Reflecting Society Through Art: The Aesthetic Evolution of Paintings

Nattanun Siricharoen[1]

[1]Media for Well-being Foundation, Bangkok, Thailand, 10310

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has sparked a powerful artistic response in the form of a captivating painting series, offering a compelling reflection of society during this unparalleled crisis. Comprising five distinctive pieces, these artworks provide a poignant glimpse into humanity's collective response to the pandemic, encapsulating emotions ranging from fear and anxiety to resilience and adaptability. Central to this artistic narrative is the face mask, an innovation born out of necessity that has come to symbolize humanity's resolve to adapt for survival. The mask represents not only our need for protection but also serves as a tangible reminder of our shared struggle and our capacity to respond to adversity with creativity and unity. Through this artistic endeavor and subsequent exhibition, the artist skillfully navigates the complexities of human existence. Life, as depicted in these artworks, is a tapestry woven with threads of happiness and suffering, where smiles and tears coexist harmoniously, reflecting the intricate truth of our journey. These paintings compel us to confront life's challenges and adapt, mirroring the collective response to the pandemic. They remind us that, as individuals and as a society, we possess the resilience to persevere and evolve in the face of adversity. This series is a testament to the indomitable human spirit, showcasing our ability to find strength and beauty even amidst the most trying circumstances. In summary, this artistic painting series is a profound exploration of the human experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. It encapsulates our shared emotions and the significance of adaptation as a vital element of survival. These artworks serve as a poignant reminder that, no matter the challenges we encounter, we have the inner resources to endure, thrive, and discover moments of profound beauty amidst adversity.

Introduction

Painting is a visual art form in which colors, pigments, and other materials are applied to a surface, typically a canvas, paper, wood, or other substrates, to create images, patterns, or representations. Paintings are created using various techniques, tools, and mediums, such as oil, acrylic, watercolor, gouache, tempera, and more. Paintings can represent a wide range of subjects, including landscapes, portraits, still life, abstract concepts, historical events, and more. Artists use different styles, brushwork, and compositions to convey their ideas and emotions through their artwork. Painting has been a fundamental part of human artistic expression for centuries and has evolved over time to encompass diverse approaches and styles. Paintings can evoke emotions, tell stories, document history, and provide insight into the perspectives and creativity of the artists who create them [1]. They are often exhibited in galleries, museums, and private collections, serving as a medium through which artists communicate their thoughts and visions to the world.

The researcher is a creative producer in the field of painting, focusing on reflecting society's experiences. During the COVID-19 epidemic, which spread globally and resulted in the loss of many lives, people around the world found themselves in turmoil, gripped by fear, and deeply concerned about this novel virus. As a consequence, individuals became apprehensive about in-

*Corresponding author. Email: nattanun2004@yahoo.com

person communication due to the fear of contracting the virus through close contact. To address this concern, people began searching for protective equipment to maintain a certain level of safety. Consequently, a campaign emerged encouraging people to wear face masks as a means to reduce the risk of transmitting germs through breath.

The researcher closely monitored news related to this situation and was driven to convey the emotions of those who confronted the realities of COVID-19, particularly in adapting to survive in a world affected by the pandemic. Consequently, the researcher created a series of five paintings reflecting society's response to this crisis, aiming to capture the distress and anxiety experienced by people during the initial stages of prevention. These paintings serve as a reminder of the importance of adaptation and resilience in the face of unprecedented challenges.

Objective

1. To understand the emotions and viewpoints of individuals who view this collection of society-reflecting paintings.
2. To determine if there are any recommendations or suggestions that arise from the viewing of these artworks.
3. To assess whether these paintings, which reflect society, have a positive impact on people's emotional well-being and, if so, in what ways.

Literature review

The process of creating paintings that reflect society: To create aesthetics in art, especially in paintings that reflect society, there are guidelines that should be followed step by step [2]. Crafting art that reflects societal issues is a multifaceted process. Start with thorough research to understand your chosen theme's historical context and relevance. Select an artistic style that aligns with your narrative and choose symbols and metaphors that resonate with your theme. Carefully plan the composition, utilizing contrast and emphasis to guide the viewer. Develop a narrative within your artwork, using human elements to convey emotions and relationships. This is an excellent guide for artists looking to create meaningful and impactful artwork that addresses societal themes. Following these steps can help artists effectively convey their message and engage viewers on important issues. Here's a brief summary of the key points:

Conceptualization and Research: Define the societal theme, conduct thorough research, and understand its context and implications.

Choose Your Visual Style: Decide on an artistic style that enhances your narrative. Symbolism and Metaphor: Use symbols and metaphors to add depth to your message. Composition and Visual Elements: Plan your composition, color, lighting, and perspective to evoke emotions.

Contrast and Emphasis: Use contrast to highlight key elements and create visual hierarchy. Narrative Flow: Develop a narrative within your artwork to convey your message effectively. Human Element: Include human figures or representations to connect with viewers on a personal level. Title and Artist Statement: Give your artwork an intriguing title and write an artist statement to provide context.

Feedback and Iteration: Seek feedback to refine your work while staying true to your vision. Exhibition and Engagement: Display your artwork and engage with viewers to encourage discussions on the societal issue. Remember, art is a powerful medium for social commentary, and artists have the ability to inspire change and provoke thought through their creations. Embrace your creativity and use it as a tool to address the issues that matter to you and society as a whole.

Creating paintings that reflect society around the world is a powerful way for artists to convey social, cultural, and political messages. Many artists have produced fascinating works in this genre, addressing various aspects of global society [3]. Here is a literature review of some renowned artists and their notable works that reflect society around the world:

Figure 1.

Frida Kahlo, 1939 Details of The Two Fridas **(Las dos Fridas)**, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-11/16″
(Museo de Arte Moderno, Mexico City)
source: https://smarthistory.org/kahlo-the-two-fridas-las-dos-fridas/**)**. in the public domain,
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Figure 2.

Frida Kahlo, 1939 Details of The Two Fridas
(Las dos Fridas**)**, oil on canvas, 67-11/16 x 67-
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source: https://smarthistory.org/kahlo-the-two-fridas-
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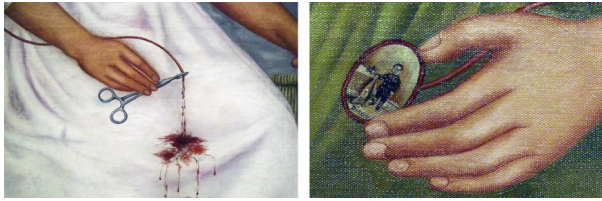Frida Kahlo: Notable Work: "The Two Fridas" (1939) Description: Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter, is celebrated for her self-portraits that often incorporated elements of her own life and the tumultuous socio-political landscape of Mexico. "The Two Fridas" depicts her mixed European and indigenous heritage, symbolizing the duality of Mexican society at the time [4]. The "Anatomy of Two Fridas" is a compelling analysis of Frida Kahlo's iconic painting "The Two Fridas." This painting is renowned for its emotional depth and the way it explores Kahlo's personal struggles and experiences. The essay provides a detailed examination of the painting, highlighting the symbolism and the emotional connections between the two Fridas depicted. Clasped Hands: The essay begins by emphasizing the strong connection between the two Fridas, who are shown clasping hands tightly. This physical bond symbolizes a deep emotional connection between the two aspects of Kahlo's identity depicted in the painting. Vein: The mention of a vein that unites the two Fridas draws attention to the physiological and emotional connection between them. This vein could be seen as a lifeline that binds their two selves together. Exposed Heart: One of the Fridas is depicted with an exposed heart, which symbolizes vulnerability and emotional openness. This could represent Kahlo's own emotional vulnerability and her willingness to lay bare her inner feelings through her art. Lost Love: The essay touches on the theme of lost love, particularly through the mention of Rivera's miniature portrait. This implies that one of the Fridas is still pining for her lost love, possibly a reference to Kahlo's tumultuous relationship with Diego Rivera. Hemostat: The mention of a hemostat signifies the other Frida's attempt to clamp down on the emotional and literal tie, suggesting a desire to suppress or control the pain and emotions associated with lost love. Use of Blood: The essay highlights Kahlo's use of blood as a visceral metaphor for union. It mentions her childhood bout with polio and the bus accident that left her disabled, which would have given her a unique perspective on the human body and its vulnerabilities. Family Portrait: The reference to a 1936 family portrait where Kahlo honors her lineage through "bloody ties" underscores her use of blood as a symbol of family and connection. Emotional Suffering: The essay concludes by emphasizing the emotional suffering depicted in "The Two Fridas," particularly through the vulnerability of the two exposed hearts. This suffering is presented as a central theme in Kahlo's work. In summary, the "Anatomy of Two Fridas" essay provides a nuanced exploration of the symbolism and emotional depth in Frida Kahlo's painting "The Two Fridas." It connects the elements of the painting to Kahlo's personal experiences, physical challenges, and emotional struggles, highlighting the power of her art to convey deep and complex emotions.

In "The Two Fridas," Frida Kahlo symbolically portrays the profound emotional and physical suffering she endured throughout her life [5]. The tight clasp of the two Fridas' hands and the connecting vein emphasize their unbreakable bond. One Frida's exposed heart signifies vulnerability, while the other's determination to clamp down on this vulnerability with a hemostat demonstrates strength. Kahlo's use of graphic human anatomy as a metaphor for union and emotional suffering is a recurring theme in her work, accentuated in this painting by the presence of two exposed hearts, both bearing witness to her profound anguish.

Figure 3.

Diego Rivera, **(**1934**)** Details of Man Controller of the
Universe, fresco, 480 x 1145 cm
(Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City; photo:
Gumr51, CC BY-SA 3.0)
source: https://smarthistory.org/diego-rivera-man-at-
the-crossroads/**)**. in the public domain,
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Figure 4.

Diego Rivera, **(**1934**)** Man Controller of the Universe, fresco, 480 x 1145 cm
(Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico City; photo: Gumr51,
CC BY-SA 3.0)
source: https://smarthistory.org/diego-rivera-man-at-the-crossroads/**)**. in the public domain,
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Diego Rivera's notable work "Man Controller of the Universe" (1934) is actually a mural, not a traditional painting. This mural is also known as "Man at the Crossroads" and originally was created for the Rockefeller Center in New York City [6]. However, it became a source of controversy due to its political themes and was eventually destroyed. Here is a description of the mural: Composition: "Man Controller of the Universe" was a massive fresco mural that covered the entire wall of the lobby of the Rockefeller Center's RCA Building (now known as the GE Building and part of the Comcast Building) in New York City. The mural was divided into multiple panels and featured a central, dynamic composition [7]. Central Panel: In the center of the mural, Rivera depicted a powerful figure representing humanity at the crossroads of progress. This central figure is surrounded by various scenes and symbols that represent different aspects of human achievement and challenges. Themes: The mural explored various themes, including technology, industry, and social justice. Rivera used the mural to convey his socialist and political views, advocating for the role of the working class and the importance of social revolution. He depicted a contrast between the potential for a utopian future and the dangers of exploitation and inequality.

Scientific and Technological Elements: The mural featured a variety of scientific and technological elements, including depictions of microscopes, atoms, and even an image of a fetus in the womb. These elements represented humanity's quest for knowledge and progress.

Controversy and Destruction: The mural's controversial themes and political messages did not sit well with the Rockefeller family, who had commissioned Rivera to create the artwork. As a result, the mural was controversially destroyed in 1934 before it was completed. Rivera's refusal to remove or alter the controversial elements led to the mural's destruction.

Despite its destruction, "Man Controller of the Universe" remains a significant work in the history of art due to its bold political statements and Rivera's distinctive artistic style. Parts of the mural were later recreated by Rivera in Mexico City's Palacio de Bellas Artes, and it continues to be a symbol of his commitment to social and political causes

Theories for creating paintings that reflect society

Creating paintings that reflect society involves exploring various theories and approaches within the realm of art. Different artists may employ different strategies to convey their perspectives on social issues, cultural contexts, and the human experience. Here are some theories and approaches that artists have used to create paintings that reflect society:

Realism and Naturalism: Realism aims to depict everyday life and social conditions with accuracy and detail. Artists in this tradition often focus on the ordinary, showing society as it truly is, warts and all [8]. Naturalism takes realism a step further by emphasizing scientific observation and objectivity. Artists seek to represent human behavior, society, and the natural world as objectively as possible.

Social Realism: Social Realism emerged as a response to social and political upheavals. It often addresses issues such as poverty, labor, and class struggle [9]. Artists in this genre use their work to critique or advocate for social change.

Impressionism: Impressionism focuses on capturing the fleeting and sensory experiences of the world [10]. While it might not directly address societal issues, it reflects the changing urban landscape of the late 1 9 th century and the effects of industrialization.

Symbolism: Symbolism uses symbols and metaphors to convey deeper meanings [11]. Artists may employ symbols to comment on societal norms, values, or the human condition in allegorical or abstract ways.

Cubism: Cubism, through its fragmented and multi-perspective approach, can be seen as a commentary on the complexity and disintegration of traditional societal structures during the early 20th century [12].

Surrealism: Surrealism often explores the unconscious mind and the irrational aspects of human existence [13]. Artists may use surrealistic imagery to comment on the complexities of the human psyche and society's hidden elements.

Abstract Expressionism: While abstract expressionism is often seen as non-representational, some

artists in this movement used abstraction to convey emotional states or societal turmoil through color, form, and gesture [14].

Pop Art: Pop Art emerged as a reaction to consumer culture and mass media. Artists like Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein used everyday objects and imagery to reflect and critique society's obsession with consumerism and celebrity [15].

Postmodernism: Postmodern artists often deconstruct traditional narratives and challenge established norms [16]. They may incorporate a mix of styles, media, and cultural references to comment on the complexity and fragmentation of contemporary society.

Identity and Intersectionality: Many contemporary artists focus on identity, intersectionality, and issues of race, gender, sexuality, and class [17]. They use their work to highlight the experiences and struggles of marginalized communities.

Environmental Art: With growing concerns about the environment, some artists create works that reflect society's impact on the natural world and advocate for ecological awareness and activism [18].

These theories and approaches are not mutually exclusive, and artists often blend elements from multiple styles to create paintings that resonate with their views on society. Art is a powerful medium for expressing social commentary, and it continues to evolve as society changes and faces new challenges.

The researcher has created a painting that reflects society during the COVID-1 9 situation. With the inspiration to depict the fear and uncertainty that gripped people during this challenging time, the artwork captures a poignant snapshot of the human experience.

The central theme of the artwork is the contrast between the vulnerability and strength of the human spirit. It captures the fear and uncertainty that engulfed society during the COVID-1 9 situation, but it also portrays the resilience, solidarity, and determination of individuals to face and overcome this unprecedented crisis. Overall, the researcher's painting serves as a powerful and evocative representation of the collective human experience during the COVID-19 pandemic, reminding us of the challenges we faced and the strength we discovered in the face of adversity.

The researcher's reflection on the fear of COVID-19 is beautifully captured in a semi-abstract painting that embodies the complex emotions and struggles faced by people during the pandemic. The painting uses a mix of Thai motifs and imagery to convey the somber atmosphere in Thailand and the global collective experience. There are faces of both men and women, representing various genders, each expressing different feelings. These faces are painted in harsh, bold colors to convey the intensity of emotions erupting in people's minds. The use of bold colors symbolizes the strength of human resilience in the face of adversity.

The lines in the painting are fluid and fluctuating, mirroring the unpredictable and ever-changing moods that people experienced during the pandemic. These lines also create a sense of confusion, reflecting the uncertainty and disarray that characterized this period.

Amidst the chaotic emotions, the painting features images of people wearing face masks, both men and women, documenting this historical moment in time. These masks represent the collective effort of humanity to protect itself from the malevolent pathogen. They are a symbol of our instinctual drive to survive and adapt to various environments. The painting ultimately hints at the hidden truth of human life - our adaptability, resilience, and determination to overcome challenges. It serves as a powerful reflection of society during the COVID-19 pandemic, capturing the multifaceted emotions and experiences that defined this period in history.

The COVID-19 pandemic has left an indelible mark on societies worldwide, evoking a complex mix of emotions ranging from fear and uncertainty to resilience and adaptation. In this essay, we delve into an artistic reflection that encapsulates the myriad feelings and experiences of people during this challenging period. The semi-abstract painting incorporates Thai motifs and bold colors, using the faces of men and women to symbolize various genders' responses to the crisis. Additionally, it employs fluctuating lines and face masks to convey the turmoil and determination that defined the COVID-19 era. This artwork serves as a compelling testament to the human experience during the pandemic.

1. Emotional Complexity: The painting's use of harsh and bold colors immediately draws attention to the emotional intensity felt by individuals during the COVID-19 pandemic. The vivid colors reflect the depth of fear and anxiety, emphasizing the rawness of human emotions in the face of an invisible threat. The juxtaposition of these bold colors creates a visual tension, highlighting the inner turmoil of society.

2. Gender Representation: By featuring both men and women, the painting acknowledges that the pandemic affected people of all genders, each responding uniquely to the situation. The faces depicted in the artwork display a range of emotions, from distress to determination. This gender-inclusive representation is a subtle reminder of the pandemic's universality, affecting individuals regardless of their gender.

3. Thai Motifs: The incorporation of Thai motifs adds a cultural dimension to the painting, anchoring it in the specific context of Thailand. These motifs subtly convey the gravity of the situation in the country, reflecting the somber atmosphere that descended upon Thailand during the pandemic. The blend of traditional and contemporary elements in the artwork underscores the synthesis of heritage and modernity in the face of adversity.

4. Fluctuating Lines: The fluctuating lines in the painting evoke a sense of instability and confusion, mirroring the unpredictable nature of the pandemic's progression. These lines create a visual representation of the rollercoaster of emotions experienced by people as they grappled with rapidly changing circumstances. The

fluctuating lines also symbolize the collective uncertainty that pervaded society during this time.

5. Face Masks: The inclusion of people wearing face masks is a poignant and historically significant aspect of the painting. These masks not only represent a practical response to the pandemic but also serve as a symbol of human determination and survival instinct. They embody the resilience of individuals who adapted to new norms to protect themselves and their communities.

In conclusion, the semi-abstract painting vividly captures the multifaceted emotions and experiences of people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its use of bold colors, fluctuating lines, gender representation, Thai motifs, and face masks forms a rich tapestry that reflects the societal response to this global crisis. This artwork serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of humanity, highlighting the hidden truths of our existence in the face of adversity. It stands as a powerful reminder of the collective strength and determination that emerged during this challenging period in history.

The researcher's five paintings reflecting society include works by Nattanun Siricharoen, created in 2022. The names of the artworks are as follows: "Heal the World No.1," "Heal the World No.2," "Heal the World No.3," "Human being No.1," and "Human being No.2." These works were exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok from March 1 to March 31, 2022. The details of the concept behind creating these works are as follows:

Figure 5.

Nattanun Siricharoen's artwork, 'Heal the World No.1,' features a mixed painting technique and measures
60 x 50 cm.
It was exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok from March 1 to March 31, 2022
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

The painting "Heal the World No. 1" appears to be a reflection of the artist's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to capture the emotions and societal experiences during that challenging period. Let's analyze the aesthetics in this painting in relation to its composition and colors: Composition: The semi-abstract representation of a man wearing a face mask suggests a direct connection to the pandemic. The use of a face mask symbolizes the precautionary measures people had to take to protect themselves and others. The cold gaze in the man's eyes can evoke a sense of detachment or emotional distancing, which may reflect the fear, uncertainty, or isolation many individuals felt during the pandemic. The fact that the image is semi-abstract implies that the artist may not have aimed for a hyper-realistic portrayal but instead sought to convey emotions and experiences in a more symbolic or metaphorical way.

Colors: The chaotic colors in the background are significant. Chaotic or discordant colors can represent the confusion, anxiety, and turbulence that the pandemic brought to society. It may symbolize the disruption of normal life and the uncertainty of the situation.
The choice of colors could further reflect the emotional state of people during the pandemic. For example, dark and somber colors may represent fear and sadness, while bright and vibrant colors might symbolize hope and resilience.

Emotional Expression: By choosing a cold gaze and chaotic colors, the artist seems to be conveying the mixed emotions that people experienced during the pandemic. The fear and uncertainty are apparent, but there may also be a hint of determination or resilience in the composition, suggesting the human spirit's capacity to confront challenges.

In summary, "Heal the World No. 1" appears to be a semi-abstract painting that captures the emotional and societal response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The composition and colors used in the work reflect the fear, isolation, and confusion experienced by people during this time. It's a powerful representation of the collective emotions and struggles faced by society during a global crisis.

Figure 6.

Nattanun Siricharoen's artwork, 'Heal the World
No.2,' features a mixed painting technique and
measures
60 x 50 cm.
It was exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok
from March 1 to March 31, 2022
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

The painting "Heal the World No. 2" appears to be a powerful representation of the emotional and societal impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's analyze the artistic composition and colors used in the work in relation to the feelings of fear and the fight against the virus: Composition: The semi-abstract image of a woman's face serves as the focal point of the painting. This suggests a personal and emotional connection, perhaps representing the individual experiences and suffering caused by the pandemic. The sad eyes and the expression of having lost all hope in life convey a deep sense of despair and helplessness, which many individuals felt during the pandemic. The use of a face mask on the woman's face is a clear symbol of the precautions and safety measures taken during the pandemic. It represents a sense of vulnerability and the need to protect oneself from the virus.

Colors: The colors used in the background play a crucial role in conveying the emotions and atmosphere of the painting. The background suggests a gradient of emotions and experiences. Red often symbolizes danger, urgency, and intense emotions or a sense of awakening. The hot and intense colors in the background, such as red, can be interpreted as a representation of the terror and

chaos that the pandemic brought with it. Red is often associated with danger and urgency, which mirrors the crisis atmosphere of the pandemic. The use of warm colors can also symbolize the illness and suffering that many people endured during the COVID-19 outbreak.

Cold and Blind Look: The mention of a "cold and blind look" on the face of the woman behind the first woman suggests a sense of isolation, indifference, or a lack of empathy that some individuals may have experienced during the pandemic. It could symbolize the societal response to the crisis.

Emotional Expression: The artist's choice to portray the emotions of fear, despair, and hopelessness reflects the psychological toll of the pandemic on individuals and society as a whole. Overall, "Heal the World No. 2" seems to capture the multifaceted impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, ranging from personal despair and fear to societal challenges and emotional struggles. The artistic composition and choice of colors effectively convey the complex emotions and experiences that many people went through during this unprecedented time in history. The painting serves as a poignant reminder of the collective trauma and resilience of society during the pandemic.

Figure 7.

Nattanun Siricharoen's artwork, 'Heal the World
No.3,' features a mixed painting technique and
measures
60 x 50 cm.
It was exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok
from March 1 to March 31, 2022
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

Analyzing the aesthetics of the social reflection painting titled **"Heal the World No. 3,"** with a focus on artistic elements and colors used to reflect the feeling of fear and the determination to fight COVID-19:

Color Palette: Cool colors can be used to create a visually calming but somewhat somber atmosphere, reflecting the initial shock and anxiety that many experienced during the outbreak. Shades of blue can represent the clinical and sterile aspects of dealing with a medical crisis, emphasizing the impersonal nature of the virus.

Warm and Vibrant Colors (Reds, Oranges, and Black in the Background): These colors can be strategically placed around or behind the central figure (the Thai face) to symbolize determination and resilience. Red, a color often associated with courage and strength, can be used to accentuate the features of the face, such as the lips and eyes, to emphasize the determination in the eyes and the spirit in the expression. Orange can be used to create a sense of energy and vitality, signifying the fiery spirit required to confront the virus. The use of black in the background can be symbolic of the challenges and darkness that the pandemic brought but can also highlight the resilience of the Thai people, emerging strong against the backdrop of adversity. By incorporating both subdued and cool colors and warmer, vibrant tones, the painting can effectively balance the contrasting emotions of fear and determination. This juxtaposition of colors can create a visually striking and emotionally resonant piece of art that reflects the complex and layered response to the COVID-19 pandemic, with fear giving way to a determined and resilient spirit. The semi-abstract image of a Thai face at the center of the painting draws immediate attention. The fact that the face is semi-abstract suggests that it's not just a literal representation but also carries symbolic and emotional weight. The delicate patterns that surround the face can be seen as representing the intricate challenges and complexities brought about by the pandemic. These patterns may symbolize the interconnectedness of individuals and communities during the crisis.

Expression in the Face: The indifferent eyes of the face can be interpreted as a reflection of the initial shock and fear that many people felt when confronted with the COVID-19 pandemic. It suggests a sense of being overwhelmed by the situation.

However, the determination to fight COVID-19 is depicted through the face's overall demeanor. The face having a calm and stable expression conveys the resilience and strength of the Thai people. This suggests that while fear may exist, it is being met with a resolute and unwavering spirit.

Symbolism: The title of the painting, "Heal the World No. 3," may have its own symbolic meaning. It could represent the different phases or stages of the pandemic, with this artwork reflecting a specific moment in time when fear and determination coexisted.

Brushwork and Style: The brushwork and overall style of the painting can contribute to its aesthetic impact. Bold, expressive brushstrokes might signify the urgency and chaos of the pandemic, while more controlled and deliberate strokes can symbolize the determination and focus required to combat it.

In summary, the aesthetics of this painting blend a combination of colors, composition, facial expression, and symbolism to convey the complex emotions of fear and determination in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. It captures the initial shock and fear while emphasizing the unwavering spirit and resilience of the Thai people as they stand up to fight the virus.
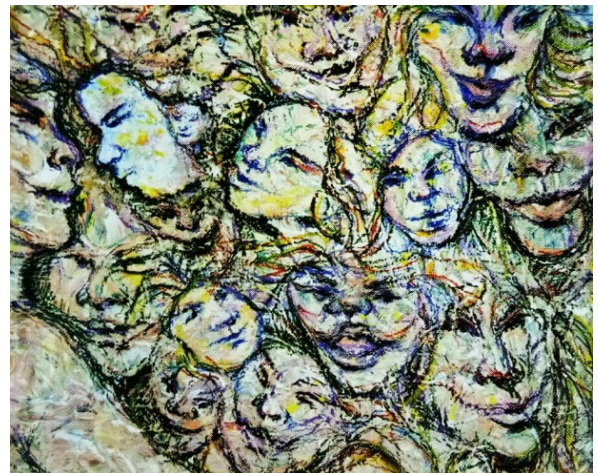

Figure 8.

Nattanun Siricharoen's artwork, 'Human being No.1,' features a mixed painting technique and measures 60 x 50 cm.
It was exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok from March 1 to March 31, 2022
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

The artwork titled **"Human being No.1"** a fascinating piece that delves into the complexities of human emotions and the importance of living together in society and analysis of the elements:

Emotional Expressions: The use of cool colors to depict various emotions on the faces of people in the painting suggests a diverse range of feelings and moods among individuals in society. The inclusion of smiles, joy, laughter, and sadness implies that the artwork aims to capture the full spectrum of human emotions, highlighting the richness and complexity of the human experience.

Overall Atmosphere of Society: The choice to use these various emotions to depict the overall atmosphere of society is a powerful metaphor. It suggests that society is a collective reflection of the individual emotions and experiences of its members. This can symbolize the idea that society is built upon the emotions, interactions, and experiences of its people.

Artistic Elements: The artistic elements of the painting likely include composition, color choice, brushwork, and other visual techniques. The cool colors used for the lips and the portrayal of different emotions suggest a contrast between the inner emotional world of individuals and the external societal environment. The artist's skill in conveying these emotions through their chosen medium adds depth to the artwork.

Message of Living Together: The artwork's message about the need to live together in society is a significant theme. It emphasizes the importance of community and social cohesion. By showcasing a variety of emotions, the artwork may be encouraging viewers to empathize with others, understand the complexity of human emotions, and appreciate the diversity of experiences within a society.

Generosity and Forgiveness: The mention of generosity and forgiveness in your description likely points to a moral or ethical aspect of the artwork. It suggests that to maintain a harmonious and cohesive society, individuals should practice these virtues. Generosity implies a willingness to help and support others, while forgiveness suggests a capacity to let go of grievances and conflicts. These values can contribute to a more compassionate and understanding society.

In summary, "Human being No.1" appears to be a thought-provoking piece of art that uses the portrayal of emotions to convey a message about the importance of living together in society, promoting generosity and forgiveness as essential values. The combination of artistic elements and thematic depth makes it a meaningful reflection on the human condition and our interconnectedness in society.

Figure 9.

Nattanun Siricharoen's artwork, 'Human being No.2,' features a mixed painting technique and measures 60 x 50 cm.
It was exhibited at the Old Town Gallery in Bangkok from March 1 to March 31, 2022
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

A complex and thought-provoking piece of artwork. **"Human being No.2"** appears to be a painting that delves deep into the human condition and the emotional spectrum that defines our interactions in society. Here's a breakdown of some of the key elements and themes in the artwork:

Emotions and Expressions: The painting focuses on capturing a range of human emotions through facial expressions. These emotions, from joy and happiness to sadness and potentially anger or hatred, are central to the human experience. The use of warm colors to depict these emotions adds depth and intensity to the artwork, making it visually striking.

Social Commentary: The title, "Human being no.2," suggests that this artwork is part of a series or a larger exploration of humanity. By depicting a variety of emotions, it reflects the diversity of experiences and personalities within society. This could be seen as a commentary on the complexities and diversity of human interactions and relationships.

Warm Colors: The choice of warm colors for the lips that express various emotions is significant. Warm colors, such as reds, oranges, and yellows, are often associated with strong feelings and passion. They can evoke a sense of energy and intensity. In this context, they may symbolize the depth and intensity of human emotions.

Overall Atmosphere: The painting aims to convey the overall atmosphere of society that surrounds humans. This suggests that it seeks to capture the collective emotional state or mood of a community or society. It raises questions about how individual emotions contribute to the broader emotional climate of a group.

Need for Social Cohesion: The mention of the artistic elements of the picture showing the need to live together in society highlights the importance of social cohesion. It suggests that despite the range of emotions depicted, there is a fundamental human need for connection and belonging in a community.

Seriousness and Conflict: The reference to the potential for seriousness, vengeance, anger, and hatred in human society indicates that the painting does not shy away from the darker aspects of human nature. It explores the potential for conflict and discord within society, which is a realistic and important aspect of the human experience.

Aggressive Facial Expressions: The use of aggressive facial expressions in the images suggests a certain intensity and tension within the artwork. This can

be seen as a reflection of the more negative or confrontational emotions in human interactions.

In summary, "Human being no.2" appears to be a thought-provoking artwork that uses a rich palette of emotions and warm colors to explore the complexity of human society. It delves into both the positive and negative aspects of human emotions and interactions, prompting viewers to contemplate the intricacies of the human condition and the challenges of living together in a diverse and sometimes conflicted world.

Figure 10.

Show pictures that capture the atmosphere on the opening day of the exhibition, including the public arriving to view the works, engaging in discussions, asking questions, and exchanging opinions with researchers and fellow viewers to gauge their reactions and sentiments. **(2022)**
source: Nattanun Siricharoen, 2022

Method

In this qualitative research study, data was collected by organizing an art exhibition featuring paintings reflecting society. The exhibition took place at the Old Town Art Gallery in Bangkok from March 1st to March 31st, 2022. The researcher engaged with attendees to discuss and gather their feelings and opinions about the exhibited paintings. Participants were encouraged to examine each artwork and engage in conversations with one another. The collected data will be analyzed using content analysis methods. This analysis will encompass various aspects of the information obtained from the participants, allowing for a comprehensive summary and interpretation. The ultimate goal of this research is to discuss the findings and distill them into practical guidelines. These guidelines will serve as valuable insights for individuals interested in creating paintings that reflect society in the future.

Result/Finding

In the quest to understand the emotional and cognitive impact of paintings reflecting society, qualitative data collection was undertaken. The primary objectives were to delve into the emotions and perspectives of individuals viewing this series of paintings, examine any suggestions or recommendations stemming from their experiences, and evaluate whether these artworks have a positive influence on emotional well-being. This essay aims to summarize the findings and insights gleaned from the research.

Emotional Responses and Perspectives (Objective 1)

The first objective sought to understand how viewers reacted to the paintings and what perspectives they adopted. Upon analyzing the qualitative data, it became evident that viewers of these works expressed a wide range of emotions and opinions. Some common themes emerged: Empathy and Reflection: Many viewers reported experiencing deep empathy when confronted with paintings depicting societal issues such as poverty, inequality, and injustice. They expressed that these

artworks provoked introspection and a heightened awareness of social challenges. Contemplation: The paintings encouraged viewers to contemplate the depicted scenarios and reflect on their own roles in society. Some reported a shift in their perspectives, prompting a desire for positive social change. Discomfort and Disquiet: Some paintings evoked discomfort and disquiet among viewers, particularly when the subject matter was distressing. This discomfort often led to discussions and critical dialogues about the issues portrayed.

Suggestions and Recommendations (Objective 2)

The second objective aimed to identify any suggestions or recommendations stemming from viewers' encounters with the art. It was found that viewers of the works had several suggestions: Raise Awareness: Viewers suggested that these paintings could be used as tools to raise awareness about pressing societal issues. They proposed that galleries and artists collaborate with nonprofit organizations to educate the public. Interactive Exhibits: Some viewers recommended interactive exhibits that would allow visitors to engage with the art in a more immersive manner. This could include multimedia installations or discussions with artists. Supportive Spaces: There was a call for creating safe and supportive spaces within galleries where viewers could share their emotional responses and thoughts with others, fostering a sense of community engagement.

Positive Impact on Emotional Well-being (Objective 3)

The final objective aimed to evaluate whether these paintings had a positive impact on people's emotional well-being and, if so, in what form. The findings indicated that: Emotional Catharsis: Many viewers reported experiencing emotional catharsis when viewing these paintings. Expressing their emotions through art allowed them to release pent-up feelings and experience a sense of relief. Increased Empathy: The paintings contributed to an increase in empathy among viewers, fostering a deeper understanding of the experiences and challenges faced by marginalized communities. Motivation for Action: Some viewers expressed that the art inspired them to take action in their communities, whether through volunteering, advocacy, or supporting charitable causes.

Discussion

In this discussion of research findings, we have explored the outcomes of a study that sought to understand viewers' reactions to a collection of paintings and the perspectives they adopted. The study had three primary objectives: understanding viewers' reactions and perspectives, identifying suggestions and recommendations arising from their encounters with the art, and evaluating the potential positive impact of these paintings on emotional well-being. Now, let's delve into the key findings and their implications in more detail.

Objective 1: Understanding Viewers' Reactions and Perspectives

Upon analyzing the qualitative data, it became evident that viewers of these works expressed a wide range of emotions and opinions. Several recurrent themes emerged:
Emotional Diversity: Viewers exhibited a wide spectrum of emotions while engaging with the art, including joy, sadness, awe, and introspection. This underscores the capacity of art to elicit powerful emotional responses. Subjectivity: The study revealed that each viewer brought their unique perspective to the artworks, interpreting them in deeply personal ways. This subjectivity highlights the versatility of art, allowing for multiple, diverse readings. Empathy and Connection: Many viewers reported feeling a heightened sense of empathy and connection with the subjects or themes depicted in the paintings. This suggests that art has the potential to bridge emotional gaps and foster understanding.

Objective 2: Suggestions and Recommendations

The second objective of the study aimed to identify suggestions and recommendations stemming from viewers' encounters with the art. Several valuable suggestions emerged: Interactive Exhibits: Viewers expressed a desire for more interactive exhibits that would enable them to engage with the artwork on a deeper level. Incorporating technology, multimedia, or hands-on activities could enhance the overall experience. Educational Programs: Respondents recommended the development of educational programs to provide context and background information about the art and the artists. This could help viewers better appreciate and understand the pieces they encounter. Community Engagement: Viewers suggested organizing community events and discussions around the art, creating opportunities for dialogue and shared experiences. Such initiatives could help build a sense of community and foster meaningful connections.

Objective 3: Positive Impact on Emotional Well-being

The final objective of the study assessed whether these paintings had a positive impact on people's emotional well-being and, if so, in what form. The findings indicated the following: Emotional Well-being Enhancement: Many participants reported experiencing a positive impact on their emotional well-being after engaging with the art. They described feelings of upliftment, inspiration, and increased self-awareness. Stress Reduction: Some viewers noted that viewing the paintings served as a form of stress relief and provided a respite from their daily concerns. This suggests that art can serve as a therapeutic tool. Social Transformation: The research findings suggest that these paintings serve as

powerful tools for both artistic expression and social transformation. They have the capacity to evoke a wide range of emotions, promote empathy and contemplation, and even have a positive impact on viewers' emotional well-being.

The study's findings demonstrate the profound influence of art on individuals and society. Art has the remarkable ability to touch hearts, challenge minds, and drive positive action. The recommendations for raising awareness, creating interactive exhibits, and providing supportive spaces can help maximize the potential of these artworks to inspire meaningful change in society. In essence, this research underscores the significance of art not only as a form of expression but also as a catalyst for personal growth and societal transformation.

Suggestion

The research suggests a multifaceted approach to harness the power of art for societal impact and emotional well-being. Collaboration among artists, galleries, and nonprofits can raise awareness about issues like poverty and injustice. Immersive tech-based art experiences can engage viewers more effectively. Educational programs, tours, talks, and workshops provide context and insight into artworks and social themes. Community engagement events, including exhibitions and discussions, promote dialogue and connection. Supportive spaces within galleries facilitate emotional sharing and community building. Art's therapeutic potential benefits individual and community well-being. Encouraging artist collaboration with initiatives and charities bridges art and advocacy.

Conclusion

The research findings suggest that paintings reflecting society have a profound impact on viewers' emotions and perspectives. They evoke a wide range of emotions, encourage contemplation and reflection, and often lead to suggestions for promoting social awareness and change. Moreover, these artworks can have a positive influence on emotional well-being by providing emotional catharsis, fostering empathy, and motivating individuals to make a difference in society. As such, these paintings serve as powerful tools for both artistic expression and social transformation.

The conclusion of this qualitative research highlights the integration of concepts and theories from cultural studies, visual sociology, social practice art, and environmental art in the creation of paintings that reflect social problems. These interdisciplinary approaches provide a solid framework for artists and scholars to address contemporary societal issues. Social realism remains relevant in contemporary art and literature, tackling topics like globalization, immigration, the environment, and identity politics. Artists employ various techniques and mediums to engage with these issues.

The painting series "Heal the World No. 1, No. 2, No. 3" and "Human Being No. 1, No. 2" can be interpreted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic within the context of contemporary art and societal issues. These works appear to engage with several artistic movements and themes, reflecting the complexities and challenges of the pandemic era.

Social Realism and Identity: The artist's choice to create a series of paintings during the COVID-19 pandemic reflects a form of social realism. Social realism typically addresses issues of societal concern. In this case, the pandemic profoundly affected people's lives and brought issues of health, inequality, and isolation to the forefront. The paintings might aim to depict the realities of this period, possibly highlighting the struggles of individuals and communities during the pandemic. They might also explore the various identities and experiences within society that were amplified or revealed by the crisis, such as healthcare workers, essential employees, and those facing economic hardships.

Environmental Art: Given the global nature of the pandemic and its connection to human interaction with the natural world, these paintings could incorporate elements of environmental art. They may symbolically represent the impact of the virus on the environment, such as deserted cityscapes and the effects of lockdowns on nature. Additionally, the "Heal the World" title suggests a desire for healing not only for humans but also for the planet, emphasizing the interconnectedness of human and environmental health.

Abstract Expressionism and Surrealism: The artist might utilize abstract expressionism and surrealism to convey the emotional and psychological aspects of the pandemic. Abstract expressionism often relies on color, form, and gesture to convey deep emotions. The pandemic evoked a wide range of emotions, from fear and anxiety to resilience and hope. Surrealism, with its focus on the irrational and unconscious, could be used to represent the surreal and sometimes nightmarish aspects of the pandemic experience.

Identity and Intersectionality: These paintings could explore issues of identity and intersectionality within the context of the pandemic. For instance, they may address how the pandemic disproportionately affected marginalized communities, bringing issues of race, class, and healthcare disparities to the forefront. The "Human Being" series might delve into the individual stories and experiences of people from diverse backgrounds.

Postmodernism: The artist might incorporate elements of postmodernism by challenging traditional narratives and norms. In the context of the pandemic, this could involve questioning the official responses to the crisis, the role of media, and the shifting dynamics of society during a time of upheaval.

The interpretation of these paintings will ultimately depend on both the artist's intentions and the viewer's perspective. They appear to encompass a wide range of

themes and artistic influences, offering a multifaceted reflection on the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on society, the environment, and individual identities. For artists looking to create socially reflective art, thorough research is crucial to understand the historical context and relevance of the chosen theme. It's essential to select an artistic style that aligns with the narrative and incorporate symbols and metaphors that resonate with the theme. Careful composition planning, using contrast and emphasis, can guide the viewer's eye, and incorporating human elements in the artwork can convey emotions and depict relationships, enhancing the narrative. In essence, these approaches offer a robust foundation for artists to create art that addresses society's complexities and encourages critical thinking while inspiring positive change.

Acknowledgement

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