

Art Activist: Nature, Culture, and Art-Based Environmental Movement

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This research tries to discuss how the environmental movement is carried out by art activists. This environmental movement is important given the increasingly massive and worrying ecological crisis. Environmental damage triggered by the pace of industry which is increasingly eroding the natural environment. Ecological spaces that should support common life are turned into economic spaces on a large scale which in the process creates a lot of environmental degradation. Likewise, the ecological chain that is broken due to industry and the replacement of the use of natural products with synthetic materials has contributed to the destruction of nature. But without us realizing it, most environmental problems also stem from our lifestyle, our political choices, and our role as consumers. In this condition, art actors and designers take a cultural role to be involved in the environmental movement. This cultural role becomes important considering that environmental issues are close, even at a certain point intertwined with cultural issues. The cultural roles of these art activists can be the starting point for responding to environmental problems by offering creative solutions. Creative solutions that can open up a space for joint discussion regarding the environmental movement as a practice of knowledge, ideology, resistance, or a mirror to look back at the relationship between humans and nature



Methods

The research is based on qualitative research with a Cultural Studies approach, especially using an ethnographic approach. The research uses a qualitative method with a focus on the meaning of culture by revealing various interests such as power relations in the practice of art activism and the struggles made by art activists related to art practices in environmental issues. Ethnography is used to follow the experiences of art activists and to express the artist's ideas, negotiations, and strategies for interpreting the work in the socio-cultural context behind the artwork. Ethnography is also used to read narratives, the daily practices of artists, and the events being researched

Result & Discussion

Art activism is an activity involving artists (art workers) in socio-cultural movements by linking the domains of aesthetics, politics, strategy, and creative aspects in the art world. The involvement of artists in this socio-cultural movement uses art activities as a medium for generating critical awareness and action for change. Here, works of art are no longer devoted to beauty, but art becomes a method or strategy for artists to engage directly in the real problems of society and at the same time work for the community.

This art activism movement is important because art activism is a medium as well as a method for artists to participate and be actively involved in solving socio-cultural problems in society. Artists are aware that they can influence others, protest, resist, subvert, and encourage change through their artistic competence. Artwork can be a trigger for social movements and cultural movements. Through art, artistic expression and the cultural movements it produces, art activism continues to rebuild the world.

In Indonesia, many art activism movements are concerned with environmental issues. Artists involved in art activism are involved in art projects by placing art as an instrument for change and concern for environmental issues. Art that deals with environmental issues is known as Environmental art, which is an activity carried out by artists by producing works of art both physically and the message is about speaking, criticizing, and supporting the relationship between humans, nature, and the environment in a balanced way. The final result of this art can be in the form of a work process or a work of art.

This art activism-based environmental movement is very dynamic because the center of its existence and its main driving force are artists who have access to intellectual and cultural production. In this context, art workers become a social group that is equipped with resources to symbolically reclaim cultural spaces dominated by economic forces that destroy the environment. Artists devote their talents to the production of symbols that are very important in the environmental movement. They have the awareness to manage the arts in an inclusive manner and build networks both locally and globally to voice environmental issues that are detrimental to the community. They create a creative landscape that opens up the possibilities of creating art to clearly express actual environmental problems.

Artists involved in environmental art projects develop ideas, design activities, implement, and evaluate them. This makes artists become creators as well as social activists. The practice of art activism can ignite cultural dialogue and raise public awareness, namely restoring the community's right to express meaning through art. The dialogue is here to unlock the potential of using art in spreading critical knowledge, fostering empathy, and art can be a medium for activism in socio-cultural movements.



Conclusion

Art activism provides creative solutions to environmental issues. Art gives a different point of view on environmental problems which is expressed through artistic expressions that are symbolic, aesthetic, and full of variety. However, what appears to be aesthetic and symbolic does not appear for the benefit of the art world, but rather an ideological representation and language of resistance to environmental problems. Through artistic activities, artists take roles and move at the level of cultural production. Their work area stretches, not only producing artistic works, but also making themselves as agents of socio-cultural change in the surrounding community. They, art activists, create spaces for cultural production that are critically oriented to social movements targeting real action.

