

# THE EFFORTS TO INCREASE ARTISTIC SENSITIVITY OF UNESA'S ART EDUCATION STUDENTS BY PAINTING WITH WATERCOLOR AND WAX MEDIA

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## ABSTRACT

*Artistic abilities of students who had been enrolled in Arts Educations Department of UNESA, in general, were a lack in realizing artistic aspect. It created the problems in learning and teaching of art. The purpose of this research was to increase the students' sensitivity in creating their work. One way to solve this problem was by doing the work as much as possible, but the results were not fully obtained. So far, there were no standardized guidelines to help the improvement of the work quality in term artistic achievement level. While it became a problem in learning, there was an effort to find a simple and effective way by mixed media watercolor paint and wax. The method in this research was the design of class action research, where the research was conducted in the learning process of each cycle. Every cycle consists of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection. The result of this research shows an increasing of artistic quality regarding practical grades of art. However, there are other alternatives must be sought to increase students' ability to create, view, appreciate something that is artistic.*

**Keywords:** *artistic sensitivity, art education, watercolor, wax media*

## INTRODUCTION

Art painting is one of the compulsory subjects which must be fulfilled by the student majoring art education. This subject will be done in the third semester with the cumulative weight system 3 points. The qualification to join this class are the students have been followed the shape drawing subject, sketch, and two-dimensional design. In the art education class' program, this subject is divided into several phases. Those phases are painting as in this research and then the phase when the students have determined their choice, the pure art concentration. In the subject of pure art concentration, it is divided into two level, namely painting art 1 and painting art 2, and the next level is the deepening of the pure art specializing in art painting.

The characteristic of the lectures at the beginning of the semester is the students are equipped with the basic skills of fine arts. At the beginning of the semester, the standard level of the student's artistic sensitivity becomes a problem in the learning process. The classic issue of the new students who take the course of painting is the low level of artistic sensibility. In the practice, most of them have not yet mastered many skills in realizing the artistic value at the practice. Another problem is the lack of experimentation with the different medium of fine art that can multiply the possibilities of artistic value enhancement. Various issues that must be resolved by applying the techniques of mixed media of watercolor with wax as an enrichment technique. If the students have already mastered some of the basic works, then they have rights to decide the choices to deepening of crafts art, pure art, or visual communication design. The basic competency should be good if the students choose on the

deepening of pure art for the painting art and sculpture. The basic art painting as the subject of this research is very valuable as a provision for the next learning level. The limitation of meeting frequency can make the students' ability to weaken in the mastering of the deepening technique of artwork.

Art painting is the experience that owned by each about the artistic experience. Those experiences can be in the form of emotion, happiness, sadness, joy, and many others that bring out the desire to express it through two-dimensional plane or flat field by using a ruler, color, texture, and composition of the two-dimensional plane. In the study of art painting, it cannot be separated between the motives and the characteristics; there is the variation that characterized the shape of its own (Fitriyona, 2014). Each person has their artistic experiences that influenced by environment, biography, education and many others. Besides that, each person has different ways of working to make it happen that we called the creative process. The creative process is the phases or serial of works from the beginning of the idea to the end of the embodiment of the works. Mikke Susanto (2012) said in the literature review on this research that art painting is an expression language of artistic experiences or ideological which used line and color to express feeling or illustration of the individual subjective condition.

This research uses mixed media technique in the technique application. Mixed media technique in art means the combination between many medias or different materials like combining light, sound, and film effect (Susanto, 2012). In this research applies the mixed technique between media type/watercolor with wax. The technique that combined two media types with different characteristics is familiar in art painting. The relation with art painting is the media of paint that used water solvent and wax. This material is usually used as mixed of crafts or fuel for the lights. These two different substances can give a high artistic color if it is mixed.

Watercolor is a simple media in practicing the painting. It has unique, specific characteristic, and using a lot of water solvent. The uniqueness of the watercolor is its transparent characteristic. Transparent characteristic is the see-through characteristic that white paper is still visible although the watercolor already blocked it. The transparent term in watercolor is called Aquarelle, which derived from the word aquarelle. It has the same meaning with painting technique on the canvas by using watercolor (transparent technique), thus, the layer of watercolor on it or the color paper is still visible. (Susanto, 2012).

Word of wax originated from Latin word *parum affinis* (*par-affin*) and the English word "little affinity" with a little cohesiveness (little/small affinity). Wax derived from petroleum and can be obtained synthetically. The wax that used in this study is shaped of stick burning candles because it is easily found, so that the process of painting become easy.

The experience in visualizing the artwork is really needed to make a specific thing above the taferil (image area). The presence of an idea cannot be separated from things such as seeing, doing, reading, observation, appreciation. Before starting the painting, a medium quality check can be done by applying the watercolor to the paper or fabric. This research uses the Guitar Water Color brand. It can be seen in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Painting Process by Using Watercolor and Wax Media

The working process of the first phase is preparing a paper for painting with a determined object. In this phase, the wax is not being used yet. The student is expected to be as free as possible to express their ideas with the guidance of theories in using watercolor. This stage needs a genuine conclusion with the media of pure watercolor. The next phase is the process of mixed media painting by using wax, with the following steps as seen in Figure 2.

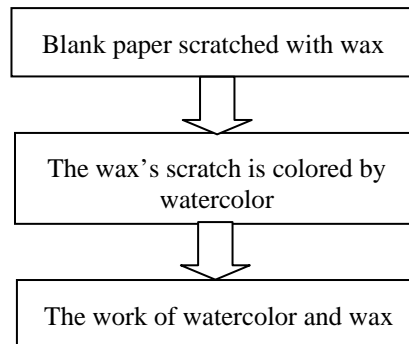


Figure 2 Step of Process Mixed Media Painting by Using Wax

In visualizing the painting, it is not only about scratching the color freely but also mastering the material and imagination. Focus and expressing the idea is needed that also supported by the sensitivity in the media usage. If those requirements are perfectly done, then a good technical competency is obtained, as seen in Figure 3 and 4.



Figure 3 The Process of Painting Activity by Using Media of Watercolor and Wax  
(Source: Winarno)



Figure 4 Student's Painting by Using Wax and Watercolor  
(Source: Winarno)

## METHODS

This research focuses on improving the student's artistic sensitivity. Rohidi (2011) said that in the art research, definition of focus is the artwork or art expression, the art, the event, the performer, the background of event which included social cultural environment, nature physical environment, and also the time when the event takes place. The method in this research is the design of class action research, where the research is conducted in the learning process of each cycle. Every cycle consists of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection. According to Hopkins (as cited in Arikunto dkk., 2006), the procedure in each cycle is shown in Figure 5.

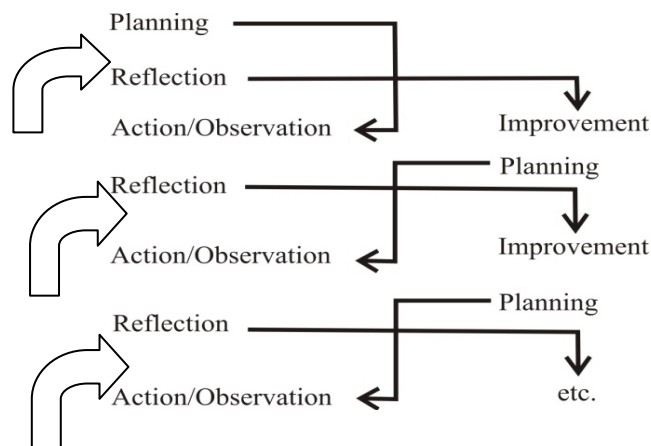


Figure 5 The Procedure in Each Cycle

The research is conducted in the odd semester which is by the end of August, early September up to October 2013, or when the lectures of Art Painting took place (in one semester). The research of this class behavior is divided into two cycles with one meeting for every cycle. Each cycle consists of action planning, the action implementation, observation, and reflection. The differences in each cycle are in the next cycle implementation, it always refers and develops from result analysis of the previous cycle.

The action planning includes generating the learning syllabus, the art painting learning plan, preparing the facilities including the watercolor media related with the painting subject, observation form for the appointed colleagues, the researcher was seeking for the initial capability's evident through a pre-test or quiz on the understanding of the students towards the art painting subject. The product of this step is the scheme of class action planning program. Besides, the watercolor painting is used as a reference.

The lecturer shows the appreciation as an effort to stimulate student's initial knowledge that related with the art painting. The lecturer will stimulate the student's memory about art painting not only limited to one media and share the objective of the learning, then demonstrated the technique of painting by using wax. The students focus their attention on the explanation about the mixed painting technique. They discuss it later in class to arrange the material of watercolor painting using the wax which delivered by the lecturer. During the discussion, the lecturer will observe the art painting practice, discuss and response to the debate, and ask the questions that related to the student's understanding. The activities of watercolor painting independently can be improved by composing the written authentic assessment individually. The lecturer guides the students in assignment completion.

The observation was conducted in parallel with the action implementation. An appointed colleague conducts this activity. In this stage, the lecturer and the appointed colleague documents the overall changes that occurred in the learning process and evaluation.

In the reflection cycle, the researcher compiles and reduces the data by classifying, selecting irrelevant data, making clear codes or extending, and generating the meaning of provided data, and making the conclusion. The researcher or the lecturer integrally reviews the result, failure, the challenges, and makes follow-up concept in achieving the learning objective to be carried on in the second cycle. After all of that, the researcher writes down the draft report of the research's result of the first cycle.

The second cycle and the next is adjusted with the result of the previous cycle and the available time. After it completes, the researcher must write the research report. The success of the research can be observed on the improvement of learning result or the support to the development of learning facilities. Besides that, comparing the difference between before and after the implemented action is also success indicator in this research. The indicator that becomes minimum standard of success for research is 25 % of the improvement of artistic art painting capability by using wax on the students of art education class of 2013 A. The obtained data is analyzed by statistic formula while the observation data was observed with this formula.

$$P = \frac{n}{N} \times 100\% \quad (1)$$

- P : The sought percentage
- N : The obtained value
- N : the number of observed items multiplied with the highest score

The formula which used to analyze is the average value amounts of the number of student achievement scores or the number of students. Criteria for assessment and data analysis are: (1) Grade of 81 to 100 is excellent, (2) Grade of 61 to 80 is well, (3) Grade of 41 to 60 is fair, and (4) Grade of 0 to 40 is less.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In the pre-cycle, the students make watercolor art painting without by using wax. The observation result shows the dissatisfaction from the artistic side. It is shown by the obtained data in Table 1.

Table 1 Result of Art Painting Pre-cycle without Wax Mixed

Major / Program : Art Education

Year : 2013

Subject : Art Painting

NO.	NIM	STUDENT'S NAME	VALUED ASPECT			AVERAGE
			1	2	3	
1	11020124022	MERRY CHRISTINA SIMORANGKIR	67	68	67	67
2	11020124231	SISKA OCTAVIANA IRAWAN / TR	63	63	63	63
3	13020124001	HERWAN EKA LAKSANA PRIA	67	67	67	67
4	13020124002	DIMAS TRI PAMUNGKAS	63	63	63	63
5	13020124003	KUSUMA AYU HARI MUKTI	66	67	65	66
6	13020124004	RIZKI AMALIA PUTRI	68	68	68	68
7	13020124005	ALFI INDAH RESTUTI	68	68	69	68
8	13020124006	AKDHE DAKKA GEMILANK	68	74	69	70
9	13020124007	HASPRITA RESTIAMANGASTUTI BORU MANGUNGSONG	67	70	68	68
10	13020124008	GALUH GUSSANTOKO	68	66	68	67
11	13020124009	FEBRYANI AULIA EKA ROMADONA	68	68	69	68
12	13020124010	DEVINA ANGGREINI	67	70	68	68
13	13020124011	MOHAMMAD CHOLID FADLULLOH	68	74	69	70
14	13020124012	SINTA AGUSTINA	70	70	70	70
15	13020124013	AZIZ WAHYUDI	70	73	68	70
16	13020124014	KARTIKA HERLINA CANDRANING SHIAM	67	70	68	68
17	13020124015	KRISNA ESA RAMADHANA	63	63	63	63
18	13020124016	DIMAS REZA LUKMANSYAH	64	64	64	64
19	13020124017	RAFELIO AGATA	70	70	70	70
20	13020124018	TULUS HIDAYAT S.	70	68	68	69
21	13020124019	AKHMAD SANTOSO	70	70	70	70
22	13020124020	MAYANGSARI MIRANDA	67	70	68	68
23	13020124021	SULUNG ANUGRAH F.	68	68	68	68
24	13020124022	AJI GANGSAR LISTYONO	70	70	70	70
25	13020124024	SINTA ALWIA SARI	67	68	67	67
Avarage Score						68

The percentage of pre-cycle work can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2 Result of Pre-cycle Work

No.	The Range of Values	Total Number of Students	Percentage
1	80 – 100	0	0
2	66 - 79	21	0,84
3	55 - 65	4	0,16
4	40 - 54	0	0
5	0 – 39	0	0
<b>Score</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

We can see that the result of student artwork painting as presented above is not satisfying. Those data above used as a base to perform next research by using class action research approach.

In the cycle one, the researcher/lecturer in doing the planning activity explains about the mixed wax on the learning process of the art painting by using watercolor. The aim of this activity is giving information about the learning material so that the colleagues can perform a good work. The competence standard and the basic competency that discussed is the ability in using wax. Before the action begins, the lecturer designs the lecture planning.

In general, the actions that implemented are: (1) Introduction, in this activity, the lecturer will prepare the class, provide appreciation, and explain the objective of the lectures. (2) Primary activity, in this activity, lecturer informs the concept of mix media art painting by using wax. After that, the lecturer explains the activity steps that will be through by students, such as the performance's task, evaluation and reflection about the result of art painting using wax as media, closing, and the last the student and lecturer provide the summary. (3) Action, this cycle is conducted on Tuesday, September 11th, 2014. The colleague's observation result in cycle one shows that the average values of students' activities of class during the ongoing lecture is good. Lecturer prepares the students well, delivers the material well, guides the students well, provides interactive discussion, provides monitoring and concludes the assignment to the students well. It reaches 79,5% by the observer 1 while 93% by the observer 2. The means of the observation result of the students in cycle one is 86,25%. The result of lecturer's observation in cycle one reaches 80% by observer 1 while 80,5% by observer 2. Thus, the means of the observation result of the lecturer is 80,5%. The value of the students' work result in the first cycle is shown in Table 3.

Table 3 The Grades of Students' Work Result in First Cycle:  
The Practice of Watercolor Art Painting with Mixed Wax

Major/Program : Art Education/D3 Graphic Design  
Year : 2013  
Subject : Art Painting

NO.	NIM	STUDENT'S NAME	VALUATED ASPECT			AVERAGE
			1	2	3	
1	11020124022	MERRY CHRISTINA SIMORANGKIR	66	67	65	66
2	11020124231	SISKA OCTAVIANA IRAWAN / TR	68	68	68	68
3	13020124001	HERWAN EKA LAKSANA PRIA	60	60	60	60
4	13020124002	DIMAS TRI PAMUNGKAS	62	62	62	62
5	13020124003	KUSUMA AYU HARI MUKTI	65	65	65	65
6	13020124004	RIZKI AMALIA PUTRI	66	67	65	66
7	13020124005	ALFI INDAH RESTUTI	68	68	68	68
8	13020124006	AKDHE DAKKA GEMILANK	67	67	67	67
9	13020124007	HASPRITA RESTIAMANGASTUTI BORU MANGUNSONG	63	63	63	63
10	13020124008	GALUH GUSSANTOKO	65	65	65	65
11	13020124009	FEBRYANI AULIA EKA ROMADONA	66	67	65	66
12	13020124010	DEVINA ANGGREINI	60	60	60	60
13	13020124011	MOHAMMAD CHOLID FADLULLOH	66	67	65	66
14	13020124012	SINTA AGUSTINA	62	62	62	62
15	13020124013	AZIZ WAHYUDI	66	67	65	66
16	13020124014	KARTIKA HERLINA CANDRANING SHIAM	63	63	63	63

Table 3 The Grades of Students' Work Result in First Cycle:  
The Practice of Watercolor Art Painting with Mixed Wax (Continued)

Major/Program : Art Education/D3 Graphic Design  
Year : 2013  
Subject : Art Painting

NO.	NIM	STUDENT'S NAME	VALUATED ASPECT			AVERAGE
			1	2	3	
17	13020124015	KRISNA ESA RAMADHANA	67	68	67	67
18	13020124016	DIMAS REZA LUKMANSYAH	66	67	65	66
19	13020124017	RAFELIO AGATA	67	70	68	68
20	13020124018	TULUS HIDAYAT S.	65	65	65	65
21	13020124019	AKHMAD SANTOSO	65	65	65	65
22	13020124020	MAYANGSARI MIRANDA	65	65	65	65
23	13020124021	SULUNG ANUGRAH F.	64	64	64	64
24	13020124022	AJI GANGSAR LISTYONO	63	63	63	63
25	13020124024	SINTA ALWIA SARI	69	69	69	69
Average Score						65

If we look on the increment of values that has been determined, it can be concluded that the student's grades of art painting subject can be categorized as good. It can be seen in the Table 4:

Table 4 The Result of Students' Art Painting

No.	The Range of Values	Total Number of Student's	Percentage
1	80 – 100	0	0
2	66 - 79	25	100
3	55 - 65	0	0
4	40 - 54	0	0
5	0 – 39	0	0
<b>Score</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

The reflection activity shows the result of students and lecturer observation and the grade of art painting work using the wax mixed media. It reflects that the lecturer's activity needs to be improved in delivering guidance during practice. The students' activities also need to be improved in term of participation. The concentration is most needed to complete the work of art painting.

Next activity is planning on cycle 2 that conducted on Tuesday, September 18, 2013. In this 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, there are some changes related with the weakness in the first cycle, such as on the introduction activities, the lecturer should be able to deliver the understanding to the students about the assignments that need to be done. Moreover, the available time should be used efficiently at the main activity. While in the closing activity, the lecturer should perform a reflection towards all the assignments directly. After the action planning was generated, then the class's action was performing. The action implementation in 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle is the lecturer asks about the learning material of the wax media and the art painting technique first, then the artistic value inside that ever learned in the first cycle. The result is there are some students who responded to the question well. In the main activities, the students show a good progress.



The provided time is enough for art painting. While the students perform the assignment, the lecturer monitors and gives guidance equally. Once a while, the lecturer raise the question about the difficulties that faced by the students. Closing activities in this cycle, the students show their work in the front of the class in turn. Then, the lecturer gives the chance the students who want to ask question. At last, the lecturer gives the homework to students, so that they can try to paint with the different objects at home.

From the result of students' activities observation, observer 1 obtains value 86% while observer 2 obtains 94% with mean value 90% at the second cycle. The result of the lecturer observation from observer 1 is 86% while observer 2 is 88,9% with means value 87,4%. The result of the student's work of watercolor art painting subject using wax in second cycle reaches the value as shown on the Table 5.

Table 5 The Grades of Watercolor Art Painting with Wax Mixed in Second Cycle

Major/Program : Art Education/ D3 Design Graphic  
 Year : 2013  
 Subject : Art Painting

NO.	NIM	STUDENT'S NAME	VALUATED ASPECT			AVERAGE
			1	2	3	
1	11020124022	MERRY CHRISTINA SIMORANGKIR	70	70	70	70
2	11020124231	SISKA OCTAVIANA IRAWAN / TR	70	70	70	70
3	13020124001	HERWAN EKA LAKSANA PRIA	70	70	70	70
4	13020124002	DIMAS TRI PAMUNGKAS	68	74	69	70
5	13020124003	KUSUMA AYU HARI MUKTI	73	73	73	73
6	13020124004	RIZKI AMALIA PUTRI	78	84	79	80
7	13020124005	ALFI INDAH RESTUTI	70	70	70	70
8	13020124006	AKDHE DAKKA GEMILANK	70	70	70	70
9	13020124007	HASPRITA RESTIAMANGASTUTI BORU MANGUNSONG	70	70	70	70
10	13020124008	GALUH GUSSANTOKO	70	70	70	70
11	13020124009	FEBRYANI AULIA EKA ROMADONA	70	70	70	70
12	13020124010	DEVINA ANGGREINI	70	70	70	70
13	13020124011	MOHAMMAD CHOLID FADLULLOH	68	74	69	70
14	13020124012	SINTA AGUSTINA	78	84	79	80
15	13020124013	AZIZ WAHYUDI	76	76	76	76
16	13020124014	KARTIKA HERLINA CANDRANING SHIAM	77	80	78	78
17	13020124015	KRISNA ESA RAMADHANA	78	84	79	80
18	13020124016	DIMAS REZA LUKMANSYAH	74	74	74	74
19	13020124017	RAFELIO AGATA	70	70	70	70
20	13020124018	TULUS HIDAYAT S.	72	72	72	72
21	13020124019	AKHMAD SANTOSO	77	80	78	78
22	13020124020	MAYANGSARI MIRANDA	68	74	69	70
23	13020124021	SULUNG ANUGRAH F.	68	74	69	70
24	13020124022	AJI GANGSAR LISTYONO	70	70	70	70
25	13020124024	SINTA ALWIA SARI	76	76	76	76
Average Score						73

## CONCLUSIONS

The research of painting by using watercolor with wax mixed media is an effort to improve the artistic sensibility of the students' art education year 2013 A. It happens because the enhancement of lecturer's activeness and the student's activities in evaluating the understanding of the art painting learning. This can be seen from observation of the lecturer and student's activity as well as the grades that reached by the students.

In the first cycle, the lecturer's activity reaches 80,5 %, the students' activity reaches 86,2 %, and the students' grades of art painting work using wax media reach 65. In the second cycle, the lecturer's activity reaches 87,4 %, the students' activity reaches 90 %, and the students' grades of art painting of watercolor with wax reach 73. So, it shows that the implementation of the mixture of wax and watercolor in art painting lecture can improve the artistic sensibility of the art education's students year 2013 A from 65 to 73. The researcher recommends that the art painting lectures can be implemented by using watercolor with wax mixed. This method can be effective to sharpen the artistic sensibility of art education students.

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