

PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF THE CHILD FIGURES IN THE ILLUSTRATION OF "SASKIA GITA SAKANTI" WITH THE TITLE "DON'T LOOK BACK"

Pritha Fitria Natasha Natasha Bekti

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this research is to analyze the psychological aspects in the illustration of "Don't look Back" in Saskia Gita Sakanti using a multidisciplinary approach, namely art psychology and semiotics. Works of art (illustrations) were created from the artist's representation and response to life experiences in their daily life combined with their creativity. In several observations, in the creative process of her work, the research will be using a psychological approach and from this process that produce certain symbols. Works of fine art are cultural artifacts that exist because of the actions of their creators in their daily lives. Works of art can be read using Charles Peirce's trichotomy, namely object, representative and interpretant. Artworks (illustrations) will usually be examined using psychological theories and combined with semiotic theories. Using Sigmund Freud's Psychology of Art and Semiotics, a work of art is a representation of his or her unconsciousness in using visual symbols in everyday life that can be explained. Basically, creating art for artists is a cathartic process, a medium to express the things that are feared when dealing with reality or the future. In this research can find out how an artist thinks in producing a work. Especially in using everyday visual symbols to represent her ideas and concepts. In semiotic theory, every color of symbol in each person has a different perspective in every person. This happens in the different background and histories that exist in each human being. These theories will be used as a tool in studying the psychological aspects in the illustration work "Don't Look Back" by Saskia Gita Sakanti. The positive impact of this research is that we know the creative process of an artist, and how it happens. Each artist has distinctive symbols that become the character of their work, and the ways of sweeping their brushes and coloring in their work become their own identity. The illustration "Don't Look Back" shows Sakanti's visual distinctiveness.

Keywords : Art Psychology, Art work, visual symbols, semiotic

INTRODUCTION

This research will examine and uncover more about the symbols of child figures used by Saskia Gita Sakanti. An illustration work is usually a representation of everyday life conveyed through symbols that exist in society in general in order to be appreciated by the appreciator. Saskia Gita Sasanti is an artist whose works are more inclined to illustrations using the medium of watercolor on paper. Some of her works in the last few years have told many problems of everyday life. Problems of daily life that are passed by humans in general. Saskia Gita Sakanti's work entitled "Don't look back" is an interesting work to be studied and examined further. The visuals of "Don't Look Back" are interesting to see more from it. Psychological aspects of the child figures in the illustration of "Saskia Gita Sakanti" with the title "Don't Look Back" usually comes from the background of the artist. An artist's background has a lot to do with how he or she eventually proceeds. The way an artist makes decisions in using symbols to represent her works was a way how an illustration work can finally be realized.

There are several studies that discuss how an artist processes in producing a work of art (illustration). One of the studies that discusses art through psychological theory is Psychology In Art: Catharsis as Representation in Art, an article wrote by Ernawati. In her research, she took a topic of catharsis as a representation in the work of fine art. The researcher chose the topic because the importance of catharsis is a way how trauma is an alternative medium of emotional release through artworks. Therefore, it is necessary to read artworks. In this research process, the researcher took topic of catharsis as a representation in the work of fine art. The researcher chose the topic because the importance of catharsis from a trauma as an alternative medium of emotional release done by artists through artworks. Therefore, it is necessary to read artworks that are based that are based on catharsis from that are from traumatic/anxiety, as an alternative case that illustrates the extent of the role of catharsis through works of art. There's also an article about "Psychology of Art: Examining Aesthetics in Human Works" was written by Sadam Estrada Pasaribu. The article wrote on the understanding that art has had a strong fascination for humans throughout the history of civilization. Art Psychology is a branch of psychology that study the complex interactions between the human mind and works of art, focusing on the psychological aspects of the art experience.

There is a research journal by Irma Damajanti that discusses how an unconscious aspect of a person influences an artist's creative process. The artists in the study unconsciously perform their art through the process of catharsis. Catharsis is the release of emotions stored in the heart related to traumatic events by bringing these emotions to consciousness. Etymologically, catharsis comes from the Greek: κάθαρσις, transliteration: kátharsis which means purification or cleansing. Catharsis is basically an attempt to release negative emotions in order to think more clearly to deal with a problem." (Wikipedia, 2024)

The Psychological aspects of the art experience is one of the important pieces to read an artwork. Based on the problems that have been described above, the purpose of this research is research is to uncover how an artist (illustrator) when using symbols that are used repeatedly in his work. As in the work of Saskia Gita Sakanti who using the symbol of a girl wearing school uniform.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This research uses several sciences in studying it. Some of the literature used is literature on Sigmund Freud's theory of Psychology and Charles Peirce Sanders' semiotic signs to further explain the figure of the girl in Saskia Gita Sakanti's "Don't Look Back". Then using literature that discusses the Psychology of Art. Sigmund Freud's theory is included in the tools in Art Psychology [Berry, R. Seri Siapa Dia? Freud] and Semiotics theory from Charles Sanders Peirce.

METHODOLOGY

Illustration or drawing is usually an artistic work, which is a manifestation of the creative process of its creator. In the process, the illustrator goes through the search for ideas and concepts. When dealing with illustration works, the symbols made by the illustrator are usually problems in life that appear in the form of images. Humans basically never stop asking questions about life. These things are often used by artists in making a work. A work cannot be separated from what happens in life. Basically, an artist has the advantage to use these things to be poured into a work. Based on this, a work of art (illustration) can be used as a tool to communicate emotions and feelings or things that happened in his past. A work of art cannot be separated from its creator and likewise an artist cannot be separated from his own work. To know everything deeper, it is necessary to do a deeper study of a work of art (illustration).

This research is a qualitative research that focuses on analyzing the psychological aspects of child figures in the works of Saskia Gita Sakanti. This research will collect data by observing and analyzing the illustration work based on Sigmund Freud's psychoanalysis theory and analyzing using semiotic tools. The semiotic theory used

is Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic theory. This theory suggests that human life is characterized by the mixing of signs and means. A sign is something physical that is accepted by the five human senses and can represent something else outside the sign itself. Signs according to Peirce consist of symbols, icons and indices. The reference of the sign is called the object. The object is something that becomes the reference of the sign or something that the sign refers to. Meanwhile, the interpretant is the concept of thought of the person who uses the sign and gives meaning to the object that a sign refers to. Peirce calls the sign semiosis, meaning that every thing in the world is a sign which is a process of meaning in three stages (triadic). The semiotic approach is used to read the signs made by the artist, to what extent these signs can be read by the recipient of the sign. Through the analysis of Charles Pierce Sanders' semiotic theory, these signs will be further examined through the theory of art psychology using the basis of Sigmund Freud's theory. Psychoanalytic theory is a type of therapy that aims to treat mental and nervous deviations.

The theory of Sigmund Freud that will be used to analyze is the theory of:

1. The state of consciousness / Pre-consciousness / unconsciousness of the soul.

In this theory Freud describes an iceberg as an analogy.

- Consciousness (1/7 of the top), the consciousness we have when awake.
 - Pre-consciousness (borderline), includes dreams, "speech errors" and others.
 - The unconscious (6/7) includes desires and anxieties which are traumatizing memories from the past.
2. Libido is the innate energy that humans are born with to motivate and enable us to survive, and sexual activity is one form of it. The level of libido (energy) is a core aspect of human life.
 3. Id, Ego, Superego

The human mind consists of three parts, each with its own motives and development. However, they usually combine for survival.

The Id (Instinctual drive) according to Freud is the primitive instinct, the unconscious part of the personality.

The ego develops when we are two years old and uses the reality principle. Ego is the component of personality that acts as an arbitrator or controller of the conflict between Id and superego. Its job is to choose an action and at the same time control the impulses of the Id without causing something undesirable.

The superego begins to develop when we are three years old (influenced by parents), and then gradually develops during childhood until puberty. Superego is the component of personality where the noble values owned by a person are stored, including morals or attitudes that are named through the socialization process in society. Basically, the Superego is what represents the aspirations of society in a person.

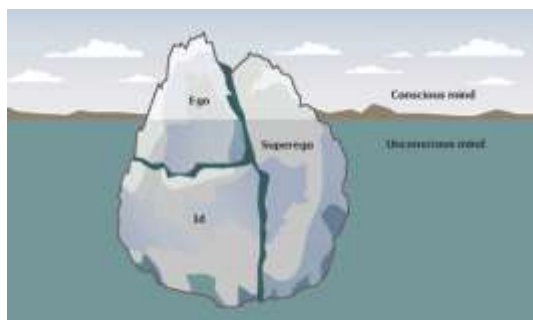


Figure 1. Freud's idea of the mind as an iceberg

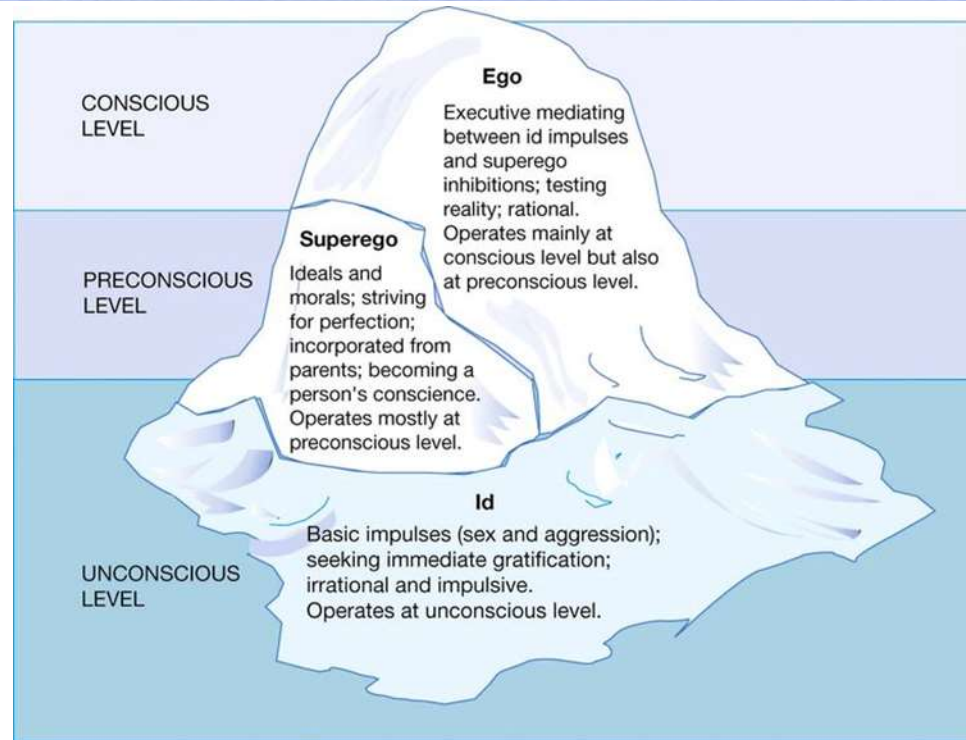


Figure 2. Freud's idea of the mind as an iceberg

The Theory of Art Psychology is a part of psychology that focuses on questions related to supporters in the artistic process, namely artists, observers and critics. Among the three, the role of the artist and the observer receives the greatest attention of all.

DISCUSSION

The work to be discussed is a work created by Saskia Gita Sakanti, an artist who tends to create illustrative works. One of the works that will be examined further is Saskia Gita Sakanti's work entitled "Don't Look Back" with a focus on the child figures in her illustration work.

The work "Don't Look Back" was created in 2022 using mix media on watercolor paper. Initially, this work will be discussed based on Charles Peirce Sanders' semiotic theory. All the icons in this watercolor painting will be examined one by one. The first things to notice are how the child figure is the most important part of the work, and then the yellowing meadow reinforces the presence of the girl.



Figure 3. The illustration work of Saskia Gita Sakanti with the title *Don't Look Back* was made in 2022 using Mixed media on watercolor paper with a size of 41 x 73 cm (without frame).

From the explanation above, the theories that will be used are the theory of art psychology by using semiotic tools so that the symbols in this illustration can be read and explained to the public. In addition, we will read the history and background of the artist to further understand why she took these symbols to represent her ideas and concepts.



Figure 4. Details of Saskia Gita Sakanti's work *"Don't Look Back"*



Figure 5. Details of Saskia Gita Sakanti's work "Don't Look Back"



Figure 6. Another art works from Saskia Gita Sakanti " Wondering, Pondering, Searching " (2023)



Figure 7. Illustration of a child in a work depicting a child who is playing

In this illustration, it can be seen that there is a yellow meadow that is quite wide and hilly, the yellow color of the grass seems to indicate that it is the end of time to be in that place. School uniform, dark gray and with her hair tied in two indicates that the child is still in school. The girl in the uniform at first runs without turning around and then the girl looks back again. After that the girl looks forward again. This girl represents Saskia, the artist herself.

The girl in the center is looking forward as if looking back, which means looking into the past. One more figure is turning her head slightly and the other 11 twelve figures indicate that they are ready to walk forward (the future). From the visuals of the work, we can see that there are 13 children running. The number of children running indicates that the girl is moving forward with a path shaped like the letter S and running upwards towards a place leaving the yellowed grassland. Not the actual number of children

Based on the semiotic reading analysis, which is then reread using Sigmund Freud's theory, the artist carries out his creation process based on his will or conscious will (conscious). This can be seen in the use of signs in her work. Here we can explain that Saskia is trying to convey that she has to leave her youth and look forward to running towards the future. Here Saskia tries to express herself through signs that are recognized by society in general. The girl looking back with a worried expression on her face seems to explain that this girl is contemplating the things that happened in her past. Saskia Gita Sakanti's work in figure 6 can be compared with the works that will be discussed in this study, to explain the figures of young children used by her in some of her works. It can be observed that the figures of young children that appear frequently in her works. And in some of her illustrations, she used a gestures that become the identity of her work. The use of child figure in her work symbolizes the honesty and innocence.

As we can see from the figure no.7, an illustrator usually depicts the joyful feelings of young children with balloon. Most of the illustrators use symbols that exist in everyday life. Colorful balloon symbolize the joyful and happiness in life.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Saskia Gita Sakanti is an artist whose creative process is done consciously and clearly in this running child figure explains that she must immediately leave the past and look forward. From this, it can be concluded that "Don't Look Back" is influenced by Saskia's past. Where the figure is trying to look back even though it is running forward. When an artist works influenced by the past, it is a fulfillment of his or her desire. An artist is essentially a creative person who has the ability to refine his instinctual impulses through creative work. This is what Saskia does in combining common signs in the general public into a story or concept that she wants to convey. Saskia's flexibility in combining these signs allows her work to be appreciated by appreciators in reading her work. This paper examines the psychological aspects of child figures in the work "Don't Look Back". The artist's visual take on children indicates that humans, when going further, still feels like children. The childlike spirit here can be associated with human unpreparedness in facing the future. From the explanation above and the study of the child figure in Saskia Gita Sakanti's work, it explains the sincerity and honesty of a child's feelings in facing his future. The 13 girls running and dressed in blue uniforms is not the number of 13 girls but the movement of the girls as they run forward. Artists are humans who are able to communicate their feelings through signs that exist in everyday life. Then when these signs are combined, they will form a new sign. Art psychology is useful in reading artworks, especially illustrations that use symbols. Based on the using the theory of art psychology based on Sigmund Freud's Psychological Theory and using Semiotics theory to read these symbols in a work, the artist as a human being who works by using the unconscious aspects that are expressed in his works. The colors shown by Saskia Gita Sakanti in "Don't Look Back" have become a characteristic of her work. The use of bright colors, but still shows the depth of her feelings (Feelings of worry, fear and reluctance to let go of the comfort of the past).

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