

IDEAS CONCEPTS OF POTTER CRAFT

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ABSTRACT

The expression of thought in the creation of an artwork in every artist will always be there, before starting the desire to create the form of the artwork. Genius thoughts like this should be an added value, to support the artwork that has been created. Generally, artists in explaining the artwork vocally are very clear and neatly arranged in their speech, but in reality, it is very difficult to translate into literature, even non-existent, because most are in the form of titles and short explanations of the theme of their work.

The emergence of academic artists provides more space to pour out literary works as a powerful weapon in bridging the results of the artist's work, the creator artist, and the user of art. So, there is no need to explain in detail to every art lover, with the support of literary works, the artwork can be understood clearly by the user.

Understanding the evaluation of the elements of visual art by the artist and the user will give the same understanding in the process of creating art, even giving plus aesthetic values to the work. The process of the form of the artwork in the mind, which is then poured into the form of three-dimensional artwork must be explained in literature, and nothing is hidden, so that the users do not feel deceived in the creation of the artwork.

The appearance of artwork needs to be prioritized, to provide added value and the quality of the artwork created by the artist, so that the users will compete to enjoy the artwork produced, even want to own it. To produce the perfection of the artist's work, then documentation, the process of making, and appearance, display of the work when exhibited must be prepared, so that it will get aesthetic appreciation in the hearts of its users.

Keywords: concept idea, artwork, exhibition.

PRELIMINARY

The realm of an artist's imagination is vast and plays a crucial role in the creation of a work of art. The emergence of patterns of thoughts about conceptual ideas in a work is a result of the artist's appreciation of their experiences, visions, or dreams. This appreciation leads to the conceptualization of ideas, from which the artist chooses the one to bring to life through various media in the form of three-dimensional works. The process of choosing a concept idea is a quick and reflexive one, as the artist quickly determines the materials that will be used to bring the chosen concept to life. The artist's mind is systematically conceptualized, but it is not recorded in a tangible way through sketches or literature to support the three-dimensional work. Artists generally prefer to create three-dimensional works first before creating a concept for the literature that supports it.

Nature provides a vast source of inspiration for seeking conceptual ideas and creating art. The natural waters, along with marine life and the taste of saltwater, provide many benefits for life, both for humans and animals. The life of animals in water, through predation and being preyed upon, aims to perpetuate survival, so

that each aquatic organism, through experience and grace from the Creator, will have a shield to ward off predator attacks. This ability provides many benefits for aquatic organisms, as they must always be alert in order to continue their lives. The many defenses possessed by aquatic organisms are unique, interesting, and suited to the places where they breed. The puffer fish, for example, is a small, attractive, and cute fish that makes predators want to eat it, but with its ability to swell its body and become big and elastic like a balloon, it can escape from predators. This has a deterrent effect on predators and becomes a conceptual idea for creating art.

There are two types of puffer fish, namely freshwater and seawater puffer fish. Freshwater puffer fish are typically found in rivers, streams, and other freshwater habitats, while seawater puffer fish are typically found in the ocean. Each type of puffer fish has its own unique characteristics, behaviors, and adaptations to its habitat. For example, the seawater puffer fish have adapted to the saltwater environment by developing specialized organs to excrete excess salt from their bodies, while freshwater puffer fish do not have this adaptation. Additionally, freshwater puffer fish are usually smaller in size and have a different coloration compared to seawater puffer fish. Examples

of pictures of puffer fish in safe and calm conditions, including both freshwater and seawater varieties, will be presented below.



The puffer fish, as a concept idea, can be systematically processed in the artist's mind and combined with their experiences, appreciation, and aesthetic values of beauty to manifest it into a three-dimensional form in art. The artist's skill and expertise determine the media and materials used, which can vary. For example, an opportunity to use clay as a material for making pottery or terracotta works is particularly useful as it is easy to shape and create three-dimensional works of art, and the finishing can be mixed later with other media materials to achieve high aesthetic value. As below, the process of forming three-dimensional works of art using clay will be shown, this will give you the chance to show some pictures of the process of forming three-dimensional works of art using clay.



CRAFT CONCEPTS

1. Ergonomic Principles in the Crafts of Puffer Fish Concept Ideas

Ergonomics is the science, art and application of technology to harmonize or balance the use of facilities, both in activity and rest, with human abilities and limitations, both physically and mentally, in order to improve overall quality of life. According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), the quality of life of human workers is reflected in the following: 1) work that supports the health and well-being of workers, 2) jobs that provide workers with free time to rest and relax, and 3) work that enables workers to serve society and achieve self-fulfillment by developing their personal capacities (Dana, I. Nyoman, 2017: 4-5). The

achievement of optimal human quality of life must be considered in both the work and social environments, such as the family, as this is the main goal of ergonomics implementation. In general, the objectives of ergonomics implementation are: 1) improving well-being by preventing injuries and diseases, reducing physical and mental workloads, and promoting job satisfaction, 2) improving social welfare by increasing the quality of social contacts, managing and coordinating work efficiently, and increasing social security during the productive age and after retirement, 3) creating a balance between technical, economic, anthropological, and cultural aspects of work systems to achieve high quality work and quality of life (Dana, I. Nyoman, 2017: 7-8).

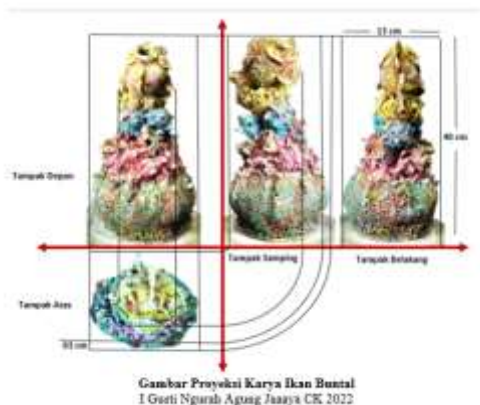
Ergonomics considers the adaptability of the human body to its environment, based on safety, health, and comfort standards. Limitations of abilities, self-actualization techniques, and body movements should not conflict with natural abilities. Ergonomic knowledge should be applied as early as possible, both at work and at rest. Safety, health, and comfort of the body can be harmonized with the basic capabilities possessed by every movement of the human body to avoid conflicts. Scientific experiments and research are crucial in proving the truth of ergonomic principles, and the results can be applied directly or indirectly to the wider community (Dana, I. Nyoman, 2017: 10-11).

The idea for the puffer fish concept was created with ergonomic principles in mind, with a focus on the safety of the users of this pottery craft. The key points of this concept include: 1) providing historical value by documenting the life of puffer fish in water, 2) using clay materials and massage techniques to create environmentally friendly crafts of art with skilled craftsmanship, 3) displaying puffer fish crafts as decorative pieces in living rooms, bedrooms, and other spaces, where the concept of puffer fish is well suited and in harmony with the location, 4) ensuring safety by preventing the user from being in danger, as the shape of the puffer fish craft can cause injuries if moved, 5) providing comfort and avoiding negative aura effects, 6) evoking interest in the puffer fish craft, 7) providing relaxation and peace of mind, 8) ensuring convenience and practicality in maintaining the crafts, 9) creating harmony in the placement of the craft, 10) increasing value for the users after selling the crafts.

2. Puffer Fish Pottery Craft Concept Idea Sketch Pattern

Pouring the concept idea on paper is necessary to give a realistic representation of the shape of the puffer fish. The composition of the puffer fish and its supporting animals are arranged in such a way that the puffer fish becomes the focal point in this pottery craft. This craft is deformable, meaning that elements such as shape, construction, anatomy, and others can be altered to create an abnormal appearance.

The process of pouring concept ideas on paper, should be done with attention to the elements of fine art as a guide in creating art, including shape, proportion, composition, perspective, color, texture, balance, space, focal point, and harmony (Agung Jaya CK, 2017 : 1-13). This will ensure that the craft reflects high aesthetic values. In the bottom of the craft the puffer fish is placed in the form of a shell of sea urchins, with a larger shape than usual, by providing various holes. The goal is to prevent the craft from breaking or cracking when fired. The top part of the shell is formed by a sea urchin, on top of which a starfish is formed with its back with pins, which is a characteristic of marine animals. On top of it, sea cucumbers are formed in a circular position, with a sausage-like shape. Then on top of it is placed a small starfish shape. At the pinnacle of this craft, the shape of a puffer fish with its mouth open, body round like a balloon, and filled with two bulging eyes, with expanding fish fins, given protruding scales in a twisted technique, and glued to the body of the fish is placed. The idea for this puffer fish concept, will be colored using putty paint, to balance the color of the clay with a craft thickness of about 2 cm, to avoid splitting or cracking after being fired. The pedestal will later be given the shape of four legs, the purpose of which is to provide space, and to provide a separator between the craft and the pedestal where the work is placed. The puffer fish work is made elongated upwards, to provide an ideal proportion of space, so that it will display aesthetic values that will delight the eyes of the connoisseur.



3. Processing of Clay before it is Used in the Craft of Puffer Fish Pottery

The process of creating the puffer fish concept pottery craft involves several stages of manual clay processing. There is no precise measurement for the mixture of water and rock powder, it is done based on the feeling or estimates. Even if there is an excess measurement it is not a problem. The main concern is the thickness of the craft, so it will not break or crack when fired. The clay must be completely dry before being fired. The clay is slammed on the plinth several times to achieve an even softness. If the clay is too hard,

water can be added gradually until the desired consistency is reached. If the clay is too sticky, rock powder can be added until the desired level of stickiness is achieved. This process can be repeated until the desired consistency and softness of the clay is reached, and the clay is ready to be shaped into a puffer fish masterpiece. Below is an example of the type of clay that is ready to be shaped manually.



Pengolahan Tanah liat
Youtube Agung Jaya CK 2019

4. Forming Clay According to the Concept Idea of Puffer Fish Pottery Craft Work

During the processing stage, the level of softness of the clay is checked before forming to ensure that it doesn't sag or lose shape during formation. Padas stone powder can be added as needed. A board with a thickness of 2 cm is prepared to make it easy to move during drying. The base of the board is evenly sprinkled with stone powder to make it easy to remove. The clay is formed into a sheet-like shape with a thickness of 2-3 cm for easier formation of artworks. The clay is then ground to obtain a sheet shape, trying to avoid it being too soft. The clay is then shaped into a cylindrical circle and brought together, with a little water added while squeezing to avoid breaking or cracking. The shape of the sea urchin shell is formed according to the design. The process for forming marine animals is similar, shaping according to the design or drawing. Supporting decorations are added to achieve the shape of sea urchin shells, sea stars, sea cucumbers, and puffer fish with their respective characteristics. The craft is massaged evenly from bottom to top to ensure proper connection and attachment of the clay. The craft is then sprinkled with water to achieve even humidity and aerated for one day to slow down drying. The shape of the craft is monitored daily during the drying process, with any cracks being pressed until they disappear and any additions to the decorations being made as needed. The craft is controlled properly until it reaches 80% dryness.



Pembentukan tanah liat
Youtube Agung Jaya CK 2019

5. The Drying Process of Puffer Fish Pottery Crafts

The finished puffer fish craft is ready to be dried in a damp, aerated place to slow down the drying process and prevent the clay from shrinking and cracking. Careful attention must be paid to the drying process every day, adding unique characteristics, smearing with liquid white or red soil, and making repairs and additions as needed. Any cracks should be repaired during this process. This process typically takes around 3 days.

The craft is then exposed to sunlight for 3 weeks to ensure it is completely dry, this will help to prevent cracking during firing.



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6. The Firing Process of Puffer Fish Pottery Crafts

The process of firing clay is an essential step in the creation of pottery, and it is typically done using firewood or husks as the heat source.

("... the process of firing clay is necessary, so that when the soil is still raw, it will not overflow or melt again when it comes into contact with water. Clay that has been fired will change its shape and become hard, and will not be washed away by water. It can even be used to store water or boiling water. So, the clay needs to be fired to make it stronger and last longer ...") (Interview with I Made Suda, in Pejaten, 12 May 2022).

The firing process is carried out for eight hours, this duration is enough to produce high-quality pottery. The furnace used can be circular or rectangular depending on the location. The fire is kept stable during this process to achieve the desired red earth character on the pottery. If the clay is fired at too high a temperature, some parts of the pottery may appear black or dark brown. This is usually caused by uneven heat distribution and the presence of air gaps, which can affect the quality of the fire in the furnace. This can reduce the quality of the final pottery product. The firing process is typically done manually by experienced individuals.

After eight hours, the furnace is not opened immediately to allow the heat to cool down for about a day. The process of removing the finished craft is carried out carefully to avoid breaking or damaging other crafts. If a piece breaks during the removal process, and the fracture is in a place that was burned, it can be fixed with wood glue. The pieces that have been burned can be aerated again and the final product is known as pottery.



Pembakaran tanah liat
Youtube Agung Jaya CK

7. Exploring Techniques to Elevate the Aesthetics and Value of Puffer Fish Pottery Crafts in The Finishing Process

The results of firing this craft, upon inspection, have yielded outstanding pieces that are ready to be showcased according to the desired location and preferences of the users. To enhance the value of this pottery, additional color embellishments can be applied to pique the interest of its users.

("...The application of color on pottery crafts needs to be experimented with first to determine its suitability. In general, this

coloring is done spontaneously with minimal decoration, the goal is to enhance the original color of the pottery, namely the red dop, rather than to overpower it. The additional color is used only as a complement, so it is hoped that the pottery craft will become more valuable. In addition, to maintain the supporting colors, varnish is usually added to make it last longer..." (Interview with I Wayan Jirna, Darma Saba, 23 May 2022) .

The use of additional decorations with other colors can improve the quality and value of the pottery craft. Various options for additional colors, such as car putty, can be used to make the pottery more attractive. Car putty has a light blue-green color, but other colors can be achieved by adding color pigments. These pigments can be mixed with water or oil to produce better results. The application of car putty decoration is done by hand, as it adheres well to the surface of the pottery and creates an artistic effect that blends well with the original color of the pottery.

Car putty has a strong and sturdy character like pottery, and the resulting texture is almost the same as earthenware. Using car putty on earthenware craft can increase its value beyond its aesthetic value. The color combination of car putty is perfected in the final coating using fiber, to bring out the red hubcap colors of the puffer fish craft. The focal point of each shape is determined by using plastic tinsel coating, to make the puffer fish craft more visually appealing and increase its value for users or enthusiasts of pottery art.



The Combination of Pottery Color with Car Putty Paint in the Finishing Process
I Gusti Ngurah Agung Jaya CK 2022

SHAPE, FUNCTION, MEANING OF PUPTAL FISH CRAFT

1. Concept Idea of Puffer Fish Craft Work

The life of the puffer fish in this craft is depicted in several ways: 1) The shape of a puffer fish is replicated in its expanded form. The composition of the puffer fish craft is arranged from bottom to top, featuring the shape of a sea urchin shell, a starfish, a sea cucumber, and a puffer fish as the focal point. 2) The composition is designed in a pyramid shape, getting

smaller towards the top, to maintain balance. 3) The perspective of the puffer fish craft uses the principle of free observation, allowing for enjoyment from all angles. 4) Color elements are used to complement the original red color of the terracotta, with added accents of green, blue, white, and yellow, and sparkling accents using plastic tinsel. 5) Space is utilized to create a sense of depth with small holes, giving the impression of a cavity in the craft. 6) The balance in this craft is achieved through the combination of form, composition, proportion, perspective, color, and space, in accordance with the principles of the craft's integrity. 7) The texture is depicted as soft, but rough and jagged to the touch, due to the formation's less smooth texture compared to pottery but provides a unique overall impression. 8) The focus of this craft is the puffer fish, with a plump, wide-mouthed shape, various fish scales, and fins that are varied in proportion. The colors are more contrasting and textured with fiber coating for added strength and tinted with plastic for a shiny finish. 9) The harmony of the puffer fish craft will provide unity in form, composition, proportion, perspective, color, space, balance, texture, and focal point, showcasing the aesthetic beauty that emanates from the three-dimensional form of the puffer fish, capturing the viewer's attention and providing added value for owning the craft. The correct use of fine art elements such as form, composition, proportion, perspective, color, space, balance, texture, focal point, and harmony, will enhance the aesthetic values that are inherent in each aspect of the puffer fish craft.



Bentuk Karya Ikan Buntal
I Gusti Ngurah Agung Jaya CK 2022

2. The Function of the Concept Idea for Puffer Fish Crafts

This form of puffer fish craft can be used to decorate living rooms, bedrooms, and other spaces, adapting to the specific needs of the area in need of a decorative touch. The shape of this puffer fish craft is designed to meet the needs of a space, providing a sense of unity and harmony within the room. It can be placed in a variety of locations, providing flexibility in decorating.

3. The Meaning of the Concept Idea of Puffer Fish Craft Work

This puffer fish craft exudes a positive energy that radiates aesthetic value to its surroundings. The image of the puffer fish serves as an inspiration for its users, promoting alertness, introspection, positivity, and enthusiasm in leading a fulfilling life, ultimately leading to overall happiness.

CONCLUSION

This puffer fish terracotta pottery craft was created in accordance with a pre-determined concept idea. It has been acknowledged for its aesthetic value, and as a result, it was featured in a major exhibition in Bali, namely the XLIV Bali Art Festival Exhibition, held from June 13 to July 10, 2022, with the theme "Danu Hulu Manu, Literature Lelaku Air Cipta Rupa" at the ARMA Museum Ubud. For more information, you can download the e-catalog at <https://bit.ly/E-katalogKandarupa2022>.

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