



DEATH AND REINCARNATION AS INSPIRATION OF CREATION FINE ARTWORK

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ABSTRACT

This report contains a description of the creation of works of art that take the theme "Death and Reincarnation as Ideas in the Creation of Works of Art" which was inspired when reading a book that made the author interested in raising the theme of death in this semester IV independent project, namely the book "History of Death" from Michael Kerrigan. It reminded the author of the confusion of finding a concept and finally it was recommended to use a concept that was close, so the author raised death because there is nothing closer to death. The goal to be achieved in the creation of this work is to find out how death and reincarnation are packaged in religious sciences, cultures that exist in Indonesia, especially Bali through creativity and imagination into the form of paintings using various techniques, media, considering the elements and principles of fine art. From the written work and paintings produced, the author hopes that this work will be useful as literacy and a source of inspiration for society in the future. From the above theme, there are 5 (five) works that can be realized from death and reincarnation that can provide an overview of culture and religious science about death and reincarnation, especially in Bali.

1. INTRODUCTION

Death and reincarnation are phenomena that will continue. Death and reincarnation are also two things that will always be related and formed from human beliefs. Some religions even believe in reincarnation after death itself, whether plants, animals or humans will experience it. According to the medical world, death is when a person's heartbeat stops. Until the modern era, knowledge about death was still very limited. No one can predict his death. So it can be concluded that death is the process of separating the spirit from the damaged human body and is marked by the cessation of the functions of the human body.

Ancient cultures freely personified death, a force they painstakingly attempted to understand in the form of various deities, both cruel and benevolent, from early times. Meanwhile, more advanced societies created allegorical figures such as the Angel of Death swinging a large scythe, depicting the extraordinary ferocity of death. As one of the eternal truths of life, death unites us across time: there are many ancient



civilizations that we know only through their tombs. Nevertheless, for something that has always existed in human existence, there is surprisingly little agreement about what death is or what it represents. [1]

Death may be universal but that does not mean that death is always and everywhere the same. Instead, he has taken aspects of the extraordinary diversity of human existence. Every culture dies in a different way, just as it encounters different ways of living life. Most civilizations fear death, and despite the claims of many faiths to explain how death works, most humans find death difficult to understand. The pain of loss is always deep, however much it is mitigated by the belief that those who are gone have lived a better life elsewhere. [1]

Heidegger's view reveals death as something that is an extension of the human life process which never ends in the trap of "not yet". Therefore, according to Heidegger, life is a process towards death. Then, according to Sartre, death is sudden, blind and very absurd because it is certain but provides no choice. Meanwhile, according to Jaspers, death is the end of the life process because humans are in a state of fulfillment. From these three views, it can be concluded that death, in essence, can be seen as something subjective. Death is not universal as many people understand. Of course, the views expressed by the three characters are influenced by each character's perspective on life and the world. [2]

Death is not actually the end of everything; that there is always hope that life will come. And in some cultures they believe in reincarnation after death. Some cultures view death as nothing more than a transition to another worldly existence. The idea of reincarnation has played a role in a number of religious traditions. Faiths such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism view life as a continuous, revolving cycle of death and rebirth, known in Sanskrit as samsara (meaning 'wandering') Atman or soul, 'transmigrating' from one living body to another. others, whether humans or animals, at the lowest or highest levels of existence according to how well they have lived their lives. [1]

Reincarnation or Phunarbava according to the teachings of Hinduism is one of the beliefs in the Panca Sradha, which must be believed by Hindus. The process of Reincarnation is a unique and abstract phenomenon that requires knowledge to understand it through research. Many figures have succeeded in researching the reincarnation process. In fact, reincarnation exists and is the result of actions carried out while living on earth, if someone does good during his life then he is reborn in the same or better form, whereas if someone does evil then he will be reborn in a worse form than before. This is often called also with karma. Reincarnation will continue to occur for a person until the spirit reaches a perfect and eternal point, a place known as moksa. The process of reincarnation often occurs in someone who is reborn again in a different form but in the same atma/soul.

The principle of karma which is translated as 'action' or 'conduct' governs the interconnected placement of subsequent lives: what we do in this life will be related to the life in which we are placed next. In the words of the Brhadaranaka Upanishad: 'He who does good becomes good; those who do bad become bad. Whatever karma he does, that's what he gets'. A soul that has lived a bad life will take the 'south path' or 'path of men' when its life ends and lead to a very low level of existence in the next life. A good soul follows the 'path of the gods' which leads to a higher level of existence in the next life. Buddhism recognizes six gati or levels of existence, ranging from god to demigod, mortal and animal, to ghost and soul damned to hell. [1]

The author raises the concept of death and reincarnation because he is interested in things that are always related and can have many different meanings depending on the perspective or from where we look. Death itself gives rise to various cultures in the world depending on the beliefs in that area and

it also causes different emotions in each event. In fact, quite a few cultures or beliefs consider death to be the beginning of a new life, which can be interpreted as the process of reincarnation itself.

2. METHODS

2.1. Creation Method

The creation method is a way to create works of art systematically. Stages of creating a work of art which outlines the design of the process of creating a work of art in accordance with the stages of creating a work from getting inspiration (ideas), designing, to realizing the work of art.

The creation of good painting and dance art always goes through three stages, namely, exploration (exploration), improvisation or experimentation (improvisation or experimentation), and forming (formation or realization). [3] These stages will be explained as follows:

1. Exploration

In general, exploration is a search or exploration process aimed at finding something. The exploration referred to in this case is the first step in creating a work of art. This stage includes thinking, imagining, feeling, and responding to the object that is the source of creation.

Exploration or idea mining, in general, this process is a stage of exploration or search in the form of visual, conceptual and historical background which aims to find something that is the basis or support for the process of creating a basic idea for a work of art. Exploration is also a series of artistic activities, this is based on achieving a person's inner satisfaction in the process of exploring objects and the climax of thoughts that climax in expressing ideas in the form of works of art.

In the process of exploring ideas, the author saw and observed indirectly through social media and books related to the problems of death and reincarnation, which especially exist in Bali. These observations were carried out in order to understand more deeply about visual objects and achieve satisfaction in the visual excavation process in order to support passion in the process of creating works of art.

In intuitive work, even though it relies on the power of emotion to achieve it, a fairly intense process of aesthetic or artistic experience is required. This achievement certainly requires regular and continuous observation. Thus, the author also observes various cultures regarding death and reincarnation which are widespread in various places through books.

2. Improvisation or Experimentation

This stage provides greater opportunities for ability, talent and imagination to carry out various experiments. This stage is a stage where the emphasis is more on experimentation with the medium such as materials, techniques and tools to be used, visual exploration in the form of sketches, and organizing the visual elements that form the aesthetic value of the work. Experiments with various kinds of material selection are carried out in order to produce the discovery of artistic forms which sometimes emerge from the subconscious because in the experimentation stage there is great freedom.

The experiment itself is a trial stage in an effort to convey the results of the exploration that has been carried out by the author previously and the experiment that the author carried out was in the form of searching and finding techniques. The author contains these experiments in the form

of sketching, blocking, combining materials, and testing techniques such as wet techniques, scraping, and so on.

3. Forming (Establishment or Realization)

The embodiment stage is a process of executing various experiments that have been carried out into a work of art. This stage is the unification of various elements or elements that make up a work, namely in the form of lines, color, shape, composition, space and texture. (Scientific Journal of Fine Arts, 2013: 6). This stage is a preparation process by combining visuals resulting from various experiments based on considerations of unity, complexity and intensity, as requirements for a work of art to be called beautiful.

The formation stage in this creation is carried out by responding to the effects that arise during the experimentation stage, sometimes there is a change in thinking regarding the previous sketch design because the creative process will definitely involve intuition and the subconscious to create something new in various aspects with an aesthetic experience and artistic within the writer. The aspects in question are matters relating to composition processing, coloring, application of textures and techniques so that aesthetic and artistic expressions can be elaborated optimally.

2.2. Medium and Media

In the process of creating works of art, of course it cannot be separated from choosing the right tools and materials to create a visualization of the work that suits your wishes. In creating art, creativity in using mediums and creative media is very necessary in order to produce works that have high artistic and aesthetic value. Creativity in work is not only influenced by a person's talent but is also influenced by the will and habits in creating a work so that the medium and media used have unique characteristics in the creation process. The term medium is usually used to refer to various things related to materials (including tools and techniques) used in artistic creation. In creating this work, the author used several mediums and media as follows:

1. Material

a. Canvas Fabric

Canvas is the main medium for making paintings, here the author uses a size of 100 x 100 cm. there is also calico cloth which is used as a medium in making multimedia sculptures.

b. Pencil

Pencils are used for sketching when creating works. The types of pencils used are pencils with various levels of thickness ranging from HB to 8B. Various types of pencils were chosen so that the line elements in the work were more varied.

c. Paint

In creating this work of art, the painter used acrylic paint, wall paint and liquid pigments as well as spray can paint as the texture and coloring material for the main visual object.

d. Paper

Paper is used to create initial sketches before the work is transferred to the actual medium.

2. Tools

a. Spanram

Spanram is a wooden board that is well constructed and then shaved at an angle. The spanram selected meets the requirements for use, including that the wood used is dry, old, does not break easily, is light in weight, has a moderate level of hardness so that it can be nailed or attached to a Gun Tacker easily, and several other advantages. The spanram used in the process of realizing this work measures 100 x 100 cm.

b. Gun Tacker (Shooting Stapler)

A shooting stapler is a tool for joining canvas with spanram by inserting staples in the shape of the letter "U", which stick to the bottom of the canvas or on the spanram.

c. Palette

Pallets are used to mix colors in the process of creating works. An ergonomic palette is a palette that is flat and wide, slightly concave to avoid spilling the paint medium. The color of the palette is better white or transparent so that there is no confusion when mixing colors on it so that we can compare the colors that have just been mixed on the palette with the colors that are already in the painting.

d. Roller Painting Tool

The roller used in the process of realizing this work is a roller whose surface is without absorption. This roller is used to get the impression of different textures and scratches on the work being created. The roller can be applied unevenly to form a distinctive texture.

e. Palette Knife

Palette knives are used instead of brushes and tend to be used to play with textures in paintings. Palette knives are very good for impasto techniques on thick, not runny paint to create embossed paint effects.

f. Paintbrush

The brush is the main tool used in creating paintings. The author uses brushes for various techniques used and needed in creating painting. Brushes have various sizes that vary according to their function.

g. Bucket

Buckets are used as water containers for cleaning tools such as brushes and so on.

h. Bottle

Bottles are used to make it easier for writers to mix colors on a rather large scale when using wet techniques.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The idea for creating this work of art began with the author's question regarding the phenomenon of death and reincarnation. Many people encourage us to use the concept that is closest to ourselves, in this case the author thinks that death is the thing closest to us, because at any time we can experience death. Looking further, in Hinduism, death is not the end of life, but there is a phenomenon called Punarbhawa or Reincarnation. Many philosophers believe in the existence of this reincarnation phenomenon but there is no clear theory regarding how reincarnation occurs. Therefore, the author decided to take the theme

"Death and Reincarnation as Ideas in Creating Works of Fine Art". On this occasion, the author would like to reveal the author's thoughts inspired by various sources regarding death and reincarnation which he wants to convey through his work.

3.1. Work Identification

From several works that the author has created, several things can be identified including two aspects, namely the ideoplastic aspect and the physioplastic aspect. In the book *Appreciation of Art*, Suwarjono explains that the ideoplastic aspect is a work that is born on the basis of the creator's idea of giving birth to a form, leading to the birth of its manifestation (visual art). [4] Ideas include several other things, such as ideas that are created from a thought and are able to give birth to a form in the work, apart from that, ideas also underlie the overall meaning of the work created and this ideoplastic aspect is the main thing for the author in finding a title for the entire work. In this case the author wants to present a visual perspective of what the author captures regarding Death and Reincarnation, especially Hinduism, in the form of works of fine art. The author emphasizes color symbols and geometric shapes to translate the author's thoughts into work.

Suwarjono in the book *Appreciation of Art* explains that the physioplastic aspect presents art forms through technical aspects without prioritizing the idea of creating art itself. [4] The author describes the physioplastic aspect of techniques for arranging visual elements of fine art by combining principles which are part of the visual form in the work, which are implemented in 4 works of painting, 1 work of multimedia sculpture, and 1 installation art in the form of:

1. Form of work

The author, in creating works of painting, is interested in combining the styles of abstract painting and cubism with the aim of expressing line expressions as well as visual embodiment of works of art that are artistically imaginative with other visual supports.

2. Painting Techniques

In the process of creating the work, the author uses two overall techniques, one of which is a wet technique and a dry technique.

3. Meaning of Painting

In each visual that the author creates, there are different nuances in each of his works, which have their own meaning. So that when presented each work does not have a monotonous impression. The visual objects created are depictions of the author's ideas that adapt to the meaning to be conveyed in the work of fine art.

3.2. Discussion

The results of painting works with the theme *The Impact of Deforestation as an Idea in Creating Painting Works* in the MBKM, Independent Study/Project program with six works which will be described as follows:

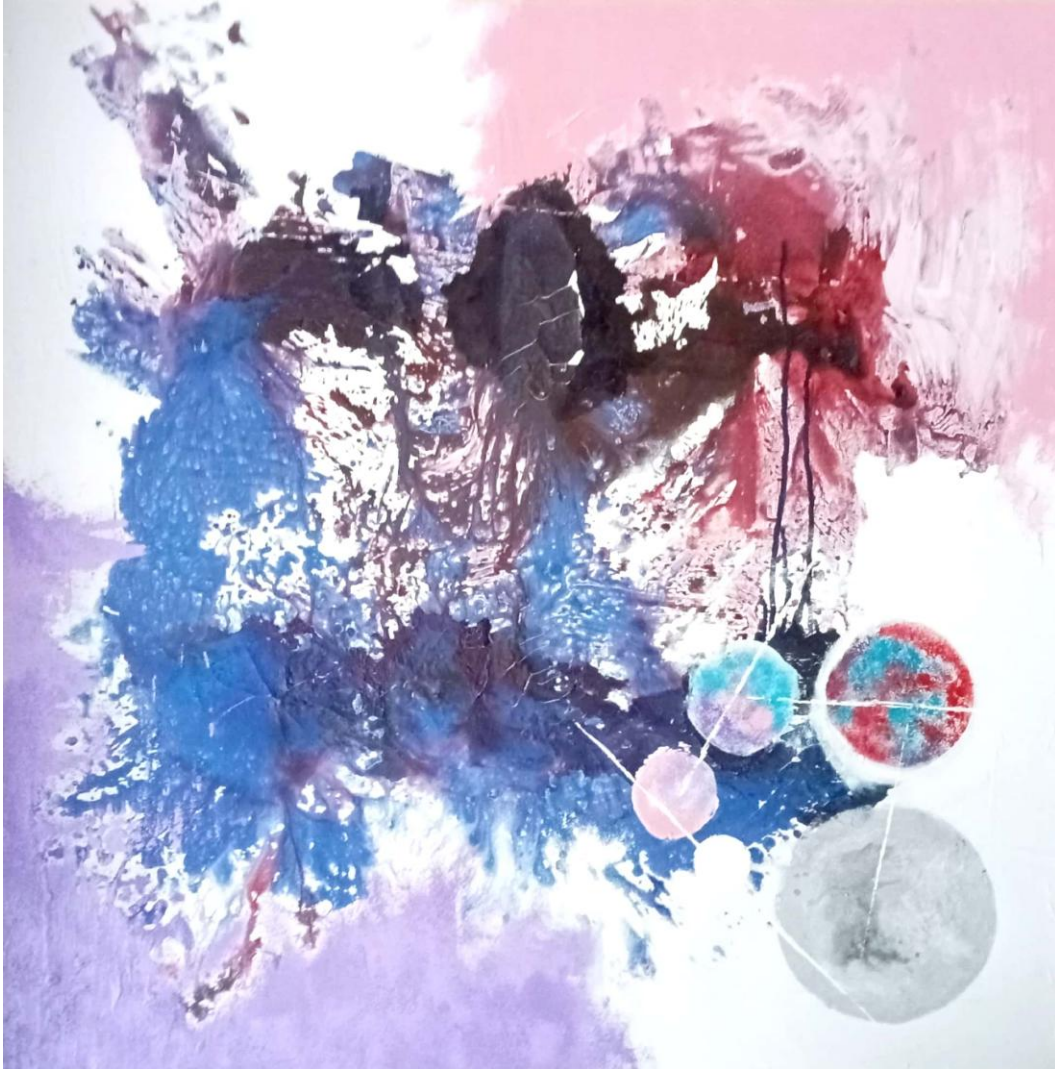


Figure 1. Travel
[Source: I Nengah Kariana, 2024]

Title: Travel
Media: Mix Media on Canvas
Size: 100 x 100 cm

In works related to human reincarnation, the colors in the background symbolize how humans experience the heat and cold of life. The connected circles symbolize the continuing cycle of human life, from life to death, and reincarnation back into the world.

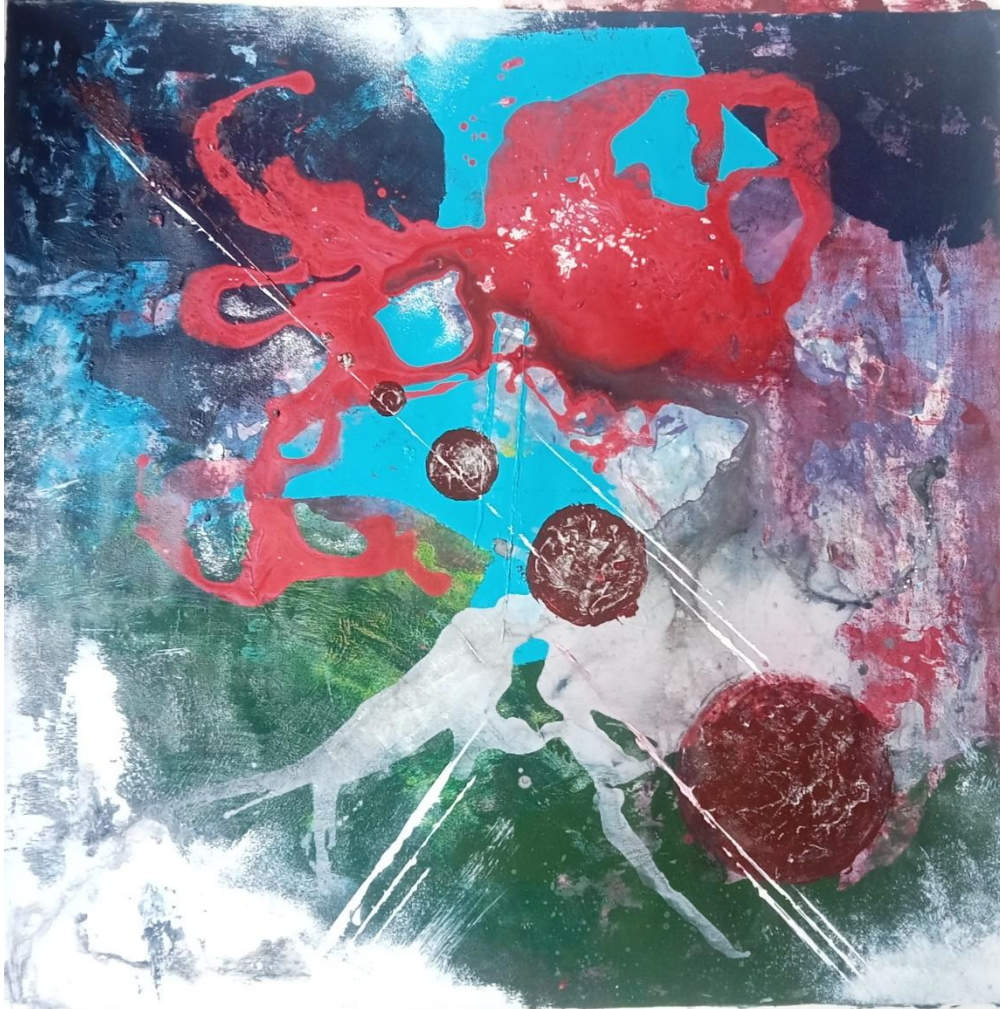


Figure 1. Return
[Source: I Nengah Kariana, 2024]

Title: Return
Media: Mix Media on Canvas
Size: 100 x 100 cm

A work related to death that displays several color visuals as symbols. The dark red circle indicates that humans experience death, which in Hinduism means that everything in the human body will return to the Panca Maha Buta.

4. CONCLUSION

Works of art are created from processing, thinking and feeling. Ideas for creating a work of art can be obtained when observing and researching simple things that have been experienced, one of which is by reading books. The creation of this work of painting represents death and reincarnation in Hinduism, especially in Bali, into 5 (five) works of art.

The materials used are acrylic paint, oil paint, wall paint, on canvas. Meanwhile, the techniques used are wet, roll, plaque and melt paint techniques. These materials and techniques are used in the creation process using the Alma M. Hawkins method, namely, exploration, experimentation and embodiment. The creation of works of art painting from Death and Reincarnation as an Idea in Creating Works of Fine Art is expected to be able to provide an illustration for the community regarding death and reincarnation in Hinduism in Bali

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