Conference Paper

Aesthetic Composition in Portrait Photography

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Abstract

Portrait photography is a representation of human figures in 2D. Aesthetic composition is a combination of visual elements and visual principles. Elements include: lines, shapes, values, colors, sizes, textures, and spaces. This study considers the application of these in photographic portraits. This research will use qualitative methods which are carried out in the data collection stage, the analysis phase and the interpretation stage. The results of the photographic work demonstrate that the composition will have a direct impact on the point of interest of the object of the photo. Furthermore, lighting plays a key role in the dimensions of the object, so an understanding of continuous light is needed to produce dimensionless photographs.

Keywords: aesthetic composition, photography, portrait

1. Introduction

Portrait photography is a representation of the similarity of human figures in bimatra form. Human domination as a photo subject distinguishes between types of portrait photography with others. The creation of portrait art in the form of painting, sculpture, and graphics has been around since the discovery of photography. Besides representation, photography is also used as a communication or recording medium (Dennet, 2001: 16-17) and is considered a self-expression of the photographer. Photos reflect the photographer's care. On the other hand photography is considered as an art (O'Brien, 1995: 7) which is an expression of a photographer's personal vision.

Photography comes as unique distinction, namely its ability to speak and writing and make it partially, out of date (not last long). Knowledge of the subject and its implications is important for photographers in addition to the technical issues of lens optimization. When making a portrait, the photographer carries out the activity of interpreting the object (model) of the photo. Photographers say something with the language of the photo. Photos give short gestures through photo objects. The most widely used photo object is humans and is part of portraiture photography (portrait

photography). Portraiture is a photographer's attempt to answer subject questions about "what do I look like?", "What am I like", "who am I". Portrait (Douglas, 2011: 30) can determine the character and personality and say where the object (model) photo; work or play.

Aesthetic composition is a combination of visual elements and visual principles. Elements include: lines, shapes, values, colors, sizes, textures, and spaces (Archibald, 2011), while visual principles include: balance, rhythm, proportion, dominance, and unity (McClurg-Genevese, 2005). In research on aesthetic compositions in previous infographics (Harrison and Reinecke, 2015) it was found that designers must direct the level of design complexity at low to medium points, as well as directing the use of color at medium to high points. This is because infographics that have these criteria are considered attractive designs. The study focused on studies of minimal sample exposure to infographics, but it is necessary to know further the effect of infographic aesthetic composition on the information conveyed.

From several studies that have been done, there is no research that discusses how the aesthetic composition in portrait photography works. This study focuses on identifying how the aesthetic composition influences portrait photography works so that it can be used as a reference by photographers in creating portrait photography.

2. Portraiture Photography Bantengan

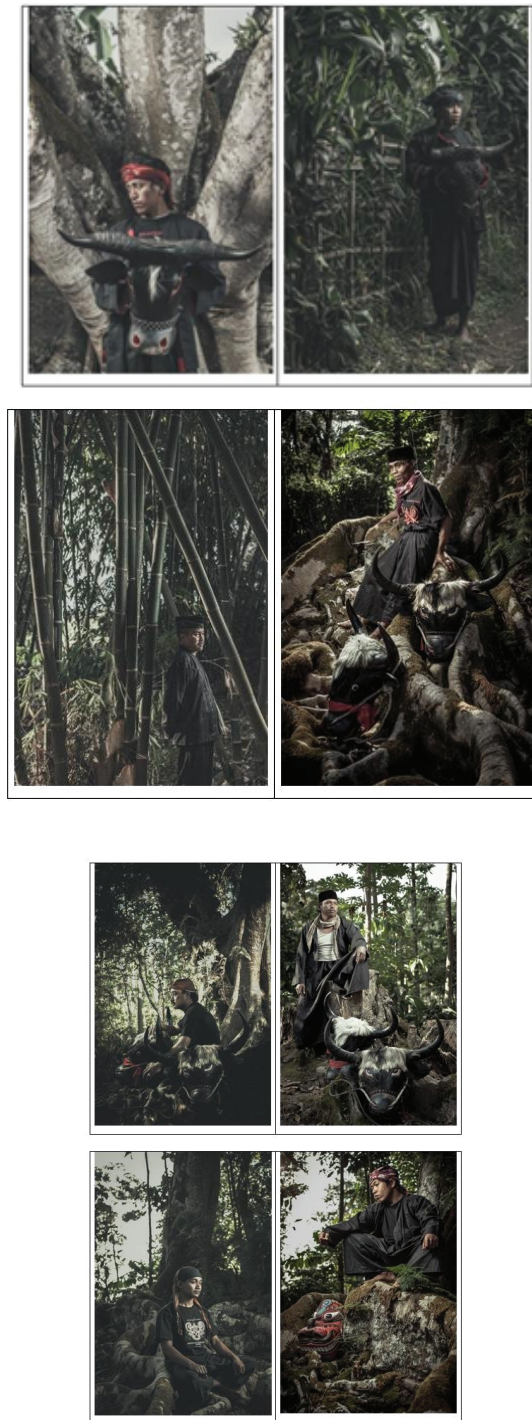Visual data in the form of portrait photography bantengan players as follows:

Figure 1: portrait photography (source : Febrianto Wihanda Putra)
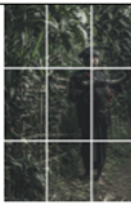
3. Method

This research will use qualitative methods which are carried out from the data collection stage, the analysis phase and the interpretation stage. Data in the form of portrait photography will be collected in image format, continued with the portrait photography

work will be shown to the audience, and the audience will be interviewed to produce feedback, and the results will be interpreted to determine the aesthetic composition of the portrait photography.

4. Discussion

TABLE 1: identification of aesthetic compositions

	1	2
Foto		
komposisi		
	Dead center	Rules of thirds
Keseimbangan	Simetris	Asimetris
Cahaya	Mix light	Mix light
Warna	Hangat	Hangat
Background	Alam	Alam

3	4
Rules of thirds	Dead center
Asimetris	Simetris
Mix light	Mix light
Hangat	Hangat
Alam	Alam

	5	6
Foto		
komposisi		
	Dead center	Rules of thirds
Keseimbangan	Simetris	Asimetris
Cahaya	Mix light	Mix light
Warna	Hangat	Hangat
Background	Alam	Alam
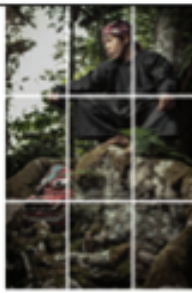
7	8
Dead center	Rules of thirds
Simetris	Asimetris
Mix light	Mix light
Hangat	Hangat
Alam	Alam

Table 1 identifies the aesthetic composition elements in photographic works, namely composition, balance, light and color. The use of compositions in the above work is divided into two kinds of compositions, the first is the composition of the dead center and the second is the composition of the rules of thirds. In photos number 1,4,5, and 7 use the composition of the dead center so that the point of interest in this photo is more highlighted in the existing figure and also gives a rigid impression on the model. In photos number 2, 3, 6 and 8 use the composition of rules of third, where in this photo the point of interest is also still located in the bull player or photo model, but the impression is not as rigid as the composition of the dead center, other than that in the composition of rules of third ambience around will be more exposed. The second element is balance, there are two types of balance in the above work, in photos number 1, 4, 5, 7 using symmetrical balance, and photos number 2, 3, 6, and 8 use asymmetrical balance. The element that is light, in this photographic work all photos use a mix light where there are two types of light sources, the first is continuous light or sunlight and the second is available light or light from a speed light lamp. The artificial light in the whole work is directed directly to the portrait model, precisely to illuminate the face of the model. The artificial light in this work uses the type of accessories used for this photo shoot to have a soft light character, which can be seen from the contrast between shadow and highlight. However, the intensity of the light used is very large because remembering the conditions of the photos taken outside the room and there is also sunlight. Besides the accessories used for artificial light must also have a large dimension, can be seen from the distribution of light that is on the object image. The second is continuous light can be seen, in these works continuous light retains ambience light, so that it remains impressive of the conditions that occur when shooting is done. Continuous light here also still exists in the object photo, in this case the bull players or models. The shadow on the bull player, precisely to be seen on the face of the player, is continuous light. And also the uniformity at full body when the long shot is also a continuous light.

Overall in this portrait photography work artificial light is needed to better show the characters or models of bull players, and also so that the results of the photo are also more dimensional, considering the highlights on the face which are the Point of interest in the photo are the result of artificial light, while the shadow there is continuous light. Besides the calculation of the stop value is also very important, it can be seen as a whole between the artificial light in the bull and also the continuous light both the sky and the ambience around the model is not too high, between one to one and a half stops.

The third element, color, in the above works as a whole uses warm colors or tones. Warm colors are colors that are in the reddish range of the color spectrum. These warm colors give an impression based on strength and intensity that can cause feelings of warmth.

The next element that discusses the background, in all of the above works using a natural background, where the photographer still gives a message to the history of this traditional art that was born on the slopes of the mountain and at this time there is still played one of them when harvesting on the farm.

References

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