

Futurism In Conceptual Textile Art:

An Approach To Improving Sanitation In Ghana

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Abstract

Century old art movements have become relevant in modern art especially in conceptual art to address societal issues. Ghana is confronted with sanitation issues of which government interventions have proved futile in dealing with the situation. This art studio experimental study explored the philosophy concept of futurism through conceptual textile art towards sanitation improvement in Ghana. The Studio-Based research approach was employed with adoption of Aesthetico-Action Research model in generating the results. The results revealed that conceptual textile art could be used as a communicative tool through the concept of futurism as the driving force. The results proved the possibility of using textiles waste to depict scenery that by conventions could only be well illustrated by painting. Exploration of major waste materials such as plastics, fabric remnants, papers, etc., through the concept of reuse is recommended to reduce their negative impacts on the environment.

Keywords: *Experimenting, Futurism, Sanitation, Textiles Art, Conceptual Art, Ghana*

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Introduction

Experimentation is a very useful tool in various fields of endeavour such as the sciences, engineering, art and humanities. In the field of science, an experiment according to Cooperstock (2009:12) is an empirical process that seeks to reconcile competing models or hypotheses. In addition, researchers continue to make use of experimentation to test accessible theories or new hypotheses to maintain or disprove them (Wilczek et al, 2006). In fine art, experimentation approach to research is very common. New materials both conventional and unconventional are used to test techniques that date back to several centuries. A classic example is the use of modern tools and materials to experiment ancient art movement techniques. One such prominent art movement was futurism. Futurism was an Italian art movement in the early 20th century, that targeted to capture the enthusiasm and energy of the contemporary world in art. The main objective of the Futurists was to abolish older forms of culture and exhibit the beauty of modern life. They practised in every art form; be it painting, sculpture, graphic design and fashion. Important Futurist works included Marinetti's *Manifesto of Futurism*, which is a manifesto written to express an artistic philosophy called Futurism that was a rejection of the past and a celebration of speed, machinery, violence, youth and industry. Marinetti (2009:3) also established that, futurism as an art movement sort to exalt modernity and geared towards the liberation of Italy from the weight of its past. However, it is imperative to note that cubism played a key role in the build-up and advancement of the Italian Futurism artistic style.

In corroboration to the above submissions, Artut (2018:34) adds that, futurism as an art movement played significant roles in the early development of art in history, resulting in the advancement of many other art movements. In support Rainey et al (2009:87) further stated that, the year 1909 saw the awareness of futurism art movement for the first time with the large audience by Filippo Tomaso Marinetti's article "The Founding and Manifesto of Futurism." This article was published in the front cover of the Le Figaro newspaper. This event occurred in Paris, France. Futurism also promoted the modernization and cultural renewal of Italy. Another prominent futurist art piece is Boccioni's sculpture "Unique Forms of Continuity in Space," that shows a human-like figure apparently in motion. The figure is also armless and without a discernibly real face. The form was first inspired by the sight of a football player moving on to a perfectly weighted pass. This is shown in figure 1.



Figure 1. Unique Forms of Continuity in Space, by Umberto Boccioni. Source: www.wikipedia.org.

Textiles, as Barber (2008) puts it, have been elemental part of human life since the start of civilization. It is significant to note that materials and methods used to make them have expanded enormously, while the functions of textiles have remained the same. Conceptual textile art make use of plant, animal, or synthetic fibres to construct practical or decorative objects. Barnes (2017) in her exposition reveals that, conceptual textile art is the oldest forms of art in human civilization. However, a critical point is made in her work where she pinpoints that, at the initial stages of conceptual textile art, it centred on practical purposes rather than aesthetics. Hence, these products were made from animal skins, furs, leaves and many more. Conceptual textile art, like other art disciplines, has become an important social communication tool used to address social ills in the community such as sanitation.

According to UNICEF Ghana (2015), the very central problem affecting basic rural and urban sanitation delivery in Ghana comprises absence of planning and organization of programmes that target enhancement of sanitation. In a peculiar case of urban sanitation in Ghana, the World Health Organization and UNICEF Ghana (2015) observed that, there is no clear urban basic sanitation strategy and plan in Ghana. Various methodologies in ensuring effective basic sanitation in the urban areas are not effectively coordinated and monitored. However, sanitation is a social and public menace that every individual need to contribute in discussions and subsequent decisions that would be beneficial to the masses. Ghana as a nation has performed poorly in the area of sanitation due to a lot of factors that include bad attitudes of the citizenry, inadequate education on the importance of good sanitation practises, improper planning by local authorities and agencies in charge of sanitation, and the failure to enforce sanitation by-laws. Most of the major areas largely affected are the urban centres in the country that is the metropolitan, District and Municipal capitals that generate tons of solid wastes daily.

Art movements that date back to the twentieth century usually inspire Art installations. Artists project current issues and problems that need attention through art movements. One of such art movements, that begun in 1900 in Italy, is futurism (Karande, 2013). The oldest form of art as a communication tool dates back to the cave paintings during the prehistoric times around 30,000 BC. Even though the Futurist artists main aim was to do away with traditional artistic ideals and replace them with an energetic celebration of the machine age, none of them focused on improving sanitation with the use of conceptual textile art. There is the need, as the futurist artists did, to use textile and non-textile materials to appeal to the conscience of the populace in order to bring attitudinal changes towards proper sanitation practices. This study sought to identify the serious effects of poor sanitation in some selected urban centres in Ghana, adapt the futurism art movement techniques to develop conceptual textile art works that can be worn, displayed and installed as non-verbal communication tool that could appeal to the conscience of the general public on the dangers of poor sanitation attitudes and to drive home the need for a positive change.

Materials and Methods

The study employed exploration and experimentation methods under the Studio-Base Approach with materials such as fabric cut-off, plastic sheet, paper case and wood. Participant observation and structured interview guide were some of the data collection instruments that were employed for the study. An adapted version of Aesthetico-Action Model by Coral Marshall (2010) was used as a guide for the execution of the works. More so, to be able to carefully obtain and capture the sanitation issues in Ghana, field observations were carried out for the sake of authenticity and fact finding. This coupled with interactions with some respondents that matter undoubtedly gave a great insight into the whole project works. The Aesthetico-Action Research cycle has six (6) phases namely; observe, reflect, plan, create, exhibit and feedback, that were diligently followed to achieve the set objectives. This is illustrated in the Figure 2.

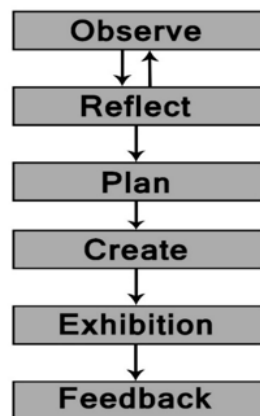


Figure 2. Conceptual framework adopted from Coral Marshall (2010).

Observation- Participant observation of phenomena in their natural setting was key. In addition, structured interview guide was used where the respondents responded to open-ended questions by the interviewer.

Reflection- Reflection according to Hofman-Kipp, Artiles, and Lopez-Torres Weber as cited by Marshall (2010) is characterized by the thoughtful gathering of critical reflections and actions that reflect the underpinnings in our practice concerning our assumptions, biases, and perspectives. Based on these thoughts, brainstorming as well as the creation of concepts in alignment with what the project sort to achieve were created. The core aspect of the projects was to put a spotlight on the sanitation issues in the country and seek ways of improving them. A concept of depicting imagery from 3D fabric designs on canvas were made.

Planning- This stage of the model involved exploration of textile art techniques with fabric samples for execution of the works on the canvas, drawing inspiration from the notable textile artists and the art of stitching. Additionally, preliminary sketches were made to ascertain the outcome of the final project.

Creation- This phase embodies the build-up of portraits that project the issues of sanitation in Ghana, putting to relevant use, textile art techniques coupled with fabric samples on canvas and various stitching techniques.

Exhibition- Since the project is centered on the issue of sanitation, the final project works were taken back to the streets, for appreciation, criticisms and for the society to further dialogue with the work. Further exhibitions were done via social media for more discourses and input as to how we as a country can help reduce this unfortunate situation. This provided the researcher with information that could further make the work more meaningful.

Feedback- Results based on information gathered from the exhibition on the streets and on social media contributed philosophically to the whole artworks. In addition, some recommendations were made based on the feedbacks from the exhibitions that were carried out.

The geographical delimitation focused on the urban centres such as Kumasi Kejetia, Ejisu and some urban centres in the Ashanti region of Ghana. The study made use of fabric remnants and experimentation with other mix media materials such as wood, paper carton, foam and plastics. These materials were sanitized before being used. The research was limited to the utilization of futurism art movement which dates around early 20th century for the production of conceptual textile art installation for the purpose of helping solve sanitation problems in Ghana.

Population

The study focused on inhabitants of Kejetia and Ejisu which are major urban towns in the Ashanti region of Ghana. The target population was 30 people living in the selected communities out of which 20 respondents were accessible with 10 from each urban centre. Among the various sampling techniques, purposive sampling was employed by the researchers for the study. This was used alongside with stratified sampling technique. The importance of purposive sampling in this study was to select appropriate kinds of fabric and design effects that were suitable for creating textile art patterns on the canvas. It was also necessary to interview some textile artists and portrait artists to solicit their views on the project work. Their in-depth knowledge gave the research team some ideas and information that were relevant to the study.

Data Collection Instruments and Procedures

As a studio-based research study, the data collecting instruments used in this research were observation and interviews. These instruments were used to obtain the necessary data from respondents concerning sanitation issues in their localities. According to Trochim (2001:51), the interviewer in direct interview has the opportunity to ask follow-up questions, interviews are generally easier for respondent, especially if information being sought is about opinions or impressions. This makes room for question modification to follow the line of conversation in an

informal interview. Marinossion (2002), also states that observation is the result of looking and seeing while interpretation is based on the observer's assumption. Observation enabled the researchers to see and discover things that might otherwise be missed by others.

During the field research, the researcher observed various degrees of sanitation issues in the Kumasi metropolis and Ejisu Municipal. This gave the researcher the opportunity to gather more information for the execution of the actual project works. The researcher documented these activities, using the camera. In the process of collecting data for the study, individual interviews were conducted with respondents. They included some inhabitants in the Kejetia and Ejisu. The structured interview with open ended questions employed by the research team created a better opportunity for soliciting useful information. The open-ended format of the interview facilitated detailed description and expansion of the views of respondents. Observation gave the researchers the platform to examine and assess current status quo of sanitation in Ghana. The observational tool also facilitated analytical assessment of the possibility to use fabrics and textile art techniques with emphasis on futurism art movement, in producing the project works.

Materials and Tools

Materials used for the study were carefully chosen depending on their durability and ability to be manipulated to suite the study. The materials include wood glue, Type 99 solution, canvas material, 1X1inch frame wood, nails, staple pins, paper packing cases, foam, pieces of cloths, acrylic and calabashes. These materials, which were collected from different locations, were sanitized by washing, ironing and spraying of chemicals to disinfect the materials and tools to make them safe for use.

The earlier futurists' traditional materials were, flat (two-dimensional), as compared to that of the textile artist as well. The research team here, then, sort to fuse the two and introduce other unconventional materials to achieve a three-dimensional effect. In choosing materials for such a study, one should take into consideration the life span of that material. Organic material could decompose in no time and hence, care was taken when using them. Each material selected here played an important role in the execution of the works. Some of the tools used for this project include saw, hammer, a pair scissors, stapler and brushes.

Results and Discussions

Serious Effects of Poor Sanitation

A survey was conducted at the Kejetia, Ejisu and their environs to ascertain the serious effects of poor sanitation and use responses as a yardstick for making substantial generalizations on the subject matter. Ten interviews were carried out at Kejetia and ten interviews at Ejisu. The goal was to ascertain from the inhabitants of these cities, the facts on the above heading. Their views were analyzed below:

EFFECTS OF POOR SANITATION	NO. OF RESPONSES	PERCENTAGE
1. Health problems	10	100%
2. Untidy environment	7	70%
3. Chocked gutters with foul scent	9	90%
4. Flooding due to chocked gutters	10	100%
5. Deterioration of social amenities such toilets and markets buildings	9	90%
6. Creation of slums	4	40%
7. Diversion and reallocation of public funds	3	30%
8. Retarded national growth	6	60%

Figure 3. Responses of serious effects of poor sanitation from Kejetia.

From the table above (figure 3), 10 out of the ten respondents interviewed representing 100% all acknowledged ill health as a major effect of poor sanitation. Again, they (100%) all agreed that the perennial flooding which usually claims lives and properties, are mostly caused by insanitary conditions such as chocked gutters and lack of good drainage systems in the city. Ninety percent of the respondents asserted that there was growing uncontrolled foul scent which emanated from chocked gutters. They also complained of untidy environ, creation of slums, fast deterioration of social amenities and diversion of funds meant for other projects to tackle sanitation issues. In order to make feasible generalizations on the subject matter, a similar survey conducted at Kejetia was also carried out at Ejisu. Ejisu is also a principal city in Kumasi, Ashanti region of Ghana. It is the historical geographical area of the famous strong warrior of the Ashanti kingdom by name Yaa Asantewaa. This section presents the responses gathered and summarized in Figure 4.

EFFECTS OF POOR SANITATION	NO. OF RESPONDENTS RESPONSES/10	PERCENTAGE
1. Health problems	10	100%
2. Untidy environment	6	60%
3. Chocked gutters with foul scent	7	70%
4. Flooding due to chocked gutters	8	80%
5. Deterioration of social amenities such toilets & markets buildings	4	40%
6. Creation of slums	3	30%
7. Diversion and reallocation of public funds	7	70%
8. Retarded national growth	6	60%

Figure 4. Responses of serious effects of poor sanitation from Ejisu.

Similar to the responses from the Kejetia environs, table four shows that 100% of the people interviewed in Ejisu agreed to the fact that varied health problems are associated with poor sanitation. 80% of them adds that they perennial flooding

were caused by choked gutters while 70% suggested foul scent from gutters and diversion of public funds to solve pressing sanitation problems as major effects of poor sanitation. Others, 60% mention effects such as untidy environment and the stagnation of national growth. The least mentioned were impact on social amenities 40% and creation of slums 30%. Making substantial inferences from responses gathered at Kejetia and Ejisu, the study revealed a number of effects resulting from poor sanitation. These effects as observed by the study conducted are as follows:

- Health complications (e.g. cholera, diarrhoea, malaria, typhoid, trachoma)
- Flood which claims lives and properties
- Deterioration of social amenities (e.g. public toilets, schools and market structures)
- Creation of slums within the cities
- Diversion and reallocation of public funds
- Retarded national growth

These points as highlighted from findings of the study are also supported by Nitin (2017), UNICEF and World Health Organisation. They similarly aver that poor sanitation affects the health conditions of individuals living in a particular community. The exposition on the sanitation issue of Ghana revealed that poor sanitation is having dire consequences on the economy of the nation. It is in this light that the study revealed that the country is forced to divert funds to support affected persons from floods and to also rebuild deteriorated social amenities such as public toilets and market structures through government agencies such as a National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO).

Evidently, looking at the picture of poor sanitation in a broader spectrum, the study established that poor sanitation mostly resulted from indiscriminate refuse disposal, choking of gutters with solid waste and littering our streets and water bodies does more harm to the inhabitants and also impedes societal development and sustainable national growth. On these grounds of findings from the study and empirical supports, the study can make possible generalization that poor sanitation has dire effects on the urban areas in Ghana.

Production Process

After the research team had carried out their survey on the dire effects of poor sanitation in the Ghanaian urban areas, the researchers further experimented with the futurism art movement techniques using textile art materials as an approach to improving sanitation in Ghana. This section presents a detailed expatiation on all the works produced. The production of works begun with initial sketches on paper and then transferred unto the constructed, stretched canvases. The fabric remnants were washed with detergent in boiled water to sanitize the materials for safe use.

Project One

Based on findings of the study, the researchers produced the first work which represents how appropriate dust bins in our homes should be kept and preserved.

The study revealed that due to indiscriminate disposal of refuse and littering, it makes the streets unclean and chokes our drainage systems such as gutters. This results in flooding and acts as breeding grounds for parasites that cause diseases such as cholera, malaria, diarrhoea, typhoid and trachoma. This therefore raises concern for proper ways of disposing refuse. Based on this ideology, the first work was produced by the researcher to educate Ghanaians on appropriate ways to keep and preserve dust bins in our homes. Project one is shown in figure 5 below.



Figure 5. Keeping refuse, the proper way size: 31x50 inches.

As epitomized in figure 5, the concept of futurism art movement is depicted here using textile art. The futurism technique employed in this project includes the carefully cut-out fabrics which are mounted on the canvas support to show movement, speed and depth. The floor of the work is made with shades of brown fabrics and white fabrics to draw the picture tiles. The ideology here is that, today's 21st century architecture uses more of tiles as compared to cemented floors. Most homes may opt for tiling. Therefore, tiles were preferred choice for this work. The shades of brown were also used because, most tile colors used in areas where dust bins are kept appear to be dull colors so that the floor might not get dirty too quickly and not become too visible too when dirty. The color brown also symbolizes earth.

The preferred dust bin color used in the work is brown. One reason is partly due to creating harmony in the work so that the color of the tiles would be in harmony with that of the dust bin. Also, a deeper shade of brown was used in the work to compliment the lighter shade of brown used in making the tiles. In talking of color harmony, the fabrics used to design the dust bin has the colors red, deep brown, black and green. The colors also complement each other and creates a sense of

unity and harmony in the work. The main communication of the work is centred on the fact that rubber or net is to be used to cover the rubbish in the dust bin. This is to prevent flies, mosquitoes and other insects from entering in the refuse to feed, breed and reproduce quickly. This is a good way of preserving dust bins. Most a time, our homes do not have nets or rubbers covering our refuse. That is a bad practice. The study is therefore advocating for people to use rubbers to cover their dust bins. Aside warding off flies, it would prevent the refuse from scattering on the floor. Keeping dust bins, this way is the surest way to drive away flies and other parasites from our homes, thereby making our homes, offices and community safe from diseases and sicknesses. The sky in the work has been depicted with shades of blue from the concept that, the sky is mostly blue. In a nutshell, the first work in figure 5 is an effective way to communicate and educate the public on the appropriate methods of keeping and preserving dust bins in our homes, offices, institutions and the community. Once we comply by this, our environment would be devoid of flies that cause various health complications. Our solid waste would not also find their way into gutters to choke it and cause flooding.

Project Two



Figure 6. Improper keeping of waste, 31 X 50 inches.

As observed in the work above, this is contrary to the first work produced. As epitomized herein, the dust bin is full with the refuse scattered on the floor. The futurist philosophy was to do away with old ways of doing things. Hence, as a source of inspiration, the general public in Ghana are being edged to break away from their old attitudes of indiscriminately storing and dumping refuse. Again, the artistic

display of fabric pieces showing movement and action is a futuristic technique used in paintings in the early 1900s.. Also, varieties of fabric pieces were used to represent different types and sizes of waste in our homes, offices, institutions and the community. The study observed from field survey that, people mostly practice indiscriminate refuse disposal. Regardless the type of waste be it solid or liquid, they would dispose them altogether in one dust bin. This ideology is represented here with the varieties of fabrics in the work as refuse. Contrary to the first work, the dust bin here is not covered, which was the case with most dust bins observed in some homes and communities. A proper dust bin ought to have an appropriate cover so that it prevents flies from entering into the refuse. Because the dust bin in this work has no cover, and even though it is full people still deposit more refuse causing it to overflow and scatter on the floor. This is scenario in most cases in our community. This work creates the actual problem on the ground and must be stopped. This is a typical example of poor sanitation in most Ghanaian communities and dumping sites which must be discouraged. Poor sanitation must be eschewed as all cost.

Project Three

The third work produced by the researchers represents a poor sanitation in an urban area. Based on observations and responses gathered during the field survey, this work was produced to communicate to the public effects of poor sanitation on livelihood. From this illustration, no one would love to live in such environment because the inhabitants are more likely susceptible to diseases such as typhoid, malaria, cholera and diarrhoea. Rather unfortunately, this is the case for most urban settlements in Ghana. Such areas are highly prone to floods due to the presence of choked gutters.



Figure 7. Littered community; The final work 24 X 50 inches.

As observed in Figure 7, the beauty of an ideal urban settlement is lost in this work due to the indiscriminate disposal of refuse. One of the respondents made

mention of poor sanitation affecting the beauty of settlement and this is the exact scene created in this work. As observed, this settlement has no community dust bin and this might be the possible cause for the indiscriminate disposal of refuse and littering everywhere. Even though this should not be an excuse, it happens in most of our environs. Most communities lack dust bins. One would walk for several hours without spotting dust bins in some communities. This promotes public littering because the inhabitants are left with no choice than to leave refuse on the ground. Such poor sanitation created in this picture renders all the inhabitants of this area susceptible to diseases and sicknesses such as trachoma, typhoid, malaria, cholera and diarrhoea. Also selling foods in such dirty environment would only expose the foods to flies and this would result in food contamination or poisoning. Also, such community is liable to floods in the event of heavy downpour. There are no drainage systems in this picture and even if there should be, chances are that the winds would blow these refuses to into the gutters thereby, choking them. The idea is to communicate the presence of different types of waste be it, solid or liquid waste. Also, the researcher made the conscious efforts to create color harmony and unity in the work inspired by futurist paintings which used strong colors depicting action and sometimes chaotic scenes. The choice and colors of fabrics employed in this work blends well with the colors of the houses. Good perspective has also been epitomized in this work. One could see depth in the work. The roofing sheets of the houses were done with brown colors and this complements the deeper shade of yellow used for the houses. The trees in the work have been represented with green color to make it more real as the skies are also illustrated with shades of blue mixed with white clouds. In all, the concept in this work is to communicate an example of poor sanitation in a typical urban settlement and to detail some possible factors that could lead to such littering and indiscriminate disposal of refuse as seen in the work.

Project Four

Project four as illustrated in figure 8 shows a 3-dimensional artwork of a settlement around water body and how it has been engulfed with filth. Most of our water bodies have been polluted with plastic waste and all sorts of solid waste thereby, making it unsafe for usage. In areas where the water bodies serve as the only source of water, it becomes a problem to get good drinking water. One area of great concern was poor sanitation with regards to our water bodies. Water pollution is a major problem in some communities in Ghana. With such scenario depicted in this picture, flooding is sure to happen upon heavy downpour. And because the settlement is close to the river bank in the work, their homes are susceptible to flooding. Due to the presence of filth in the river, it becomes a convenient place to facilitate the quick breeding of flies, mosquitoes and other small insects. These flies are mostly causative agents for sicknesses and diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid, trachoma and malaria. Obviously, poor sanitation as depicted herein would impede good health, societal growth and retard national development. Poor sanitation must therefore be frowned upon as it is an enemy to progress.



Figure 8. Littered future city; The finished work 32 X 50.5 X 10 inches.

In appreciating Figure 8, a number of factors come to play. As a basic concept for most of the works produced, different fabric types and colors have been used to represent the different types of waste be it, solid or liquid waste. Consequently, the tall buildings in the art work is based on the concept on futurism that, with the current filth in the community and in the river, should this attitude of poor sanitation continue in the future, it would be a gloomy one with bad effects, repercussions and consequences on the inhabitants, community and nation at a whole. The concept of this doomed future is represented with the black skies seen in the work. The whole concept of futurism is to present the future in the present. This conceptual textile project is predicting a future with complex sanitation problems if the country fails to address them now. The artwork is communicating an example of poor sanitation along our water bodies and its dire effects which ought to be dealt with and averted for sustainable socio-economic growth.

Project Five

The fifth work was done on a T-shirt. The work is represented below in Figure 9. This work is to create awareness and educate the public on the dire effects of poor sanitation. Thus, filth kills. The ideology of this work was gathered from responses and observations made during the field survey. This is a textile conceptual artwork inspired by action, one of the pillars of futurism. The action, speed and movement showcased in the design of the fabrics attracts attention to issues being raised. There is the need to promote the right disposal of refuse into dust bins and not

to litter or dispose them around indiscriminately. As a simple design concept, the white background T-shirt was chosen in order to bring out the whole design. The kente design patterns were used for the calabash. This is to promote the cultural heritage of Ghana. The calabash used here also symbolizes the dust bin. The fabric colors of red, yellow and green represent the nation Ghana, thus, promoting good sanitation in Ghana. The blue color represents royalty and therefore promoting the image of Ghanaians as royal people; people with high cultural values and dignity. Therefore, the concept here is that, the Ghanaian citizen is of high value, dignity and of a royal lineage and must therefore act as such and be responsible to adhere to basic hygienic and proper sanitation protocols. Consequently, awareness is created on the T-shirt by using the inscription, 'DROP THE FILTH; FILTH KILLS'. This is to stress on the imperatives of good sanitation and the dire effects of filth. From the findings of the study, this work becomes a necessity as it is of paramount interest to constantly educate the public on proper sanitation protocols. The T-shirt was also chosen for this work because anyhow wearing such T-shirt would be communicating to a myriad of people wherever he or she may find himself or herself. This forms part of the measures to reducing poor sanitation and improving upon the sanitation conditions in the country.



Figure 9. All filth be drop in a bin.

Project Six

Project six in Figures 10 has two illustrations. Thus, one for the front and the other at the back. The front illustration is based on flooding as an effect of poor sanitation as already discussed in this study. Because of indiscriminate disposal of refuse and littering, it chokes the gutters and whenever it rains, the gutters are unable to effectively drain the rains. This causes flooding. As epitomized in the front figure, three people can be observed raising their hands and crying out for help because they are getting drowned in the floods. It is observed in the flood that, there are waste particles. A black T-shirt background was preferred in order to bring out the whole design concept. Because of the black background, bright

fabrics were chosen in designing the buildings. The bright colors complement the darker shades. The philosophy of this work demonstrates that poor sanitation results in flooding and must therefore be avoided. In order to educate the public on the right thing to do, the researcher used the same T-shirt to depict a hand disposing rubbish in a refuse bin. This design was done at the back of the T-shirt. The idea here is that, if one wants to avoid the floods resulted from poor sanitation, then all refuses must be properly disposed in dust bins. Again, the black T-shirt brings out the design concept in right figure. The refuse bin has been designed with nice fabric colors that complement each other and the black background. The human hand has been depicted with a lighter shade of brown to represent the African or Ghanaian skin complexion. The T-shirt was also chosen for this work because anyhow wearing such T-shirt would be communicating to a myriad of people wherever he or she may find himself or herself. This forms part of the measures to reducing poor sanitation and improving upon the sanitation conditions in the country.



Figure 10. Flooded city, the front finished side on the left and on the right the back.

Project Seven

The seventh work is the final work produced by the researcher. Like the other works produced on the T-shirt, this also conveys similar message as it is also done on a cream T-shirt color. It also depicts poor sanitation as the refuse bin illustrated in the work has no appropriate cover which means that, the refuse would fall off and scatter the on the ground to attract flies, mosquitoes and other small insects who prefer such conditions for breeding and multiplying at a higher rate to inflict sicknesses and diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, trachoma, malaria

and typhoid on persons living in such poor sanitation conditions. Even though the refuses are all tied in black polyethylene bags, they are still left on the floor which could attract pest to feed on it. An appropriate way is to use refuse bins with their covers and ensure the refuses do not fall off to litter the ground. Proper sanitation must be encouraged at all levels. The work is illustrated in figure 12 and it is an installation art work. Another key concept seen here is, the legs are positioned on the neckline and the head positioned in the sleeve. This signifies the distortion associated with poor sanitation. With our cities engulfed with filth, it goes a long way to affect our daily lives in all areas such as health, economy and social development. The positions of the hands and head also represents the improper ways of disposing refuse in our surroundings. We are not doing things right, hence, the distortion also in this art installations.



Figure 11. The giant textile art installation work, size in inches length - 71, bust - 98, & sleeve L -17.5.

Conclusions

The Main Findings

- Creation of colorful scenes with indigenous textile waste materials in place of colors and brushes as depicted in futurist artworks emphasizes on the novelty in this work.
- Challenge with moulding three-dimensional figures with paper packaging case on a two-dimensional support was overcome by the use of 99 super adhesive glue instead of the wood or paper glue.
- The use of pieces of textile fabrics to show fluidity in the overflow of the filth requires a lot of skills to achieve that effect.
- Manipulation of fabrics to depicts movement and speed as in futurism art works is a novelty.

- Pieces of fabrics carefully assembled showed depth and distance
- Combination of fabrics, plastic sheet, bottles and other solid materials communicated the nature and composition of waste in our communities
- Exclamations by the population of the study that greeted the oversized shirt, with litters all over, as in Plate 103 succeeded in bringing out the distortions in Ghanaian attitudes towards sanitation.
- Reuse of waste materials such as fabric remnants, plastics and other objects reduce sanitation problems
- Fixing of a well-decorated gourd with colorful fabric on a T-shirt attracted people to the inscription, which says, 'Drop that filth,' 'Filth kills.'
- Exposed and uncollected refuse, dotted within the communities, cause health complications such as cholera, diarrhoea, malaria and typhoid.
- Perennial flooding that claims lives and properties usually occur due to choked gutters and creation of dump sites in waterways.
- There is creation of slums within the towns or cities which results in poor and unhygienic environments.
- Government is forced to divert public funds to solve emergency sanitation issues through its agencies such as NADMO.
- Poor sanitation has an adverse effect on the hospitality industry as it serves as a disincentive towards tourist attraction.

In summary, the study has revealed sanitation as a major concern for every developing nation. Nations that thrive for effective and sustainable growth pay critical attention to their sanitation issues. Ghana is currently facing major challenges with waste management. It has come to light that more attitudinal changes, from Ghanaians and state institutions in charge of sanitation, are needed to tackle littering of the environment. The study also established, from the findings, that textiles art is an effective communication tool against poor sanitation. Hence, more of such artworks should be executed to tackle other social ills such as deforestation and illegal mining in the society. It is also refreshing to note that, as the study revealed, textile arts that are usually displayed in two-dimensional form could be rendered in three-dimensional art form. Finally, major waste materials such as plastics, cut-off of fabrics and papers are useful and can be reuse as art tools and materials to reduce their impacts on the environment.

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