

From the Editor

There is growing interest in image-based qualitative research in anthropology, sociology and the arts. Researchers are using visuals such as photographs, drawings, videos, films or cartoons to illustrate ideas prevalent in society in particular historical periods, to explore alternative ways of analysis and teaching, or to portray trauma experienced by children or adults. Some of the articles in this volume exemplify how image-based research can be applied in different contexts.

Saifuddin Duhri's essay on the "Islamic Arts and the Expression of Theology: Acehese Traditional House, Its Ornamentation and Figurative Motifs" is a case in point. He illustrates that the ornamental motifs of Acehese houses reflect the prevalent theology in Islam at a specific point in time. There was a change in the types of motifs in the colonial and post-colonial eras as the Acehese Muslims changed from the salafist to the traditionalist view of the arts respectively.

Likewise, Sarena Abdullah examines the newspaper illustrations and sketches in the Malay manuscripts of the 19th century in "Expanding the Historical Narrative of Early Visual Modernity in Malaya". She shows that the newspaper illustrations were the initial forms of visual modernity in Malaya.

Wan Lokman, Iwan Zahar and Arif Datoem's article on the "Black and White Photographs of the Malay Community of the 19th Century" examines Gustav Lambert's photographs about Malay traditional costumes, music instruments, houses and boats. They note that as representations, the meanings of the photographs were constructed by the photographer who was influenced by his social position in society.

Similarly, in the essay "A Technical Discourse: The Making of *Pendhok* Kris in Surakarta Style", Guntur and Milovan Sutrisno indicate how the *pendhok* (sheath) of the *kris* of Surakarta has adapted to the changes in court policies. The design and ornamentation of the sheath typify the relationship between the Dutch and the Javanese elites in the history of colonialism.

From another angle, Raja Intan Suhaylah, Azman Bidin and Lim Yan Peng show that individual differences may affect the aesthetic evaluation of food and packaging design in their article "The Evaluation of Aesthetic Values on the Two-Dimensional Visual Design Structure".

Two essays appear in the methodology section. Deny Tri Ardianto and Jasni Dolah make a case for the study of the dance film, which they describe as a "cinematic interpretation of a dance work". Aizat Khairi, Shamsul Effendy Abdul Hamid and Shaiful Bakri Ismail share their research on the application of batik in the making of fibreglass boats.

Finally, two recent books on the theatre of the minorities in Indonesia and North America are reviewed. Made Mantle Hood discusses Madoka Fukuoka's long term examination of the works of *Indonesian Cross-Gender Dancer Didik Nini Thowok*. Tan Sooi Beng reviews Nancy Yunhwa Rao's in-depth research on the *Chinatown Opera Theatre in North America* that deserves a place in the cultural history of the United States of America.

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