will go into greater detail on the history of assemblage art as well as how mixed media is utilized to create artwork. The influence of the art movement, the use of materials, the process it uses, the institutional setting, and the market for the art scene have all seen significant changes over the history of the world of art. Grabher (2004) asserts that contemporary art depends on a combination pattern of "temporary or serial."

The history of assemblage art dates back to the early 20th century when Pablo Picasso created a still life cubism painting on canvas by adhering a piece of oil tablecloth to a print of a chair. It is a leading artist's first collage creation in art history. Picasso kept experimenting with mixed materials, creating miniature cabbage-shaped sculptures out of bits of cardboard and wood. Georges Braque pioneered the use of newspapers in the creation of art, while Juan Gris merged oil paint works with other elements, including mirrors and pictures.

Every creation of a piece of art, according to Seitz (1961), is translated through the infusion of material with passion. In the realm of visual art, the term "assembly" refers to a complex of attitudes and ideas in addition to relying on certain technical techniques and forms employed in music and literature. Assembled works are appealing to artists to produce because they demonstrate a thorough mastery of the subject matter together with clever notions and ideas, and they also suit the contemporary market's demand for modern art.

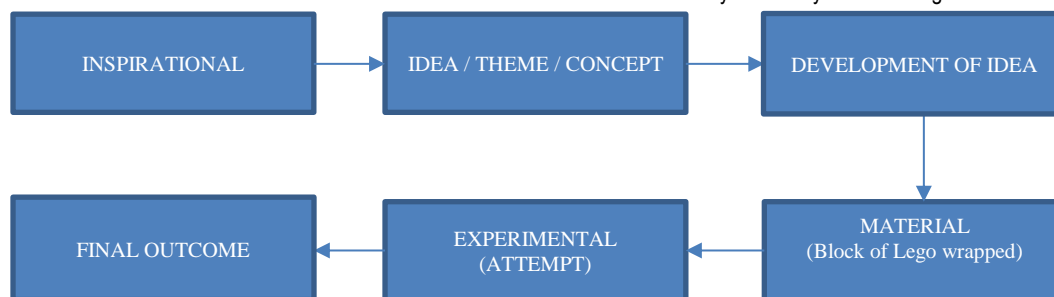
The researcher used the concept of modular art in the creation of works to bolster the thesis. The modular concept is essentially the coupling of a standard unit (a module) with a standard unit (a modular) to create a larger and more complicated composition.

The first piece of art to reflect the idea of modularity as a stand-alone art subject was White Painting by Robert Rauschenberg in 1951. Rauschenberg repeated the subject that year but in a three- and seven-linear format that might go on forever. Along with other artists like Tomy Smith, Sol LeWitt, Constantin Brancusi, and many more who make use of the modular idea. Smith's results demonstrate how the idea of modularity evolved from a compositional technique to a creative theme. The use of modular concepts in art enables the artist to

think conceptually more broadly and to re-contextualize endlessly. The modular design also enables the artist to rearrange an existing piece using its component components to create visual possibilities of unimagined new and fresh situations. The researcher uses the modular notion to support the artist's claim in the context of the creation of works of art, where the core modular concept is the idea of merging or unity. A complex composition is created by the combination of the symbolic units used to represent each member of society.

### 3.0 Methodology

Table 1: The flow chart of New Norm Documentation: Solidarity of Solitary in Art Making.



#### 3.1 Inspirational

There must be something inspirational that stayed with us from our day-to-day life experiences or that prompted us to think about a response to something in order to find it. In this instance, we are connected to the new standard that prevails during a pandemic.

#### 3.2 Idea / Theme / Concept

In the beginning, the researcher was thinking about something, and it could have been something significant, something unimportant, or anything else that was on his mind at the time that was relevant to the experiences he had had in the past at that time.

#### 3.3 Development of Idea

On paper, researchers will begin scribbling or sketching ideas regarding the possibility of an endeavour. After that, the researcher will attempt to draw some serious sketches and will perform some simulations of several ideas.

#### 3.4 Material

After the drawing has been created, the artist will do experiments with the material, which will already be in its finished form, in order to gain a better understanding of the level of sophistication that can be generated with the material. With relatively minor manipulation of the primary material in conjunction with additional materials, one might generate a new potential probability of material or new effect, so transforming it into a new element in the process of producing a work.

#### 3.5 Experimental

We are able to see the researcher's ultimate judgement on the styles, materials, and structure of the artwork based on the last drawing that they created. Concerning the material, the mixed-media experimental attempt needs to be executed since we need to be aware that the combination material was the proper decision. The artist creates a number of miniature works to serve as a mock-up for the larger work by making use of the primary materials as well as the results of the various experiments that have been conducted. Nevertheless, this smaller piece is a component of the study that is being done in order to get a better knowledge of the body of work that is being created.

#### 3.6 Final Outcome

The researcher began their investigation at the actual surface. The simulation has been completed in the early phases, which has made the production of artwork much smoother. However, due to the changing dimensions and the use of a different material, it is possible that the simulation parts cannot be transferred one hundred per cent.

The usage of modular notions in art provides the researcher with the ability to conceive intellectually in a more expansive manner and to re-contextualize in an unending fashion. The term "modular art" refers to a type of visual art that is formed by piecing together smaller, prefabricated parts called "modules" to create larger, more intricate compositions. The artist is also given the opportunity, thanks to the modular design, to reorganize an existing piece by making use of the piece's component in order to generate visual possibilities of previously unimagined new and original circumstances.

The researcher uses Lego bricks that have been wrapped in newspaper to represent the modular notion, which represents the idea of merging together, also known as unity. The combination of the symbolic units that are utilized to represent each individual member of a society results in the creation of an intricate composition (society).



Fig 1: Data Collective (Newspaper Excerpt)



Figure 2: The collected information, including theories and concepts that were used and related to the study are infused into the final sketches and drawings that were created.



Figure 3: New Norm II, 150 cm x 90 cm, Ads Material, Newspaper and Lacquer Spray in Wood Frame, 2021

## 6.0 Conclusion

According to the results of the entire study, researchers' critical thinking skills have been developed through reading and interpreting theories, histories, concepts, and references.

The researcher is capable of using his comprehension of the modular art concept as the primary support in the creation of works. To create larger and more complicated work compositions, researchers employed children's building blocks as modules and newspapers as important work components.

An excellent piece of writing is one that is supported by a theory or notion and ongoing research to accomplish all the study's goals. To be able to generate more scholarly works, an art student also has to have a working knowledge of both local and global art history.

Researchers are able to recognize issues from a variety of perspectives to develop work. In order to bring fresh attractions and create their own aesthetic value for the audience who appreciate them, researchers might solve problems by doing study and using unusual materials. With the help of ideas and notions that give the work new meaning, researchers can challenge themselves to create art that is unconventional and does not employ traditional materials as aspects of the work.

### 6.1.1 Suggestions

The research study highlights the significance of the necessity for numerous reference sources for researchers to produce high-quality work. All the information gleaned from an in-depth study can result in high-calibre production when applied to an intriguing work of art. Research has been somewhat hampered by the difficulty of locating physical reference materials for researchers. However, in order to get around the challenges presented by today's increasingly prevalent digital technology, academics must come up with alternative plans of action. Accessing online libraries and the open data made available by organizations are two recommendations for overcoming this.

In-depth knowledge of the materials utilized, both in terms of their history and the manufacturing process, is another idea found in the context of creating art. When we face audience inquiries, it is crucial that we provide evidence for and arguments in favour of the thesis. The materials used must also be pertinent or consistent with the message being presented.

Finally, Support systems and direction are crucial to ensuring that the study's concepts and theoretical framework stay on the right track.

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