

# ASTA AS AESTHETIC OBJECT IN THE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

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## ABSTRACT

Asta is part of the subject of communication tools for the Deaf that present a Soul in Artwork. "Asta" which means "Hand" in Javanese Krama because of the Aesthetics and Taste of the Javanese Soul. The purpose of creating Asta's photography has indicators to make moving messages into static images, discovering new concepts in Sign photography for the deaf, and discovering the characteristics and values contained in photographic works of art. This creation method is based on a literature study related to Asta and is limited to references related to the creation of this artwork to find the essence and form of symbols that can be the basis for the creation of Asta's Photographic Works. Experimental results of the medium use lighting characteristics of puppetry, multiple exposure techniques and Roland Barthes Analysis Method which is used as an analysis of the description of the work. The benefits of this work of art have the potential to express messages in sign language so that for the deaf, Asta's photographic works can provide enthusiasm, hope, and confidence so that they are able to express moral values in their work.

**Keywords:** *Asta, Gestures, Multiple Exposure, Photography.*

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## A. INTRODUCTION

Asta in Javanese means "Hand" the word Asta comes from the Javanese Krama. Asta is the aesthetics and taste of the soul, the beauty of Javanese psychology lies in Indigenous Psychology which always works with indigenous roots (Endraswara, 2013). Asta referred to in the creation of this artwork is the subject of the artwork so that later it will become a word or language that is known by the whole community through the theme of the artwork created. Regarding Asta as a local language because facing the global, it must be able to find its own identity as an Indonesian human. (Dharsono, 2016)

Asta is an Expression of Communication, synonymous with creating movement, change, and justice. Every human being has a sense of expression as hope in conveying a message. People with

disabilities also expect expressions in the form of ease of activity in life. The expression depends on the knowledge, experience and environment and the ability of each. Asta's Sign Language is part of "Art Expression". So, Expression in Art is an artist's inner expression that is exposed to works of art in mediums and tools. ((Dharsono, 2016)

The basic assumption in this work of art is that the objects move in static images (photography) and photography technology is indeed born to pursue objectivity, because of its ability to re-draw visual reality with a high level of precision. Photography that develops with the latest technology today raises important questions as well as becomes urgent to understand how the role and position of photography in the development of art in today's art is. Getting to know various types of photography that come with various forms because the presence of photography is now a very common thing, on the other hand, photography from the beginning has been found to show experimental efforts directed at producing photos with aesthetic levels and photography is starting to shift towards art like painting. However, the acceptance of photography as part of the fine art tradition provides an easier way for the existence of photography to come into contact with post-modern art. The art of photography is also a visual communication that connects objects and observers to achieve certain goals, so it becomes a valid one as an instrument of science. (Gumira, 2005)

Asta's photography is an expression of the soul as an expression of one's identity through photographic works of art. The author expresses it in the subject matter of hands and humans which are explored by hand movements. From the explanation above, the author wants to create a photo creates work that is inspired by hand gestures as an expression of the meaning of movement in Asta's visual photography which has no aesthetic value in sign language which is traced and interpreted in a more meaningful way to be understood visually. The creation of this photographic work of art is used with a studio portrait technique on a fire lighting medium which functions as direct lighting with a combination of Flash lighting in order to realize the expectations of his work. The subject (hand) is moved with symbols of the Indonesian sign language (BISINDO) which is expressing a signal message and then put lighting from the side of the photo subject to create dramatic lighting characteristics because it is based on the principle of arrangement which essentially a good composition is if a the process of compiling the supporting elements of a work of art, always pays attention to the principles of composition, such as harmony, balance, contrast, unity, simplicity, accentuation and proportion (Dharsono, 2017). The results of the image are continued in the retouching process on Adobe Lightroom software with saturation and brightness settings to create a dark effect and contrasting colors. This photo style was created using the Futurism style with the Multiple Exposure Technique

because it emphasizes the unity of the visuals.

## **B. METHOD**

The method and process of this creation are based on a literature study related to Asta (hand) and is limited to references related to Asta as a taste of the Javanese soul that can be linked to wayang characters as symbols of Javanese society. This is to find the essence and form of symbols that can be the basis for the creation of Asta's Photography Works. The data were analyzed in a review of works using Roland Barthes' semiotic theory known as two processes of significance which he called denotation and connotation. The analysis is expressed through the connotative meaning contained therein, The stages of compiling data include: (a) Collecting data through literature review (b) Formation of Design Concepts - Searching for Medium in the Experimental Stage - Formation of works with analytical descriptions.

## **C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Content – soul – works of art. In terms of its realization, it starts from the aesthetic experience of motion by displaying Asta's subject matter, namely hand gestures in sign language through the medium of photography. Asta's uniqueness and characteristics become an attraction for me as a source of ideas for the creation of sign language photography because I myself am also the subject who uses sign language as a second aid in verbal communication. Where this aesthetic moment inspired me to explore Asta, which is expressive and communicative Sign Language through the art of photography.

Experimentation is an activity step carried out by artists carrying out the steps of the artistic creation (creation) process, so Experimentation in Medium to find new characteristics in Asta's photography uses the steps of exploratory characteristics of lighting, exploration of techniques and exploration of photographic tools, namely: Cahaya Teplok, Badai and Blencong in wayang kulit is the true light, without light all performances are in vain. Therefore Photography adheres to more or less the same principle that there will be no show if there is no light. Wayang kulit performances can be enjoyed from behind the screen where the effects of puppet movements are very dramatic until the lighting and the color of the light are able to create a look (nuance) and mood (atmosphere). Lighting in Asta's photographic work uses Low Key Light quality in the Teplok Lamp Light with low intensity in order to maximize shooting with multiple exposure and Low Speed techniques on the camera. Telok lamps are modified using a tripod stand as much as four points of which function as rim light, back light and main light in lighting objects as expected. The telok lamp has a dimmer to adjust the

intensity of the fire so that the depth of light effect can make objects more dimensional.



Figure 4: Exploration of Teplok and Storm Light Medium as Direct Light in the creation of Asta's Photography Art.

The location of the lighting arrangement described in the light diagram in the direction of light falling on the subject will greatly affect the visible effect. The direction of the light determines the character of Asta's photography as well as determines the impression and dimensions he wants to express. As the picture below has four points of light on the results of experiments in Asta's photography.

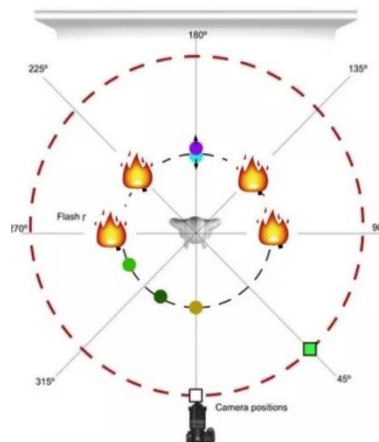


Figure 5: Diagram of the Positioning of Lights, Model Figures and Cameras

Four Points in an angle of 225 degrees, 135 degrees Left / Right Back Rim serve to give a dimensional effect to the object, when all the light points in front of the object will occur Flat Light (There is no depth of dimension of the object). So it is necessary to set the right lighting layout so that the expected object can look dramatic.



Figure 5: Exploration results with Teplok Lamp Media on the right and left (see light diagram) with hand movements on the model figure.

In addition to the Light Medium Stage, continued with the discussion of the medium stage of Asta's Photography shooting technique, philosophy, multi exposure is a way of human thinking that cannot be linear. Human perception can process visuals related, composition balance to readability in one glance, that's where the desire for critical human perception makes me experiment with multiple exposures because one exposure photo is no longer interesting and there is no sense of the essence of complexity / complexity to the visual. Medium The tool used is a Single Lens Reflex camera (Canon 5D mark IV and Lens 24-70mm F 2.8 L Series) where the mirror door opening speed is done manually (BULB). Each Asta object that moves is done one by one simultaneously by covering the lens using a black cloth. Because photography is painting with light, every object that moves is given light so that it can be recorded properly. The camera position is always using a tripod or a solid stationary state with a minimum range of 2 meters of the subject so that it can freely move its right hand into the composition of the horizontal and vertical rectangular fields depending on the meaning of the photo contained. Shooting is also done with studio portrait techniques, the condition of the room must be dark with a black background without any light leaks so that light legibility can be recorded properly. The final finishing is using Adobe Photoshop which is used for a touch of saturation and brightness without digital processing so that the originality of the photographic work can be maintained properly. Furthermore, in the last discussion, it is adjusted for the purpose of creating Asta's Photography Artwork, namely for the deaf, Asta's photographic creations provide enthusiasm, hope, and confidence so that they are able to express moral values in their work.

Works Review, the works discussed here are limited to three works with Asta's character elaborated by the wayang atmosphere in the visuals, among others.

1) First Work






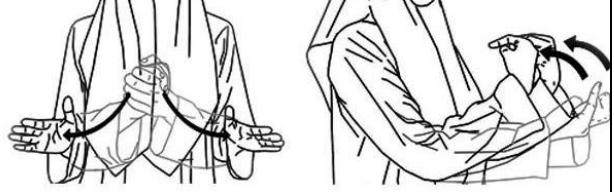


Figure 6. "Welcome to Light" 90x60, Photography Asta Fauzi . Artwork

Analysis:

Asta Welcome Light, Wong Jowo's Art of Representation of Signs of Photography, is attached to the advice "Golek Lan Padhang". Living in the world must find a way of light. The work uses an oil burner lamp with a "medium" intensity of fire accompanied by the effect of smoke from incense to create a dramatic result. The materials and colors used in this work are natural colors, the color of firelight which is the hallmark of the sentir lamp in the puppet atmosphere. The relation of the text to the context of the work is the artist's interpretation in conveying the meaning of visual language in Asta as sign language aesthetics, which can be seen in the composition of the photographic image as follows:

Table 1. Analysis of Asta's Photographic Artwork as Light

Visual Element Structure Section	Description
	<p>Fire Tongue Element, inspired by Wayang Wisanggeni Krodha. His ability is very powerful because the flash of fire turns the forest into a desert. Therefore, sign language is expected to be a source of strength in spreading to the community like the spirit of Wisanggeni.</p>

	<p>Its characteristics are similar to the blencong lamp when the glass protector is opened. Where the fire will sway when there are puppet movements, such as during war, which is moved by the dalang who is currently the figure of his hand. There is an impression that the swing of Api (Kumlebeting Agni) from the blencong seems to give breath or animate the puppet itself.</p>
	 <p>Gesture “Welcome” in Indonesian Sign Language (Bisindo) style</p>
	<p>There is smoke, there is fire, what we sow now is what we reap later. Whether it's good or bad, the result depends on the event we plant it</p>
	<p>Composition of Rules Of Third in photography layout as a point of interest in the intersection of vertical and horizontal lines. So the importance of this line is to get the right composition value and interest.</p>

Sources are translated from Experimental data and Research Data (Fauzi. 2019)

2) Second work

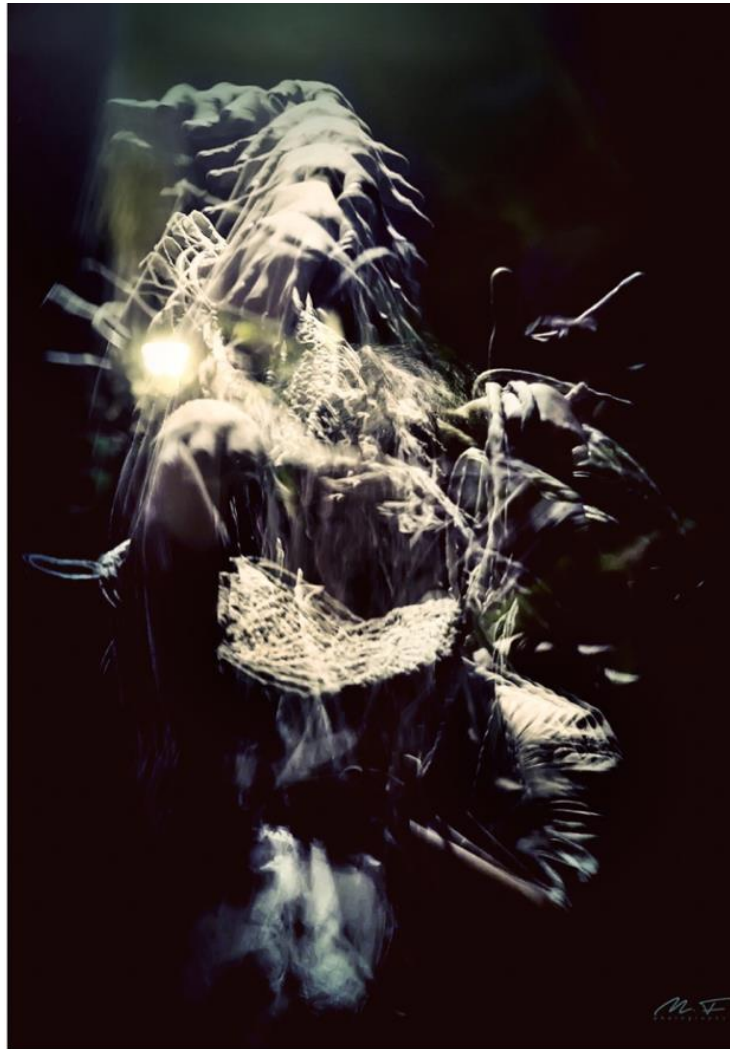


Image 7 : "My Hands, My Soul 120x90, Asta Photography  
(Photo Repro. Fauzi. 2020)




**Analysis:**

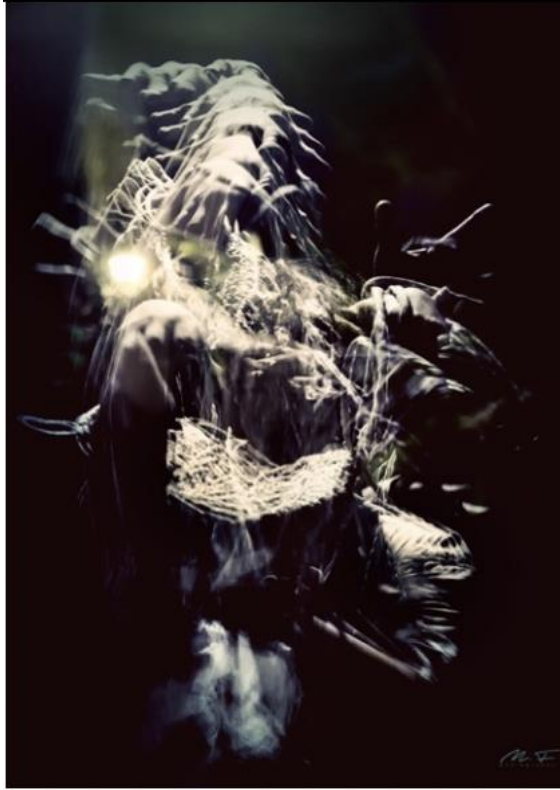
Asta's photographic artwork represents the soul. The hand gesture of an abstract painter who expresses his feelings through his hands with the meaning "If you have the desire to start, you must also have the courage and desire to finish it, not just end it". Have a soul that lives as long as human activities take place with an ongoing process, and vice versa the soul will die if there is no useful movement.

The relation of the text to the context of the work is the artist's interpretation in conveying the meaning of visual language in Asta as sign language aesthetics, which can be seen in the composition of this photographic image as follows:



Table 2. Analysis of Asta's Photographic Artwork as Soul

Titik cahaya sebagai konsep perambatan cahaya dalam kehidupan sehari – hari.	Description
	<p>Form Resembling a human face that comes out of the body, as a strong symbol that in Asta there is life, there is life / spirit in the hand like a human spirit in the body. While the effect of the green color as a dramatic mystical effect of the visual so that the impression conveyed to be more alive.</p>
	<p>Point of light as the concept of light propagation in everyday life.</p> 



Move the meaning of Signs of Brightness and Soul in life.

Art is an expression of the creator's feelings which is then expressed to others in the hope that they can feel what the creator feels. Likewise, the hand for the deaf is hope because the hand is the means of communication and the hand is the heart of life. Hands also play a very important role, such as "As a mature human being in terms of age and attitude, you should be a role model for others. Even if it can't be done for others, at least it can be a good example in having a family."

Sources are translated from Experimental data and Research Data

### 3) Karya Ketiga





Figure 8. Fauzi, 2019 "God is Great" 45x45, Photography Asta  
(Photo Repro, Fauzi 2020)

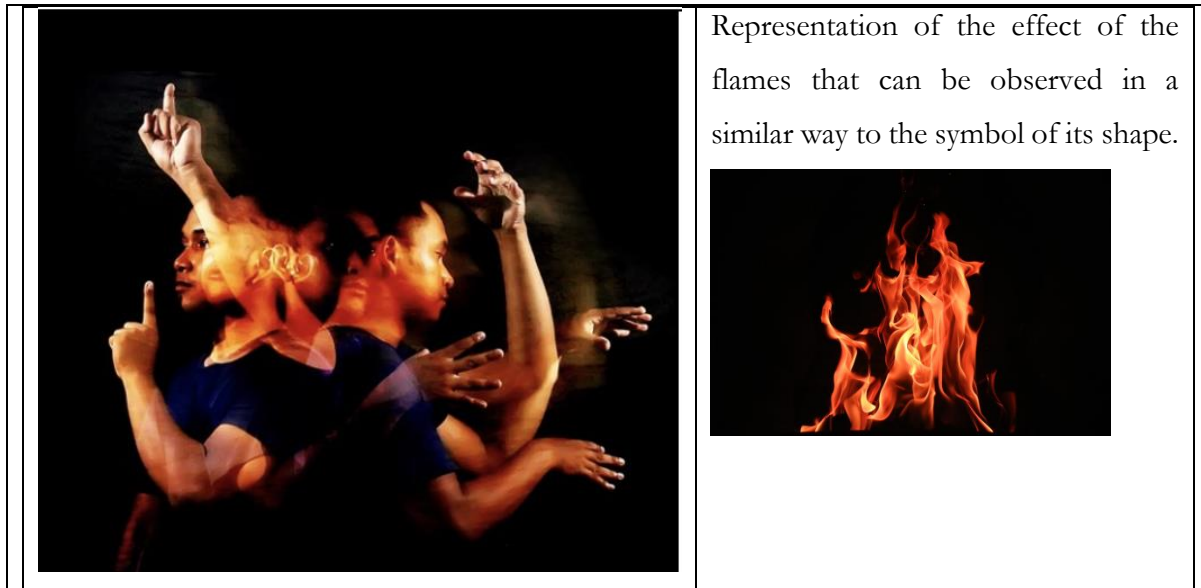
Analysis:

Asta's photographic artwork is a representation of Da'wah. The movement of the hands above illustrates the word of God in Islam, namely "Allah is Great". Asta also has a religious element in life. Asta played a role as Da'wah in the spread of Islam in Java through the movement of wayang hands which were changed by Sunan Kalijaga, the form of wayang that existed at that time whose hands were longer than feet. Sunan Kalijaga makes puppets that are different from the type of wayang beber, Sunan Kalijaga changes wayang kulit from beber to separate. Each character is separated one by one and given "Asta that can be moved" so that Asta's statement plays an important role in the spread of Da'wah in Java through the movement of Asta Wayang. Every time a religion comes to an area, it must be "grounded". The point is to have to adapt to the local aspects so that it can be accepted by the community openly. Therefore, the word "Asta" is an image of Javanese taste which is expected to be the right statement for a new artwork theme.

The relation of the text to the context of the work is the artist's interpretation in conveying the meaning of visual language in Asta as sign language aesthetics, which can be seen in the composition of this photographic image as follows:

*Table 3. Analysis of Asta's Photography Artwork as Da'wah*

Visual Element Structure Section	Description
	<p>The movement of the meaning of the sign resembles the sentence Hijaiyah Allah in Arabic letters which is read from left to right.</p>
	<p>The effect of the futurism style movement as a shadow movement that is inherent in the characteristic of wayang is called the second reality.</p>



Sources are translated from Experimental data and Research Data

The process of transforming the work has an element of the nature of the hand which acts as a means of delivering communication which is called sign language. The results of the reflection in the process of elaborating the concept and the experimental stage using fire light, natural light and artificial light, continued with the process of executing the work in hand movements and compositions that were made to produce a creative process in the work. Exploring the character as a feature of Asta for the Deaf in Sign Language, this is the concept used in the creation of Asta's Photography Art.

#### D. CONCLUSION

From this research it is concluded that in the end Asta is a medium of expression for the deaf which is expressed through works of art. This creation method is based on a literature study related to Asta and is limited to references related to Asta to find the essence and forms of symbols that can be the basis for the creation of Asta's Photographic Works. In this preparation stage, data collection was carried out through literature review, Design Concept Formation, Medium Search in the Experimental Stage, and Formation of works with analytical descriptions. Experimental results Asta's photographic medium uses lighting in puppetry, multiple exposure techniques and the Rolland Barthes Analysis Method are used as a description analysis of Asta's photographic work. Asta is an image of Asta is the Aesthetics and Taste of the Soul, the beauty of Javanese Soul Science lies in Indigenous Psychology which always takes part in the indigenous roots of Asta, which is meant in the creation of this artwork, which is the subject of the work of art so that later it will become a word or language that is known by all community through the theme of the artwork created. Regarding Asta as a local

language because facing the global, it must be able to find its own identity as an Indonesian human. Experimental stages of materials and techniques resulted in the understanding that to produce works that are unique and different from the works of others, one of which is the use of a typical light in the form of firelights that use telok, sentir, and petromax lamps as lighting for the puppet stage so as to create a thick atmosphere. The stage of execution of the work resembles Asta's Visual Expression with the relation of the text as the interpretation of the artist himself. So that the interpretation of the work produced can convey one meaning.

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