



DESIGNING TATTO ARTWORK WITH THE CONCEPT OF BALI CULTURE USING THE DARK ART STREAM AT KINK TATTO BALI

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ABSTRAK

This study explores Balinese culture through Dark Art to depict the grandeur and complexity of the community's spirituality. Dark Art, with its dark tones and profound symbolism, reflects the mystical power and sacredness of nature represented by mythological figures like Dewi Durga. In Balinese culture, Dewi Durga symbolizes the formidable forces of nature, revered through various rituals and arts. Her portrayal in a horror-themed style emphasizes not only the terrifying aspects but also the majesty and sacred mystery of nature. Dark Art elements such as horror nuances and Rangda masks enhance the symbolism of the niskala (spiritual) world, a vital aspect of Balinese life. The Rangda mask, often associated with negative forces, represents diseases or spiritual disturbances that are addressed through traditional rituals. The use of these elements illustrates how Balinese people maintain balance between physical and spiritual aspects. The study's artistic outcomes combine Dark Art aesthetics with Balinese traditions, creating a profound visual interpretation of the community's views on nature and spirituality. This approach highlights the significance of the niskala realm in Balinese culture, particularly in preserving harmony in life. The research contributes to understanding how Balinese art and culture utilize Dark Art symbolism to express their beliefs and spiritual practices.

1. INTRODUCTION

The lifestyle of teenagers who follow trends related to various cultures reflects diversity and plurality in their preferences, interests, and ways of living. Teens adopting this lifestyle tend to be



open to cultural influences from around the world, allowing them to explore and integrate different cultural aspects into their daily lives.

Teenagers following the tattoo trend linked to diverse cultures represent a new lifestyle emerging in modern times. Tattoos, which were once part of traditional ethnic ritual culture, have evolved into an increasingly popular cultural element, becoming part of pop culture embraced by both youth and adults.

This lifestyle showcases a wide variety of tattoo motifs and designs. Teens may choose traditional symbols, images, or patterns inspired by specific cultures, such as ethnic motifs, religious symbols, or even distinctive architectural features from regions like Bali. Bali's culture is quite complex, offering rich inspiration for visual art in 2D, 3D, and tattoo designs alike. One prominent figure in Balinese culture is Calon Arang, who symbolizes black magic or evil. Calon Arang is known for its mystical and frightening nature, with its form often depicted in eerie ways. The character of Rangda, who plays the evil witch Calon Arang, has shaped public perception, equating Rangda with Calon Arang.

This notion contradicts the philosophy that Rangda is an incarnation of the goddess Durga [1]. Thus, the depiction of Calon Arang fits into the category of art that appears eerie or what is commonly known as Dark Art.

One style that can be applied to tattoos with a Balinese cultural concept is the Dark Art style. Though not as popular among designers, it has begun to grow among young people, particularly fans of horror-themed art. Dark Art illustrations often feature creepy, disgusting, dark, mysterious, and frightening objects. The Dark Art movement is heavily influenced by the macabre, a quality that emphasizes a grim or disturbing atmosphere. The grotesque highlights details and symbols of death.

Dark Art is artwork created from the pressures of harsh life conditions, driven by subconscious desires of the artist, or sometimes consciously crafted by the artist. In the Dark Art movement, artists convey their thoughts in a highly mysterious way, often incorporating surreal elements. Visually stunning and terrifying scenes dominated by black compel viewers to pause and reflect on humanity itself [2].

One tattoo studio known for its dark artwork is KINK TATTOO BALI. Located at Jl. Trenggana Gg. IV No.15, Penatih Dandin Puri, Denpasar, Bali, it was founded by Putu Agus Eka Prasantika. KINK Tattoo focuses on Japanese-style objects with vibrant colors. The studio also integrates various styles to create unique works, such as combining Balinese culture with modern art styles.

One aspect that remains relatively untouched by youth is the Dark Art style. Today, many young people lean towards simpler tattoo styles, such as old-school designs, which are meaningful yet straightforward. As a result, Dark Art, which often features intricate and detailed motifs, has not gained widespread popularity. However, upon closer examination, the Dark Art style is highly detailed and complex, offering a unique character and realistic impression that sets it apart from other styles.

From these observations, the author is inspired to explore how Balinese culture can be incorporated into tattoo art, where tattoo art is also part of the ongoing revolution transforming traditional art into modern art. Therefore, this style should be a compelling option for young people looking to express themselves through something terrifying yet artistic. The MBKM

process at KINK Tattoo aims to study the schemes behind Dark Art creation, the future prospects of Dark Art, and how young people appreciate Dark Art tattoos.

2. METHODS

The creation method plays an important role in the process of developing tattoo artwork. In this process, the author chose the method provided by his partner, I Putu Agus Eka Prasantika, because it was considered very relevant and appropriate to be applied in creating tattoo artwork. The author feels that this approach is quite simple but effective, making it easier for the author to understand and follow the steps set out in the method.

2.1. Tattoo Design and Creation Process

Students learn to make initial sketches of tattoo designs, which are the basis of the tattoos to be created. These sketches must be detailed and accurate to minimize errors during the tattoo process, students are taught how to compose and plan designs in an efficient manner, so as to minimize the time and resources required without sacrificing quality.

2.2. Getting to Know and Learning Tattoo Tools

Students get to know the various tools used in the tattoo process, such as tattoo machines, needles, ink, and other equipment. They are also taught how to care for and clean these tools to maintain hygiene and performance. Learning how to use tattoo tools correctly and safely is an important part of the training. Students are given the opportunity to practice using these tools under professional supervision.

2.3. Tattoo Techniques

One of the important techniques in dark art tattooing is shading, which is used to create a three-dimensional effect and depth. Students practice various shading techniques such as dotwork, whip shading, and stippling. Line Work: This technique involves creating the basic lines of the tattoo design with great precision. Students learn how to create consistent and precise lines.

2.4. Placement on the Body

Students learn techniques for determining the placement of tattoos on the client's body, considering anatomical and aesthetic factors for the best results. Proper placement is essential to ensure that the tattoo looks good and is proportionate to the client's body.

2.5. Ethics and Communication with Clients

Learning professional ethics in the world of tattooing, including how to interact with clients, maintain cleanliness and safety, and respect the client's wishes and boundaries. The ability to communicate well with clients to understand their wishes, provide advice, and ensure they are comfortable and satisfied with the tattoo process and results.

2.6. SOP in the Tattoo World

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): Students learn the SOP that applies in tattoo studios, including safety procedures, sterilization of equipment, and preparation steps before, during, and after the tattoo process.

2.7. Evaluation and Learning from Experience

Students are taught to evaluate each tattoo that has been made, see the strengths and weaknesses of their work, and learn from mistakes to improve their skills in the future.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. RESULTS

3.1.1. Legong Calonarang.

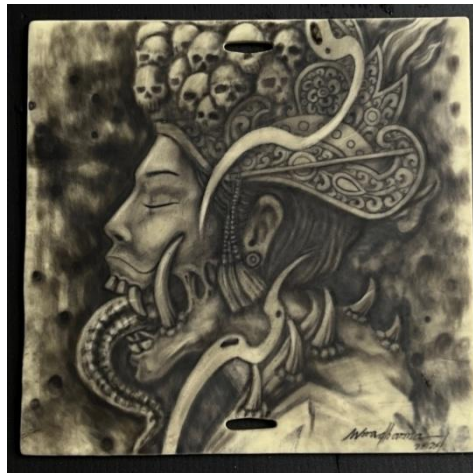


Figure 1. Legong Calonarang.
[Source: I Made Agus Wira Dharma, 2024]

Media : Tattoo on synthetic leather

Size : 20 x20 cm

Year : 2024

Description :

"Legong Calonarang" depicts the Legong Calonarang dancer, who has a frightening appearance. The Legong Calonarang dance is a traditional Balinese dance that tells the legendary story of Calonarang, a witch from the village of Girah known for her black magic. With sharp fangs and a long, protruding tongue, she creates an eerie and supernatural impression. My fascination with the Legong Calonarang dance stems from its narrative about a witch practicing black magic. In my area, many have fallen victim to black magic, which is a supernatural practice aimed at harming or controlling others in ways deemed unethical or malicious. Through this work, I want to showcase the terrifying nature of black magic.

3.1.2. Ngelekas.



Figure 2. Ngelekas.

[Source: I Made Agus Wira Dharma, 2024]

Media : Procreate

Size : 20 x 30 cm

Year : 2024

Description:

"Ngelekas" in Balinese belief refers to the process of transforming into various frightening forms, especially at night. I created this work based on what has circulated in society; horror stories are often a common topic among people. This is a true story that I experienced in the village where I live. Drawing from my experiences and the stories of the community, I depict a terrifying human transformation with a horrific face, sharp teeth, and long, flowing hair. Here, I added a lit candle at the bottom of the image to provide dramatic lighting and enhance the mystical atmosphere. Next to the candle, there is a skull with sharp claws that reinforces the theme of dark art and adds elements of death and horror.

3.1.3. Metamba.



Figure 3. Metamba.

[Source: I Made Agus Wira Darma, 2024]

Media : Pencil on paper

Size : 20 x 40 cm

Year : 2024

Description:

“Metamba” is inspired by my personal experience undergoing a treatment known in Balinese culture as Metamba. In Balinese Hindu culture, the community combines medical and non-medical healing methods, as they maintain a strong belief in the unseen world (spiritual or supernatural realm). This experience depicts the healing process that involves removing, expelling, and driving away negative elements from within the patient using methods derived from ancient medicinal lontar texts.

In this work, I illustrate how the Metamba healing process is conducted. This treatment focuses not only on the physical aspect but also on the spiritual aspect. In non-medical healing, the methods used often stem from ancient medicinal lontars that have been passed down through generations. The ritual involves a series of processes aimed at cleansing the patient of negative influences or illnesses believed to arise from spiritual disturbances. I represent these negative elements or illnesses using the Rangda mask. In Balinese culture, Rangda symbolizes negative power and is often associated with evil.

By using the Rangda mask, I aim to show how illness or spiritual disturbances are identified and then expelled through the healing ritual. This work reflects my personal experience with Metamba treatment, blending medical and non-medical aspects within Balinese culture. The use of the Rangda mask as a symbol of negativity or illness emphasizes how spiritual disturbances are perceived and addressed through ancient healing rituals. Through depicting this process, I wish to showcase the richness of

Balinese culture in addressing illness and maintaining the balance between the visible (sekala) and invisible (niskala) worlds.

3.2. DISCUSSION

3.2.1. Dark art

Charles Darwin noted that the phenomenon of tattooing has been recognized worldwide. Tattoos have been found on Egyptian mummies dating back to around 2000 BC and were used in civilizations such as Greece, Rome, and China. In Egypt, tattoos on female mummies were seen as symbols of fertility. The tattoo culture also spread to many tribes around the world, including in Indonesia, such as the Mentawai and Dayak tribes.

In Mentawai, tattoos hold spiritual significance, representing social status, profession, and a connection to nature. The Mentawai people believe that every object has a spirit and that tattoos help maintain the balance of nature. Tattoo researcher Ady Rosa revealed that Mentawai tattoos are among the oldest in the world, even predating those in Egypt. The Dayak tribe in Borneo also practices tattooing, where tattoos symbolize courage and social status.

In modern contexts, tattoos have transformed into expressions of self, lifestyle, and symbols of identity. However, traditional tattoos, rich in symbolic meaning, are threatened by modernization.

According to Aquil Akhter, Dark Art is an art form that is very different from general art and does not fit conventional standards. In Dark Art, artists have great freedom to transform their imagination in mysterious ways, resulting in astonishing artworks. Most Dark Art explores themes that are scary or even repulsive, making it closely related to the surrealism art movement. This art form emerged in the 20th century, with Dark Art defined as a style that evokes a “dark” atmosphere or a sense of disruption within a person’s mind.

4. CONCLUSION

The author concludes that the above discussions explore the relationship between Balinese culture, particularly mythological figures such as Goddess Durga and Calonarang, and the style of Dark Art. In Dark Art, the mystical and spiritual elements of Bali, such as the Rangda mask, are depicted with dark and horrific symbolism to emphasize powerful and mysterious spiritual forces. This research highlights how traditional Balinese art, rich in spiritual meaning, is adapted into modern art styles such as tattooing, which has now become a form of self-expression and a part of global pop culture.

Dark Art is often seen as less popular compared to other tattoo styles like "old school," which are simpler; however, this style possesses its own appeal due to its complex details and high realism. An example of the fusion of Balinese culture with modern art is KINK Tattoo Bali studio, which blends traditional Balinese art with modern influences.

Overall, this text encourages reflection on how the Dark Art style can serve as a means to express the symbolism of Balinese culture, merging traditional art with contemporary art trends.

5. REFERENCES

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