

THE CREATION OF PAINTING: “THE MASK” SERIES

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ABSTRACT

The Creation of Painting series “The Mask” consists of oil paintings that reflect the story of modern-day ladies who place high value on their appearance. Using imagination to compare the face as if it were the “front of the house” that was once again covered with a mask to conceal from the eyes of individuals and society, preventing them from peeping and observing life and feeling under the mask.

This study aimed to study the creation process of painting with the uniqueness in visual art according to this following process: (1) A study of content and social issues of social values regarding female beauty. (2) The influence of Expressionism Art (3) A case study of the expressionist artists' works that has the influence on the creation (4) The analysis and synthesis of datasets into inspiration (5) Determining concepts of creation (6) Preparation of supplies and equipment to create the actual works (7) Developing the sketch that related to the concept of creation from the photograph (8) The creation of painting with the technique of oil painting on canvas (9) The preservation of the finished work and (10) The publication of painting series in the form of an art exhibition

The result obtained from studying the creation of the Painting series “The Mask” found that creative development was divided into 3 phases: Phase 1 with 3 paintings, Phase 2 with 5 paintings, and Phase 3 with 8 paintings. Every painting is the result of an integrated creation in terms of inspiration, concepts, works, creative techniques, and the meaning of the works of painting. All of these paintings have been released to the public in the form of contemporary art exhibitions as well.

Keywords: Creation, Painting, Expressionism, Female, The Mask

INTRODUCTION

This modern society places values on appearance to show status and respect for the relationship between the individual and the surrounding society. Many people recognize the importance of the appearance factor in order to demonstrate confidence in their status to social value. Thus, they tend to take care, maintain, and embellish values that enhance their appearances to create beauty in accordance with the values of society. It therefore is common to see facial beautification or plastic surgery to enhance beauty, which leads to confidence in life.

These become burdens brought about by individual and social values that view the beauty of female appearance as the external value that the females uphold and develop in order to encourage beauty or satisfaction of time. This became the standard that influenced confidence

and dignity as femininity that was appropriate for the values of society at that particular time. We therefore can not deny that even with high equality in social status between male and female nowadays, the burden of appearance and beauty that has been stigmatized since the past is still ingrained in both the feminine instinct and the myths given to women by society, and also include the image that women should portray as society wants. This made it become both necessary and submissive to females. Although the inner state of mind is considered to be much more important, maintaining the physical condition also has a profound effect on the value of femininity as well. Accordingly, the ever-evolving scientific technology has encouraged innovation in the care, treatment, and enhancement of the makeup, skin, and body of females to always look young and beautiful. These can be compared to the outer shell of the truth of femininity, equivalent to the inner values that can be assured when maintaining the equilibrium of the appearance.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

1. To study the creation process of painting with the uniqueness in visual art

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Study on content and social issues that are used as a topic of creation
2. Study on the issue of social values regarding female beauty, influence of expressionism art and the case study of the expressionist artists' works that has the influence on the creation
3. Analysis and synthesis of datasets into inspiration
4. Determining concepts of creation
5. Preparation of supplies and equipment to create the actual works
6. Developing the sketch that related to the concept of creation from the photograph
7. The creation of painting with the technique of oil painting on canvas
8. The preservation of the finished work
9. The publication of painting series in the form of an art exhibition

Source of Inspiration

The social value of expecting female beauty to be a bond that forces women to bear the burden of taking care of their own hygiene while maintaining and enhancing their beauty to promote the ideal appearance. This affects the fragile minds of females, both myself and women in society, which on the one hand is like concealing the reality of face and body that naturally fluctuates with cosmetics or supplies that are used as a tool to retain the beauty of females as if the days had stopped. It is comparable to the memory of female beauty that appears in sculptures and paintings of women throughout history that have been frozen by artists in each era.

Source of Information

Personal information from studies and records through writing and photographs. Catalog with works of art, documents, articles, books, textbooks on art and online databases from the internet through social networks.

The related information on the art creation as follows,

1. The concept of social values concerning the beauty of women, Chaimburanakul (2006) pointed out that the desire to change the body comes from dissatisfaction with one's own body. This results from changes in the social environment, receiving information, and social values which are all considered an essential contributor to changes in the body, the mind, and daily life.
2. The influence of expressionist art on creation, arts in this doctrine is the manifestation of visual elements that are suddenly expressed. In particular, the colors can be highly intense and generally unnatural; brush strokes are free, leaving traces of brushstrokes as if showing traces of emotion; and the use of color tends to be bright and express the texture of the brush strokes clearly. (TATE, 2020) Expressionism Art is a creative process that clearly shows the power of emotion to the impression that is quite intense than usual and adhering to the artist's attitude not to the external objects. The external objects may be used as a model to create an appearance; however, the emotional state of mind is what is being conveyed (Soonpongsri, 2016). It can be stated that works of art in this group reflect the artist's inner state with traces of visual elements (Nimsamer, 2015).
3. The case study of 5 expressionist artists' works that has the influence on the creation: (1) Painting of Edvard Munch (2) Painting of Egon Schiele (3) Painting of Francis Bacon (4) Painting of Jang Saetang and (5) Painting of Vasan Sitthiket

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual framework for the creation of the painting series "The Mask" has inputs from the study and review of the social value issues concerning the beauty of females, the influence of Expressionism art, and the case study of expressionist artists' works. These inputs inspired the painting creation which are applied as analytical thinking so that it becomes the concepts of creation in order to plan for the determination of the painting concept for creating this painting creation. This relates to the selection of supplies and equipment that are suitable for the technique and method of creating a unique painting by manipulating the composition to create a new appearance from interpretation for the publication of content and essence in accordance with the creation purpose of the painting series "The Mask".

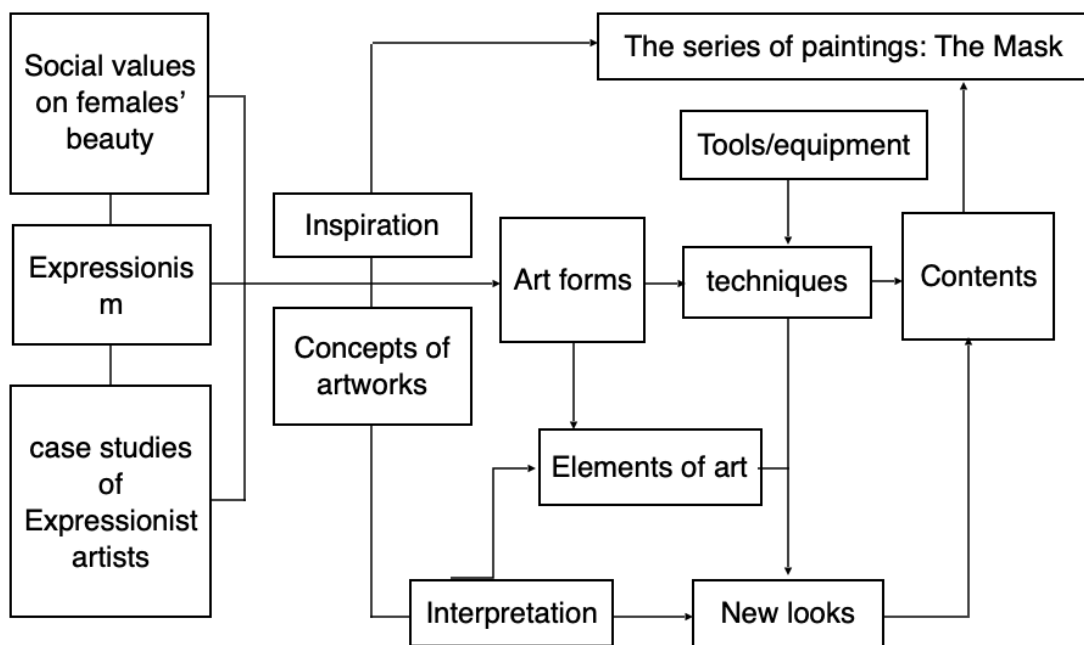


Figure 1 The Conceptual Framework for the Creation of Painting series “The Mask”

Concept of Creation

The creation of painting series “The Mask” during the period from 2018 to 2020 under the concept that presents issues reflecting the stories of females in this modern society who place high value on their appearance. Using imagination to compare the face as if it were the “front of the house” that was once again covered with a mask to conceal from the eyes of individuals and society, preventing them from peeping and observing life and feeling under the mask. The value placed on female appearance drives women to take care, maintain and enhance their beauty in order to promote the ideal appearance. This becomes a daily task that has to be done endlessly; on the other hand, it is considered as the cover-up and bondage of the females who has to maintain herself under satisfaction in accordance with social values. Although such activities are deceptive under the covering of innovations and tools to maintain and enhance beauty, it also contributes to the happiness that females derive from the satisfaction of society in which is an external factor that is always being stigmatized with value. Therefore, it resembles bonds of life that females have to bind with appearance to maintain and embellish their own appearance in accordance with social values.

Supplies and equipment used in the creation

Supplies and equipment used in the painting creation are as follows: (1) paint brush and brush for oil painting (2) Oil paints (3) Refined Linseed Oil (4) Solvent (5) Turpentine for paint brush and brush cleansing (6) Paint Cloth (7) Canvas (8) Wooden frame for canvas (9) Nails (10) staple gun, wire, staples and (11) steel plier and tools to attach the canvas to the wooden frame

Prototype sketch from photographs

The prototype sketch for the outline of the painting creation comes from the photograph that has myself as a model for the character in the painting. Photographs are considered as the origin of image data collection which leads to amplification for the actual works (Mayusoh, Puntien, & Inkuer, 2019). Although the prototype of painting creation derives from photographs which are the primary data, the format and technique of my unique creation did not value copying the photograph to be realistic painting. However, the photographs were being used as prototypes for the expression in terms of shapes, color tones, and light-shadowing principles. The expression through the brush stroke is caused by an inner emotion that expresses as the surface of the vibrated brushstrokes.

Oil Painting

The method of oil painting with paint brush and brush is being applied by tapping the paintbrush or brush to the oil paint mixed with refined linseed oil which is the medium for mixing color (when mixing the different combination) to create a new set of color. Then, smear the oil paint with a paint that has concentrated texture or volume and with the thick texture to paint on the canvas in order to create the stroke with paint and to create stroke of surface with the brush stroke that were continuously painted on the canvas (TATE, 2020). This is to achieve the aspect of clear brush stroke which is the essential visual element the artist wanted to convey the feeling and inner emotion during the creation process of the finished painting, with the influence on the form and techniques in creation from the expressionism art.

Preservation

The preservation of 3 sets of painting (3 periods of creation), which are paintings with thick oil paint and vivid surface, is to take time for the color to set on the canvas and completely dry after finishing the painting process which takes at least a period of 3 to 4 weeks for it to dry and last long. After that, store the paintings in a dry place away from moisture and avoid the overlapping between canvas surfaces to prevent damage.

Publication of painting series

The Creation of Painting: “The Mask” Series was selected to be part of the following contemporary art exhibitions:

1. “The 11th International Women Artists Art Exhibition 2019” by 77 women artists who joined the 11th Thailand-Malaysia Women's Art Exhibition 2019 from 15 countries at the Muzium & Galeri Tuanku Fauziah, Universiti Sains in Malaysia from 11 September to 26 October 2019 which was the dissemination of art at an international level.

2. The “Global Women – Women’s Art” art exhibition by MaeYing Chiangrai Artists group and International Artists at the First Floor Gallery, ArtBridgeChiangRai (ABCR), Chiang Rai. The exhibition was held from 29 June to 28 July 2019, which was a dissemination of art at an international level.

3. The “CONFLUX” exhibition by 5 artists including Somsak Raksuwan, Gumsak Atipiboonsin, Opas Chotiphantawanon, Natsuree Tecahwiryataweesin, and Thawee Tungmongkolwanit. The exhibition was held at the first floor, Ratchadamnoen Contemporary Art Center, Bangkok from 3-29 March 2020 which was a dissemination of art at a national level.

4. The exhibition of workshops and art exhibitions of faculty members under academic cooperation (MOU) of Rajabhat Universities (20 institutions) with Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University and co-hosts Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University under the topic of the 6th Thai art identity at Bansomdejchaopraya Rajabhat University between 25-30 August 2020, which was a dissemination of art at a national level.

5. The solo exhibition “The Façade” which was held at the Chamchuri Art Gallery, Bangkok from 23 December 2020 to 17 January 2021 which was a dissemination of art at a national level.

Analysis of artworks titled “The mask” series

The analysis of artworks is to describe the result of an analysis of images in particular paintings in what images or symbols appear. As for the analysis of expression techniques, it is to explain the results of the analysis in terms of techniques and methods for creating the finished paintings. The compositional analysis of the work is to explain the results from the analysis of the composition or the placement of various parts which are factors that contribute to the creation of a complete painting. On the part of interpretive analysis, it is to explain the results from the analysis of communication or the content displayed under the symbols that appear in the work.

Phase 1 of painting creation

The first phase of painting creations has the concept of creation that the face is the appearance that most people notice first. As a result, females emphasize on taking care of their own skin and believe that appearance matters. The values on facial beauty of females are connected to the ideal beauty and social values that lead to expectations of their appearance. Both dressing beautifully and doing the plastic surgery have the common intention of attracting the attention of others. Females have to follow regulations of wearing makeup to work or embellish themselves too much which can compare to wearing masks at the cost of pain. These social memories are after-images that are all about the beauty that most women want to be. The paintings that were created in Phases 1 were an oil painting on canvas titled “Black mask 1” with the size of 60 x 50 cm, “Beneath the mask” with the size of 60 x 50 cm, and “Makeup Me” with the size of 80 x 80 cm.



Figure 2 The Painting titled “Black mask 1”, “Beneath the mask”, and “Makeup Me”

Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2021)

Phase 2 of painting creation

The second phase of painting creations has the concept of creation that conforms to the paintings of Phase 1. It expresses the idea of a face as an appearance of a female that most people perceive from visually. Females therefore emphasize on taking care of their skin and face. The issue on facial beauty of females is connected to the ideal beauty and social values in which these social memories are all images about beauty that most females want to be. The paintings that were created in Phases 2 were an oil painting on canvas titled “The season of beauty 1” with the size of 90 x 70 cm, “The season of beauty 2” with the size of 180 x 150 cm, “The season of beauty 3” with the size of 70 x 90 cm, “The season of beauty 4” with the size of 100 x 80 cm, and “Tomato” with the size of 60 x 50 cm.



Figure 3 The Painting titled “The season of beauty 1”, “The season of beauty 2”, and “The season of beauty 3”

Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2022)



Figure 4 The Painting titled “The season of beauty 4” and “Tomato”

Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2022)

Phase 3 of painting creation

Paintings in Phase 3 was created in 2020 with the concept of creation that the outer shell or the appearance of females becomes one of the social essences or the first impression. People recognize the appearance, body shape, face, and accessories that cover the body to have the best look in today’s society. This is because females are a gender that always emphasizes

beauty, so they start their daily life by treating themselves first: dressing up, putting on make-up to increase their confidence, and to be remembered with a good first impression, which results in the increase in self-esteem and happiness. The origin of beauty starts with taking care, maintaining, and curing skin and body with various kinds of cosmetics by applying, masking, or concealing unwanted spots on the body. There are processes in taking care and in maintaining which sometimes include plastic surgery to achieve the expected beauty that seems like a thin outer shell (appearance) at the cost of pain. The importance of females' mind and beauty of appearance must be acted in moderation. Too much of them may lead to the emergence of a state of suffering. Being too obsessed with the outer shell can lead you to forget the virtues inside that are true beauty. The paintings that were created in Phases 3 were an oil painting on canvas titled "hidden in the chrysalis 1" with the size of 60x50 cm, "hidden in the chrysalis 2" with the size of 100 x 120 cm, "before becoming a butterfly 1" with the size of 120x100 cm, "before becoming a butterfly 2" with the size of 120x100 cm, "The innovation of molting 1" with the size of 100x100 cm, "the innovation of molting 2" with the size of 100x100 cm, "in the state of chrysalis 1" with the size of 160x200 cm, and "in the state of chrysalis 2" with the size of 160x200 cm.



Figure 5 "hidden in the chrysalis 1" and "hidden in the chrysalis 2"
Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2023)



Figure 6 "before becoming a butterfly 1" and "before becoming a butterfly 2"
Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2023)



Figure 7 “the innovation of molting 1” and “the innovation of molting 2”
Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2023)



Figure 8 “in the state of chrysalis 1” and “in the state of chrysalis 2”
Source: Natsuree Techawiriyataweesin (2023)

Summary and Discussion

The painting series “The Mask” is an oil-on-canvas visual art creation inspired by researching and observing the values of the expectation of females’ beauty. On one hand it is the satisfaction of society towards females; on the other hand, it is a bond for females to bear the burden of healthcare to maintain and enhance their beauty in which it promotes the ideological appearance of females as they are representative of beauty. The goal of taking care and enhancing the beauty of females lies in the face and body that naturally change by the changing time varying ages. The natural time of the body is a factor that makes the decay of the face and body unable to remain the same. Therefore, females have to nurture and embellish themselves so that their appearance continues to show their ideal beauty at all times. It has appeared in both western and eastern ideas throughout history in which can be observed from the works of art in each past era showing the meaning of a female in the form of goddesses, mothers, virgins, and ordinary women which represent the idealism of gender with beauty. According to the inspiration combined with the datasets that the author has reviewed, the integration of all data sets into concepts of creation of the painting series “The Mask”. The duration of researching and creating the paintings was from 2018 to 2020. The objectives were to create and publicize the artworks which present and reflect the issues on the values of external beauty or the external image of females who have to live under the ideal beauty. It is

an internal driving force for females to take care of and enhance their beauty. This is to promote their appearance as a concrete ideal of beauty which leads to repetition of daily tasks endlessly. These things are for remaining oneself in a state of satisfaction in accordance with the social values. Even if it is just an illusionary world wrapped up in innovation; beauty tools; and materials, it also affects a female's psychological sense of contentment; to be appreciated; or social satisfaction, although they are external factors related to the body.

The author has used herself as a fundamental to express as unique paintings. In the aspect of crucial artistic influence on the expression of the paintings, it is the artworks of Expressionist artists both Thai and Western. This style of painting expresses the inner emotion of the creators through the traces of vivid colors, clear brush strokes, and strong paints which show the vibrating movements of the creators themselves. This expression is directly related to the unconscious or subconscious mind that flows from the heart to the moving hand. Traces on the canvas are like a recording of the emotion and feelings combined with the creators' thoughts. Expressionist artists' paintings are the main influence on the creation of paintings in this series. The author combines personal experiences, thought, and emotions with concepts, based on reviewed issues in various studies and expressed them under the structures of the systematic processes of creation with the combination of artistic aesthetics and academic purposes that promote this series of works both in the aspect of aesthetics and academic at the same time (Hodge, 2017).

These are a body of knowledge obtained from the art creation that can be applied in teaching and learning on the subject of paintings, artistic elements, and creation of visual arts corresponding to the issues of creating contemporary visual arts under academic contexts.

As the result of the integration of inspiration, concepts, process of creation, and completed artworks, the painting has become a representative in expressing females' daily routines to promote their image which is the value that arises in both personal satisfaction and happiness. The outward value is to promote one's self-image based on social values either denying that it is a disturbance to their normal well-being or is the development of a female's commitment to society. It can be said that females themselves have to be framed and have always been subject to these missions. Indeed, beauty and women go hand in hand. Therefore, the treatment, care, enhancement, and embellishment of beauty is consequently an important representation, a stereotype, and the essential ideals of feminine beauty through all eras of mankind.

Recommendation

In this section, the researcher suggests two main points for future study as follows,

The first is others researchers should study another aspect of the creation of Painting: "The Mask" Series and the aesthetic value of creating paintings.

The second suggestion involves to study an analytical datasets from the processes of creating unique paintings that are useful in the academic context of the visual arts

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