AESTHETICS OF JOURNALISTIC PHOTOGRAPHY BY WAHYU ADJI FEBRIANTO IN INSTAGRAM RADAR KEDIRI MAY – JUNE 2025 EDITION

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Article Info	Abstract
	_____ *This research on photography focuses its study on the works of Wahyu Adji Febrianto collected in online news portals with the aim of describing the types of photography and aesthetic values in Wahyu Adji Febrianto's photographic works. This research is a qualitative descriptive study with data collection techniques used are documentation, bibliography, and triangulation techniques. The results of the study show that all of Adji's photographic works have or contain elements, principles, and principles of art so that they have aesthetic value in them. The types of journalistic photography that are pursued and almost always present in every news photo coverage by Wahyu Adji Febrianto are spot photography, people in the news, and sports. The aesthetic value of Adji's journalistic photography leads to the application of elements of art, principles of art, and principles of art. For the elements of art, there are elements of line, elements of color, and elements of space. For the principles or basics of art, there are the principles of contrast and the principle of rhythm. Meanwhile, for the principles of art, the photojournalist named Adji successfully applies four principles, namely the principle of unity, balance, proportion, and the principle of simplicity. The value of beauty adds to the attraction because in general journalistic photos always prioritize speed in covering news and photos.*

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INTRODUCTION

Photography is a painting process that produces photos or images with the help of light, while the tool used is a camera (Andi, 2005: 1). Based on its origin, photography is taken from Greek, namely from the word photos meaning light and graphein meaning drawing/painting. In the history cited by Aviani Rahmawati in her book titled The History of Photography by Alam Daveport (1991), it is mentioned that in the 5th century BCE, a man named Mo Ti observed a phenomenon on the walls inside a dark room. There was a small hole in the wall, causing the reflection of the scene outside the room to appear inverted as it passed through the hole. This event or phenomenon is known as the camera obscura phenomenon.

Before it became what it is today, photography has a long and fascinating history worth exploring. In Indonesia, photography has also undergone a significant journey. Its presence began during the colonial era and has since become an integral part of modern culture as we experience it today. Its development has not only been influenced by technology but also encompasses social, political, and cultural dynamics in the country. Its history began exactly 18 years after Daguerre announced his discovery, which is still recognized today as the beginning of the development of commercial photography. The introduction of photography in Indonesia marked the early years of photographic technology. The pioneer of photography was Kassian Cephas, a photographer born on February 15, 1844, from Java (Budiarta, 2017). Kassian Cephas' name became known to the public when he created photographic works in 1875. At that time, Kassian Cephas was appointed as a special photographer at the palace during the reign of Sultan Hamengku Buwono VII. Due to this close relationship, Cephas was able to photograph several moments that were only held by the palace.

As mentioned earlier, photography initially served as a tool for painters (artists) to reflect objects outside into a light-proof space. Over time and with technological advancements, photography has undergone significant progress. Photography has evolved not only as an auxiliary tool but as the primary medium for recording or preserving reality with high objectivity and precision. This transformation has introduced new perspectives on knowledge and even the history of photography. Technology in photography is a product of the accelerated pace of the times, born from mechanical processes through the intersection of physics and chemistry. Therefore, photography is not merely a tool for documentation but also a means of interpretation and deep understanding of reality.

Among the many genres of photography, photojournalism is a branch that continues to evolve to this day. Photojournalism presents a visual representation of a newsworthy event from a particular location to readers, allowing them to feel as though they are present or witnessing the event themselves. The presentation of news in this context is focused on

the online portal Radar Kediri. Online media portals have become a popular choice for the general public to meet their information needs as society evolves. Through this medium, people are given the convenience of accessing information wherever they are and whenever they need it. The phenomenon of online media or news portals has become an integral part of life as it is today. Its existence provides a picture as if everything in the world is without boundaries. The presence of photos in online media also has its own "voice" in constructing an event or incident (Romadhoni, 2023).

The online news that is the focus of this study is Radar Kediri, which is available on Instagram. Radar Kediri is a daily newspaper published by the Jawa Pos Group. Its operational area covers the city of Kediri, Kediri Regency, and Nganjuk Regency. This news media not only provides news through mass media (newspapers) but also disseminates it through online platforms such as websites, YouTube, and social media. Radar Kediri is known as the largest news media company in the Kediri region and its surroundings.

One of the photojournalists involved in Radar Kediri is Wahyu Adji Febrianto. He is a photographer with a Bachelor's degree in Photography from the Indonesian Institute of the Arts Yogyakarta in 2015. This man, commonly known as Adji, has a deep passion for journalism, which allows him to enjoy his work without feeling pressured. His daily routine of seeking news requires him to be quick and responsive to the moments he encounters, ensuring that the public can swiftly learn about recent events. In addition to capturing images quickly, Adji always upholds and incorporates photographic ethics into every photo he takes. This is evident in the complex artistic values embedded within his work, which encompass various photographic techniques such as emphasizing specific visual aspects, utilizing lighting techniques, and conveying messages and symbols through his images.

In interpreting the messages within journalistic photographs, an understanding of the aesthetic values and meanings contained within them is necessary. Thus, the resulting photographs are not merely informational but also possess aesthetic or artistic value. As explained above, the problems that can be formulated in this study include: what are the types of photography by Wahyu Adji Febrianto and what are the aesthetic values of Wahyu Adji Febrianto's photography? Based on the problem formulation, the objectives are to explain the types of photography by Wahyu Adji Febrianto and to describe the aesthetic values of Wahyu Adji Febrianto's photography. The expected benefits of this research are academic, theoretical, and practical. The academic benefit for a student is that this research is very useful for increasing the writer's insight and knowledge in the field of photography. The theoretical benefit is expected to provide references and knowledge for future researchers, especially in the field of photography aesthetics. For practical benefits, the researcher hopes to provide knowledge and information to the general public in the field of photography.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a descriptive study with qualitative characteristics. Qualitative research is rooted in natural activities as a whole that control humans as research tools, utilizing qualitative methods, and conducting inductive data analysis. The qualitative approach is an approach in which the object is in a condition that is true to reality and not manipulated by the researcher, so that when the research is conducted, the object remains relatively unchanged. Qualitative data is obtained from observation and documentation, which is then analyzed and concluded.

Descriptive data obtained in qualitative research is derived from descriptions based on the research objectives. Data collection techniques include documentation, literature review, and triangulation. This study employs the Miles and Huberman analysis model with the following procedures: data reduction, data presentation, and data verification.

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Types of Photography by Wahyu Adji Febrianto

The types of journalistic photography by Wahyu Adji Febrianto found in the Radar Kediri news portal edition of May 2025 are as follows: spot photography, people in the news, and sports photography.

Spot photography or spot news (unexpected events)

Figure 1
Caption: Get ready for some old-school dangdut nostalgia with the band ODGJ, who will soon be greeting visitors at the Kuno-Kini Festival in SLG.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

These are photos taken spontaneously, incidentally, or without prior planning. This type of photo usually captures unexpected, sudden events that were not anticipated. Examples include accidents, fires, natural disasters, and so on.

In the photo titled "Get Ready for Nostalgic Old-School Dangdut with the ODGJ Band, Soon to Greet Visitors at the Kuno-Kini Festival at SLG," the subjects are two men wearing short-sleeved black shirts. Their activity involves lifting a black tent frame. In the lower part of the image, a paved road with white lines or markings is visible. In the background of the image, there are white tents and green trees.

This photo was taken from the front of the subject with the light source coming from the left front of the subject. The lighting is brighter on the left side of the main subject's face compared to the right side. The camera position

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is lower than the subject's position. Therefore, it is clear that the photo above was taken spontaneously or without planning by the photographer.

Figure 2
Caption: Petungroto Village Road Mojo Kediri Cut Off, Residents Worried. (Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

The photo, titled "Petungroto Mojo Kediri Village Road Cut Off, Residents Worried," shows a piece of land with green trees in the background. On the land, there are several levels with slightly diagonal lines. Based on the subject matter depicted, this image clearly falls under the category of landscape photography, as defined by Abdi (2012), which includes valleys, mountains, rice fields, and other such elements. Like Photo 1, Photo 2 also falls under the category of spot news photography because, at the time the image was taken, the photographer had no prior plan or intention regarding the disaster that occurred.

Figure 3
Caption: Deputy Regent Dewi Opens the Ancient-Modern Festival This Afternoon, Hundreds of MSME Stalls Ready to Pamper Visitors Until Nightfall. (Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

In Figure 3, "Deputy Regent Dewi Opens the Ancient-Modern Festival This Afternoon, Hundreds of MSME Stalls Ready to Pamper Visitors Until Nightfall," a large billboard displaying information about the ancient-modern festival can be seen. On the side of the billboard, several people or visitors are also seen participating in the event. The background of the photo shows green trees with a predominantly white sky. Based on the above description, the photo in Figure 3 falls under the category of spot photography, as the image was captured spontaneously.

Photography of people in the news (individuals or communities featured in a news story)

Figure 4

Caption: Ar-Rahman Tales Kindergarten Teacher Wins First Place in the 2025 Kediri Kuno Kini Fest Karaoke Competition.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Photography of people in the news is a profile of a person or figure in a news story. Usually, the people who appear or are photographed are popular or have distinctive characteristics. As shown in image 4, the main subject in the image is a woman wearing a dark kebaya complete with a bun that is very characteristic of Javanese women. In accordance with the definition of people in the news photography, the photo above falls under the category of people in the news photography because the subject in the photo has distinctive characteristics and the ability to capture the public's attention.

Sports photography (sports events)

This is journalistic photography that portrays the profile of a figure in an event.

Generally, this type of photo highlights or showcases humor,

keunikan, dan ciri khas dari diri seseorang yang membuat audiens atau pembaca merasa terpukau (Romadhoni, 2023b). *Sport* foto adalah foto jurnalistik yang diambil untuk menggambarkan peristiwa atau kegiatan olahraga. Foto ini merupakan rekaman prestasi dari berbagai cabang olahrraga yang dipertandingkan dalam satu rangkaian perlombaan baik dalam skala kecil (daerah) maupun besar (manca negara).

Figure 5

Caption: Persik Kediri's back line has many holes in the match against Borneo FC Samarinda.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Figure 5, titled "Persik Kediri's Back Line Full of Holes in Match Against Borneo FC Samarinda," shows a man wearing white clothing with his arms and legs spread open. In the lower part of the image, one of the legs is seen touching the ball. The background is blurred, making it difficult to identify what is actually there. However, the blur in the background further

highlights the main subject. From the clothing and movements in the photo, it is clear that the image above depicts a soccer match.

Figure 6
Caption: Persik Kediri winger Riyatno Abiyoso has recovered from injury. What are his chances in the final match?
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Similar to image 5, image 6 also contains two men wearing identical sports uniforms. The movements of both men are also those of grabbing a ball. Therefore, it can be confirmed that the photo above is a sports photo.

1. Aesthetic Value of Photography by Wahyu Adji Febrianto

1) Visual Elements (Design Elements)

According to the article by Cahyaningsih & Purwanto (2023), there are six elements that can create a work of visual art, including line, shape, texture, color, intensity, space, and time. However, in this study conducted from May to June 2025, three elements were clearly evident: line, color, and space.

a. Line Elements

In two-dimensional works, lines are one of the elements used to create works of art. Lines are characterized by their length and direction. In some
Lines influence the formation of objects because lines have boundaries.

Figure 7
Caption: Petungroto Mojo Kediri Village Road Cut Off, Residents Worried.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Figure 7, titled "Petungroto Mojo Kediri Village Road Cut Off, Residents Worried," contains many lines, as can be seen from the lines at the top and bottom of the image. The lines are also very visible on the left and right sides of the image, creating a layered impression. The lines are informal because they give a soft and gentle reflection. The use of lines in the above work evokes an expression that conveys the emotional feelings the photojournalist wishes to convey through the selection of size, direction, and framing of the photograph. This aligns with the statement by Cahyaningsih & Purwanto (2023), that line elements in two-dimensional works can

evoke or convey the emotional message the artist intends to convey.

a. **Color Elements**

Figure 8
Caption: Thousands of people gather along PB Sudirman Street, Dhoho Street, and Basuki Rahmat Street.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Color is one of the elements of visual art that can be perceived by the human senses. Color is not merely an identifier for objects, things, and people, but can also be interpreted as a means of communication that conveys emotional messages. Color is an important element because it can directly evoke emotions in those who see it.

Work 8 above falls under the category of photographs that emphasize color elements, as the image features several colors, including purple, white, red, green, and black. The purple color is dominated by subjects carrying or holding bamboo pieces with piles of fruits and vegetables in the center. The contrasting color combination of the carriers with the fruits and vegetables creates or gives the impression of Spiritual (Hendarman, n.d.). sehingga maksud dan tujuan dari pengambilan gambar di atas adalah sesuai dengan makna warna yang paling dominan.

b. **Unsur Ruang**

Figure 9
Caption: There are already public schools, which is why the Kediri Regional Government's free schools continue to operate.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Almost all objects in this world occupy space, because fundamentally, no object can stand alone. According to Arifin (2016: 164), in two-dimensional art, space creates an impression by emphasizing the interplay of curves and protrusions that suggest movement.

Figure 9, titled "There is already a public school, this is why the free school owned by the Kediri Regency Government continues," is classified as a photograph with spatial elements because the work shows perspective. The roofs of the public schools lined up toward a vanishing point, along with the road that narrows further into the background, create a sense of depth.

1) Basics of Composition (Design Principles)

The composition or arrangement of visual elements (design elements) is a principle of organization in design. These principles are divided into four categories: harmony, contrast, rhythm, and gradation (Budiarta, 2017). However, the findings of this study identified two principles that align with the principles of artistic design, namely the harmony of contrast and the harmony of rhythm. However, the findings of this study identified two principles that align with the principles of artistic design, namely the harmony of contrast and the harmony of rhythm.

a. **The Principle of Contrast**

Figure 10
Caption: Persik Kediri winger Riyatno Abiyoso has recovered from injury. What are his chances in the final match?
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

In design science, contrast is a design principle that creates a striking difference compared to other visual elements. In addition, contrast also helps to differentiate each element. The purpose of the contrast principle is to direct the attention of every viewer to a specific direction on the a work of art. An example of the application of the principle of contrast is the use of color, lines, and shapes.

In Figure 10, there is a combination of contrasts, namely the contrast between the yellow and purple colors of the soccer players. As is well known, yellow is a warm color or primary color, while purple is a cool color or secondary color. When the two colors are placed side by side, the difference between them is very noticeable. This demonstrates that striking color differences can make an image more appealing and draw the eye toward the main object in the image, ignoring the background. Additionally, the shape (posture/pose) of the main object further emphasizes the contrast with the surrounding shapes.

b. **Principle of Rhythm**

Figure 11
Caption: Praise be to God! Hundreds of CANS in Kediri Regency Will Receive Their Decrees This Week.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Rhythm, often referred to as repetition, in visual art is presented through the repetition of visual art elements arranged in a sequential

and continuous manner. The photo titled "Alhamdulillah! Hundreds of CANS in Kediri Regency Will Receive SK This Week," according to Adji, the photojournalist, shows a combination of repetition or continuous repetition of several elements. In the nine subjects in the foreground of the photo, they are wearing the same clothes, the same colors, the same accessories, and are in the same positions. This demonstrates a form of repetition, namely the repetition of the same elements of form and the placement of the same colors. As explained by (Kartika, 2004), rhythm arises from the presence of regular forms and arrangements.

1) Composition Principles (Design Principles)

Referring to the journal Aesthetic Study of Photography by Djaja Tjandra Kirana (2017), it is mentioned that composition principles or design principles are divided into four categories: unity, balance, simplicity, emphasis, and proportion. The following are the findings in Adji's work during the period of May-June 2025:

a. Unity

According to (Dahliani, 2008), the principle of unity is always related to visual composition in design. Visual design composition can be achieved through the presence of visual elements. Without diversity in composition, it will result in a flat or monotonous feel to a work. An image becomes beautiful if it contains supporting elements and this is done consistently (Gopal Parashar, 2021). The principle of unity is a visual tool that shapes form, space, and colors so that they will provide a complete concept or perception as a whole.

Figure 12
Caption: On the last day, visitor numbers reached 42,518, with MSME sales at the Kuno-Kini Festival reaching Rp. 3.34 billion. (Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

The photograph above shows unity between the elements. There are three elements that stand out the most, namely shape, space, and color. The element of shape can be seen from the triangular-shaped stalls, which are predominantly white. The element of space can be seen from the stalls, which appear to taper downward. As for the element of color, there are three main colors, namely white, green from the trees in the background, and red on the stalls. For the people visiting, they are seen wearing clothing with diverse colors, thereby enhancing the appeal of the color element.

a. Balance

Balance is a quality found in every object. The appeal of each visual element has the same balance and the same focal point. There are two types of balance. First, formal balance. Formal balance is achieved through equal visual

weight, which formed from a central point or imaginary line that is balanced in shape, color, size, and texture. Second, informal balance. Balance achieved through the asymmetry of imaginary lines or points (Dahliani, 2008).

Figure 13
Caption: Kediri Regency KPP Office Inspects Offal, What is the Condition of the President's, Governor's, and Regent's Cattle?
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

In Figure 13, titled "Kediri Regency KPP Office Inspects Offal, How Are the Conditions of the President's, Governor's, and Regent's Cattle?", a group of enthusiastic people are seen observing the size of the cattle. From this, Figure 13 falls under the principle of informal balance because the imaginary line is illusory. The extremely large size of the cows, compared to the group of people watching, seems to create a balance in the proportions between the right and left sides of the image. As stated by Kartika (2004), balance can be achieved through the arrangement of symmetrical or asymmetrical artistic elements.

c. Proportion

Proportion is the geometric relationship between one side and another. This relationship also refers to the ratio or comparison of each different part resulting in a composition that is appropriate to its position (Dahliani, 2008).

Figure 14
Caption: On the last day, visitor numbers reached 42,518, with MSME sales at the Kuno-Kini Festival reaching Rp. 3.34 billion.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

In Figure 14, we can see a large crowd of visitors. There are also rows of stands stretching out behind them, while in the background we can see green trees with brown branches and trunks. The sizes of the three subjects above have not changed. The visitors in the foreground are the same size as in reality and are not distorted. Thus, in this case, the proportions presented in the image correspond to reality.

d. Simplicity

The principle of simplicity refers to neither more nor less, or excess. This principle aims to produce attractive works and designs so

that messages can be conveyed quickly and accurately (Ranu, n.d.).

Figure 15
Caption: Kediri City's Image Improved, Here Are the Responses of the People's Representatives.
(Source: Instagram documentation @radarkediri).

Figure 15, titled "The Face of Kediri City is Being Renovated, Here's the Response from the People's Representatives," shows the application of simplicity. This is evident in the main object, which is simply a large statue with a color that contrasts with the colors of its surroundings. The towering main object at the center of the photo makes it easy for viewers to identify the focal point. Additionally, its larger size compared to the surrounding supporting objects further emphasizes its prominence. There is no need for excessive elements; simply using a larger size than the surroundings and positioning it nearly at the center makes the image easily fall into the simplicity category.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion presented in the above study, the following conclusions can be drawn. The types of photojournalism practiced and almost always present in every news photo coverage by Wahyu Adji Febrianto are spot photography, people in the news, and sports photography. The aesthetic value of Adji's photojournalism is directed toward the application of artistic elements, artistic principles, and artistic foundations. For artistic elements, the elements of line, color, and space are employed. For artistic principles or foundations, the principles of contrast and rhythm are applied. As for artistic principles, the photojournalist Adji successfully applies four principles: unity, balance, proportion, and simplicity. In essence, journalistic photography always prioritizes speed in pursuing news, whether it be news photos or news text. However, in this case, Adji successfully applied the elements, principles, and foundations of art, resulting in photos that not only prioritize speed in reporting but also possess aesthetic value.

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