

A Case Study :

A comparative study of traditional and Modern batik

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Accepted : July, 2009

Batik's true origins is a mystery. The word is translated in many different ways-some sources say it means "to dot" some translate it as "wax printing" or "drawing with broken line. Batik is the art of waxing a surface, usually cloth to make it resist dyeing and then removing the wax re-dyeing and creating intricate pattern and design. It is very old from of art, as evidence of early batik has been found all over the Middle East India and Central Asia about 2000 years ago.

The simplest definition of the Javanese word Batik, is that it is resist technique for producing designs on fabric. The resist substances may be wax or starch. It is one of the most widely spread techniques of fabric decoration. Known in China in the seventh century A.D. and even earlier in India, batik techniques are also found in Japan, Central and South Eastern Asia, Europe and parts of Africa. In Indonesia it was originally done by the women of the aristocracy and each piece took many months to complete. The specific objectives of this topic is to know the traditional and modern batik and to know the batik printing technique, motives and the colour used in batik.

Traditional batik:

The fascinating beauty of Indonesian batik lies in the changes in style and motif that have come about through its introduction to many different cultures. The basic batik of Java, for examples is known as batik kraton, and its motifs are rich in hindu influence such as the revered garuda bird, the sacred lotus flower, the dragon naga and the tree of life. Than as a results of Islamic influence Batik motifs become more geometric and botanical, because Islam forbade the depiction of humans or animals.

Traditional batik technique:

Material:

Cotton is the most common material used in the making of batik garments. Silk is mostly for the manufacture of slendangs.

Waxing process:

The clothes are hung over wooden or bamboo frames and main divisions are outlined with charcoal or pencil.

Wax:

The traditionally was which is used is bee wax, paraffin and animal fat.

Dye and dying method:

Natural indigo is the oldest dye traditionally used in India. It is also the only purely vat dye. They add a coconut shell of natural indigo to a mixture of lime, sugar and water in a large container at midday.

Colour:

Traditionally used colours are the red and brown colour dying clothes with monochrome blue or red pattern are the simplest known form of batik. In making polychrome batik is to be brown or red and blue, red is the first colour to be applied soya keokan procedures according to the region pekalocong method painted on technique was introduced from India but was replaced by the ret waxing and over dyeing process to produce many coloured combinations.

Traditional patterns:

There are at least thousand patterns which can be exactly defined and bear names such as moonshine charm boar at night and waddling goose. The pattern can be classified within four types.

- The semen
- The ceplok

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Key words : Moder
batick, Colour, Wax

- The parang

Traditional garments:

Some ornamentation in batik is dictated by the type of garment for which it is designed.

- The Iket Kepala
- The Kember and the Slendang
- The sarong
- The kain
- The Dodot

Modern batik:

In about 1850 the first attempts were made to simplify and speed up the production of batik and waxing by means of blocks or Tjap Printing. These blocks consist of strips of soldered copper and are opened at the back. Another quick method is the use of lacquered paper stencil to apply a resist paste of ground nuts. You can draw on available sources, but a personal attitude is more valuable and inspirational work within your own ability photographs are a good source of motifs as they are essentially objects already reduced to flat patterns. Furthermore, framing certain parts of a picture serves to insulate sections and creates strong images.

Modern batik techniques:-

Material:

Cotton is an ideal fibre. The use in the production of batik is viscose Rayon and Linen Silk is available in a wide variety of textures and weight.

Preparation of fabric:

The fabric contains impurities it will then be necessary to prepare it before start on the batik process. In many case a good soak in warm water, followed by thorough rinsing, may be sufficient alternative. The fabric may be machine washed.

Wax and resist pastes:

Microcrystalline wax, paraffin wax, pine resin similar properties adheres and penetrates the fabric easily. Sugar syrup Jaggery syrup and plaster of Paris starches Guar flour, Bengal gram flour kuttu flour, cold water starch.

Dye:

There are six categories of dyestuff suitable for batik.

1. Fiber reactive
2. Naphthol or azoic
3. Vat
4. Direct
5. Acid
6. Basic

Colour:

The batik artist delights in a colour language. To use

colour in the most effective way it is essential that the artist learns to participate the over dyeing sequences. Dye stuffs each have their own characteristics, depending on the type and skillful use of different effects.

Modern Patterns:

The trend today is to decorate the fabric in whatever way the artist wants. More resources are available which in turn create more freedom for batik artists. Batik is now made into many different kinds of beautiful clothing and decorative household items.

Batik was traditionally used for making sarong, but due to its growing popularity is now used for amongst other things, home furnishing, household accessories, tablecloths and cushion covers.

The results obtained in this study can be summarized as follows:-

- Although modern batik trends to have strong link to the more traditional batik, the designs tend to be dictated mainly by the designer concerned. In the same way, traditional dyes have made way for use of chemical dyes which can now produce whatever colour a designer may wish to use.

- It is beautiful, exotic and constantly changing. Its most common uses is how well you can make your own design.

- Various materials are used in the process of batik. Silk, rayon, linen can be the fabrics used in modern time. T-Janting, canting tools are used to draw the fabric but a paint brush or dropper can also be used.

- Different type of wax that can be used to batik.

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