

Embodiment of Parental Love Through the Medium of Wooden Matches in Expression Photography

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ABSTRACT

This photographic work raises the theme of parental love through the medium of wooden matches in expression photography. This work focuses on life experiences, the daily activities of the creator while he was born and grew up full of love from his parents in Aceh. The theory of ideas that the creator uses in creating this work of Expression photography is in the form of Expression Photography, Composition, Semiotics and Lighting. This creation method also involves experimentation. The creative concepts and ideas displayed in this photo work are a reflection of the creator's daily life. The main object in making this work is a miniature person created from wooden matches. This work is inspired by the author's life story of the sincere love of his parents, as well as daily life activities that the author has experienced and felt. Rooted in a deep narrative of parental love, the project captures the essence of familial warmth and affection, depicting miniature wooden matchsticks involved in everyday activities as symbolic representations of the human experience. Each photo encapsulates a narrative of parental love and familial bonds, visually depicting moments of tenderness, joy and nurturing care. In "In Mother's Lap", "Happiness", "Dodaidi Swing", "Adab", and "Guardian", the creator visualizes the multifaceted nature of parental love, from caring for babies to guiding adolescence. These photos are a touching reminder of the eternal bond between parents and children, illustrating the profound impact that love and care can have on a child's development and well-being. Ultimately, through a blend of artistic expression and qualitative inquiry, the project "Parental Love through the Medium of Wooden Matching in Expressive Photography" transcends the realm of conventional photography, offering viewers a glimpse into the depth and richness of human relationships and experiences.

KEYWORDS

Parents Love
Wooden Light
Expression
Photography

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INTRODUCTION

In terminology, Photography originates from the Greek words *photos*, meaning light, and *grafo*, meaning the process of painting or writing using light as a medium. Broadly speaking, photography refers to the process or method of producing images or photos of an object by capturing the reflection of light that hits the object on a light-sensitive medium. The most popular tool for capturing this light is the camera. Without light, no photo can be created. The principle of photography is to focus light with the help of refraction so that it can burn the light-capturing medium (Irdha Yuniarto, 2021: 2).

Photography is also a form of visual communication where through the resulting photos, there is a form of message conveyed from the photographer to the viewer. In this context, photos become symbols that are expected to be interpreted as messages by those who view them (Pramiswara, 2021). Each photograph encapsulates a moment frozen in time, capturing not just the subject but also the emotions, atmosphere, and context surrounding it. Through

composition, lighting, and framing, photographers manipulate these elements to evoke specific responses and convey their intended message. Moreover, photography transcends language barriers, making it a universal medium that speaks to people across cultures and generations. Whether it's documenting reality, expressing artistic vision, or advocating for social change, photographs hold the power to inform, inspire, and provoke thought. They serve as windows into different worlds, offering glimpses of distant places, historical events, and diverse perspectives. In essence, photography is more than just a skill or a hobby; it's a potent tool for storytelling, fostering empathy, and fostering understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

The creation of photographic works is elevated through the genre of expressive photography. Expressive photography is a photographic work designed and processed by the photographer with an overflow of self-expression. These works stem from the phenomenon of parental love towards a child, specifically the experiential life events that the creator feels from birth, and growing up filled with love from both parents in Aceh. Parental love forms the foundation that shapes a child's personality holistically, from physical, mental, emotional strength to their ability to adapt in social environments. This love also determines a child's mindset and life choices in the long run. The magnitude of parental love given is a significant asset in educating a child. The presence of this love will lead to successful teenagers, excelling in various fields aligned with their talents. The presence of love will nurture creative, innovative, and high-achieving adolescents in the future.

Social phenomena regarding the human need for a positive response, in the form of love, with the basic principle of giving and receiving, are also addressed. The focus of creating these photographs is on the personal expression of love from the creator since birth to adulthood. This love continues to be given by both parents and close family members. Furthermore, the act of photographing moments of love and connection serves not only as a means of personal expression but also as a documentation of the human experience. From tender moments shared between parent and child to the enduring bonds of friendship and companionship, these photographs immortalize the essence of human relationships. They capture fleeting instances of joy, laughter, and intimacy, preserving them for posterity. Moreover, through the act of sharing these images, individuals invite others to partake in their emotional journey, fostering a sense of connection and solidarity within communities. In a world often fraught with challenges and uncertainties, these visual reminders of love and compassion serve as beacons of hope, reminding us of the beauty and resilience of the human spirit.

The main subject in creating these photographs is a miniature wooden matchstick, conceptualized from the journey of human life. This life journey is expressed from the wooden matchstick becoming a space for personal expression. The wooden matchstick is a tool for lighting controlled fire, its tip covered with a material usually phosphorus, which ignites when rubbed against a specific surface. Although easily obtained, wooden matchsticks are rarely used nowadays because people prefer other methods. The creator is interested in using this wooden matchstick because of the desire to photograph something different from what most people do. The creator aims to show the audience that this simple, miniature wooden matchstick can become an extraordinary photographic subject, entertaining and delighting viewers when they see it.

The wooden matchstick object is creatively adapted to the needs of the photo with the concept of a miniature human. The photographic work is arranged to appear as if alive, engaging in everyday activities. This is orchestrated to be as appealing as possible,

resembling a child enjoying ample parental love. The photographic object is complemented with several supporting props to present it attractively, making the miniature appear more lifelike in realizing itself as an expressive photographic work.

This photographic work is themed Parental Love through the Medium of Wooden Matchsticks in Expressive Photography. The photography work themed on love as a personal expression is carried out through experimentation, using wooden matchsticks as the primary material. The concept and idea of creating photography reflect the life of the creator, where the creator consistently experiences parental love from parents wherever they are. Self-expression characterized in a photographic work becomes the aim of seeking personal identity for a contemporary photographer. This is nothing but a demand of the current era, which denies uniformity in achieving independent aesthetic uniqueness for each individual as an artist (Kurniawan et al., 2021).

The choice of wooden matchsticks as the primary material for this photographic exploration adds layers of symbolism and metaphor to the images captured. Just as each matchstick is unique in its shape, size, and texture, so too are the experiences and expressions of parental love depicted in the photographs. Through experimentation with this humble yet versatile material, the creator breathes life into their vision, transforming ordinary objects into extraordinary works of art. The fragility of the matchsticks mirrors the delicate nature of human relationships, while their combustible nature symbolizes the fleetingness of time and the importance of cherishing each moment.

By infusing personal experiences of parental love into these photographs, the creator invites viewers to reflect on their own relationships and connections with loved ones. The resulting images transcend mere visual representations, serving as poignant reminders of the enduring power of love to shape and enrich our lives. In an era characterized by rapid change and constant flux, these photographs stand as testament to the timeless values of family, connection, and empathy, offering solace and inspiration to all who encounter them."

METHOD

In this research the author uses qualitative research methods as the basis for the process of creating photographic works. Through this qualitative research method there is a different approach to understanding complex phenomena, providing rich insight into the intricacies of human behavior, attitudes and experiences (Rifandi, 2022: 118). Qualitative methods in this research are used to explore the subjective aspects of the research topic, exploring the meaning that individuals attribute to their experiences and the context in which these experiences occur. In this research the author used interview and observation techniques, the researcher was able to capture the depth and diversity of perspectives, making it possible to carry out a comprehensive analysis of the research subject. Additionally, qualitative research methods are particularly useful in fields where quantitative measurements may fail to capture the full complexity of human behavior, such as psychology, sociology, and anthropology. By applying a qualitative approach, journal articles can offer readers a deeper understanding of the social, cultural, and psychological factors that shape individuals' lives and interactions (Haes, 2023).

Additionally, qualitative research methods facilitate the exploration of emerging themes and the generation of new hypotheses, making them invaluable for theory building in academic discourse (Atmojo, 2022). Journal articles that use a qualitative approach often present findings in narrative form, allowing readers to engage with the lived experiences of research participants and the researcher's interpretations. This narrative-rich presentation

enhances the authenticity and credibility of research findings, fostering a deeper connection between the reader and the subject matter. Additionally, qualitative research encourages reflexivity, encouraging researchers to critically examine their own biases, assumptions, and perspectives throughout the research process. By recognizing and addressing these factors, journal articles can uphold the integrity and rigor of qualitative research, thereby contributing to a more robust and nuanced understanding of complex social phenomena.

After carrying out the research, the author elaborates it through the method of creating works of art (Rifandi, 2023). Methods represent the structured steps aimed at materializing a creative endeavor. In the execution of this expressive photographic project, the creator outlines the procedural stages as follows: Exploration, Design, Work Review, Work Realization, and Work Presentation. In the initial phase, exploration entails the thorough gathering of information and data pertinent to the subject of research. This data can be sourced from literature, scientific publications, articles, or books, often termed as library research. Additionally, direct interviews with relevant stakeholders are conducted to supplement data not obtainable through literature review alone (Febrianto, Ermawati, and Marah, 2021: 8). During this phase, the creator engages in observations, idea collection, and seeks references concerning expressive photography. Upon identifying several references, the creator proceeds to select the primary element, in this case, wooden matches, and determines the techniques necessary for the project's realization.

Moving to the subsequent stage, design commences with envisioning to conceptualize, arrange, and narrate the chosen object—wooden matches—into a photographic subject depicting human activities or scenarios. This planning phase involves sketching to explore object placement and poses, minimizing the likelihood of unwanted shadows during photography. The sketching process not only enhances the efficiency of the shooting process but also serves as a tool for testing visual concepts and refining ideas at any juncture of the project's development. Following design, the project undergoes a meticulous review process to ensure its distinctiveness from prior works, thus upholding the project's accountability in terms of originality. This review encompasses a concise and systematic examination or elucidation of previous artworks, directly or indirectly related to the current project (Dharsono, 2016: 42). Subsequently, the realization phase entails the actual construction and arrangement of wooden matches in accordance with the storyboard devised for the project. The preparation of all necessary equipment further facilitates the creation of the photographic work.

The initial stage of the creative process commences with conceptualization. The concept and essence of creation embodied in the photographic project "Parental Affection Captured through Wooden Matches in Expressive Photography" draw inspiration from the profound narrative of parental love for their offspring, a sentiment deeply felt by the creator, intertwined with the nuances of daily existence. The depicted activities within the photographic series mirror the creator's quotidian experiences.

At the core of this endeavor lies the crafting of miniature figures from wooden matchsticks, serving as symbolic representations. A miniature, by definition, emulates a scaled-down version of reality, encapsulating an essence of imitation on a diminutive scale. These meticulously arranged miniature figures, fashioned from wooden matches, are imbued with a vitality that evokes the semblance of life. Thus, the observer is transported into scenarios reminiscent of familial warmth and affection, akin to the ordinary routines infused with parental love.

The genesis of this artistic endeavor stems from the commonplace usage of wooden

matches, typically discarded after a single use in igniting fires, echoing the transient nature of human existence. The creator aspires to transmute this humble object into a captivating masterpiece, laden with profound meaning and visual allure, eliciting a multitude of interpretations and implied messages for the beholder.

To realize this vision, the creator endeavors to present the photographic narrative through an interplay of intertwined wooden matchsticks, weaving together captivating vignettes for aficionados of photography. The thematic essence of the photographic series revolves around miniature depictions of children engaged in everyday activities, suffused with the tender embrace of parental love, mirroring the realities of the human experience.

In this context, the artist or photographer possesses the creative license to interpret this 'symmetry,' whether in a literal or metaphorical sense, according to personal inclination (Prasetyo, 2021). The culmination of this initial phase manifests in the creation of a storyboard, serving as the foundational blueprint for subsequent artistic endeavors.

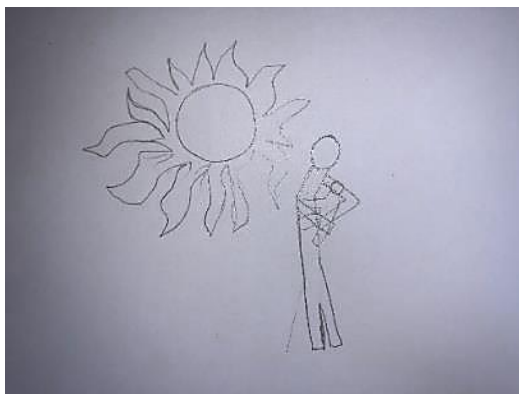


Figure 1. Storyboard in Mother's Lap

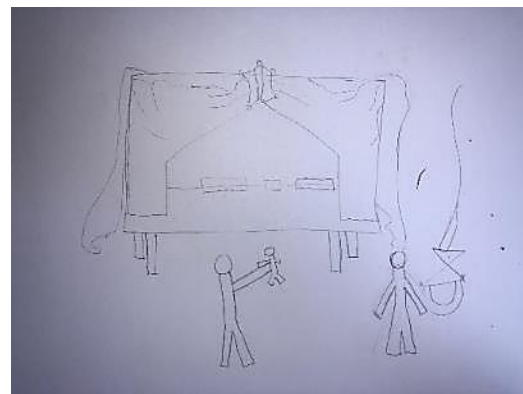


Figure 2. Storyboard of Happiness

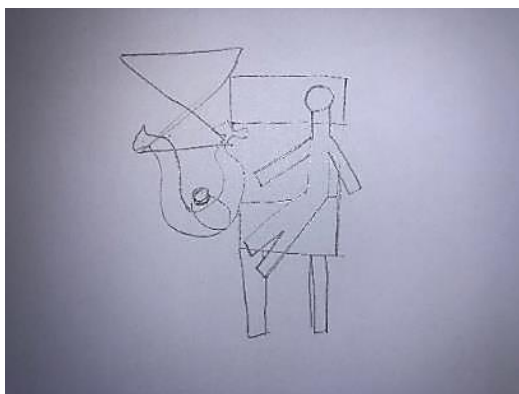


Figure 3. Storyboard of Dodaidi Swing

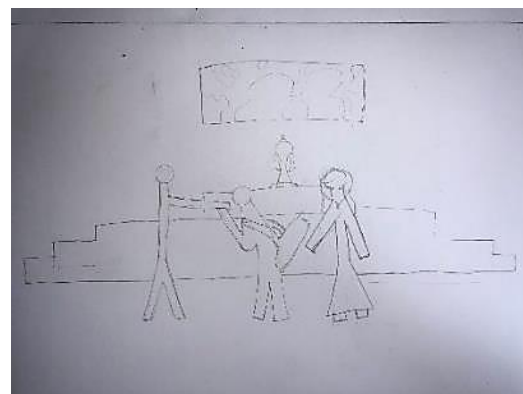


Figure 4. Storyboard Adab

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Creation Process

Throughout the creation process, the artist takes several preparatory steps before starting the photo shoot. Initially, craftsmen made miniature human figures from wooden matches, then shaped them to represent individuals carrying out various activities. Following the formation of these miniature wooden matchsticks, the artist began to dress them by winding

threads around their bodies, thus creating a resemblance to shirts and trousers, thus giving the figures a lively appearance as they go about their daily routine by decorating the clothes. In the initial stage, the artist will prepare the materials that will be used to create the work of art. The artist uses wooden matches as the main medium and processes them into miniature forms of humans carrying out daily activities. In addition, complementary materials such as thread are used to decorate the mini wooden sculptures, thereby contributing to the conceptualization of the photographic work.

After preparing the materials, the next process is to prepare the shooting settings that will be used. Throughout the creative process, the artist conducts indoor photo shoots, establishing a miniature studio environment indoors to facilitate the execution of the project. Throughout the creative process, the artist conducts indoor photo shoots, establishing a miniature studio environment indoors to facilitate the execution of the project. This controlled setting allows for meticulous attention to detail, precise lighting arrangements, and careful composition of each photograph. By creating a controlled environment, the artist can manipulate variables such as lighting, background, and props to convey the intended message with clarity and impact. Additionally, working indoors provides a consistent and comfortable space where the artist can focus entirely on bringing their creative vision to life without external distractions. The controlled environment also enables the artist to experiment with different techniques and styles, pushing the boundaries of their artistic expression while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic throughout the project.

Once the materials and settings to be used have been prepared, the artist will consider the approach to be used. In the course of creating this work, the artist conducts experiments, initially crafting miniature objects from wooden matches. Subsequently, the positioning of these miniature wooden figures is meticulously arranged in accordance with the conceptual framework and desired outcomes. Moreover, the artist directly manipulates the placement of lighting and positions the camera according to the predetermined storyboard, ensuring optimal composition and alignment with the intended perspective of the subjects to be photographed. This methodical approach ensures the quality and fidelity of the resulting imagery.

Masterpiece

The result of the photo work "Parents' Love through the medium of Wooden Matches in Expression Photography". Photo works apply the science of expression photography. The results of all these photos are expressions of feelings of life experiences conveyed by the creators through the science of expressive photography.



Figure 5. Work in Mother's Lap

The first work is entitled "In Mother's Lap". This work was shot using a Canon EOS 600D camera with a 50 mm fixed lens. Diaphragm f/9, speed 1/6, and ISO 800. This work was photographed using the angle eye view technique, namely the shooting angle is parallel to the eye, and the camera position is parallel to the height of the object. This photograph uses a top light lighting technique. The creator used lighting techniques from above with the aim of only wanting to highlight the details of a mother holding a child in her lap. This photo visualizes how much love he feels for his child. A mother will always look after her child forever. A mother who always cradles her baby from childhood until he is an adult.



Figure 6. The work entitled happiness

This second photo is entitled "happiness". This work was taken using a Canon EOS 600D camera with a 50 mm fixed lens, f/2 diaphragm, 1/10 speed, and ISO 800. This work was shot using the angle eye view technique, namely the angle of taking the picture that is parallel to the eye, and the position of the camera. is parallel to the height of the object. This photograph uses a side light lighting technique. The artist uses lighting techniques from the side with the aim of creating light as a substitute for the sun. This photo visualizes what the atmosphere is like in the house. A home full of love, the joy and happiness of a child. When a child receives sincere love from both parents.



Figure 7. The work is entitled Dodaidi Swing

This third work is entitled "Dodaidi Swing". This work was taken using a Canon EOS 600D camera with a 50 mm fixed lens, f/4 diaphragm, 1/3 speed, and ISO 100. This photograph was taken using the Eye Level angle technique, namely the angle of taking the picture that is parallel to the eye and the position of the camera. is parallel to the height of the object. This photograph uses a side light lighting technique. The artist uses lighting techniques from the side with the aim of creating light as a substitute for the sun. The story that the creator wants to visualize through this photograph is a big picture of a mother's love for her child. This Dodaidi swing tends to make a mother always educate her child in religious knowledge when the child is about to sleep. A mother in her mouth always utters words affirming God non-stop, from the time the child is awake until the child falls asleep.

Mothers are willing to not sleep, they stay up all night to look after their children, so that their little ones are protected from mosquitoes so they can sleep soundly and grow up in the swing. When a mother educates her child, apart from teaching her how to create God. Indirectly, the mother always gives advice to remind her child, to be a pious child who is filial to both people and not to be a disobedient child to do good to all people regardless of the person's social status. That advice will stick with a child until he grows up.



Figure 8. The work entitled Adab

This fourth work is entitled "Adab". This work was taken using a Canon EOS 600D camera with a 50 mm fixed lens, f/4 diaphragm, 1/3 speed, and ISO 100. This photograph was taken using the Eye Level angle technique, namely the angle of taking the picture that is parallel to the eye and the position of the camera. is parallel to the height of the object. This photograph uses a side light lighting technique. The artist uses lighting techniques from the side with the aim of creating light as a substitute for the sun.

The story that the author wants to visualize through this work is a picture of a child growing up from the love of both parents. A child will definitely have a quality of etiquette and good manners within him and will respect people who are older than him. This photo work also shows a child when he wants to go to school and greets his parents first. This work depicts a form of manners a child has towards his parents which must be maintained.



Figure 9. The work is entitled The Guardian

This fifth work is entitled "The Guardian". This work was taken using a Canon EOS 600D camera with a 50 mm fixed lens, f/4 diaphragm, 1/3 speed, and ISO 100. This photograph was taken using the Eye Level angle technique, namely the angle of taking the picture that is parallel to the eye and the position of the camera. is parallel to the height of the object. This photograph uses a side light lighting technique. The artist uses lighting techniques from the side with the aim of creating light as a substitute for the sun. The story that the author wants to visualize through this work is a picture of a child lying sick in the hospital. His parents are still loyal and love their child. The child was cared for until he recovered, and was well looked after by his parents. A child gets so much love from his parents.

CONCLUSION

Photography functions as a medium for in-depth visual communication and means the process of painting or writing with light. This requires capturing light reflections on light-sensitive media, which is facilitated primarily through the use of cameras. Photography is more than the production of images, embodying a form of expression through which the photographer conveys a message to the viewer, imbuing the photograph with symbolic meaning. The expressive photography genre is the stylistic trend used in this research. This research explores the creation of photographic works by embedding personal expression in the work. Rooted in a deep narrative of parental love, the project captures the essence of familial warmth and affection, depicting miniature wooden matchsticks involved in everyday activities as symbolic representations of the human experience.

Through qualitative research methods, creators explore the subjective aspects of research topics, delving into the intricacies of human behavior and experience. By using interview and observation techniques, researchers gain rich insight into the subject matter, thereby increasing the depth and diversity of perspectives explored in the project. The creative process unfolds through careful stages of exploration, design, review, realization and presentation, culminating in the creation of an expressive photographic masterpiece. Each photo encapsulates a narrative of parental love and familial bonds, visually depicting moments of tenderness, joy and nurturing care.

In "In Mother's Lap", "Happiness", "Dodaidi Swing", "Adab", and "Guardian", the creator visualizes the multifaceted nature of parental love, from caring for babies to guiding

adolescence. These photos are a touching reminder of the eternal bond between parents and children, illustrating the profound impact that love and care can have on a child's development and well-being. Ultimately, through a blend of artistic expression and qualitative inquiry, the project “Parental Love through the Medium of Wooden Matching in Expressive Photography” transcends the realm of conventional photography, offering viewers a glimpse into the depth and richness of human relationships and experiences.

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