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# REPRESENTATION OF VINCENT VAN GOGH'S ARTWORK IN THE CREATION OF YARN MEDIA PAINTINGS

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## Abstract

Vincent van Gogh, a Dutch post-impressionist painter, is famous for his emotionally expressive style, striking use of bright colors, and thick brushstroke technique that gives his works dimension. Van Gogh's works such as *Starry Night* became icons of world art and inspired many contemporary artists. This research aims to explore the representation of Van Gogh's artwork through the medium of thread in painting. By using an experimental approach and qualitative method. The experimental approach is done by creating thread-based artworks that represent Van Gogh's visual elements, such as expressive strokes and bold contrasting colors. The expected result of this research is the creation of thread media paintings that can re-illustrate the power of expression and visual dynamics found in Van Gogh's works.

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## INTRODUCTION

According to Wiratno (2023), a work of art is created because someone pours out their feelings and thoughts, in the form of artwork that can be enjoyed by others. Fine art has always evolved through various mediums and techniques used by artists to express their ideas, emotions, and creativity. From the use of traditional media such as oil paint, watercolor, to the exploration of alternative media such as glass, metal, and textiles, fine art continues to be a platform for visual innovation. In this context, thread art has emerged as one of the alternative mediums that are increasingly in demand.

Classical artists such as Vincent van Gogh introduce a uniqueness that is different from the works of other artists. There are striking characteristics in his works that have become a lasting inspiration in the art world. (Nurul Dewi Allefiah, 24).

According to Yuningsih C (2021), representation or the nature of representing objects from real things is not always depicted as it is or imitating. The representation of Vincent Van Gogh's artworks using yarn offers a new approach in contemporary art. The use of yarn as a medium to create artworks inspired by Vincent Van Gogh not only provides technical challenges in imitating the textures and colors produced through oil paint, but also opens up opportunities for innovation in visual representation.

Texture in Vincent Van Gogh's works is very important in conveying emotion and mood. An emotion and experience will produce a different output in each individual. Another important aspect in Vincent Van Gogh's works is his use of color. Vincent Van Gogh known as a palette The application of bright colors that tend to contrast is aesthetically appealing in terms of producing strong contrasts and conveying deep emotions. But it also uses color to convey a deeper meaning. For example, in *The Starry Night*, the blue color that dominates the night sky creates an atmosphere of calm and anxiety at the same time, while the yellow and white stars provide a focal point that lights up amidst the darkness. (Nashr N, 2022) (A, 2008).

According to Rahmayanti H (2019) Yarn is a long fiber that is generally used for textile production. In the context of yarn art, the use of color can be adapted through the selection of yarns with various color gradations and careful arrangement techniques..

Thread art allows the colors used by Vincent Van Gogh to transform into real textures, where colors are not only visible but can also be felt through touch. The combination of colors used in thread art can give a different visual effect from paint strokes, especially in terms of depth and the interaction between color and texture. The

colors in thread art have a life and volume of their own that is different from the paint pigments on the canvas, giving a new visual sensation in the representation of Vincent Van Gogh's classic works..

The dynamic of movement is a key element in many of Vincent Van Gogh's works. In his paintings, especially *The Starry Night*, movement can be seen in the swirling wind, moving clouds, and glittering stars in the night sky. This movement reflects the emotional and internal intensity felt by Vincent Van Gogh at the time of the creation of his works. Movement in Vincent Van Gogh's paintings is often reflects emotional instability, restlessness, and the joy that depth, all of which is reflected in the way he organizes his brushstrokes on the canvas..

In thread art, this dynamism can be represented through certain techniques such as the circular arrangement of threads or the use of threads of different tensions to create the illusion of movement. For example, in the interpretation of *The Starry Night*, threads can be arranged in a spiral pattern that resembles the swirls of wind in the sky, creating a moving and dynamic visual effect.

With thread, the movement produced in Vincent Van Gogh's paintings can be reinterpreted in a unique way, where each pull or twist of the thread adds a narrative and emotional layer to the work. Thread art, which has a strong physical element, offers a new way to understand the movement contained in Vincent Van Gogh's works, enriching visual interpretation while providing a new dimension not found in conventional paintings.

The use of thread in the representation of classical artworks such as Vincent Van Gogh offers an innovative opportunity for contemporary artists to bridge between classical art traditions and modern mediums. Thread, with its flexible and tactile physical characteristics, allows artists to explore texture, color and dimension in ways that are impossible to achieve with paint or other materials. This creates a new visual experience for the audience, where classic works such as *The Starry Night* can be reinterpreted in a more interactive and multisensory form..

Although many studies have addressed Vincent Van Gogh's painting style and techniques (such as his use of color, emotional expression, and impasto technique), very few are studies that connecting Vincent Van Gogh's distinctive visual style with the use of non-traditional media such as thread in painting. Thread as an alternative form of depicting expression and texture in painting has been little researched, and no research has focused on how thread can represent the distinctive elements of Vincent Van

Gogh's work, such as dynamic brushstrokes or the use of contrasting colors..

**Research Limitations Related to Thread Media:** Most research in contemporary art focuses on the use of traditional media such as oil paint or acrylic, while the exploration of thread as a tool to represent classic artworks such as Vincent Van Gogh's is still very limited. In-depth research on techniques and innovations in using thread as a medium of artistic expression has yet to be conducted.

This suggests that while many studies have examined the impasto technique and the use of color in Vincent Van Gogh's work, there has been no research that deeply explores how this technique can be adapted to non-traditional media such as thread, which has tactile and static properties..

Thread can effectively represent the expression and visual characteristics of Vincent van Gogh's artworks, such as the use of color, texture, and stroke dynamics, in the creation of contemporary paintings. It is hoped that through pasting and twining techniques, the distinctive elements of Van Gogh's works, such as sharp color contrasts and layered expressive strokes, can be adapted and translated well using thread, resulting in artworks that do not only depict visual aesthetics but also the emotional power of Vincent Van Gogh's art.

This research aims to examine the representation of Vincent van Gogh's artworks through the creation of paintings using thread media. The main focus of this research is to explore how Vincent Van Gogh's distinctive visual elements, such as the use of color, line, and texture, can be translated into pasting and twining techniques. This research also aims to develop the potential of thread media as an alternative in contemporary painting, as well as provide new insights into the use of unconventional media in creating works inspired by Van Gogh's style.

## WORKING METHOD

In painting, thread media refers to the materials used by the artist to produce a work of art. This medium can vary greatly depending on the technique and style chosen by the artist. It also affects the final outcome of the artwork, in terms of texture, color, and the way in which emotions and messages are expressed.

### Material

The materials used by the author in the creation of artworks include:

Canvas is a flat surface used as a medium for creating art, especially in painting. It is usually made of fabric (such as cotton or linen) stretched and mounted on a wooden frame. Canvas is often

coated with a layer of priming or gesso to provide a smooth surface and prevent paint from soaking into the fibers of the fabric. This material is popular in oil and acrylic painting because of its durability and capabilities. However, at times This writer uses canvas for thread media.

There are many types of yarn textures, sizes and colors. The type of yarn used in the creation of this work is Sakura milk cotton wool yarn which has a softer and more flexible texture with a yarn size or thickness of 3 double knits. In creating *Starry Night*, 9 rolls of yarn with different pallet colors are needed..

**Table 1.** Yarn Color Pallet

No.	Color code	color
1	1920	Black
2	1866	Light blue
3	1836	Electric blue
4	1882	Dark blue
5	1928	Light blue
6	1931	Orange
7	1828	Light yellow
8	1889	SD red
9	5387	Dark green

Source: (<https://anekabenang.com/products/katalog-benang-rajut-wool-alicia-yarn>). Accessed 14 Dec 2024

The glue used is astero brand glue classified as a versatile clear glue that can be used to attach threads, fabrics, beads and others.

*Varnish* is a transparent protective coating applied to a painting or other artwork to provide protection against dust, dirt, and damage from UV rays and moisture.

### Tools

Then there are tools used in the work process consisting of:

Pens or pencils are used to sketch on the canvas before proceeding to the yarn media so as not to misplace the yarn color..

Small knitting needles for attaching yarn to the canvas can also be used to detail small parts to attach yarn that cannot be used with fingers.

Scissors have an important role in the making of this work, used for cutting the thread when it is pasted or before it is pasted.

## WORKING TECHNIQUE

There is a wide range of art techniques, each type has specific characteristics that are tailored to the medium, tools, and purpose of artistic expression. Here, the author applies dry technique in the making of a work. Dry

techniques generally refer to materials or media that do not require additional liquids (such as water or oil) in the application process, so thread, which is a solid material, fits into the category of dry techniques. Other media such as pencils, pastels and charcoal are also included in dry techniques as they do not require any liquid to be applied to the surface except for clear glue. The use of thread in painting does have some **limitations**, such as limitations in color mixing, difficulty creating an impasto effect (thick texture), and challenges in depicting fine details. Threads, although they allow the use of a variety of colors, cannot be mixed directly in painting media such as oil paints, thus limiting the color palette available. In addition, the impasto technique that allows the thickness of the oil paint cannot be completely imitated with thread, and fine details are also more difficult to achieve. To overcome these limitations, we opted for more flexible and fine yarns such as cotton yarn, and applied thread mounting and selection techniques to create thicknesses and dimensions that were more similar to the impasto effect. We also experiment with yarn color variations and tight-knitting **techniques** to depict fine details and create smoother color transitions. With this approach, we can optimize the potential of thread media in painting despite some technical limitations.

#### 1. Data source collection

The main source of information was obtained from social media platforms, particularly Instagram, where many artists and art galleries share their works and interpretations. Data obtained from Instagram included images of artworks, descriptions and creative processes published by the artists. Other relevant sources also came from Pinterest and Twitter, which provided visual inspiration and discussions around textile art techniques with different themes. Collecting data through these platforms provided important insights into how the visual and emotional elements of Van Gogh's work can be translated through the medium of yarn in contemporary painting.

#### 2. Idea Generation and Management

At this stage, the ideas that have been discovered are organized into a complete concept. The researcher formulates a work plan that includes painting technique, medium used, canvas size, thread color palette, and tools to be used. A more mature sketch to visualize the final result.

#### 3. Creation Process

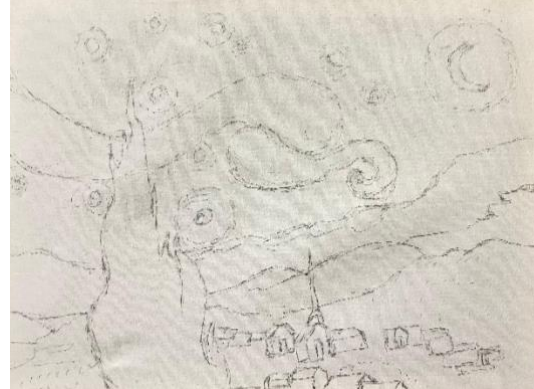
Where ideas begin to be realized in physical form that begins with rough sketching. The author applies the technique of pasting and stacking threads and adjusts the direction of the thread winding with the original visuals.

#### 4. Finishing

After the work is completed, this stage includes improving the composition, pressing the thread with fingers so that it sticks to the canvas or applying varnish as a result of perfecting the work. The author also reflects on the work to ensure that the original emotion and visual message are well conveyed.

### PROCESS AND RESULTS ACHIEVED

This thread media painting is inspired by the painting "The Starry Night" by Vincent van Gogh. The author focuses on visual elements such as the rotating sky, shining stars, and colors dynamics present in the work. The process begins with a rough sketch depicting the main compositions, such as the sky and star patterns. These sketches served as a guide to ensure that the elements from Van Gogh's work could be translated appropriately into thread art, which emphasizes texture and dimensionality similar to the impasto effect in Van Gogh's paintings.



**Figure 1:** A rough sketch created as the basis for this thread artwork, inspired by the composition of the rotating sky and stars in Vincent van Gogh's *The Starry Night*. (Source : personal data)

After the rough sketch is complete, the next step is to choose the technique and media that will be used to create this yarn artwork. By referring to the sketch that has been made, the author starts to choose threads with bright colors such as blue, yellow, and orange to create the atmosphere of Vincent Van Gogh's night sky. I used the thread pasting technique to depict the swirling pattern of the sky, and thread wrapping to add thickness and dimension to the stars and pine trees. This technique allows the author to revive the dynamic movement in the night sky, similar to the thick brushstrokes often seen in Vincent Van Gogh's works.

During this process, the author also ensured that color gradation was used to create the effect of depth and the illusion of motion in this thread

work, which was directly inspired by the use of color in *The Starry Night*.



**Figure 2.** The Spinning Sky: Inspiration from *Starry Night* (2024) by Oky Susanti, wool yarn on canvas, 30 x 40 cm

#### **Work Specifications**

Title: The Spinning Sky: Inspiration from *Starry Night*

Media : Wollen Yarn on Canvas

Size : 30 cm x 40 cm

Year : 2024

(Source : Personal data)

#### **Description of work**

In this work, yarn is used as the main media with dominant colors of blue, yellow, and green, reminiscent of Vincent van Gogh's color palette in the painting "*The Starry Night*". The main elements depicted are the rotating night sky, the glowing stars, and the towering fir trees.

The paste technique is used to create sharp lines on the stars and sky shapes, while the twine technique gives a thick and textured effect, resembling the impression of impasto in oil painting. The process begins with sketching geometric shapes, then thread is used to depict swirling patterns in the sky, giving a sense of depth and dynamic movement.

As we emphasized in this study, yarn media does have a unique potential in creating attractive textures and visual dimensions. However, threads cannot completely replace oil paints, especially in terms of the richness of color and color mixing that can be achieved with oil paints. Oil paints allow for smooth color transitions and the use of impasto (thick layers of paint) to provide more complex depth and texture. Therefore, although thread can provide an interesting textural dimension, it is more suitable as an alternative or complementary in painting, rather than a direct substitute for oil paint.

Thread media does give a different impression compared to oil paint. One of the main differences is in the tactile dimensions offered by the thread. Thread-based artwork provides a physical sensation that can be felt by the viewer,

where colors are not only visible but also tactile. This creates a more interactive visual experience and provides a textural perception that paint can't achieve. In addition, the use of thread allows artists to create more dynamic and structured patterns or movements through thread mounting and selection techniques, which produce a different visual effect than traditional painting techniques.

#### **Analysis of works**

This artwork uses yarn media to translate the visual elements in Vincent van Gogh's paintings, "*The Starry Night*," into different forms while still maintaining a dynamic and profound impression. The twining technique used creates layers of thread that add depth and thickness to the work, similar to the impasto effect that characterizes Van Gogh's oil paintings. This shows how a different medium, in this case yarn, can produce a visual effect similar to thick brushstrokes, but with a more structured and controlled texture. The use of blue, yellow and green also reinforces the same impression, giving the illusion of motion to the swirling night sky and shining stars.

In addition, the swirling pattern of the sky and the depth created express a sense of continuous movement, symbolic of the changes and cycles in life. The star shining in the middle of the dark sky can be regarded as a symbol of hope and the search for meaning in an uncertain situation. The pasting technique used to define the main shapes provides a clear contrast between the elements in the work, adding focus to the most important elements, such as the star and the shape of the sky. Overall, the work not only mimics the visual elements of Van Gogh's work, but also provides a new interpretation of how we can find calm and hope in the midst of a changing world.

#### **CONCLUSION**

The results show that Van Gogh's style and technique can be applied effectively in thread-based artworks but it is a little difficult to select the appropriate thread colour and takes a long time to arrange the threads on the canvas. Suggestions for further development are to pay attention to the selection of yarn materials that have richer colour variations and experiment with more efficient composition techniques to speed up the creation process. The paste, wrap and stack techniques allow the depiction of patterns spiral lines, colour contrast, and philosophical symbolism of Van Gogh's works. The thread medium provides a unique visual and tactile experience, enabling the creation of artworks that have aesthetic value, symbolism and depth of meaning similar to oil paintings. In terms of potential, thread-based art can develop as a contemporary art medium, interior

decoration, and craft-based creative products. With the utilization of natural materials and more environmentally friendly methods, thread-based artworks representing Van Gogh can be a relevant and innovative approach to art today..

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