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# PITHECANTHROPUS ERECTUS BATIK FOR HAUTE COUTURE CLOTHES: A BLEND OF PRIMITIVE AND MODERN STYLES

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## Abstract

The source of the idea for the creation of this final project is the discovery of the Pithecanthropus Erectus fossil which is enshrined in the Song Terus Pacitan museum, this discovery is one of the earliest evidences of human evolution in prehistoric times. Pithecanthropus Erectus is an ancient human species that lived 1.9 million years ago. The characteristics of ancient humans, Pithecanthropus Erectus, had a more robust body than their predecessors. The purpose of making this work is to 1. Create a written batik motif design with the source idea of Pithecanthropus Erectus with a blend of primitive and modern styles 2. Create a haute couture fashion design with a source of batik ideas from pithecanthropus erectus combining primitive and modern styles 3. Apply the Pithecanthropus written batik motif Erectus into Haute Couture fashion design. The method in creating this work uses the principle of 3 stages, namely Exploration, Design and Realization. The final work produced is in the form of 5 Haute couture clothing with abstract coloring techniques on batik motifs. The finished batik cloth is combined with brocade and toyobo fabrics which are applied to haute couture clothing. The motif title for this work is "Primi Hominis" which comes from the Greek language which means the First Man. The resulting work consists of 5 batik consisting of 5 batik motif designs, namely (1) Pusering jagat Batik Motif Design (2) Pawonan Batik Motif Design (3) Hanguripi Batik Motif Design (4) Riba mburu Batik Motif Design (5) Batik Motif Design ancient stone, which has the main motif of pithecanthropus erectus and 5 Haute couture clothing, namely (1) Spelaiotai (2) Synergasia (3) Agrotikos (4) Dimiourgikos (5) Kainotomos. This batik will be mixed and matched with haute couture clothing. In every haute couture fashion has a different form.

**Keywords:** *Batik, Haute Couture, Pithecanthropus Erectus*

## INTRODUCTION

Pacitan is one of the cities on the island of Java, precisely in East Java, which has many discoveries of prehistoric sites. The Sewu Mountains, which stretch from Yogyakarta, Wonogiri to Pacitan, made the area passed through as a residence for prehistoric humans, one of whom was Pithecanthropus erectus. Early Humans of

the type Phitechanthropus Erectus were a human species that lived around 1.9 million years ago to about 70,000 years ago. Phitechanthropus erectus is one of the most important ancient human species in the history of human evolution because it has a variety of characteristics and abilities that are similar to modern humans. The Song Terus Museum is a place where cultural relics are enshrined, namely tools made by early humans. There are lots of stone-based tools which are then used to assist them in gathering food and hunting activities. Utilizing everything in nature is their way of survival. Weru Hamlet, Wereng Village, Punung District is where the Song Terus museum was founded. Song Terus includes the Mount Sewu region and is part of the Southern Mountains of Java. Song Terus has forests rich in flora and fauna around it, then at a depth of 15 meters an underground river is found, which is thought to have been used as a source of human life in prehistoric times.(Ratnasari, 2015:20).

Life in the social, economic, and cultural aspects was discovered by early humans in the pre-historic period which were grouped into four stages, namely the hunting and gathering period, the simple farming period, the advanced farming period, and the perundagian period. (Herimanto, 2019: 78-79) Therefore, if we observe from a long time ago, the discovery of culture and technology carried out by early humans in the Paleolithic era proves that Indonesia is also able to compete to become a developed country. One of the influences from the strategic location of the Indonesian nation is that Indonesia has abundant natural wealth, both those that have been utilized and those that are still stored.

According to Gunawan Gunawan et al "The wealth of prehistoric local wisdom sources provides inspiration and at the same time a warning to our generation how the harmonious relationship between humans and nature does not need to cause havoc for other humans."(Vinco, 2018:11)The Indonesian people's lack of awareness about the development of the country has become a source of inspiration for the final project's artwork to raise this issue into a batik work which will become a means of education by inviting to recall the cultures that were carried out by early humans in the paleolithic era, by visualizing them as a batik art work. .

Etymologically, the word batik comes from the Javanese language, "amba" which means width, area of the cloth and "point", which means a point which then develops into the term batik, which means connecting the dots into a certain image on a wide or wide cloth. (Wulandari. 2011: 11) From time to time, humans have entrusted symbolic messages to batik works. Thousands of batik symbols live up to now. It is this meaning in works like this that makes batik a vehicle for instilling noble values, prayers, hopes, and expressions of love (yudhoyono, 2010:11)

There are several different styles of batik, each with its own characteristics. one of them is primitive batik style. Primitive batik refers to a type of batik that uses simple techniques and ancient styles. Primitive batik is often associated with traditional batik produced by ancient peoples or certain tribes using simple and natural techniques. With the existing wisdom, now batik is not only used as a cloth or sarong equivalent to kebaya, or clothing, but has penetrated deep into the world of fashion. The world of fashion develops continuously from year to year. This affects the style and fashion of clothing. Not only the fashion industry, the textile industry is also experiencing continuous development. cutting, sewing and finishing fabrics that have been made through the process of spinning, knitting or weaving, dyeing. The results of these textiles can be used for interior needs as well as the need for clothing. Today's clothing trends are always changing and growing very fast, because today's human mindset is that dressing is one of the human lifestyles for daily needs. (Hartanto, 1980:205)

Clothing is all things that are attached to the body, which are useful for protecting and beautifying the appearance of the body. Clothing is generally an expression or personal expression that is not always the same for everyone. Fashion changes related to clothing will occur faster than changes in culture as a whole. Current fashion trends can be seen in the community, such as clothes that are simple to wear but still look chic with the decoration of the clothes and the design lines used. (Roesbani, 1984:1) Clothing is worn not only for primary needs such as covering and protecting the body, but also classified according to its type, one of which is haute couture.

*Haute couture* is the most elite sector in the fashion industry that is able to describe the symbolic power of France. Haute couture or in other words it is called high fashion and in Indonesia itself is known as haute couture. It is unique in displaying style, processing of materials, workmanship techniques and paying great attention to the beauty of the clothes worn by women. The design of this comic also involves an effective format and presentation for a comic that has educational value but is able to attract the attention of the audience, especially teenagers to adults. (Linanda, 2004:23).

In connection with the unraveled background, the cultural values of early humans in the Paleolithic era were used as written batik motifs to introduce cultural values of that era to the general public in the form of haute fashion *couture*. Application of early human cultural motifs in the Paleolithic era into haute clothing *couture* every appropriate because it reflects a lifestyle that is able to adjust to follow the trend ever-changing fashions without having to forget tradition.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The method for making the final work of clothing took from the book Pearls of Eastern Aesthetics written by SP. Gustami.

## **EXPLORATION**

Exploration stage can be done by feeling, imagining, seeing and reaching for something through the sensitivity of the senses and vision by extracting data and all information regarding the concept of creating works. Exploration can be done either by way of literature study or field study. Exploration of the creation of works may include materials, techniques and tools that are carried out in order to obtain information for the embodiment of works. To get works that are functional, beautiful and innovative, exploration is very important to carry out.

### **Motive Exploration**

Batik motifs there is three important parts, namely main motives, supporting motives and isen-isen. The main motif in batik acts as the core motif of the batik itself. Main motifs are generally obtained from certain object stylizations such

as plants, animals and motifs other. The size is relatively larger than the other motifs. Companion motifs are motifs that function as filling areas of the fabric outside the main motif. This motif usually has a smaller size than the main motif. On stages motifs are carried out by searching and visiting the song museum directly in Pacitan and looking for some references from books and journals. Motive form batik Which created using the distortion technique.

### **Exploration Clothing Form**

Fashion exploration is carried out by direct exploration to fashion shops, Haute Couture dress rentals and the internet by looking at haute couture fashion designs from Indonesian and foreign designers. During the exploration, you will find a fashion concept that will be made, which will then be made into a fashion design to realize the concept that has been found. This design contains haute couture clothing designs with batik that has the main motif of the ancient human phitechanthropus erectus.

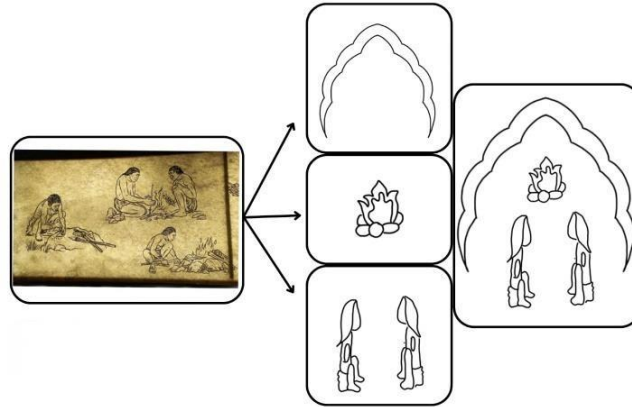
### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION DESIGN**

Stage beginning creation of the work to be realized requires a design plan, in order to be able to pay attention to every form of motif and the arrangement of batik motifs. Design is the initial method in making a work that is will be made. Primitive batik refers to a type of batik that uses simple techniques and ancient styles. Primitive batik is often associated with traditional batik produced by ancient peoples or certain tribes using simple and natural techniques.



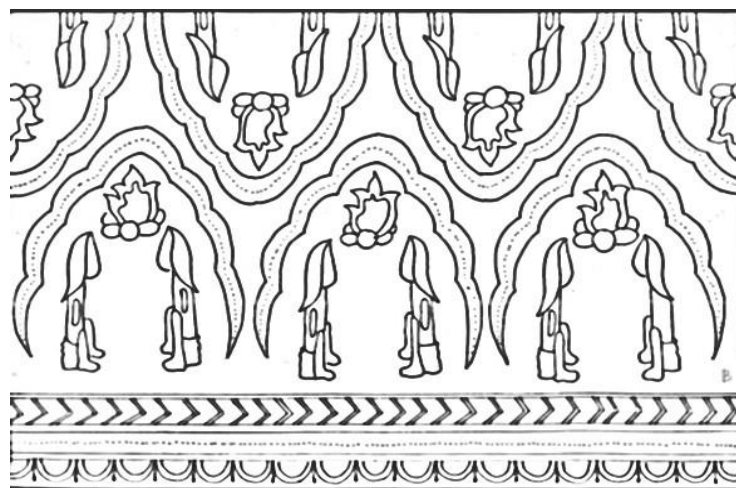
Picture 1 Primitive style batik from ancient Toraja

*Pithecanthropus erectus* will be made into the main motif in batik with a primitive batik style. The ornaments are geometric shapes basic shapes such as triangles and circles, and lines and dots predominate.

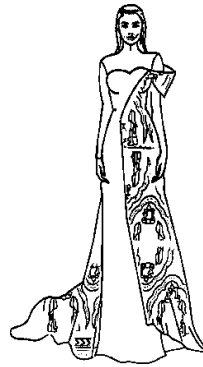


Picture 2 flow of making batik motifs

The alternative motif design is a collection of several designs *pithecanthropus erectus* batik motif, which later the design will be selected and will be realized into batik. The selected design image is a design from a selection of alternative designs that are in accordance with the concept of the work which will then be transformed into a final batik work and will be realized in the form of haute couture clothing. Regarding the selected designs are as follows:



Picture 3 Selected Batik Designs



Picture 4 Selected Fashion Designs

Design Which perfected is sketch a combination of batik motifs consisting of the main motif in the form of the ancient human phithechanthropus erectus who still survives in the cave. This main motif pattern is composed using the Reverse repetition technique or facing the direction but parallel. As well as supporting motifs in the form of cave shapes that have been stylized and arranged geometrically to sweeten batik patterns. Here is the refined design:



Picture 5 Refined Batik Design



Picture 6. Refined Fashion Design

In Greek "Spelaiotai" (Σπηλαιῶται) is used to describe early human life in caves. Spelaiotai describes the lifestyle of early humans who relied on caves as a place of refuge, shelter and natural resources. They use caves as a shelter from bad weather and threats from predators, and use the natural resources around them to survive. The batik motif in this work is titled pusering jagat, which means cave. The main motif in this batik is an ancient human with the type of Phitechanthropus Erectus and the supporting motif is an ancient Goa motif that describes his life and place of residence.

The source of the idea for making this batik work took from early human life in the pre-historic era which lasted for hundreds of thousands of years and kept many cultural values that are still relevant today such as working together, deliberating, being creative and innovative, in defending life in nature. poured in an abstract batik with the title batik namely pusering jagat which means cave, Pawonan which means kitchen, hanguripi which means life, Rusuk Mburu which means hunting using bones, Watu Kuna which means ancient stone.



Picture 7. Photo of the finished fashion

This batik work with a source of cultural values from ancient humans is embodied in the form of clothing, namely haute couture clothing. This work will become a fashion collection that will carry five batik design motifs that are applied to five Haute Couture clothing designs. The title of this work unit is "Primi Hominis" a Latin phrase which can be translated as "first man" or "early man". It



is hoped that this work can broaden our horizons and understanding of life, society, or humanity as a whole. These works of art can be mirrors that help us reflect on ourselves, explore the meaning of life, or understand human experience in a wider context. As well as being a means of inspiration for art connoisseurs.

## **CONCLUSION**

The source of the idea for this final project came from the author's interest in song museums which hold a lot of knowledge about early humans. The author expresses creative ideas in batik motifs. The design of the batik motif was created by taking the shape of the human *phitechantropus erectus* and accompanied by a combination of several supporting motifs, namely survival activities in the pre-historic period. The process of creating this work is through further development using ornament modification techniques, namely stylization, deformation and distortion techniques to produce new batik motif designs.

Creating haute couture clothing through several processes and referring to existing clothing references as inspiration and then redeveloping it into a form of haute couture fashion design in accordance with the creative ideas of the author.

The design of the *phitechanthropus erectus* batik motif that has been made is applied to haute couture clothing with adjustments and considerations from the aspects that have been taken into account, so that the *phitechanthropuserectus* batik motif is created which is applied to haute couture clothing. Processfcreationtask end This method applies the art creation method with three stages, namely the exploration stage, the design stage, and the embodiment stage. Exploration stage includes excavation data, collection data, and reference for reference making motif design and Haute Couture fashion designs. The design stage is the process of making alternative designs which will then be narrowed down to become the selected design. The embodiment stage is a process for visualizing the selected design into a real work.

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