



## Manifestation of Nature

Mohd Fairuz Shahidan

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# Manifestation of Nature

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'...Art is an idea that has found its perfect visual expression. And design is the vehicle by which this expression is made possible. Art is a noun, and design is a noun and also a verb. Art is a product and design is a process. Design is the foundation of all the arts...'

— Paul Rand

'...For when I construct lines and colour combinations on a flat surface, it is with the aim of portraying 'universally beauty' as consciously as possible. Nature (or that which I see) inspires me, provides me – as it does every painter – with the emotion by which I am moved to create something, but I want to approach the truth as closely as possible, abstracting everything until I come to the foundation - still only an outward foundation! - of things. It is for me a clear truth that one does not want to say something 'specific', it is then that one says what is most specific: the truth (which is of great universality...'

— Bremmer, quoted in "Mondrian, The Art of Destruction", 2001, p. 81.

## Introduction

Modern art includes artistic works produced during the period extending roughly from the 1860s to the 1970s, and denotes the style and philosophy of the art produced during that era (Atkins 1990, p. 102). The term is usually associated with art in which the traditions of the past have been thrown aside in a spirit of experimentation (Gombrich, 1958; p. 419). Modern artists experimented with new ways of seeing and have fresh ideas about

the nature of materials and functions of art. A tendency away from the narrative, which was characteristic for the traditional arts, toward abstraction is characteristic of much modern art. Movements associated with Modern art include Expressionism, Impressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, Pop Art Abstract Expressionism. One way to express the modern art is through painting. Painting is a mode of creative expression and the forms are numerous. Drawing, composition or abstraction and other aesthetics may serve to manifest the expressive and conceptual intention of the practitioner. Paintings can be naturalistic and representational according to the artist expression be loaded with abstraction, symbolism and emotion in nature. Besides, painting is the practice of applying paint, pigment, colour or other medium in two dimensional artworks.

## Project Brief and Course Background

In capturing the skills and experience of painting in the modern art movement, the exercise offers the integration of skills from the early semester activities that mix the combination understanding of every aspect in visual communication, art and design expression from two dimensional points of view. The project enables students to explore the graphics skills in different perspective from line quality, scale, colour, to media and medium application. 'Nature' as one of the most significant theme that suits to landscape architecture field is chosen as a basic intervention for students to explore. The work process was instigated according to basic

concept and idea that emerged and developed from the fundamental understanding of nature – i.e. flora and fauna. The exploration of form and art movement is scrutinized through the execution of idea development. In the process of capturing the ultimate concept, the students were encouraged to use limitless range of media. The intention is to expose on the exploration of media to medium that sparks student creativity through the overall development process of original artwork.

## Design Solution

The artwork entitled 'Drop of Waterfall' is one example of artwork inspired by realism movement. By presenting charcoal as a main media, the exploration in skills and techniques are artistically presented (leading by Ahmad Kamirul Mohd Noor). The monotone colour creates the settlement of ideas in interpreting the abstract of drops of human tears that transfigure into a waterfall. In contrast, 'Enthusiasm Aquila' group inspired by pop art movement explored the infinity of colours in interpreting characters of eagle as a main symbol of the artwork (leading by Tan Chee Cheat). The exploration of colours improves the techniques of colour implementation that combined the overall concept, interpretation and art movement in one virtuous artwork. Another significant artwork that emerged from comprehensive design process is 'Extinction' inspired by Rhinoceros that one listed as endangered species dealing with extinction issue in Southeast Asia (leading by Mohd Fadzli Othman). The concepts that associate with abstract as an art movement create an eloquent artwork that depict the narrative of Rhino's extinction. The impact

of extinction is transpired by the colours selection that transform into an abstract mood of feeling.

In contrast to another completed works done, 'Sentence of Chrysanthemum', the artwork represents the flora motif from nature. The impression of pure, optimistic and hope of the flower, the group has presented chrysanthemum through expressionism movement (led by Yap Wai Yee). The impact by combining four basic colours and a black line drawn with charcoal symbolizes the purity of flora. The detailing sequence of petals expresses hope and optimistic when it blooms throughout the artwork. Thus, the work creates a new insight of expressionism where the student could learn through the expression of feeling and impression.

## Discussion and Future Study

Overall, students have shown the ability in using media and medium and transform their concept and ideas into finest artwork. They managed to comprehend the understanding on the use of media and medium through the exploration of materials and colours. However, the limited use of materials prove to be the weakness here and the types of medium need to be explored extensively in order to understand the limitless function of both media and medium. The concept and expression of ideas are explored impressively, nevertheless, it can be improved further in considering the issue of flora and fauna that can be abstracted into concept and ideas rather than taking only an object/entity per se.

# Jury Review

## ENTHUSIASM AQUILA

### Sapura Mohamad

Lepidoptera as the "movement of the eagle" could have been explored through the eagle's movement using colour as the theme. A credit is given on the brave choice of colours and it could be better to combine some colours to emphasize the movements.

### Norhalizah Hanifah

The artwork had nice colour combination and vibrant thus making the art piece lovely to look at. Students have used good colour stroke techniques in using acrylic and oil paints. Artworks were divided equally amongst students and each piece worked well when placed next to the other piece. Final art piece showed that each artwork was part of the overall art piece as each artwork could not be left out and/or be stand alone as it did not give any meaning or look awkward Rather they gave meanings when together.

## ENVIRONMENTAL ART

### Sapura Mohamad

It is an interesting attempt to create public art which should response to the environment. Furthermore, the site appreciation seems to be quite fairly translated into the design concept. Overall design idea of the public art is commendable. However, the placement of the subject matter as a public art could depend deeper into scale, proportion and location within the vicinity of the public access.

### Norhalizah Hanifah

Good thoughts and studies were given by students in their design process. Site inventory and analysis were conducted and led to the students designing a proposal

with consideration of the form, shape and materials used at site. The scale is proportionate to the size and the site environment, good combination of natural branches and PVC pipes in the art piece. White colour was chosen against the green colour from turf and leaves beside some brownish bark or tree trunk drew attention of eyes to the art piece. The only question is, who will be the ones benefiting from the display? Public art pieces should be able to be viewed and experienced by the public at large for maximum benefit.

## EXTINCTION

### Sapura Mohamad

Texture as one of the basic design element is greatly explored. A well combination of media acrylic and oil paint expresses the details of the colours. The artists not only need to be good on handling the media but also need to be sensitive to the overall composition of their painting.

This is also a good example of an excellent integration of works among the artists in a group. They managed to control and handle their colouring media and texture that can capture the abstract form of their art piece. Credit should be given to this group for their excellent professional art piece.

### Norhalizah Hanifah

The art piece had good colours combination. Obviously good techniques of colouring was applied to the art piece. Texture placed on the artwork was also done nicely. Each piece of the artwork could not be displayed alone as it would be seen as incomplete or awkward. As such, all pieces of the art work were needed to be combined as they needed each other to form as one. A very good team work was clearly shown in producing the final art piece.

## Enthusiasm Aquila

Mohd Fabian Hasna, Faziawati Abdul Aziz & Mohd Fairuz Shahidan

An eagle has become one of the dominant predators that enhances the ecosystem. In lieu of the dominance and the charms of an eagle; Aquila means 'eagle' in Latin while enthusiasm means character and passion. In enhancing of the concept, eight contrasting colours are used to represent the pop art's movement that symbolized characters and values of an eagle depicting powerful, independence and confidence and etc. Meanwhile, gold colour highlighted certain body parts

signifying the power of eagle. The strength of this project lies in the idea of bringing the passion of eagle's character through combination of media and concept into a piece of artwork. The weakness lies on the workmanship from line quality to colouring techniques. The artwork would benefit and improve by using proper techniques and a variety of media usage to support the overall outcome of the artwork.



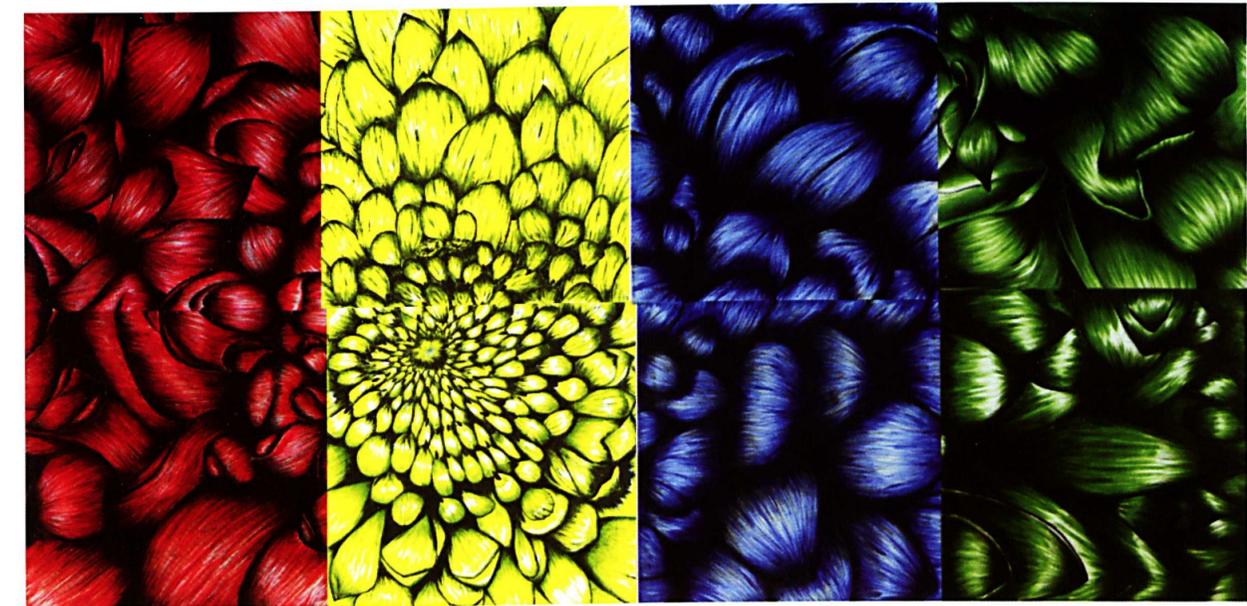
■ Tan Chee Cheat, Yap Joe Ling, Faris Ameerzat Ismail, NurHazwani Mustaffa, Noradibah Basari, Noor Nabilah Basari, Bong Pei Jun & Nor Amalina Fitriah Abd Rahman

## Sentence of Chrysanthemum

Faziawati Abdul Aziz, Mohd Fairuz Shahidan & Mohd Fabian Hasna

Flora is one of important entity in nature. The project is inspired by the pureness of chrysanthemum translated into expressionism movement of artwork. The details on the perfection of orderly unfolding chrysanthemum's petals were translated into the overall section of the artwork. The techniques on the application of acrylic and charcoal enhanced the detail and depth of chrysanthemum flowers and petals. The basic colours of red, blue, yellow and green expressed the meaning of tropics, purity,

attraction and happiness respectively. The strength of the project lies on the techniques of detailing that express the tangibility of the flowers as the main entity. The weakness lies on the limited exploration on media which needs discovery in order to enhance the complexity of chrysanthemum flowers. An in-depth exploration on the media and techniques would benefit the whole design output.



■ Photo by: Azman Mohd

■ Yap Wai Yee, Norhafiezah Baharom, Nur Asilah Idris, Nur Athikah Motridi, Siti Hajar Wardi, Chong Fei Pow, Lim Shi Juan, Nur Naqibah Hawa Abdullah @ Anan

# Extinction

Mohd Fairuz Shahidan, Mohd Fabian Hasna, Faziawati Abdul Aziz

The project was developed from the concept of 'Extinction'. A concern on an endangered species of Sumatran Rhinoceros in Southeast Asia developed the whole idea of the artwork. The inspiration helped evolved students' creativity in transforming the factual statement and phenomenon into an abstract. The combination of different media including acrylic, gypsum plaster, glue, filler and netting fabric produces a different texture and form throughout the whole production. The implementation of colours such as yellow, green, red, black and white symbolizes the real phenomenon of 'extinction' which is disturbing, natural, danger, harmful and innocent respectively. The strength of the artwork lies on the techniques and transformation of thoughts into the abstract. In contrast, the rhino's form can be refined to create more intangible outline of the entity. Thus, the artwork would benefit by textural addition through various media that enhanced the roughness character depicting the rhino's extinction.



Mohd Fadli Othman, Haziq Mustafa, Muhammad Fikri Mohd Nizam  
Nurul Izati Ishak, Nor Fadhilah Abd Aziz, & Nadhirah Amani  
Mohamad Hanafi

Photo by: Azman Mohd