



Designing Cirebonese 'Macan Ali' in Three Dimensional Form

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ABSTRACT: One of the symbols of the famous sultanate of Cirebon is "Macan Ali", but there the physical or 3D form of this symbol still needs a touch of art. So this study aims to revise the existing but not representative Macan Ali statue, to recreate it to impress the image that represents the glory of Cirebon in the past. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach, with data collection techniques through literature study, observation, and documentation. The theory in analyzing the data is carried out by ethnographic theory and design methods with creative process theory through the stages, namely (1) preparation, (2) incubation, (3) illumination, and (4) verification. The final result of this research is the shape of the "Macan Ali" statue, in 3D.

Keywords: Transfiguration, Macan Ali, Sultanate of Cirebon

1 INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Cirebon Regency and Cirebon City will enter the age of 649. From the colonial era, the sultanate of Cirebon underwent a change of name from the Sultanate to the Regency, Cirebon City. The symbol that becomes the identity of Cirebon itself is in the form of the Macan Ali flag. In the visual of the Tiger Ali flag there are many philosophical values, such as the writings of Basmallah and Asmaul Husna, which symbolize the greatness of God. Two eight-sided stars symbolizing the Prophet Muhammad and Fatimah. Small and large lions and two crossed swords, symbolizing Imam Ali's Zulfikar Sword. Asadullah, which is the great lion or lion of God which is called the Tiger Ali. Five holy men who symbolized the pillar of religion as a source of guidance. For the people of West Java, especially residents of Cirebon, the Macan Ali flag is already familiar. Nearly most people in the city of Cirebon know about the Macan Ali flag, both parents and teachers always tell the Macan Ali flag to children even if only briefly. As the times grew, the Tigers Ali flag was not only told verbally. At present the Tigers Ali flag has been widely adapted to various media, there are many media used in terms of the spread of Tigers Ali flag generally in the form of paintings and glass calligraphy. In this millennial era, the calligraphy of the Tiger Ali appears in several media, such as stickers, calendars and t-shirts. Tiger Ali's calligraphy is printed on T-shirts, banners and billboards which are generally used in arts and cultural activities.



Figure 1 : The Macan Ali Coat and Macan Ali Statue
Source: www.ist/pojokjabar.com & Hendra Wardhana

Aside from being printed, the Macan Ali flag was also transformed into a 3-dimensional figure, one of which was in the form of a statue in the Kasepuhan Palace, Cirebon. In this statue, it is clear that the image stylized in the Tigers Ali flag is transformed into a 3-dimensional form (sculpture). But based on the observations of researchers, the transformation into a 3-dimensional form does not describe the figure of a tiger animal that should have a strong, impressive image of authority according to the philosophy that exists on the Macan Ali flag. For this reason, researchers try to make a stylized form of the figure of a tiger on the Macan Ali flag in the form of a figure that is even better than the existing one.

2 RESEARCH METHODS

This study will use a qualitative research method with an ethnographic model as a tool to analyze it. Quoting Emzir (2012: 18), ethnography itself is a science that discusses a nation where there is a contemporary use of language. Meanwhile, the word ethnography itself comes from the Greek word 'ethos' which means ethnicity and graphos which means something written. So the meaning of ethnography can be interpreted as a writing about cultural groups. Meanwhile, according to Ary, et al (2010: 459) it is said that ethnography is an in-depth study of the natural behavior of a culture or all social groups in it. Another researcher, Creswell (2012: 462) says that the ethnographic method is a qualitative research procedure to describe, analyze, and interpret the elements of a cultural group. The elements are the behavior patterns of the people, a belief, and language that develops from time to time. This research itself focuses on cultural research where culture itself according to LeCompte et al (in Creswell, 2012: 462) is everything related to human behavior and beliefs. This includes language, rituals, economics, and political structures, stages of life, interactions, and communication styles so that the design method for the transformation of this kind of Ali figure will use the Wallas model where the creative process in the design will go through four stages, namely (1) preparation , (2) incubation, (3) illumination, and (4) verification.

3 Dimensional Transformation Process of the Macan Ali Symbol

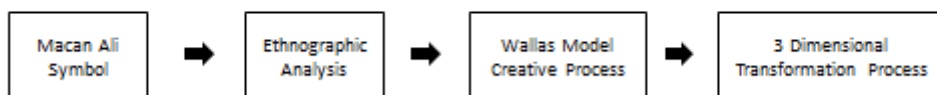
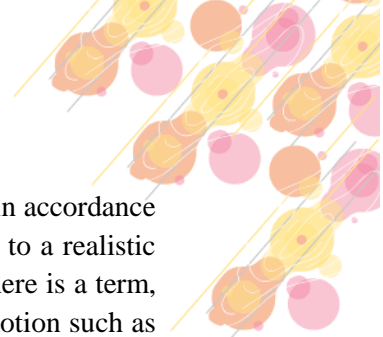


Figure 2 : The Initial Process of Making a Tiger Figure with Clay
Source: Author



The image of the figure of Macan Ali is an ethnographic object, and will be made in accordance with the existing reality, and there will be a transformation from a stylized image to a realistic image according to the philosophy of the object of the image. In figure drawing there is a term, namely gesture drawing, which is drawing a living creature in a pose or style in motion such as walking, running, jumping, walking, looking away and so on. In the end, this design will bring up the character of the figure of Macan Ali that fits in with the philosophical values it contains. The design of the transformation of the object of the Macan Ali figure will also use one of the theories from Wallas, where this theory has until now been widely used by various creators as part of the creative process of creating a work. This theory was put forward in 1926 in a book entitled "The Art of Thought" which suggested that a creative process has four stages, namely (1) the initial stage or preparation, (2) the incubation stage, (3) the illumination stage, and the last stage. (4) stages to verify. With the following explanation; In the first stage, a creator will prepare himself to find and solve problems through learning in thinking, finding answers, then asking others who know better, and so on. In the second stage, the activities of searching and collecting data/information were not continued. Next in the 2nd stage; namely the incubation stage, is the stage where the individual tries to escape temporarily from the problem, in the sense that the individual is not thinking about the problem consciously, but keeps it in the pre-conscious nature. As revealed from various analyzes and reports of prominent artists and scientists, this stage has an important meaning where in the process of emergence of inspiration which is the starting point of a new discovery or creation that originally emerged from the pre-conscious nature. The 3rd stage is illumination; is the stage where an inward perspective emerges or an idea appears suddenly. This stage is when the emergence of a new subconscious inspiration or disturbance, which simultaneously enters the psychological process that initiates and follows the emergence of new inspiration or ideas. The last is the verification or evaluation stage, this stage is where the ideas that come from individuals or new creations must be tested against reality. This is where critical and convergent thinking is needed from the individual in responding to it. In other words, the process of divergence or a creative thought must also be followed by a process of convergence or critical thinking.

3 RESULT AND DISCUSSION

There are various ways of making object figures with various materials, from clay, cement to cast iron. In making this Macan Ali figure, the technique used is the grain technique, which is a technique for making sculptures from soft materials, such as clay, gypsum, or wax. The process itself is subtractive (reducing) or additive (adding) to certain parts. The process of making the Macan Ali figure starts from the raw material, namely clay, then it is made into a physical form and then made into a mold. The final process of making the statue uses silicone and ends with painting to perfect the figure of Macan Ali. The following is the manufacturing process which is described as follows:

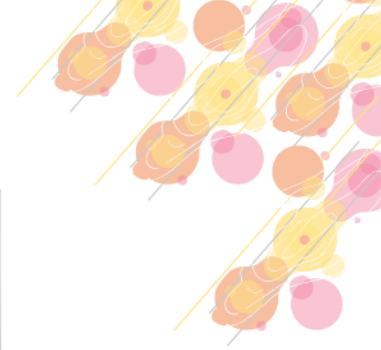


Figure 3: The Initial Process of Making a Tiger Figure with Clay

Source: Author

The process of making a figure begins with making a sketch or a picture of what the model will look like. After the object image has been created, the next step is the process of making the mold by first preparing the materials. The next step is to make a mold from clay which is shaped like a tiger Ali figure on a 1:20 scale. This initial model or master mold is made of clay following the shape of the Tiger Ali statue. The shape of the image is done carefully considering the source of the object comes from a 2-dimensional image, so that if it is misinterpreted, the result will not be as expected. The materials used include Silicone Rubber type RTV-48, silicon catalyst as a hardener, and a mixing container for silicon with a silicon catalyst. In addition to stirring, used pieces of wood are used. Other tools include a mat to put the model on and gloves that are used to protect the skin from being exposed to silicone or silicone catalysts.



Figure 4: The Process of Making a Mold

Source: Author

Furthermore, the mold material is mixed by stirring the catalyst which is poured into a container that already contains silicon. The dose used is 100:4 or 100:5 which means 1 silicon catalyst is equal to 25 or 20 silicon. Furthermore, the catalyst is stirred between the mixture of silicon and silicon catalyst until completely evenly distributed. After stirring until evenly distributed, the mixture of silicon and silicon catalyst is inserted into the mold. After hardening, the silicone is removed from the parent mold and then refined by filing or cutting parts of the mold pieces.

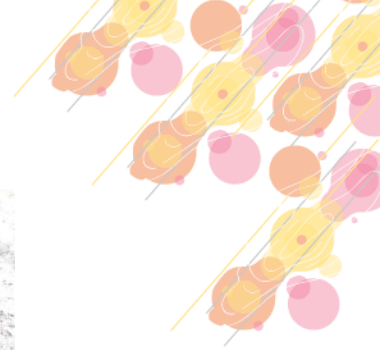


Figure : Figure Painting Process

Source: Author

The last step is to paint the figure with a coating that aims to protect the object to create the impression of luster and smoothness. This coating is also useful so that the figures can last a long time from corrosion or accidental damage such as scratches or other things. The painting technique itself uses a spray gun, where this technique can produce paint as a whole evenly. In addition, the spray gun technique allows objects to be painted to details such as pores or surfaces that cannot be achieved with a brush technique.



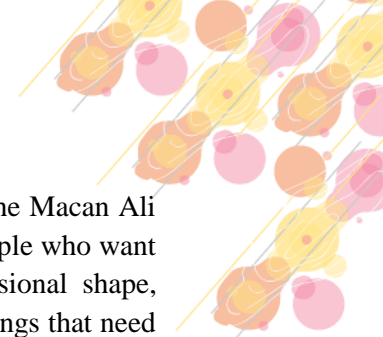
Figure 6 : Final Results of the Macan Ali Figure

Source: Author

Lastly, above is the final result of a transfiguration study of the Macan Ali symbol from the image on the flag into a 3-dimensional figure.

4 CONCLUSION

The making of the Tiger Ali figure is done with a simple technique, namely starting from a lump of clay which is then formed into a 3D shape. Furthermore, the clay that has formed this figure is then molded using silicone. Making silicone molds is easier than regular molds, because the process is not difficult and there is no need to bother to learn it. When finished, the print is then given a coating whose function is to protect the object and give an aesthetic



impression. In summary, the process of making a figure with a silicone mold of the Macan Ali figure is expected to be a guide for anyone such as students, artists or ordinary people who want to make similar figures. Transforming a 2-dimensional image into a 3-dimensional shape, although it looks easy, in practice requires a high level of skill. There are many things that need to be considered in making figures from 2-dimensional images such as volume, depth and proportional objects, considering the shape of 2-dimensional images does not show these things.

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