

Psychedelic: An Illustration that Reveals False Power in Rhythm 0 Performance Art

Thomas Hanandry Dewanto^{1*}, Muh. Bahruddin²

¹Desain Komunikasi Visual, Fakultas Teknik dan Desain, Universitas Hayam Wuruk Perbanas, Wonorejo Timur, 16, Surabaya, Jawa Timur, 60296, Indonesia.

²Fakultas Industri Kreatif, Universitas Dinamika, Jl. Raya Kedung Baruk No.98, Surabaya, Jawa Timur 60296, Indonesia.

thomas.dewanto@perbanas.ac.id, bahruddin@dinamika.ac.id

The performance art entitled Rhythm 0 by Marina Abramovic is controversial, raising various questions regarding its power and influence in the context of art. This research aims to illustrate the microphysical approach to power in the performing arts Rhythm 0, where power emerges from fear and shifts to the dominance of the ideology of power. A qualitative approach with visual analysis techniques was used in this research to explain the phenomenon of this performing arts from a very subjective view. This created illustration entitled "Psychedelic" reveals false powers in the form of intense hallucinations involving auditory, visual and feeling experiences in the Rhythm 0. The basic principles of art were used as the basis for creating this illustrative work. In this case, the use of gold leaf, peony flower elements and halos in the illustration also has a solid symbolic value, so semiotics is used as a basis for giving meaning to the symbols used. The results of this research show that the apparent power contained in the Rhythm 0 performing arts can be revealed through an illustration entitled "Psychedelic", which describes the context of the artwork in depth. This research contributes to understanding Rhythm 0's artwork and enriches knowledge about using psychedelic illustrations as a medium for artistic expression. This research also highlights how these illustrations can communicate complex themes in the performing arts, strengthening our understanding of power dynamics in arts contexts.

Keywords : *Illustration, power, Rhythm 0, Art Performance*

Received: January 18, 2024; Accepted July 2, 2024; Published August 2, 2024

<https://doi.org/10.31091/mudra.v39i4.2723>

© 2024 The Author(s). Published by Pusat Penerbitan LP2MPP Institut Seni Indonesia Denpasar.

This is an open-access article under the CC BY-NC-SA license

INTRODUCTION

Marina Abramović performed *Rhythm 0*, a performance art piece, in 1974 in Naples, Italy. This work demonstrates human power and weakness, illustrating how individuals can simultaneously act as subject and victim within a power dynamic. In this performance, Abramović stood still for six hours, surrounded by various objects. These objects ranged from harmless items like pens and flowers to potentially dangerous ones like knives and guns. The audience was invited to choose any object to interact with, allowing them to manipulate her as they wished.

Rhythm 0 powerfully addresses human power and weakness. It invites the audience to take on the role of the performer, showing how power can influence human actions and how individuals can become victims of that power. This artwork also highlights human vulnerability in making choices and illustrates how these choices can shape actions. Through this performance, Abramović engages the audience in a profound exploration of power dynamics and human nature, challenging them to reflect on their capacity for both cruelty and compassion.

Some literature has analyzed vital aspects of Marina Abramović's performance art piece "*Rhythm 0*." Goldberg's "*Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present*" (Goldberg, 2011) and Stiles' "*Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings*" (Stiles & Selz, 1996) both provide critical perspectives on "*Rhythm 0*." These works examine the controversies surrounding "*Rhythm 0*" and its themes of power and weakness in human relationships.

Both analyses also connect this performance to the political, national, and social context existing in Naples, Italy, during the period when "*Rhythm 0*" was staged. The complex and shifting political situation influenced the social and cultural climate, marked by tensions between left-wing and right-wing groups and social and political movements, including student protests and clashes between militant factions. From this performance, it can be argued that performance art can resonate with the specific social and political context at the time of its staging.

Marina Abramović's performance "*Rhythm 0*" is described as dangerous and exploitative (Goldberg, 2011). He argues that Abramović's submission to the audience could lead to unintended consequences. Goldberg highlights incidents such as touching,

kissing, and even beating Abramović during the performance, which she believes could be considered sexual or physical abuse. He also criticizes Abramović for not providing proper protection for herself and questions the meaningful impact of the work. This critique sparked debate, with some agreeing that "*Rhythm 0*" is an essential and provocative artwork, while others believe its potential dangers should have received more serious attention.

However, in "*Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings*," (Stiles & Selz, 1996) considers the performance "*Rhythm 0*" to be overly simplistic and unprovocative. Stiles argues that the work needs to provide new insights into power, freedom, or the boundaries of human behaviour. They highlight the simple act of Abramović standing in front of a table of objects without taking any action, which she believes does not offer a profound understanding of the themes intended to be explored.

The themes of power and weakness in human relationships, depicted in Marina Abramović's performance art "*Rhythm 0*," illustrate human power's immortality and illusory nature. In this performance, Abramović gives complete control to the audience, granting them the power to do anything to her. However, this power only lasts for a short time, as while the audience can control their authority over Abramović, she simultaneously retains the power to stop the performance at any moment. This duality emphasizes the fleeting and unstable nature of power within human interactions.

In the context of "*Rhythm 0*," the concept of power becomes an integral part of the imagined societal dynamics manifested in this artwork. As recipients of power, participants engage in interactions that depict the shifts and influences of power. This process aligns with Foucault's notion of the microphysics of power (Ian Ward, 2021), where power is not only situated within large institutions but also manifested in everyday interactions.

Gramsci's concept of hegemony (Amsalis, 2022) further contributes to this understanding, where power begins from fear, evolves into habit, and ultimately becomes awareness and consent. In "*Rhythm 0*," power dynamics reflect ideological shifts and dominance, particularly in how participants interact with objects that symbolize power.

The concept of false power conveyed in the performance art piece "*Rhythm 0*" also correlates

with psychedelics ([Jansen & Sferios, 2001](#)). False power can be interpreted as a hallucination, an inner experience involving intense visual, auditory, and emotional sensations. In this context, human power can be seen as a hallucination, where individuals perceive they possess power that is ultimately false and impermanent.

It is also noted in the book "Psychedelic Explorer's Guide: Safe, Therapeutic, and Sacred Journeys" ([Fadiman, 2011](#)) that hallucination and psychedelics share similarities, particularly in the inner experiences involving vivid visual, auditory, and intense emotional sensations. The use of psychedelics can trigger more substantial and more extreme hallucinatory experiences, but both experiences often share commonalities in the perceived sensations. Hallucination and psychedelics can also be understood as experiences that open doors to dimensions that are unusual or unseen in everyday life.

The false power attached to humans, as Marina Abramovic depicts in her work Rhythm 0, can also induce hallucinations and unreal experiences. Researchers find this aspect intriguing to depict through an illustration.

Illustration in art becomes an essential method for conveying implicit messages within an art performance because it can provide solid and profound visual interpretations of the intended messages. In visual arts, illustration can convey ideas, emotions, and thoughts through displayed images ([Male, 2019](#)).

An art performance often holds complex meanings that the audience can interpret in various ways. Therefore, employing illustration as a medium to convey implicit messages in art performance becomes crucial to offer clearer visual interpretations that are easily comprehensible to viewers.

Illustration also can create a unique and fantastical visual world, thereby providing a profound visual experience for the audience ([Sullivan, 2016](#)). This makes illustration an apt medium for expressing complex and abstract ideas, such as psychedelic experiences and false power within artworks.

This research uses illustration to depict the concepts of psychedelics and false power in the art performance Rhythm 0. Through illustration, researchers can offer more precise and more profound visual interpretations of the messages conveyed in the artwork. The ability of illustration

to create a unique and fantastical visual world, coupled with other visual elements, can inspire an illustration with implicit meanings ([Lester, 2014](#)). In creating an illustration themed around psychedelics from the art performance Rhythm 0, several visual elements with their symbolic meanings are utilized.

In illustration, fundamental principles of art aid in conveying the artist's intended message and enhance the aesthetic value. Therefore, artists must consider employing these principles at every stage of illustration creation. This practice is beneficial for achieving visual appeal and visual aesthetics in artworks ([Hendriyana, 2022](#)). By comprehending and applying these fundamental art principles, artists can create visually appealing, aesthetic, and practical illustrations conveying messages. This approach enhances visual appeal and facilitates audience comprehension of the artist's intended message.

Research on the performance art piece Rhythm 0 discusses Marina Abramovic's bodily complexity, which involves a dual role as both player and audience in his artwork ([Mheesung, 2014](#)). The dual role of the audience can be interpreted as a form of role mastery. Initially, mere passive observers, the audience members can later become active participants in the artwork. This demonstrates that power can be negotiated and transformed. Additionally, Simoes & Passos explored Rhythm 0 as a portrayal of a mother figure administering punishment to a vulnerable child, reminiscent of ancient sadistic fantasies ([Simões & Passos, 2018](#)). The mother's act of punishing her child can also be interpreted as a form of maternal authority. The mother can punish her child, who is perceived as older and more experienced, demonstrating that societal norms and values can legitimize power. This work illustrates how power can manifest in various forms and how power dynamics can be negotiated and altered.

Another research exploring the emergence and transformation of power tensions within the performing arts piece Rhythm 0 ([Bai & Li, 2021](#)). They analyze the tensions inherent in Rhythm 0, mainly through Foucault's theory of power dynamics, which emphasizes mutual power relations and their mutual influence. Bai and Li's analysis reveals that Rhythm 0 embodies a force that generates resistance within itself. This aspect of their research highlights the complex interaction of power dynamics within the artwork.

Based on the reviews, this study aims to create a psychedelic-themed illustration of Marina

Abramovic's art performance, *Rhythm 0*. The illustration will apply fundamental principles of art and its symbols using a visual approach, incorporating visual elements such as halos and peony flowers. Choosing illustration as a visual medium is intended to creatively and effectively convey the implicit messages and morals inherent in *Rhythm 0*. The fundamental principles of art and its symbols, employing semiotics, are used to craft visual appeal and aesthetics that resonate deeply with the audience.

This research employs a visual approach to position symbols within its illustrative painting. The selected symbols in this illustration produce deep connections to the theme of power inherent in the performance art piece *Rhythm 0*. The visual approach enables an in-depth exploration of how these symbols can be interpreted and contribute to a visual narrative involving psychedelic experiences, thereby reinforcing the message of power intended to be conveyed in this illustration.

This research uses a visual approach that strategically integrates symbols into illustration paintings, chosen for their profound connection to the themes of power inherent in Marina Abramovic's performing arts piece, *Rhythm 0*. Through this visual exploration, the study interprets these symbols to enhance a psychedelic visual narrative that underscores the intended message about power dynamics. The goal is to craft illustrations that resonate visually and psychologically, amplifying the intended meaning and significance Marina Abramovic conveys through her performance art. Incorporating halos and peonies as visual elements aims to strengthen these messages, providing an immersive visual experience for viewers. This research seeks to advance the field of illustration art and contribute to the evolution of semiotics within the realm of fine arts.

The urgency of this research is to maintain and preserve artistic and cultural values and contribute to the development of fine arts and illustration. In the context of a society that is increasingly modern and dependent on digital technology, the use of illustration media is still very relevant and needed. This research hopes to provide alternative ways of conveying artistic messages that are more creative and innovative.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative and visual analysis approach to create the illustration. This method was selected to produce a visual artwork that effectively

conveys the underlying messages of the art performance *Rhythm 0*. The illustration incorporates visual elements such as halos, peony flowers, and the technique of using gold leaf to enhance its symbolic meaning.

In this qualitative method, the researcher will focus on deeply understanding the subject, specifically the art performance *Rhythm 0*. The visual analysis approach will be employed to examine the visual elements present in the performance and how these elements can be interpreted in the created illustration. A semiotic approach will be utilised to translate the implicit meaning into visual form. Roland Barthes' denotation, connotation, and myth elements will be applied. Barthes refers to this as primary meaning at the denotative level, while at the connotative level, it is considered secondary meaning, eventually creating myth (Storey, 2010). In denotative imagery, the literal message is not substantial but relational, connecting to other elements. Denotative imagery represents the most perfect state of an image. Thus, when stripped of its connotative elements, denotative imagery becomes highly subjective and exposed (Barthes, 2010).

The researcher will also apply fundamental art principles such as proportion, perspective, rhythm, harmony, and contrast in the illustration creation process. These principles will create strong visual appeal and aesthetic quality in the resulting illustrations.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Rhythm 0

The symbolic interactionism theory helps understand the audience's response to Marina Abramovic's performance art, particularly "*Rhythm 0*" (Sugita & Pastika, 2021). This theory views the interaction between the artist and the audience as mutually constructing meaning through symbols and signs. Audience responses are influenced by the symbols in the performance, such as the initial objects. The artist's treatment in the early phase sets the foundation for audience interaction, forming a complex dynamic that influences their participation and response to the performance art.

Marina Abramovic's "*Rhythm 0*" challenges the existence of human power and weakness as false and transient. In this performance, Abramovic demonstrates that human power is illusory and temporary. This power only exists temporarily and can quickly vanish. Abramovic illustrates this by giving the audience complete control over her body for six hours. This act reveals that human power can

be manipulated and fades when freedom is given to others.

This art performance provides a powerful visual and emotional experience for its audience. In this performance, Abramovic intensely explores human power and weakness. The work offers a sharp critique of the relationship between humans and power, depicting power as an illusion and inherently temporary. Abramovic's performance illustrates that power is merely a hallucination, lacking actual existence and being transient.

The illusion of power and strength represents a hallucination of control, where individuals believe they have complete control over situations and others, while in reality, they do not. This perceived strength is temporary and subject to change at any moment.

The hallucination of false power and strength in "Rhythm 0" can be linked to psychedelic experiences. Psychedelics are understood as experiences that open doors to unusual or unseen dimensions in everyday life. During a psychedelic experience, one can feel intense sensations, such as vivid visual hallucinations and profound spiritual encounters.

The concept that holding power can induce psychedelic effects aligns with Foucault's exploration of how power operates on both individual and collective levels ([Rose, 1999](#)). Participants who controlled Abramovic might have experienced a psychological journey similar to the disorienting and transformative effects associated with psychedelia.

Marina Abramovic's performance "Rhythm 0" engages with disciplinary and micro-physical power models. By granting full power to the audience, the performance triggers motivations to act upon Abramovic. Over time, each audience member begins to feel the effects of power on a micro level, where every action and interaction creates a complex power dynamic. This enhances the artist's discipline and creates a collective experience that empowers individuals through active participation in the performance.

To clarify, the power referred to here is the power humans exert over each other in political, economic, social, and cultural contexts. Human weakness in wielding power lies in excessive ambition and the frequent disregard for the interests and rights of others. Conversely, true human strength is found when one can control one's power and use it wisely

for the common good.

However, human power is often mistaken for proper strength. Human power is relative and temporary, subject to change based on conditions and circumstances. This false power can create hallucinations or misconceptions about the world, where one views power as the sole means to achieve proper strength.

In this context, psychedelia can be seen as a form of hallucination related to spiritual and existential experiences. Psychedelic experiences create intense visual experiences and alter one's perception of reality. Similarly, the hallucinations produced by false power can lead to a distorted view of the world, where power is mistakenly seen as the only path to true strength.

Gold

To understand the myth-making process, one must consider the denotative and connotative aspects of the gold symbol. Denotatively, gold is a valuable metal commonly used for jewellery, coins, and art objects. Connotatively, gold represents nobility, luxury, and wealth in society. Thus, when gold forms a sign, it creates an image for its users. This leads to the societal myth that gold symbolizes nobility, luxury, and wealth.

Using gold shimmer in illustrations can also be linked to the concept of psychedelia. Gold's shimmer can captivate and hypnotize, creating illusions and hallucinations for the observer. This effect is similar to psychedelic experiences, where individuals perceive extraordinary and unseen aspects of reality.

Moreover, gold shimmer often symbolizes luxury and wealth. Symbols are frequently used in psychedelic illustrations, each carrying deep meanings and implicit messages. In this context, gold shimmer can symbolize false luxury and the illusion of power, central themes in Marina Abramovic's art performance, "Rhythm 0." This study will use gold shimmer as a visual element in psychedelic illustrations to convey messages about the illusion of power and false luxury.

Halo

The visual element utilized in creating this illustration is a glowing gold halo. The halo is a widely used symbol in art and culture, generally representing purity and grandeur and often associated with religious or divine figures. In painting, the halo is depicted as a circle of light surrounding a character's head or figure. In visual

arts, a halo can represent a ring of light or a luminous layer enveloping a figure.

Denotatively, a golden halo is a circular form of gold. The circle, a plane figure with a diameter dividing it into two halves, has 180 degrees and infinite fold symmetry. Connotatively, the concept of a gold circle is believed to symbolize solid and interconnected relationships. Many organizations and companies use the gold circle to represent their strength. For instance, the golden chain symbolizes the second principle of Indonesia's national ideology, Pancasila, which stands for "Just and Civilized Humanity." Numerous commercial entities also incorporate the gold circle into their logos, establishing it as a societal myth.

The use of a gold halo carries deep symbolic meaning. Experts consider the gold halo a symbol of nobility, grandeur, power, and beauty (Green, 2003). In visual arts, the gold halo has been used to signify majesty and greatness since ancient times. This is evident in classical art, where the brilliance of gold frequently adorned artworks to symbolize strength and magnificence. In this context, gold is not merely decorative but also emblematic of power and honour.

Moreover, the use of a golden halo in this illustration aligns with the visual elements of the art performance "Rhythm 0," intended to depict power and human frailty. The gold halo symbolizes transient and illusory power. In "Rhythm 0," Marina Abramovic illustrates the temporal nature of human power and the inherent weakness of humans when faced with true strength. In a psychedelic context, the halo can represent the mystical or spiritual experiences of the figure in the illustration. Much like hallucinations associated with psychedelic experiences, the halo enhances the visual impact, offering a profound visual experience to the audience. Thus, using the halo in psychedelic-themed illustrations adds high aesthetic value and imparts deeper meaning.

Peonies

At the denotative level, the peony is a flower with a notably wide diameter, sometimes reaching up to 25 centimetres. Resembling a bowl, the peony is commonly recognized as a beautiful flower. It comes in various types and colours, including pink, yellow, white, and burgundy. Peonies are often used in illustration art to create a visually appealing effect.

The peony holds significant meaning at the connotative level, particularly in Chinese culture. It

symbolizes happiness, wealth, honour, beauty, and perfection (Kuo & Sullivan, 2001). Artists frequently incorporate peonies as decorative elements to impart elegance and grace.

Another form of this flower is a golden peony, illustrated in a striking gold hue. In Chinese and Japanese cultures, the golden peony is often a symbol of good fortune and prosperity. Using a golden peony in illustrations can evoke a sense of luxury, elegance, and luck, making it a visually impactful element for viewers. The gold colour further enhances the feeling of luxury and affluence.

Despite its beauty, a peony is not everlasting, even when illustrated in gold; it will eventually wilt and fall. This aspect highlights another layer of peony symbolism, representing beauty's transient and impermanent nature. This symbolism becomes a cultural myth in illustrations. A golden peony can represent fleeting beauty. In the context of psychedelic illustrations derived from this research, the golden peony can depict temporary and limited beauty, adding a magical and mysterious aura to the artwork.

Peonies frequently appear in ancient Chinese paintings as symbols of beauty and prosperity. In these paintings, the peony is associated with femininity, symbolizing women's beauty and gentleness (Laing, 2021).

Golden Peony Crown

Denotatively, a crown is a headpiece traditionally worn by kings, queens, and deities. Over time, crowns have also been used in beauty pageants like Miss Universe and Miss World. Connotatively, society perceives the crown as a symbol of power, immortality, legitimacy, luxury, victory, glory, happiness, and prosperity. This deep-rooted perception has turned the crown into a societal myth. Combining a crown, peony flower, and gold amplifies their meanings, particularly concerning power.

In the planned psychedelic illustration, a golden peony crown will float above the head of the central female figure. This crown symbolizes temporary beauty and luxury, akin to the peony flower's fleeting bloom before it withers and falls. Additionally, the crown can be interpreted as a symbol of power or social status, which, like all things, is ephemeral and will eventually decay.

The floating golden peony crown above the woman's head in the illustration carries a nuanced meaning. It represents power, glory, and majesty. However, the

withering and falling peony flowers in the illustration add complexity, symbolizing the fragility of power and glory that inevitably face decline. Overall, the psychedelic illustration using the visual elements of a halo and golden peony crown conveys the illusion of power and strength and the inherent fragility and eventual downfall behind it.

Main Subject

The main subject of this illustration is derived from the performer of the art piece Rhythm 0, a woman. This choice aims to depict the power and serenity of a woman amidst a harsh and noisy environment. The woman's position in the illustration, showing humility and surrender, aligns with the theme of the illusion of power that the piece seeks to convey, as shown in Figure 1. Thus, using a female subject in this illustration carries a solid symbolic meaning related to the theme.



Figure 1. A female subject is used in this illustration

The incorporation of the main subject in the illustration reflects the performer herself, a woman experiencing various expressions and emotions throughout the performance. Including this central figure strengthens the illustration's impact and enhances its reception by audiences familiar with the performance's context. Additionally, the chosen pose of the main subject (leaning to the right, knees bent, hands in front of the chest, and a vacant gaze) conveys a sense of calm and introspection. This aligns with the psychedelic theme, which often involves meditation and self-reflection. Therefore, the main subject plays a crucial role in depicting the atmosphere and message of the psychedelic-themed art performance Rhythm 0.

Illustration Arrangement

The arrangement of subjects in this illustration appears organized and thoughtfully considered. The main subject, a woman, is positioned in a half-kneeling stance to the right, with her hands placed in front of her chest. This pose, as depicted in figure 2,

conveys a sense of firmness while also demonstrating humility, respect, and submission to a higher power. The floating golden peony crown above her head adds an element of elegance and beauty to the illustration.



Figure 2. Arrangement of visual elements to accompany the main subject

Additionally, the use of concentric halo circles, increasing in size above her head, emphasizes her presence as a sacred or pure figure. These halo circles enhance the subject's prominence, giving the impression of protection and directing the viewer's focus towards her. The peony petals adorning the halo further highlight her grace and beauty.

Figure 3. Application of the principle of unity in structuring



the direction of visual objects

Several fundamental art principles have been applied in crafting this psychedelic-themed illustration featuring a female subject. Unity is evident through the consistent use of peony motifs and the golden colour scheme throughout the

illustration, creating a harmonious and cohesive appearance, as depicted in Figure 3.



Figure 4. Use of the principle of rhythm from the direction of movement of visual objects

The principle of rhythm is prominently applied in this illustration, mainly through the strategic placement of golden peonies above the woman's head, which appears to dance gracefully as if performing a choreographed dance. This dynamic arrangement conveys a sense of movement and rhythm within the illustration, creating a lively and engaging visual experience. The circular direction and flow of the elements in the painting further enhance this rhythmic quality, adding to the overall dynamic and rhythmic impression conveyed by the artwork, as depicted in Figure 4.



Figure 5. The application of the principle of dominance lies in the female subject and the peony flower object

The illustration's principle of dominance is evident, with the central female subject commanding significant visual space. This dominance is further accentuated by the placement of the golden peony crown atop her head, drawing immediate attention and reinforcing her central role. The composition is meticulously crafted, with the female subject's form creating a visual arrow that directs the viewer's gaze towards the golden peony crown, as shown in Figure 5. This intentional design not only highlights the subject's importance but also establishes a focal point that enhances the overall impact of the illustration.

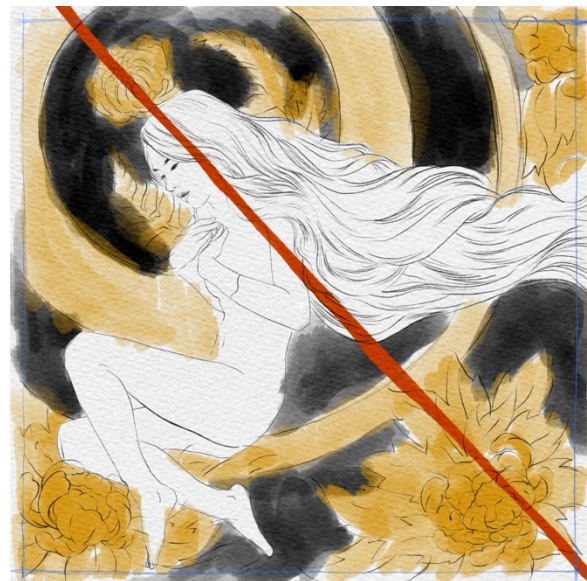


Figure 6. Application of the principle of balance to image division

The principle of balance is exemplified by the placement of the halo above the woman's head, which is harmoniously aligned with the golden peony crown. This balance imparts a sense of stability and harmony to the illustration, as in Figure 6 above. Additionally, the use of compositional principles is evident in the arrangement of the illustration. The positioning of the peony crown atop the woman's head and the surrounding halo forms a diagonal line that draws the viewer's gaze. This intentional design enhances the visual appeal and guides the audience's focus, contributing to the artwork's overall coherence and aesthetic quality.

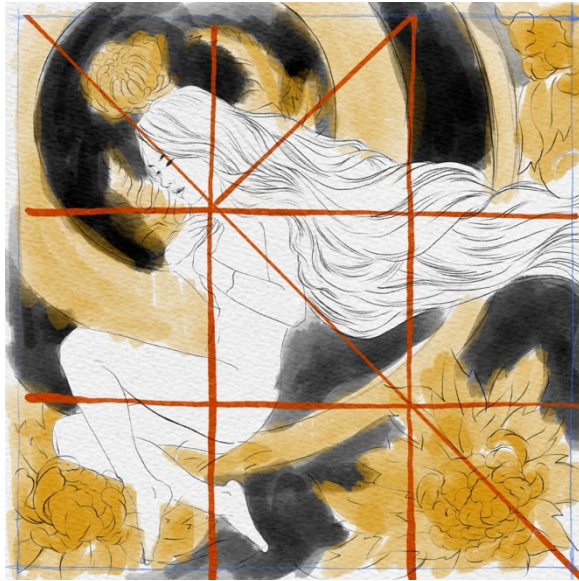


Figure 7. Application of the principle of proportion to the placement of subjects and objects

The principle of proportion is meticulously applied in this illustration, particularly in the placement and sizing of subjects and visual elements that are proportionate and balanced. The comparative sizes among subjects are carefully considered in crafting the illustration, as shown in Figure 7. This deliberate approach enhances the aesthetic appeal and creates a sense of harmony throughout the artwork.

The principle of simplicity is also applied in this illustration through manageable and straightforward visual elements. This approach contributes to a sense of simplicity and elegance in the artwork. Furthermore, the deliberate use of space surrounding the illustration enhances a harmonious and uncluttered composition.

Overall, the arrangement of these illustrations carefully considers the fundamental principles of art to produce beautiful, harmonious and aesthetically pleasing illustrations.

The final result

The outcome of this research is a psychedelic-themed illustration featuring a main subject: a woman tilted to the right side, both knees bent, kneeling, and both hands clasped in front of her chest, with a vacant stare. Above her head floats a crown resembling a peony flower, and centred on her head is a halo expanding from small to large, adorned with peony petals around it, as shown in Figure 8.

The arrangement of this illustration considers fundamental artistic principles, such as unity, in the harmonious use of visual elements like the halo,

peony flower, and gold colours. Rhythm and tempo are created using organic forms and flowing lines. The main subject exhibits dominance, highlighting the primary theme of the illustration.

Balance and proportion arise from the balanced positioning of the main subject in the centre of the illustration and the appropriate proportioning of visual elements. Meanwhile, simplicity is achieved through the minimalistic and unexaggerated use of visual elements.

The illustration also incorporates the symbolic use of the halo as a symbol of grandeur and spirituality and the peony flower as a symbol of beauty and fertility. The use of gold in the illustration also depicts eternal luxury and beauty.



Figure 8. Woman

Overall, the illustration includes psychedelic elements that evoke hallucinatory power and strength, reminiscent of the art performance Rhythm 0, which critiques power and its abuse. However, the use of aesthetic and harmonious visual elements also conveys a sense of beauty and elegance in the illustration.

Thus, this 56x56 cm illustration combines psychedelic concepts with fundamental artistic principles, aiming to provide both visual appeal and profound meaning.

CONCLUSION

Based on the research, a psychedelic-themed illustration inspired by the art performance Rhythm 0 can be created by applying fundamental artistic principles such as unity, rhythm, dominance, balance, proportion, and simplicity. Visual elements

like the halo and golden peony can imbue the illustration with implicit meanings. Gold and its shimmer can also enhance visual appeal and aesthetic quality. Despite the peony flower's transient beauty, crafting it from gold symbolizes eternity and strength. The main subject of this illustration is a woman derived from the performer of Rhythm 0 herself. Adequate illustration arrangements should consider these fundamental principles carefully to achieve a balanced unity of rhythm, dominance, balance, proportion, and simplicity. By applying these principles, psychedelic illustrations can convey strong implicit messages that captivate art enthusiasts.

This study produced a psychedelic-themed illustration using visual elements such as the halo and golden peony. The research employed a qualitative descriptive method, and its results indicate that the arrangement of this illustration considers fundamental artistic principles, including unity, rhythm, dominance, balance, proportion, and simplicity. The illustration features a woman half-kneeling with both hands clasped in front of her chest, crowned with a golden peony flower halo adorned with peony petals. This illustration carries implicit meanings about the illusion of power and strength, akin to the hallucinations often portrayed in psychedelic art.

REFERENCES

- Amsalis, Y. (2022). *Antonio Gramsci Sang Neo Marxis*. BASABASI.
- Bai, X., & Li, J. (2021). Analysis of Power Relations in Performance : Taking Rhythm 0 as an Example. *Proceedings of the 2021 3rd International Conference on Literature, Art and Human Development*, 594(Iclahd), 563–569.
- Barthes, R. (2010). *Membedah Mitos-Mitos Budaya Massa: Semiotika atau Sosiologi Tanda, Simbol, dan Representasi*. Jalasutra.
- Fadiman, J. (2011). *The Psychedelic Explorer's Guide: Safe, Therapeutic, and Sacred Journeys*. Inner Traditions/Bear.
- Goldberg, R. L. (2011). *Performance Art: From Futurism to the Present*. Thames & Hudson.
- Green, M. (2003). *Symbol and Image in Celtic Religious Art*. Taylor & Francis.
- Husen Hendriyana. (2022). *RUPA DASAR (NIRMANA): Asas dan Prinsip Dasar Seni Visual*. Andi Offset.
- Ian Ward, N. Y. M. K. N. A. M. (2021). *Politika, Kekuasaan dan Pragmatisme: Seri Pengantar Teori Hukum Kritis*. Nusamedia.
- Jansen, K. L. R., & Sferios, E. (2001). *Ketamine: Dreams and Realities*. Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies.
- Kuo, F. E., & Sullivan, W. C. (2001). Aggression and Violence in the Inner City: Effects of Environment via Mental Fatigue. *Environment and Behavior*, 33(4), 543–571.
- Laing, E. J. (2021). The Tiger and its Association with Protection and Prosperity in Late Imperial China. *Arts Asiatiques*, 76, 67–80.
- Lester, P. M. (2014). *Visual Communication: Images with Messages*. Wadsworth.
- Male, A. (2019). *The Power and Influence of Illustration: Achieving Impact and Lasting Significance through Visual Communication*. Bloomsbury Publishing.
- Park Mheesung. (2014). Marina Abramovic's "Body" in Betweenness. *Journal of History of Modern Art*, (35), 37–58.
- Rose, N. (1999). *Powers of Freedom: Reframing Political Thought*. Cambridge University Press.
- Simões, L., & Passos, M. C. (2018). The Performance Art of Marina Abramovic as a Transformational Experience. *Psychology*, 09(06), 1329–1339.
- Stiles, K., & Selz, P. (1996). *Theories and Documents of Contemporary Art: A Sourcebook of Artists' Writings*. University of California Press.
- Storey, J. (2010). *Cultural Studies and the Study of Popular Culture (NED-New edition, 3)* (NED-New edition, 3). Edinburgh University Press.
- Sugita, I. W., & Pastika, I. G. T. (2021). Inovasi Seni Pertunjukan Drama Gong Pada Era Digital. *Mudra Jurnal Seni Budaya*, 36(3 SE-Articles), 342–349.
- Sullivan, E. J. (2016). *The Art of Illustration*. Dover Publications.