



## MAULANA JALALUDDIN RUMI'S POEMS OF LONGING AS A SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR PAINTINGS

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### Abstract

The artist attempts to visualize the value and philosophical meaning of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's poems of longing. The message and meaning in Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's longing poems will be the primary foundation in the artist's interpretation process, focusing on the value of love and longing to be realized as a means of visual communication through painting. The method of creating this final project is also an attempt to learn the artist's creativity, ideas, and techniques to express themselves through a painting and produce works that represent the artist.

The method used by the artist in the creation process includes observation, Exploration, design, and realization of the work. The artist observes and absorbs the values and meanings contained in Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's poems of longing through a source in the form of books, literary works, the internet, and philosophical studies about Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi. To support the process of creating this painting, the artist also explores by observing the works of previous artists and visiting art galleries. The results of these processes become the artist's capital to carry out a method of realization of the painting. The artist visualizes the idea in a painting, with eight paintings sourced from the artist's Exploration. The resulting artworks have sizes ranging from 100x80 cm to 120x100 cm. All the artworks were then exhibited and presented to the examiners.

**Keywords:** Poetry; Longing; Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi; Inspiration; Painting.

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## INTRODUCTION

In living life, humans always involve various feelings. These feelings, consciously or unconsciously, will cause an effect. These effects can be in the form of actions or other expressions. Even artists believe that some people strongly involve their feelings in everything they do, as said by Rifani, D. A., & Rahadi, D. R. (2021), that emotions and moods are essential factors in carrying out all human activities. This world includes what is often called longing. Longing is the mood of a lover who expects the presence of a loved one. Longing comes from the feeling of love, while love is the excessive willingness of a lover to his beloved. Love that does not give birth to feelings of longing, then be prepared to wither and die (Bonga, J. 2021: 26).

The discussion about longing and love is always connected to the feeling of happiness, which is very unpredictable. However, it often misses a debate that is no less important than all, namely the bitter feeling of bitterness that usually makes someone lose their mind uncontrollably. These feelings and conditions are often called heartbreak. A series must exist in love, namely falling in love and heartbreak. "You are free to fall in love. Anywhere, anytime, to anything and anyone. But it would help if you remembered, heartbreak is also an equal opportunity," the artist often says to friends.

Heartbreak is also explained by Pradipta A. R. & Raharja E. (2022), who state that heartbreak is a condition of inner pain caused by a deep feeling of breaking up.

Whether you realize it or not, the energy generated from feelings of love and heartbreak is potent. From the womb of both can give birth to various expressions and actions that previously did not make sense. A person can travel a very long distance to look at the face of someone he loves and imagine that someone can climb a high pole and throw himself down until he is destroyed and bleeds to death, a tragic and crazy thing. Of course, these actions can only be possible for people in love and heartbroken. Syafitri, A. N., & Nurfitri, R. (2023) said that when someone experiences falling in love or breaking up, he will expend more energy than usual.

Wherever you are  
Whatever you do  
Fall in love.  
(Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi)

Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi has beautifully captured his feelings of love through his poems. Not only about happiness but also poignant and bitter things cannot be separated from the content of his poems. The thoughts and views on love and longing in Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's poems are born from divine love or an expression of love for God. Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi emphasizes the purity of love that is not centered or focused on material things but love that arises from the depths of one's soul, as said by Octafany, A. (2021). The thoughts and views on love and longing in Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's poems are born from divine love or an expression of love for God. Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi emphasizes the purity of love that is not centered or focused on material things but love that arises from the depths of one's soul, as said by Octafany, A. (2021). For Rumi, the feeling of love arises from the depths of the heart. It is a beauty that reason will never be able to rationalize.

In Rumi's view, love is not just a matter of romantic feelings but also a means to romantic closeness to God and his fellow creatures. Rumi teaches about the wisdom of love that is focused and centered on oneself, fellow humans, and even nature (Sidiq, M. J. 2023).

Since the artist became acquainted with his works, he has been interested in Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's concept of love and longing. Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's concept of love was greatly influenced by his Sufi teacher, Syamsuddin At Tabrizi.

Through the teaching of Shams love, Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi was led to the proper perspective of love. Love that comes from the depth of the soul and purity of the heart. Almost all of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's works inspired the artist to create this painting. Among them are Rubaiyat, Divan and Matsnawi. These works contain views or perspectives of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's love and longing to look at everything in this world. The specialty of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's works is how he expresses what is in him using the language of poetry or poems that are based on love and longing. The artist said things about Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's works, which Abdurrahman, L. (2020) also noted, such as that Rumi used the language of love to express his inner expression. In his

works, there are stories, anecdotes, and others, all conveyed using the language of love, which leads to a spiritual path.

The works of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi make the artist believe that Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi did not write with his hands but wrote with his heart. Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi indeed wrote only some of the works in the form of books by himself. Still, he was assisted by his friend who was a blacksmith named Saladin; as the artist read from the book *Jalaluddin Rumi: The Great Poet and Sufi* by Suhaeni N. (2024:24), it is written that Rumi made his friend a scribe who compiled his works and wrote the verses he spoke when he was intoxicated by spiritual love. So the artist can imagine that someone is faithfully beside the drunkard of love to write beautiful sentences and words from behind his lips. And that someone is Saladin Zarkub.

So, from what the artist has read and explored in the research process, there is a difference between Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi and other philosophers regarding view or perspective. Maulana Jalaludin Rumi discusses anything about the things he encounters using perspective and the language of love; even Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi uses the language of poetry ayafi'ie K. (2022: 5) Tsaid hat Maulana Rumi is known as a philosopher with a path of love poetry that makes many people come to the point of more than admiration. His works feel firmly carved in the mind and soul; this makes Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi so admired by many people and makes his thoughts and views on love and longing a guideline in living his life. "Every leader is loved by his followers, but Mevlana is loved and respected by all nations and religions," said Ahmedin Kaiser, a Seljuki official who died in 1284 (Soemanto Bakdi. 2006: 207).

The artist innovates and renews this final project with an artistic approach by selecting objects that represent ideas about longing, objects that are considered contrary to good and bad values. The term the artist uses to describe the condition of someone longing with the term drunk or the analogy of someone drunk is also said by Hia, M. (2023) that drunk longing is often equated with people who have been fascinated by love. The artist uses the term because apart from the dynamics of longing, longing also has no measure of good or bad. Because it arises from a feeling called love, everything in front of him will have its beauty. The artist also hopes that the selection of objects that the artist functions as a disturbing force that creates curiosity can make the works produced later have their flavor and characteristics and be able to present things that attract public attention. As said by Purnomo, A. S. A. (2023), objects with disturbing power will attract art lovers and generate broad perspectives.

The artist will also visualize verses using Pegon Arabic or Malay Arabic visuals that are applied to the background of the painting using a raised texture. According to Elmubarok, Z., & Qutni, D. (2020), Pegon Arabic is a writing that uses hijaiyah letters but, in practice, reads Javanese or Indonesian.

## **METHOD AND PROCEDURES**

Every work of art must undergo a creation process, a series of methods and stages used to create it. Exploration is the process of researching or exploring the focus of ideas and initial ideas that the artist has chosen. According to Listianingrum, W., and Hendrawan, A. (2020), Exploration also aims to find suitable materials and media to apply their ideas and concepts.

The artist divides Exploration into two parts: external and internal Exploration. External Exploration is the stage where the artist examines things outside, such as visiting art exhibitions, artists' studios, or literature, such as reading books, journals, the internet, or other writings that contain the central ideas or ideas that the artist raises in this final project. Not only that, the artist also visited the study of the Rubaiyat book by Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi at Maulana Rumi's boarding school, Sewon, Bantul, Yogyakarta.

Meanwhile, in the internal exploration stage, everything that the artist has obtained during external Exploration is processed, such as ideas, concepts, forms, media, techniques, and aesthetics. After the exploration stage is passed, the artist's results are processed in the design process and realized in a painting work.

## **RESULTS**

After the artist conducts research and deepens the artist's source of inspiration, from the poems of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, which focus on the message of love and longing that will be the artist's focus in this final project. The artist explores and deepens visual concepts to visualize a poem of love and longing in the painting medium as a new language for conveying the message of love and longing.

What the artist is trying to raise will have a positive impact through an awareness and understanding of how society views things. The way Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi views everything with love is expected to motivate artists and society to use the perspective of love when looking at everything. Because by using the perspective of love, whatever is faced will feel relaxed and beautiful. It will create an atmosphere of peace and tranquility. As said by Misnawati, M., Admojo, W., Diplan, D., Rahmawati, S., & Salwa, N. (2023), the universe has deepened their understanding, so humans must color this life with the colors of love.

The artist brings these ideas and notions into the design process to obtain a complete work concept, both visually and aesthetically. The concepts the artist has formed are brought to the creation process. It is a process in which the artist begins to realize the concept of ideas and ideas to be discovered in the form of paintings, where, in these processes, the artist gets different artistic experiences in each process. The processes that the artist goes through during the realization of the work include:

1. Idea Design Photo Process. The initial process in realizing the work is for the artist to find objects representing the value and philosophical meaning of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's verses. The artist

usually directly photographs these objects as a visual reference in the creation process. According to Arifin M. S. & Lodra I. N. (2019), ideas include objects, events, processes, experiences, and the artist's study of something that is raised in the work of art.

2. The Process of Transferring Photos into Sketches. After the artist obtains the concept in the form of photographs of objects, the next step is to move the arrangement and transfer it to the canvas in the form of a sketch using a pencil.
3. Painting the Main Object Detail



Figure 1. Painting the Main Object

(Documentation: Mohamad Fajarudin Islam, 2024)

When painting the main object, the artist improvised on the colors and strokes that the artist created in the work. All improvisations are to support the visual character expected to be the attraction of the work.

4. Giving Texture to the Background of the Painting

The author obtains the Texture in the form of text through book references containing the poems of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Longing. The artist then processes and transforms the poems into Pegon's Arabic script.

5. Painting the Background Details



Figure 2. Painting the Background

(Documentation: Mohamad Fajarudin Islam, 2024)

After the artist has created a texture on the background of the painting in the form of Pegon Arabic script with the contents of the poems of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Longing, the artist paints the details of the background of the painting, such as lighting and shadows from the objects of the painting.

#### 6. Evaluation of the Details of All Parts of the Painting

In this process, the artist will observe the objects of the painting, the harmony, and the lighting in the painting. In this process, parts that the artist thinks should be added will be added; this is, of course, so that the work created has the same feel and taste as the artist wants.

#### 7. Finishing with Varnish



Figure 3. Finishing the artwork

(Documentation: Mohamad Fajarudin Islam, 2024)

The varnish finishing process is the last step in creating this painting. This process involves applying varnish liquid to the surface of the painting, with the aim of achieving the same glossy character.

The resulting works contain a value and philosophical meaning of love and longing from Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's verses of longing, which is the source of inspiration in the creation of this final project. Some of these works include:



Figure 4. "Waiting for You Under the Shade of Cambodia," Acrylic on Canvas, 80 x 100 cm, 2023  
(Documentation: Mohamad Fajarudin Islam, 2024)

I am waiting for you here  
for your silence to be broken  
for your soul to tremble  
for your love to awaken  
(Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi)

For some people, waiting is a very, very dull job. But for lovers intoxicated by the fresh wine called love, waiting is a very, very thrilling event. Waiting is the oil that fuels the fire of longing that burns out words and logic until all that remains is the face and shadow of his lover. There are things lovers usually do when waiting for their beloved, such as composing words and preparing a conversation or meeting chat. But unfortunately, no one can survive a heart that shakes like the earth and trembles like the sky. When it comes to this point called death, the most beautiful thing a lover can do is to enjoy the face and shadows of his beloved.

In this work, the artist conveys the value and philosophical meaning of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Poem of Longing. The artist visualizes the object of a person waiting for his beloved on a park bench under the shade of a frangipani tree with frangipani petals scattered on the sides. The artist informs us that when waiting for a lover, a lover can make various plans, such as chatting or joking, to fill the moment of the meeting. But in reality, all those plans will be in vain because everything will disappear when he looks at the beauty and beauty of his beloved's face. His soul will tremble so much that his body will freeze like a stone still wet to the touch of river water.

This condition is analogous to death, which the artist also tries to describe with the frangipani, a beautiful flower in the garden that is also beautiful next to the tombstones. Meanwhile, the wine bottle represents the feeling of longing like a drunkard.



Figure 5. "Enjoying My Intoxication" Acrylic on Canvas, 100 x 100 cm, 2024  
(Documentation: Mohamad Fajarudin Islam, 2024)

The work titled Enjoying My Intoxication is the feeling of a lover overwhelmed by his beloved's beauty. This work was born from the womb of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Poem of Longing. With this, many souls realize that the actual intoxication and the only intoxication that is legalized and even required to be experienced by every human being is the intoxication caused by the feeling of love alone. Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's poems of longing earned him the highest epithet of a poet. Imamul Ashikkin, the leader of all longers, is a turban worn by him. The poem that led to this work in the face of a smile and eyeballs glistening with the reddish radiance of a translucent crystal glass filled with wine is:

Oh, my beloved  
Offer wine in the early twilight  
You are the light of our eyes  
Every morning  
We partake of your hand  
O sun-faced one  
Turn over the glasses  
Offer the wine to me  
Not to the others  
You are the sultan  
You are the moon  
You emerge from behind the veil of dust  
You're the cure for everything  
Turn the glass over  
Now, it's time for you to pour love  
With all your majesty  
Be my cupbearer

I am your thirsty drunkard

(Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi)

The artist tries to convey a feeling of drunkenness with objects such as a drooping man with a notebook and a wine bottle in his hand. A white-furred puppy with reddish rose petals accompanied him. A lover's intoxication and dependence cannot be understood with just a visual; they are always invisible. So, they must be conveyed with a touch of feeling.

## CONCLUSION

After the artist has gone through various creative stages in creating a work of visual art in the form of painting, the artist can conclude that in the final project of creating artwork with the title of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's Poems of Longing as a Source of Inspiration for Painting Artworks is as follows:

1. Through the creation process, using a research approach and deepening Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's longing verses, the artist can visualize the value and philosophical meaning of these verses.
2. The artist can finally explore the potential of the writer's ability to do Exploration, both in terms of aesthetics and in terms of artistic or visual. From the potential that has been explored, the artist finally benefits from the discovery of a character in the breath of the artist's art through the processes and developments made by the artist while creating this artwork.
3. Through the longing poems of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi, the author can present a visual work as a new means to enjoy the values and messages contained in a literary work by using the approach of objects familiar to art lovers in particular and society in general.
4. Through the poems of Maulana Jalaluddin Rumi's longing, the author can present a visual work as a new means to enjoy the value and message of a literary work by using objects familiar to art lovers and society.

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