THE REASONS, MOTIVATIONS AND PERSONAL MEANINGS BEHIND THE STREET ART IN CAVITE

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ABSTRACT

Title of the Research:	THE	REASONS,	ΜΟΤΙΥΑΤ	IONS AND
	PERSO	NAL MEANING	S BEHIND	THE STREET
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This phenomenological study was conducted to find out the reasons, motivations and personal meanings behind the street art creations of one street artist group in Cavite. It has also carried out to unveil certain relational issues expressed through art works and the impact of street art in their life. The conceptual framework of this study originated from the thought of Fekner that street art, as a medium of expression, is a powerful tool to communicate (with everyone) and illustrate subjective opinions, ideas, emotions and socially relevant themes. This study utilized purposive non-probability sampling technique and included all the members of one street artist group in Cavite as participants. Their age ranged from 19 to 30 years old; the participants were composed of 9 males and 1 female. The following research instruments were used in data collection: Personal Information Data form, in-depth interview with the participants, fieldnotes and participantobservation approach by the researcher. To analyze the data, the

researcher examined and re-examined the jotted field notes and transcribed interviews of the participants to seek any regularities or patterns. Content analysis was used to count the frequency with which specific patterns appeared from the transcribed interviews. The analyzed patterns were grouped into themes. Essential quotes were selected from the narratives of the participants to support the identified themes.

Findings from the study showed that they create street art for affective expression, attraction of public attention, and for communication. The extrinsic motivations of participants in creating street art were the interpersonal relationship established among the group and other street artists; and the positive reception received from the significant persons and the public. The intrinsic motivations of participants in street art engagement are their enticement to complexity; the gratification they felt afterwards and the sense of purpose they realized. The meanings depicted in their art works were their self-symbolism and their social consciousness.

The findings entailed that even though street art is a risky activity (because of occurrence of accidents, health and safety risks), determined individuals continue to do it because for them, street art promote positive traits. Through street art, they had freely expressed and displaced their negativities implying that "street art can heal their own hurt".

The study concluded that street art is a potent instrument for expression, communication and display of talents for attention. Street artists were both extrinsically and intrinsically motivated in creating such art activity. Meanings depicted on their artworks basically revealed about themselves and their consciousness about surroundings. Street art has therapeutic features which can eliminate negative emotions and encourage positive outlook.

The study thereby recommends using visual arts in assessment of clients or students specifically those who have difficulty on expressing themselves. Visual arts therapy is also recommended in counseling depressed or apprehensive clients.

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