


Glass Reflections In Expression Photography

Susanto Umboro

Program Studi Fotografi, Fakultas Seni Media Rekam, ISI Yogyakarta

Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p>Keywords: Reflection, expression photography, and colorful broken glass.</p>	<p>An activity that demands creative value in work, the creator tries to process various elements of art to produce interesting and different works from others. Observations of colored glass that is crushed into fragments that are illuminated by natural light (sun) so that it reflects an interesting reflection, then the idea emerged as a basic concept in the process of creating photographic artwork. Glass reflection is a combination of visualization from the seeds of imagination. By exploring the reflection or reflection of colored glass fragments as an object of creating artwork with photography media, the creator believes that the reflection or reflection of glass that is photographed with an extreme macro technique, namely a reversed lens, will present aesthetic images of various patterns, styles, and abstract forms. Photographic works are a visual language practice that contains messages and has a discourse of knowledge and meaning. The photographic work entitled "Glass Reflection in Expression Photography" raises the imaginations that exist within the creator by using reflections or reflections of light from colorful glass shards as a metaphorical expression of what exists and invites art lovers to imagine each by looking at the artwork that the creator produces.</p>
<p>This is an open access article under the CC BY-NC license</p> 	<p>Corresponding Author: Susanto Umboro Program Studi Fotografi, Fakultas Seni Media Rekam, ISI Yogyakarta susanto@isi.ac.id</p>

INTRODUCTION

Photography is used as an alternative media to express creative ideas or concepts and expressions for an artist. Art photography is the result of expressing artistic feelings purely using photographic equipment that prioritizes the artistic aspect and is more subjective, while in the scope of art and culture, photography itself is a form of two-dimensional work. Photography itself is a medium used to convey ideas, thoughts, ideas, and stories like language (Soelarko, 1987:5). Through an observation of the environment around the house, I found something interesting that was worthy of being a photography object. I accidentally saw a piece of glass from a drink bottle that was illuminated by sunlight in the trash bin behind the house. From that accident, I tried to find an idea to create a photographic work from a glass reflection. By collecting various colors of glass that had previously been broken, then photographing the reflection or reflection of the glass with an extreme macro technique with the lens reversed. It turned out that the glass fragments illuminated by the sun had been able to provide inspiration to create photographic works.

Macro photography is one of the photography techniques that makes an object enlarged. The enlargement can be done by bringing the object closer to the camera, or from a certain distance using a telephoto lens and must still involve elements of composition and

balance. SLR (Single Lens Reflect) cameras, both analog and digital, now have facilities for macro photography using different lenses, usually the distance between the focus of the lens and the object will differ depending on the type of lens we use. From the knowledge above, I want to create a work of photographic art through exploration to present unique and interesting visual aspects of an object made of colored glass that was previously broken.

Reflection or reflection of light from broken glass produces a unique object, in the composition of the photo shoot is very important so that it is comfortable to look at. Many abstract photography works have been made and with various techniques or photo objects that appear, but here I try to make a different abstract photography work, namely the reflection or reflection of colorful broken glass with the 'extreme macro' technique, namely using a reversed lens. The reversed lens technique is by reversing the lens and then gluing it with adhesive (duct tape). Abstract photography is one part of expression/art photography.

In the book Pot-Pourri Photography by Soeprapto Soedjono (2006: 27) explains that expressive photography is a photographic work designed with a certain concept by selecting selected photo objects and which are processed and presented for the benefit of the photographer with an outpouring of his artistic expression, then the work can become a work of expressive photography. In this case, the work of expressive photography is interpreted as a medium of expression that displays the identity of the photographer in the artistic process of creating a work of artistic photography. The photographic work he created is more of a pure work of fine art photography because the form of its appearance emphasizes the expressive-aesthetic value of the art itself. Composition is related to the placement of the selected object in the shot. By imagining in experimenting with shooting with the lens behind this, the arrangement of lines, shapes and dominant colors creates an imagination or visual fantasy that seems abstract. In this creative process, I created an expressive photographic work by utilizing colorful glass shards, as the object material. After I saw and observed the colorful glass shards, something interesting and unexpected was created such as elements of plane composition, texture, lines, colors and also new forms that are unique and interesting. So in this work, imagination/fantasy will be expressed into the medium of photography art entitled: Glass Reflection in Expression Photography.

Formulation of the Idea of Creation

The idea or concept emerged after finding a source resulting from aesthetic experience. Then continued into a process that eventually the photographic artwork was realized in real form. Herbert Read said: in the world of art (any art), it should have an idea/concept and emotion from its creator, otherwise the artwork will or is considered a low artwork (Read, 1974:171). Therefore, this idea of creation I try and formulate to make a photographic work from a reflection or reflection of light produced by colorful glass so that it can be visualized into an aesthetic and creative photographic work of expression. Through high activity and creativity can encourage the results of thinking to determine the existence of new discoveries. Touching on the meaning of creativity, Robert J. Sernberg and Tood I. Lubart stated that:

Creativity does not occur in a vacuum. When we observe a creative person, a creative work, or a creative process, we often ignore the influence of the environment. We detach

creativity from its context. The environment, however, always presents and can have a profound influence on the expression of creativity. The environment may be involved in stimulating and supporting creativity, defining it, and evaluating it. In the creation of artwork, activity and creativity are the main demands to support the visualization process of photographic works, so my responsibility is to present artwork that has its own character and style. Because photography can actually be used for the art of 'painting using light', then the creation of abstract photographic works should always be based on aspects of good photographic creation, including: focus, detail, composition, contrast, and adequate color.

Literature Review

Study of the Source of Creation

Artwork is a form of creative and aesthetic product and is able to express various feelings in the most touching situations. Art activities are a series of human life filling in pouring out imagination and becoming the main concern. The meaning of form, line, point, color, guided by the feeling of being the strength of the presence of the artwork that I create. Related to the activity of pouring out an idea to produce a photographic artwork, it is necessary to conduct a study of sources that will be used as a basis for creating the artwork that will be created. The study can be conducted on reference sources, either in the form of visual textual literature sources, observation results, contemplation, and observation of certain objects that can provide imaginary stimulation in creating a work of art. Observation of colored glass that is broken into pieces that are illuminated by natural light (sun) so that it reflects an interesting reflection, then the idea was born as a basic concept in the process of creating a work of photographic art.

Glass is an amorphous (non-crystalline) solid material that is clear and transparent (see-through), usually brittle. The most widely used type for centuries is windows and drinking glasses. Glass is made from a mixture of 75% silicon dioxide (SiO_2), Na_2O , CaO , and some additives. Its melting point is 2,000 degrees Celsius.

In the book *More Joy of Photography*, published by Addison-Wesley Publishing Company in America by Eastman Kodak Company in 1988, it is stated that, when light hits a smooth, shiny surface, such as polished glass, metal, or plastic, many of the light waves bounce off without becoming scattered, and when we view the surface from the proper angle, we see a reflected image. Such reflection provides you with a marvelous opportunity to a picture by showing two different aspects of the world at the same time. In effect, it's like having a window that opens into a realm that is usually unseen. By exploring the reflections of colorful glass shards as the subject of creating artwork using photography as the medium, I believe that the reflections of glass photographed using macro techniques will present aesthetic images with a variety of patterns, styles, and abstract forms. Ideas or concepts greatly determine the success of a work of art, I try to process the ideas I get about colorful glass shards illuminated by light. With the presence of light I can choose which is interesting in taking a photo object with the object of light reflection from colorful glass shards. That is what drives me to experiment with light. Photography is a visual language practice that contains messages and has a discourse of knowledge and meaning. This photographic work entitled "Glass Reflection in Expression Photography" raises the

imaginations that exist in me by using reflections or reflections of light from glass shards as a metaphorical expression of what exists and invites art lovers to imagine each of them who see the artwork that I produce.

The Basis of Creation

The history of photography is inseparable from the discovery of cameras and films. With the discovery of film, images can be produced, and the lighting process of the film occurs inside the camera. As expressed by Ferry Darmawan in his book " The World in a Frame ", that: "The term photography was first put forward by an English scientist, Sir John Herschell in 1839. Photography comes from the word photos (ray/light) and graphos (recording/painting). Literally photography means painting with light or light (Darmawan, 2008:19). Approximately after one and a half centuries of development and introduction, the world of photography certainly provides a very significant contribution to the movement of modern human culture throughout the 20th century. In the world of photography we will find one of them is abstract photography which is included in the photography of expression (art), abstract is more often seen and known in painting. In the world of photography where abstract photos can also be found, as explained by Soeprapto Soedjono (1995; 55), that, photographic works can be " abstract " like other works of art if the object displayed is not real and the appearance of the object is difficult to recognize, although it is also a recording of anything that exists in the surrounding nature. The main problem is to what extent the work can represent the photographer's goals and concepts in his efforts to present his photographic work as a reflection of what he planned and expected before the presence of the work itself. In addition, works created with photographic materials and techniques are made based on existing aesthetic values and can be called works of expression of the creator. Thus it can be said that the presence of photographic media that is displayed consciously for its pure purpose to achieve the fulfillment of the rules of fine art, then the work deserves to be called a work of pure art.

Abstract photos will produce something more meaningful for beauty, therefore in taking pictures arranging or creating composition becomes the spearhead for the success of making abstract photos. One of the determining factors for the success of creating abstract photos is the eye's sharpness. Observing the object of broken glass, we will be able to find something that seems abstract, but in order for the abstract impression to appear, it is better not to take a complete picture of what is seen, but to display it by taking a picture of only part of it, namely with the macro side of photography.

The reflection or reflection of the colored glass that is used as an object is not displayed in its entirety but only the parts that have interesting elements from an artistic angle/aspect and the object looks bigger. Macro photography techniques are used to obtain optimal image enlargement and the visualization of the object looks more interesting. In simple terms, macro photography is also commonly referred to as close-up photography . However, a stricter definition in the sense that a photo can be called a macro photo if the image is projected at close range with the same size. Or in other words, a small object is then enlarged on a scale of 1: 1 or larger so that the details become clearly visible. The basis of creation in the creation of abstract photography works with macro photography techniques is to create artistic photography by considering aspects such as composition,

namely the placement or arrangement of parts of an image to form a unity in a certain field so that it is pleasing to the eye. Some things that are part of the composition are thirds of the field, simplification of form, limitation of focus, sharp space, symmetry, view point, and lines.

The Concept of Manifestation

The form of visualization that I will apply in this photographic work is an expression of my heart, feelings, emotions, and expressions of my soul towards what is seen, heard and felt. While the elements that I will use as objects are colorful glass shards that are illuminated by direct sunlight with an extreme macro technique, namely a reversed lens. The final result that I hope for is to create an abstract work from an experiment with a reversed lens. The word abstract means intangible, shapeless, abstract, abstract. Soedarso argues that style, pattern or style (*stijl*), is actually related to the external form of a work of art (Soedarso Sp, 1998:79). While the flow, understanding or *ism* is more related to views or principles that are deeper in nature. Soedarso further explains about abstract art is: In the purest sense, abstract is creations consisting of an arrangement of lines, shapes and colors that are completely limited from the illusion of forms in nature (Soedarso Sp, 2000:123). Related to the understanding of the pattern and flow, for me in creating a work of art photography, abstract is a pattern, in the sense that it is more related to its physical aspects.

METHOD

Method is a regular way used to carry out a job in order to achieve what is desired. In the creation of artwork, it must be based on aesthetic awareness by its creator. Aesthetic awareness is the perception of the process of arranging materials, colors, sounds, movements and other quality reactions obtained from observation, which then become a pleasant form or pattern. If the results of the perception are related to previous emotions or feelings, then it can be said that the emotions and feelings have been expressed. This provides more confidence that art is an expression (Read, 2000:5). The artistic photographic works that I create tend to have “abstract” forms. Therefore, the works that are created are expected to be able to stimulate the emergence of various images for anyone who sees or appreciates them. According to Herbert Read in his book *Seni, Arti dan Masalahatiknya* which has been translated by Soedarso Sp (2000:16

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A work of photographic art if in its creation is not done with a thought process that is poured into a concept, as well as the insight and feeling in capturing an object, then the photographic work will not have any value except just a still image. Even though the creation of the work is done using modern photographic equipment. The camera is merely an extension of the eye, in fact we take pictures with the brain, eyes and heart. In other words, the process of creating photography is not just taking pictures, but must be based on a mindset that is expressed in a certain concept. The creation of this photographic work is explained in stages that must be done first before this work is realized in real terms:

1. Idea/concept of creation

The idea for creating macro photography came about when I started to get bored with the commercial photos that were my job, and I accidentally saw a reflection of glass illuminated by the sun, from there I had the idea to create a photographic work with glass as an object. The idea or idea of creating this artwork begins with a contemplation, observation, exploration of phenomena that at all times provide intuitive vibrations that stimulate the imagination to express. In creating art, many are taken through a creative process that begins with capturing symptoms or aesthetic moments as an inner drive to spark an idea which is then visualized in real form. The process of creating an expressive photographic work with colorful glass fragments using this macro photography technique, light is very important, so in this photo shoot I took pictures during the day with direct sunlight.

2. Draft

In terms of the manifestation of this work, I try to express the aesthetic experience obtained which is designed with a certain concept with the object that has been chosen, namely colored glass that was previously broken, then processed and presented as a real form as an outpouring of artistic expression. The process of creating a work of art concerns the results of the discovery of a new "art" product. In relation to the new product, it is important to have creative power to support the creation process. Because art, Goethe wrote in the description of Ernst Cassirer (1987:222), among others, states, art does indeed stick to the surface of natural phenomena, but art has its own depth and power. Art crystallizes the peak moments of these superficial phenomena by pointing to the existence of orderly nature, perfect harmonious proportions, the peak of beauty, noble meaning, and the weight of emotion. Basically, the process of creating works of art cannot be separated from the influence of various things, for example, past experiences, playing around, daydreaming or fantasizing about imperfections, observing other people's experiences, and environmental problems.

3. Exploration and Observation

Exploration and observation were carried out in the environment around the house by observing and photographing glass fragments illuminated by sunlight. In this exploration process, the power of an artwork basically lies in the depth of observation of the photo object before being transformed through the camera media. During the process of observing everything in depth, sometimes people can find something amazing that was not expected before, even though the key to an artwork is determined by the artist's observation ability in presenting his observation experience in depth on beauty. The experiments conducted were to determine the shooting angle and composition of the object to be photographed, prepare the selected materials, namely broken glass and the tools used, namely the camera and other supporting tools needed for the continuation of the shooting. The main basic material in the work of this macro photography is glass (broken glass).

CONCLUSION

Creation with the basis of expression as the basic pattern of this work's creation, I emphasize the extreme macro technique, namely with a lens that is reversed with a colorful

glass object. The effects formed from irregular reflections or reflections but with imagination and ideas, a work that can be enjoyed is created. An activity that demands the value of creative work, I try to process various elements of art to produce interesting works that are different from others. Observation of colored glass that is broken into pieces that are illuminated by natural light (sun) so that it reflects an interesting reflection, then the idea emerged as a basic concept in the process of creating a photographic artwork. Glass reflection is a combination of visualization from the seeds of imagination. By exploring the reflection or reflection of colored glass shards as an object, I believe that the reflection or reflection of glass that is photographed with an extreme macro technique, namely a reversed lens, will present aesthetic images of various patterns, styles, and abstract forms. Photography is a visual language practice that contains messages and has a discourse of knowledge and meaning. The photography work entitled Glass Reflection in Expression Photography raises the imaginations that exist in the creator by using reflections or reflections of light from colorful glass shards as a metaphorical expression of what exists and invites art lovers to imagine each of them who see the artwork that I produce. In the process of creating artwork, of course, it will never be separated from what is called an aesthetic moment. This moment can come anytime, anywhere, either from outside or from within a creator. Immortalizing the aesthetic moment that has ever been experienced into a work of art, and not infrequently starting from a certain moment gives birth to an extraordinary masterpiece of art. Creative ideas will be realized if the process of creating a work is accompanied by stages that must be passed through such as observation, exploration and observation as well as experiments, sometimes ideas are not known when they will come, sometimes they can be realized over a long period of time and can also be realized quickly. The art of photography in the future is very much needed a more exploration so that creative and innovative works are created. Through the manifestation of works of art that originate from events or aesthetic experiences, humans can reap a wisdom that can be used as a benchmark in living life, so that it can be used as a material for appreciation and awareness of each person in realizing peace and harmony.

REFERENCE

- Darmaprawira, Sulasmi WA, *Color, Theory and Creativity of its Use*, ITB, Bandung, 2002, p.65.
- Darmawan, Ferry, *The World in a Frame, Graha Ilmu*, Yogyakarta, 2008, p. 19
- Ernst, Cassirer, *An Essay on Man*, translated by Alois A. Nugroho, PT.Gramedia, Jakarta, 1987, p.222
- More Joy of Photography*, Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Eastman Kodak Company, America, 1988.
- Parkel, David. (2010) *The Visual Dictionary of Photography*, AVA Publishing SA, Switzerland.
- Read, Herbert, *A Consice of Modern Painting*, Thames and Hudston, London, 1974, p.171
- _____, *Art, Meaning and Problems*, translated by Soedarso Sp, Duta Wacana University Press, Yogyakarta, 2000, p.5.
- Sernberg, Robert J & Tood I. Lubart, *Cultivating Creativity in a Culture of Conformity* by.

Free Press, 1995.

Soedarso Sp., *Trilogy of Art and Beauty*, Creation of Existence and Usefulness, Indonesian Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta, Yogyakarta, 1998, p.79

_____, *History of the Development of Modern Art*, CV. Studio Delapan Puluh Enterprise, Jakarta, 2000, p.123

_____, *"Types of Natural Fine Art Works and Their Treatment"*, Paper on Fine Art Management, Postgraduate Program ISI Yogyakarta, 2002, p.2

Soedjono, Soeprapto, *Pot-Pourri Photography*, Tri Sakti University, Jakarta, 2007, p.27

_____, *"Photographic Works in the Scope of Fine Arts"*, Jurnal *SENI*, Indonesian Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta, edition VII/01 August 1999, p.55

Soelarko, RM, *Ethical Problems in Photographic Works*, Foto Indonesia, No.54, 1987, p.5