



DANDELIONS AS MOTIF CREATION CONSTRUCT FOR READY TO WEAR

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Abstract

The base of these fashion pieces was dandelions as the main idea. Not only dandelions have 2 kind of petal colors, but also the shapes and benefits were very interesting as batik motifs. The purpose of this research was to create a batik motif design with the dandelion as the sole idea. Apart from that, it is also to create ready-to-wear fashion designs. The next goal is to apply dandelion batik motifs to the Ready To Wear clothing that will be created in these fashion pieces. The method for this research uses the art creation methods from Gustami SP, which consist of data collection, design, and creation. The technique used in the creation process is batik tulis technique. Furthermore, in making motifs, it is carried out using the deformation method as a form to obtain motif development. The batik coloring technique used in this batik pieces were the resist dyeing process of the dip cap and the dab technique. The selection of colors for these designs were bright and dark colors from Remasol batik dyes. The works consist of 4 Ready To Wear clothes which named was taken from Sanskrit, they are "Bhanuresmi", "Canduri", "Cakra" and "Samiya". All of them were equipped with accessories such as earrings, necklaces, rings, hats, headbands, sunglasses and hair bands.

Keywords: Batik, Dandelion, Ready to Wear

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia, with its multi-cultural background, has created various characteristics and unique characteristics for each city and island. Batik is known as an icon that is strongly attached to the Indonesian nation. Batik creation in Indonesia shows a very diverse spectrum of visual expressions because the cloth has long been one of the most important cultural expressions of the Javanese people, especially in the context of customs, for

example as clothing and ceremonial support devices. Batik is also a commodity in the form of basic materials for various kinds of contemporary needs such as fashion, interior complementary elements, and others. Batik strives to appear following fashion trends.

In the past, batik was only worn by Indonesians from the Java region, namely palace aristocrats who were only allowed to wear batik with strict rules. In current development, batik is a national icon that can be worn on any occasion (Wulandari, 2011 , p. 2). In the 1980s, batik was an official dress that had to be worn at every state event and official event, which had the goal of making the image of batik known to the international community (Nurainun, 2008, p. 124). The development of batik clothing in Indonesia itself is fairly rapid, many batik makers are now keeping up with the times by starting to develop by developing traditional motifs into more modern motifs. In the process of making batik, it is done by pouring liquid wax using canting for fine motifs, and a brush for large motifs so that the wax can be absorbed into the cloth (Lestari, 2010, p. 6).

The beauty and uniqueness of flowers can indeed captivate anyone's heart, from the fragrant fragrance to the amazing colors. Because of that reason, many people use flower motif as an option to the point of using them for sacred moments. Actually there are many types of flowers in this world that grow wild without any special care yet have a unique charm that captivate hearts. With its variety of characteristics and differences, flowers have their own uniqueness. Some of these unique flowers are dandelions/randa tapak.

Randa tapak or dandelion is a large genus in the Asteraceae family. The name Randa Tapak itself usually refers to a plant that has small "flowers" that can fly when the wind blows. The original origin of this plant is Europe and Asia, but has spread to all places.



Picture 1. Dandelions
(Sources : Aleksandra , Febuary 15th 2022)

Dandelions are white when they grew old and yellow when it start to blossom. However, most media only highlight white dandelions with a round shape with seeds as light as cotton, which makes yellow dandelions are rarely known to the public. Whereas in its original nature, dandelion propagation is usually aided by the wind. The philosophy of life for dandelions is also exemplary, namely that they can grow and flower anywhere, even though the place is extreme and arid. This means that no matter how hard and difficult life is, we must continue to grow strong.

Dandelions have unique flower petals, and are hairy unlike most flowers in general, their petals will bloom in the morning and wither at night. the petals on one stalk and the dandelion flowers are white, but the media only highlights white dandelions, makes people less aware of these yellow dandelions. This dandelion is the only flower that represents 3 objects in the sky, they are the sun, the moon and the stars. The yellow flower represents the sun at the beginning of this flower's new life, then its petals turn white at the end of life, then its seeds that are light as cotton will fly like the stars scattered in the sky.

This amazing and beautiful flower has the scientific name *Taraxacum officinale* which has a myriad of health benefits, even though this flower grows wild in Indonesia. The seeds are easily blown by the wind and can reach 5 miles and land on the ground. It's no wonder that many find this flower on the side of the road, in the yard, or even in the fields, because this flower can grow strong even if it's only dripped with rain. In an article written by

Halimah, explained that dandelion is an herbal plant that grows in tropical and subtropical areas and is used by the community as a spice and treatment with antioxidant (Halimah, 2020, pp. 85-93).



Picture 2. Dandelion life cycle

Besides its beauty, there is a property of this plant that is very useful medically because it contains a very high vitamin A which almost reaching 14,000 international units in 100 grams, while the other ingredients are not as big as this dandelion (Muliarta, 2011, pp. 67-75). As the name implies, dandelion tea is generally made by brewing dandelion roots, leaves, or flowers in hot water to release the beneficial compounds into it. Dandelion tea will vary in taste and nutrition depending on the part of the plant used. For example, dandelion roots tend to be the best for treating liver ailments, the leaves work for the kidneys, and the flowers offer the most benefits and are the mildest in taste.



Picture 3. Yellow Dandelion
(Sources : Aleksandra , Feburary 20th 2022)

The process of making dandelion root tea involves simply roasting the dandelion roots. It has a very light and slightly floral taste. Apart from being used as tea, this easy-to-find plant can also be processed as a complement to salads. Dandelion tea is known to have benefits that have been proven by several studies, namely maintaining digestive health, strengthening immunity, improving bone health, and reducing the risk of liver disease. There is a lot of evidence that dandelion root tea can cure liver disease. (Hafidz, 2021, p. 32)

The word "busana" (clothing) is taken from Sanskrit "bhusana". However, in Indonesian there is a shift in the meaning of "clothing" to "equivalent to clothing". Clothing is everything that we wear, from head to toe (Ernawati, 2008). Ready To Wear is a type of clothing that can be worn with its functions and uses which are usually mass-produced in standard sizes (Kusumowardhani, 2018, p. 58) The term Ready To Wear is used by designers to name their clothing which can be purchased and worn easily without must take body measurements and order the design in advance, such as when making couture clothing or ordering clothes from a tailor. The distinctive feature of Ready To Wear clothing is that it can be easily found in various clothing stores, markets and department stores, is mass-produced using standard sizes, can be worn everyday and is relatively inexpensive.

Therefore the author's hope is that by combining the original dandelion motifs, which are poured into the Ready To Wear fashion model in the form of batik motifs, people will become more familiar with dandelions not only because this clothing can be easily worn at any event but also to be able to channel knowledge regarding the benefits of dandelion which are known to have many properties that are expected to help many people in the health sector.

METHODOLOGY

The creation methodology is a basis for entering the creation stage of works. Where the author uses the literary foundation of creating works to be

applied to the process of creating works. The method used for the creation of craft refers to the SP Gustami theory, who stated that the process of creating a craft work has several stages, they are the exploration stage, the design stage, and the creation stage.

Exploration Stage

The exploration stage is the stage for finding sources of ideas, collecting data and references, processing data, and analyzing data that can be used as the basis for making plans and designs. At this stage, data exploration is carried out by exploring sources regarding dandelion, starting from the shape and various information about dandelion, which then used as the basis for batik motifs in alternative designs. Then, information regarding Ready To Wear clothing is also explored to get an inspiration for making alternative clothing designs without imitating existing designs. Concept is done to obtain information regarding the material used. In this stage, writer made observations by observing objects, collecting data in from books and journals, then creating alternative designs of batik motifs and alternative clothing.

Design Stage

Design stage start by creating several designs, then choose one final design. Design selection considering several aspects, which were material selection, technique to be used, the shape of the motif and the shape of the dress, as well as the tools that will be used to create the work. Then the next phase is the Finishing, which be done by perfecting the final design according to the desired theme, shape, and color. Some of the designs already includes alternative designs, selected designs, then refined designs. In this section, the author has created 11 designs of dandelion motifs and 9 clothing designs which were then selected by the supervisor to become 8 designs of batik motifs and 4 clothing designs which were then refined to become finished designs which will later be made into fashion pieces.



Picture 4. Ready to Wear piece number 1

The first ready-to-wear design, the visual depiction of the yellow dandelion flower was simplified by using a deformation technique through a pattern of random repetition of the motif spreading throughout the fabric, which became the basis of the batik motif on this long dress. With a complete dandelion motif starting from the flowers, leaves, stems, then to the roots in several motifs throughout all parts of this garment. Of course, flower is an important base to create this piece.



Picture 5. Ready to Wear piece number 2

This dress consists of 2 pieces which are the top and skirt. It was designed not only to provide comfort, but also designed with an aesthetic value. The floral motif on this second dress is white dandelions, with the orange-yellow color of the remasol dye becoming a bright blend of colors on the fabric.



Picture 6. Ready to Wear piece number 3

In figure 8, the third design which created batik motifs from the life cycle of dandelion, which are from yellow blossom to white cotton flowers. The selection of nude pink or pink mixed with salmon, as the base color for all fabrics, and combined with the yellow, green and white colors from the batik makes this dress look bright, colorful, and comfortable to wear.



Picture 7. Ready to Wear piece number 4

In fourth design, the overall theme of dandelions is taken, which were yellow and white dandelions which are visualized into simple shapes. They were arranged using the same random repetition technique as the previous motif designs. The sleeves use yellow dandelion as the motifs, and use white dandelion for the rest of the clothing. To give a fresh impression to the dress, used dark green / leaf green with a combination of white from the batik, and through the resist dyeing process.

Creation Stage

At this stage the writer will actualitating the concepts and ideas into fashion pieces. This stage requires tenacity, skill, thoroughness and patience in order to create Ready To Wear clothing with dandelion motifs. Starting from the exploration stage to the process of fashion embodiment, starting from the initial ideas: themes, and concepts; then the exploration stage: initial themes and concepts; after that the initial design stage to the final design, then create the fashion pieces. The use of resist dyeing technique and remasol coloring technique was the author's choice to create this dandelion batik motif.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

These fashion piece contains a description of messages and symbols contained in the ready to wear clothing. In this section, it contains forms of visualization of dandelion which include main motifs, supporting motifs, and fillings. It uses random repetition techniques and bright color compositions so observers or connoisseurs could depicted the meaning and purpose of the fashion pieces. The work is not only seen from its visual form, but also from a series of exploratory and experimental processes in creating the work.

Fashion piece number 1 "BHANURESMI" means 'sun' in Sanskrit



Picture 8. Ready To Wear piece number 1 final
(Sources : Aleksandra, July 24th 2022)

The fashion work entitled Bhanuresmi is the first in a series of Ready To Wear clothing that the author has created. The main material for making this batik piece is primisima mori cloth, with the resist dyeing technique, using remasol dye which is often used by writers to color batik. This dress has a very feminine character, but the impression of the batik itself is very clear in every details. This bhanuresmi symbolizes the sun which has the same shape and color as this yellow dandelion. This yellow dandelion is known to have a variety of benefits that are not widely known by the general public. The main motif for this work is the whole front view of yellow dandelion, then combined with the supporting motif is the top view of yellow dandelion.

Fashion piece number 2 "CANDURI" means 'moon' in Sanskrit



Picture 9. Ready To Wear piece number 2 final
(Sources : Aleksandra, July 24th 2022)

The next piece of clothing is titled Canduri meaning the moon in Sanskrit. The moon is one of the elements of this dandelion, which is a white flower that will later carry new dandelion seeds. The flowers are round like the full moon which is very beautiful to look at. This white dandelion has a philosophy that is when someone makes a wish then blows the flower, it is believed that the wish will be granted. The main motif of this work, of course, is a white dandelion taken from the front viewpoint, which will decorate the skirt of the pieces number 2, then for the supporting motif there are white dandelion petals flying to fill the motif on this upper garment.

The main material used to make this second piece of clothing is primisima mori cloth, which the author has often used because the texture of the fabric is light but still looks thick and doesn't feel hot to wear. The coloring technique used in making this batik is the dip-dye technique, with remasol coloring.

Fashion piece number 3 "CAKRA" means 'wheel' in Sanskrit



Picture 10. Ready To Wear piece number 3 final
(Sources : Aleksandra, July 24th 2022)

This pieces named Chakra describes the phases of the life of a dandelion, which starts from a yellow flower that blooms to a white flower and finally the white flower petals fall to become a new dandelion seed. The meaning of this work is to describe the phases of human life from the blooming age which is described as a yellow dandelion flower at the beginning of life to old age like a white flower on a dandelion, then finally returns to the ground like a dandelion seed. The main motif of this work is yellow and white dandelion, taken from the front angle to fill the entire body on pieces number 3. Then for the sleeves, there is a yellow dandelion flower motif taken from the top view which is combined with white dandelion motifs taken from the front view.

The material used to make this work is the only work that uses a combination of fabrics such as silk cotton as a complement to the sleeves to

make it flowy. This clothing design also seems very feminine and shows some curves which really accentuates the batik motifs. Then for the batik technique, namely the dab technique with remasol coloring.

Fashion piece number 4 "SAMIYA" means 'balance' in Sanskrit



Picture 11. Ready To Wear piece number 4 final
(Sources : Aleksandra, July 24th 2022)

The meaning of "Balance" from this piece can be interpreted as a union between two or more balanced motives. Creator takes a combination of yellow dandelion motifs with the top view of the motif, which will be used as decoration to the sleeves, and white dandelion motifs taken from the front using deformation technique which was simplifying the original form of the dandelion then later fill the entire 4th pieces. The material used to make this work is the only work that uses a combination of fabrics such as silk cotton as a complement to the sleeves to make it flowy. This clothing design also seems very feminine shows some curves which accentuates the batik motifs on the fashion piece. Then for the batik technique, namely the dab technique with remasol coloring.

This fashion piece depicts the life cycle of dandelions. Starting from the color, flower petals, and dandelion seeds which can change according to the phase of their life. These fashion pieces can also explain human life how should be growing, developing, and be good at adapting to any circumstances and being able to live with a balance of body and mind.

CONCLUSION

What caught the writer's attention from the start was the dandelion flower, whose Latin name is *Taraxacum officinale*. It was a pity that so many people still not aware that yellow dandelion have many health benefits. Dandelion are easy to find, for example in abandoned gardens, forests, gardens, paddy fields, fields, roadsides, and in the yard of this house. They have a very good level of adaptation. They are able to adapt to any environment, as long as they kept getting water. Writer had done some research on dandelion by browsing on the internet and social media and then explored and with deformation techniques or simplification of the original dandelion shape into a simpler form, using the technique of repeating random repetition motifs that spread throughout the fabric, then applied to the cloth for batik motifs. The author determines the clothing that is made to meet the target age of 16-30 years. This clothing has a feminine character, is simple, has a teenage feel, and is comfortable to use for activities, the light clothing aims to facilitate user mobility, because it is intended for casual clothing that can be used for vacations which are always synonymous with walking, running, going up and down stairs, and sitting down comfortably.

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