



Research Article

Volume-05|Issue-5|2024

The Role of Visual Art on Gender Based Violence in Eastern Cape

Mr. Siphosethu Plam^{*1}, Dr. Siphe Potelwa²¹ Associate Lecturer. Department of fine arts, University of Fort Hare, South Africa.² Senior Lecturer. Department of fine arts, University of Fort Hare, South Africa. ORCID Id: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6450-7324>

Article History

Received: 27.07.2023

Accepted: 15.08.2023

Published: 31.05.2024

Citation

Plam, S. & Potelwa, S. (2024). The Role of Visual Art on Gender Based Violence in Eastern Cape. *Indiana Journal of Arts & Literature*, 5(5), 1-11.

Abstract: The study aims to investigate the role of Visual Art on Gender-Based Violence in the Eastern Cape. The objectives of the study were to determine the use of visual art in our community and how art helps to improve or create awareness to the social ills, such as gender-based violence, to examine the use of visual art in defeating gender-based violence; and to observe the importance of visual art in this problem. The purpose of this study is to find out and to dig out on a matter of the role performed by visual art and art therapy on gender-based violence towards women particularly in highlighting the values of art in reducing or finding balance in means of creating awareness on women's abuse. Participants were selected using purposive sampling. The purposive sampling was used to find six people who have been under selection criteria. Three women and three men were among the participants. The data were coded, and thematic content analysis was used. The study results indicate that men are the cause of the femicides, and women abuse in the Eastern cape, however, Visual art is viewed as playing a wonderful role in alarming and educating people about gender-based violence.

Keywords: Visual Art, Women, Gender Based Violence, Awareness, Men, Therapy

Copyright © 2024 The Author(s): This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY-NC 4.0).

INTRODUCTION

This study seeks to express how visual art plays a role in fighting gender-based violence mainly against women. According to Essak (2019), visual art is those creations that we can see rather than something like auditory art, in which visual art forms that are extremely diverse. These visual art forms include drawing painting, sculpture, printmaking decorative, and craft. The study has explained the types of major visual art on gender-based violence to women. Furthermore, feminists and feminist movements have used art to combat gender-based violence. Because women's fight against violence is a never-ending battle, artists have used a variety of techniques and platforms to raise awareness of gender-based violence (Abdallah, 2018).

The researcher has introduced the theme of art therapy which is related to the role played by visual art on gender-based violence. Art therapy, according to Dresden (2020), is a type of treatment that combines mental health and human services by employing active art-making artistic thinking that incorporates psychological theory and human experience. however, main goal of art therapy is to improve people's well-being, art therapy takes place educationally, and rehabilitation setting, art therapy includes the following visual sessions, painting drawing, finger painting, working with clay, carving, making a collage. This study is influenced by Lieberman (2000).

The two mentioned themes of visual art and visual art therapy play a wonderful role in gender-based violence, as it is known that in general is therapeutic it

taps on the victims' deepest thoughts and feelings promoting healing, it opens the brain of the abuser to seek solutions and to question some, it opens childhood wounds and finds healing. According to Abdallah (2018), women's fight against violence is a never-ending war; yet violence against women must end, and art is the vehicle via which this can be accomplished; painters have a greater responsibility to play in combating this violence.

According to Helou (2018), the significance of art as a media format for raising awareness about gender-based violence has become an integrated component in combating societal and legitimate control over women's bodies. Furthermore, women's bodies have been used as sexual objects of attraction (Helou, 2018). Art has historically been an essential period for breaking taboos as well as attempting to point out cultural violations by depicting women in a way that is otherwise eye-opening and yet disturbing.

According to Jordan (2017), painting, sculpting, and performing release women from societal constraints, allowing them to express their emotions, particularly their fury, against the disparities they encounter daily. It starts crucial dialogues about male privileges and domination, stereotyping, and exploitation of women's bodies. It will not make violence go away, but it can start there.

As for the study the researcher's artworks are portrayed in human figures which are showing women by raising awareness of this violence. The researcher's work is extreme speaking about the violence against women, so the figures are human figures namely

women's breasts. The researcher is working with clay and collecting found objects to recreate art based on this matter to express feelings, painting on these figures to show the horror and the feeling as means of creating awareness.

The artworks are creating this awareness on the other side uplifting women in means of praising the existence of females, these works are painted with oxides and this collection of breasts is torn apart with stitches some are normal some are abnormal showing the sexual abuse towards women, this means or sends a message to the society that women are not property they cannot be treated as furniture, the researcher projects gender-based violence in another narrative by showing two things which uplifting women and showing the violence in the artworks which will be traumatic to see but the aim is to fight against this violence. The practical influencer is Henry, Moore, who is known for exhibiting abstract art forms of women in the war era, based in Europe.

According to Fletcher (2013), Economic violence (a type of psychological violence), intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, sexual assault and rape, violence arising from traditional practices such as dowries and female genital mutilation, horror killings, and human trafficking for sexual exploitation are all examples of gender-based violence. The femicides that happen are harsh, artists create art to process and promote healing its more of a voice of expression its either traumatic or explicit, the main aim is to portray a message to society without caring about the social cultural norms breaking the silence.

Art is a tangible tool that gives a space for one's inner voice capable of rehabilitation and self-love, many of the victims of gender-based violence are still trapped on facing fear on what the community will say, visual art then can help in opening feelings about past traumatic experiences.

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

In the past it was really condoned to abuse women and take advantage of them Abraham (1999:8). This patriarchal worldview generally favours men over women, claiming that authority disparities in gender inequality and oppressive patriarch actions against women are at the basis of gender-based violence. The art of the 1970s and 1990s, on the other side, is indeed very tangible, and it does not conceal behind the creator to convey the storyline. Modern artists were free to express visual ideas that have been previously prohibited, and to portray whatever could never be shown.

In the seventeenth century, several artists depicted rape in mythic imagery that has become so well-known that people really love the art and artists while ignoring the violent subject matter of rape, claims Lieberman (2000). Passionately in love, a lady was fatally stabbed by her boyfriend, who claimed that he

only gave her a few small nips with his knife. The development of the feminist movement in the 1970s resulted in a lot of politicized art, and numerous female artists decided to show violence.

Furthermore, Lieberman (2000) indicated that in the twentieth century, when women artists began to have a voice about violence in their own lives as well as in the lives of others, artists such as Frida Kahlo (1935) decided to paint a woman brutally murdered by her boyfriend, who claimed that he only nipped her with his knife a few times. Bringing the world's attention to the horrible femicide that was taking place.

According to Langa (2004), feminism had a huge impact on the histories of art produced in the following decades. Feminist academics have dug out new meanings that register the impact of gendered assumptions on established symbolic meanings, and feminists have recovered the most traditional instruments in both art history approaches. According to Jacquie (2002) stated that since the 1970s, women artists have been using their bodies in their work to explore issues of identity, gender roles, female sexuality, and the social construction of female body in relation to patriarchal systems of thought, however a stratum of north American feminist body art made at the turn of the century.

According to Jacquie (2003), feminist art that took to the streets, subways, or other non-traditional art venues championed activism and social reform as essential goals, and it was focused at making women's voices known socially and politically. By and large, this decade of work endeavoured towards defining collective experiences of women, in relation to sexual objectification or the codes of femininity to unite socially and politically, since women artists had not before been able to show their bodies in such material.

Jones (2007) argued that feminism has returned with the vengeance to the art world, The feminists' bodies, which served as vehicles for women's objectification as well as access to their own social and political institutions, became a battleground in two ways: the struggle for rights in relation to broader cultural norms, and the articulation of debates about power and strategies within feminism itself. In addition, Lieberman (2000) claimed that the use of visual images used by artists such as Carl Andree, she created a crime scene of the rape and murder of a fellow university of Iowa student Sara Ann Otters, for the performances she was found naked from the waist down covered with blood. This was to see the reaction by using visual material such as paint to paint as blood and perform an act as if she was raped to see how people respond to such incidents and voicing out to the world this incident.

Fields (2012) asserts that because female artists experienced discrimination, the feminist art movement may have had an impact on the greater women's

movement. In terms of aesthetics and methodologies, the feminist art movement, which got started in the 1970s, received support. Dekel (2013) asserts that art was fundamental to the social process that gave rise to the American radical feminist movement. Through their creative output, this group of artists not only advocated for feminism but also helped bring it about by upending preconceived notions.

Furthermore, other artists exploited their personalities and corporality in the most overt and sensual methods to advance political ideals and principles, including Lynda Banglis, who provocatively attached a dildo to her nude body in her massage. Nancy (2019) says that feminist artists have alternately exhibited ugliness, humor, vulnerability, and media-savvy counternarratives. Through radical performances, paintings, and pictures, artists like Yoko Ono and Suzanne Lacy came up with creative new ways to convey about violence against women's bodies.

Also, throughout history, violence against women had been tolerated and even condoned. For example, Roman law granted a man life and death authority over his wife over 2000 years ago, and English common law granted a man permission to discipline his wife and children with a stick or whip no wider than his thumb in the 18th century. Artists of the time created artworks in response to the brutality and to raise questions about society's mistreatment of women, which led to movements such as feminism.

According to Lieberman (2000), suit William's personal sculpture is irresistible on the Whitney Museum's floor. Kara's walker chronicled the sexual misuse and abuse of black slave women by their masters on southern plantations during those infamous years of American history on the mural in 1995. The pain of the crouched figure and the writing on it go straight to your heart, it cringes as if in a cartoon cocoon, but Kara's walker chronicled the sexual misuse and abuse of black slave women by their masters on southern plantations during those infamous years of American history in her powerful silhouettes. In addition, Kara was fighting against the abuse towards women with art using black and white paint on walls.

Rationale

What the researcher had in mind when working on this topic is furiousness on the abuse that is happening in the country the horrific incidents, femicides, and harsh treatment on transgenders, children, Lesbian Gay Bisexual, and transgender community. The society we live in is cruel and expect certain people to fit in with their ways which is wrong. The researcher decided to use art tool of rehabilitation to advocate for women gender-based violence and to teach people certain hidden things.

The reason the researcher is biased and focusing only on women's abuse is that from growing up, women

in my neighbourhood have been abused raped and our community used to shy away from intervening when a woman is beaten by her men. Now as an artist, I see things different perspective and it concerns me to see women mistreated. The researcher believes, women's need to be direct and indirectly treated fairly. Meaning we should protect women from the abusers. The researchers the voice of the voiceless. There are several studies that have a male perspective on feminism or whose authors are Deepak Raj Joshi and Pumla Dineo Ngqola.

The study is specifically focusing on women abuse because they are victims of abuse throughout the history and nowadays. These women abuse violence's also contributes to the traumatic childhood experience of the researcher. Hence, he is dedicated to put women abuse to halt through visual art and keen to eradicate psychological and physical abuse within communities. The researcher discovered that women are still being abused in our society but are afraid to speak up about it. We all know that uncle who beats his wife when he's drunk, but we act surprised when women are killed. The goal of this study is to expose and rehabilitate women using visual art to portray or express this violence.

The researcher's goal in creating this issue is to raise awareness and expose the social standards. The researcher is concerned and moved by the femicide occurrences that are occurring in the country, like the incident of a university student of Fort Hare named by nosicela who was chopped into a suitcase and as men, we are affected as well. The research questions are based on the art making on changing the behaviour and changing the situation by means of revealing what art therapy could do in rehabilitating the tormented souls, as in what art would do as a healing tool and give them time to express their emotions and feelings also show comfort. However, scholars believe that visual art, such as art therapy, will help to improve the lives of people who are victims of this type of violence. Finally, the researcher has tried to figure out what would happen if people were not rehabilitated and continue to feel pain after art therapy. They will also try to obtain the matter of making people confess their feelings visually and voice to voice more like a movement that aims to get stories by using art and interviews.

To find the knowledge or supporting literature needed to answer the research questions, the researcher firstly wrote about the role of visual art and art therapy on gender-based violence. In addition, the researcher has investigated what modern academics have to say about the role of art on women's abuse. In the research backdrop of this study, the name Jamie Bird and J.S Lieberman will keep showing up as the study theorist. Finally, the researcher has employed readings from other scholars to identify further primary and secondary sources that will aid in the conclusion of the inquiry.

Problem Statement

This study identified a problem that many perpetrators have not been rehabilitated by visual art and art therapy, and some victims have never found closure or forgiveness. They express themselves through visual art but remain unhappy. In most situations, this causes people to become depressed. According to Purdo (2014), art should be seen as a gentle art depressant, a cure for the depressed moods and people of the disillusioned modern world. We should conceive of museums and galleries as places to go for some self-improvement when we are crammed inside desks with debts.

Street (2014) claims that art is not therapy, or if it is, it is more like shock therapy than self-help, art unsettles and disorientates. Moreover, it multiplies mystery and uncertainly it is not a cure, or a diagnosis and art value does not inhere in its capacity to edify or console us art is not a massage bed or helpful set of directions to our true selves.

Julia (2019) asserts that art is therapeutic, but not therapy; therapy aims at transformation through understanding; art aims at transformation more directly; therapy aims at disarming emotion by putting wounded emotions in perspective; art uses wounded emotions to alter the perception of an existing outer reality through the reality we express; and therapy aims at disarming emotion by putting wounded emotions in perspective; therapy aims at disarming emotion by putting wounded emotions in perspective; and art uses wounded emotions to alter the perception of an existing outer reality.

Several researchers have brought up with the information or outcomes to verify that visual art is beneficial to many of the abused women, and artists are identified by pointing out this awareness on a good manner, as researchers have suggested that male abusers do not share information about previous horrific memories, possibly from childhood experiences.

Research Questions

Main Research Questions

The main research question of this study: What is the role of visual art on gender-based violence in Eastern Cape?

Sub-Research Questions

- What role does visual art do in reducing gender-based violence?
- How visual art practices change the people or fit in this conflict of violence?
- what is the reason to use this visual art and what it would improve?

Research Objectives

- To examine the use of visual art to defeat gender-based violence.
- To investigate the outcomes of visual art on gender-based violence towards women.

- To observe the importance of visual art in this problem.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to find out and to dig out on a matter of the role performed by visual art and art therapy on gender-based violence towards women particular on highlighting the values of art on reducing or finding balance by means of creating awareness on the women abuse. The study is finding the balance on the use of visual material and art therapy use in ways to reduce the violence that occurs, moreover questioning the imbalance on the gender inequality and to rehabilitate victims mentally. and physically and psychological with the visual art. This study purpose is to find out what has art done as a tool of recovery. Through collage and other visual material victims of violence create visual representation of their responses to experiences of domestic violence and abuse, visual representation shows past traumatic stories bird (2018).

Significance of the Study

This research has gathered data on the impact of visual art on gender-based violence against women. This research aims to strike a balance in terms of bringing awareness of the abuse and reduce tragedy that occurs mostly every day in the Eastern Cape, as it visibly reveals violence, as well as the involvement of perpetrators and victims colliding within art rehabilitation programs to tell their stories visually. However, these findings may result in a lower rate of rape and other forms of violence by informing people about the truth, they provide victims with the freedom to talk up and report such tragedies, and abusers with the ability to review on their difficulties and why they perpetrate such acts, they also provide victims with the confidence to not feel trapped in those relationships.

The findings of this study which is the main idea of rehabilitation on abused individuals this may help to create more platforms such as art organisations that will include both victims and perpetrators sharing their stories visually and voice to voice interviews on those who wish to share their stories.

Delimitation of Study

This study work was taken in the Eastern Cape. The scope of the study was partial to two areas that have experienced merges and Alice, Mdanstane. The caliber of sampled group was taken from these areas, inclusive were women basically who experience violence. As academic research, the sample size so determined contents the minimum regulations regarding the depth of the study.

The standard limitations of most research investigations, such as funding, time, and access to respondents, as well as their bias, may be eminent. However, the financial issues were addressed because the study was limited to the Eastern Cape province and

certain sites and places rather than the entire country., as we all know the eastern cape is one of them.

THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK AND LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter discusses theoretical framework adopted for this study. In addition, the chapter reviews preliminary documented literature. The purpose of the literature review is diverse. Among other purposes, it provides an understanding of the concept of visual art on gender-based violence. It also puts emphasis on the following of literature to be reviewed: paintings and murals that correspond to violence against women also art therapy's role in this violence.

Theoretical Framework

Resource theory and social exchange theory are the frameworks that McDonough (2010) says are being attacked, however, there are many other theoretical frameworks that encompass many facets of violence against women. Women's violence is a vast and complex topic that necessitates various viewpoints to adequately comprehend.

Literature Review

According to a study done by Okunola (2020), visual art opens the door for us to develop empathy and, as a result, moves individuals from awareness to action. Visual storytelling has the power to generate permanent change by highlighting the struggles and strengths of survivors.

Additionally, Annie Anglim's art exhibitions, specifically see it speak it, raise awareness, create change, and empower women to speak the truth, according to Burkart (2021), asserted that art has a purpose, that it seeks to promote awareness of and advocacy for issues of equality, social justice, and human rights while offering a haven for the community, that art is more than just artistic expression, and that it is an activist platform about inclusion, pushing boundaries, and affecting positive change.

Burt (2021) claimed that working with one's hands, feet, or other body parts while utilizing paint, clay, charcoal, or any other artistic medium can have strong healing effects. The notion behind using art as therapy is that creating art is therapeutic in and of itself and that using one's hands, feet, or other body parts to work with paint, clay, charcoal, or any other artistic medium can have tremendous healing effects. People can express and release their feelings and tension on a canvas by drawing or any other visual form of expressive therapy. Artworks produced using a variety of multi-modal and art therapy techniques can provide us insight into the minds and emotions of the creators.

According to Takei (2010), art has inherent therapeutic qualities, and by employing creative

techniques to create anything, a person might start to feel relief from their own problem without even having to actively focus on it; this is what sets art therapy apart from more conventional talk therapy.

Dean (2020) also used performance, visual art, and other creative works to spread the word about domestic violence and sexual assault. The goal of Art Against Assaults is to end the taboo around these subjects. Art therapy is being used more frequently as a recovery approach for assault survivors because it allows them to metaphorically depict their pain without having to express it aloud (Dean, 2020).

The repercussions of domestic violence and abuse are extensively addressed in therapeutic literature within a psychological model, and gender-based violence, or domestic violence, is frequently recorded in the field of domestic violence and abuse research (Haaken, 2010). Lagorios mentioned using art therapy with traumatized female patients (2008). She employs a phrase that is out of date because it only refers to women as victims and their addiction to abusive relationships. Even though modern art therapy continues to predominantly draw from psychological perspectives on exercise, it seems that art therapy is indivisible and related (Cohen, 2005).

According to Joshi (2018), the creation of a feminist coalition made up of both male and female activists is necessary to strengthen the role of males in eradicating gender inequality. does not mean that you hate, compete with, or hate males. Because feminism cannot succeed without males, it must let go of its commitment to masculinity in order to develop.

In 2015, Chopra recognized the value of the creative economy. People also believe they have the power to change their behaviour as a result of this awareness. Fashion and art have had a profound impact on societal change. On the other hand, art is thought to be a fantastic instrument for promoting awareness and inspiring action.

The violence towards women is bad and also it affects the health of women by this ill treatment, this study will simplify the fact that victims and perpetrators can be rehabilitated in therapy by ,however going to organisation or free organisation that would particularly go province to province in seeking balance and providing information to the society, more importantly to be given a chance to express their emotions to be given the chance to open up within art , therapy and community services, not as if the community is condoning man to abuse women it has be proven that man are the cause of such barbaric behaviour since then , as a result in means of protecting females should act wise.

However, it is difficult to manage people, firstly they should manage their stress, by going to therapy,

community services, women and man must be interviewed and go to art therapy those who volunteer, the perpetrators and victims, the people with communities who experience or see this violence in means of finding balance and rehabilitate by asking questions on how it feels to be under those circumstances or what makes one to feel loved when being in toxic relationship by using art as a tool or a voice of the voiceless.

METHODOLOGY

This chapter discusses the methods used by the researcher for the study. The phrase "research methodology" refers to a variety of techniques used in studies to gather data, which are subsequently used to analyse, justify, and predict results (Cohen & Manion, 2000).

The study area and a preliminary plan of fieldwork are briefly explained in this chapter. The research method and design that were used during the study are also described. This contains the qualitative approach utilized in this study, the research population description, sampling, and sample size. The use of research instruments, data analysis, rigor, reliability, credibility, and transferability of findings are all explored.

According to Thomas & Magilvy (2011), "Rigor is a technique to establish trust or confidence in the conclusions of a research investigation, in qualitative terms. It enables the researcher to maintain consistency across time in the procedures employed". As stated by Magilvy (2011), "Rigor, in qualitative words, is a technique to generate trust or confidence in the outcomes of a research study. It also gives an accurate depiction of the community examined. It enables the researcher to maintain consistency across time in the procedures employed. Additionally, it gives a true picture of the population under study.

Research Design

This study adopted qualitative method. Bhandari (2020) qualitative research is gathering non-numeric data, such as text, video, audio, to better comprehend concepts, opinions, or experience. It can be used to get deeper insights into a problem or produce new study ideas. This study had addressed the research objectives: which be to examine the use of visual art in defeating gender-based violence, as well as research question, which has been, what role does visual art do in defeating or reducing gender-based violence? the research has taken place in Eastern cape.

Sampling And Sample Size

The purposive sampling was used to find six people who has been under selection criteria. Horwitz (2015) purposive sampling is a qualitative research

technique for identifying and selecting information-rich examples relevant to a phenomenon interest. Three women and three men was among the participants.

Selection Criteria

Women, man, that were different in the age group, have been among the participants. the participant ranging from different age groups.

Participant Recruitment

All participants were notified by an email to participate in the study, which gathered information from the participants and store them.

Ethical Clearance

University of fort hare, faculty of social science and humanities granted the researcher the ethical clearance the annexure attached. Hanekom (2018) indicated an ethical clearance committee examines the research aims and methodologies of research to ensure that the research had been conducted in a manner that protects the dignity, rights, and safety of research participants, and the research design is ethically sound and likely to produce the expected results.

Data Collection

According to Simplilearn (2022), data collection is defined as a process gathering, measuring, and analysing accurate data from a variety of relevant sources to find answers to research problems, answer questions, evaluate outcomes, and forecast trends and probabilities. The researcher conducted an interview on an individual participant, the interviewer took about an hour, and it was taken on a place or location that is preferable and convenient to the participants, with the permission of the participants the interviews were audio recorded.

Data Analysis

The information gathered from the interviews and the focus group analysed that was used is the Inductive technique. Thomas (2003) stated that the purposes of using inductive approach are to condense extensive and varied raw text data into a brief, summary format, to establish clear links between research objectives and the summary findings derived from the raw data, to develop model or theory about the underlying structure of experience or processes which are evident in the raw data. Inductive approach reflects frequently reported patterns used in qualitative data analysis. The interviews, audio recordings had been transcribed exact, after those transcripts were analysed using thematic analysis method. Thematic analysis is a method of analysing qualitative data, it usually applied to set of texts, such as interview or transcripts, the researcher closely examines the data to identify common themes – topic, ideas, patterns of meaning that come up repeatedly (Caulfield, 2019).

Rigour

The following measures has been used to ensure rigour.

Dependability

Consistency in processes with all participants was guaranteed by using a predetermined interview question guide and ensuring that the same researcher interviewed all the participants.

Credibility

The findings were member-checked with the participants using a focus group to ensure the accuracy of the data acquired.

Transferability

This was assured by employing an audit trail to document a clear research process.

REFLECTION ON PRACTICE

This chapter focuses on the analysis and interpretation of the visual material that is produced by data collection methods used in this study. The researcher has used sculptures to portray or show the message, each and every artwork has its title that it differs but remain on the same contexts of showing love and creating awareness on a theme of gender based violence, the artworks resemble fragility and strength as we all know that clay is fragile once it has cracks it is damaged you can't fix it, this metaphoric use is based the difficulties women face, meaning their hearts are broken, damaged by the harsh incidents that happen on this country. These works intend to uplift and appreciate women.



Figure 1. Siphosethu PLAM, Titled, Goddess rise.

This artwork titled Goddess rise is an expression of the artist and comments on the study by revealing or relating that women should be appreciated and should be cared for, by showing love and support, art is an expression, this artwork is making an impact by creating awareness into gender based violence as we can see that this beautiful art piece is created with some few features that have cracks, these cracks are intentionally to underline the issues that women face such as the pandemic of femicides, rape, under the word gender based violence, this means within the goddess the beauty there is pain, that is hidden, this way we speak visually saying that women are our goddess they should rise upon

the violence and speak up about the violence and also fight this violence. Okunola (2020), visual art has the capacity to make permanent change by exposing the hardships and strengths of survivors, and visual storytelling opens the door for us to establish empathy and, as a result, move people from awareness to action.



Figure 2. Plam Siphosethu, Titled, Femininity.

Femininity or feminism are two keys that support women under any circumstances, under gender-based violence and other contexts but mainly on creating change to the oppression on women. Feminism is not for women only although the content or explanation sides with women, even man are feminists, the fight for gender based violence is for everyone to get involved not basically, women only, the argument or message this artwork portray is that we should be all feminists, it's not a matter of only women are involved that's why it has become a norm to publicly and privately harass or sexually abuse women because of the word "it doesn't concern me" to be a man that protects and loves women is a good thing to our society because we have sisters and daughters that seek our guidance, even taking a stand to say no to the abuse, to those night vigils and protests on rape charges and abuse I have never seen a man participate in those it's just a few, that has to end, lets protect one another. However, this relates to the literature of Joshi (2018), enhancing men's role in eradicating gender discrimination requires the formation of a feminist coalition of both male and female activists. does not imply that you despise, despise, or compete with men. Without men, feminism is insufficient, so to advance, feminism must give up its attachment to masculinity.



Figure 3. Siphosethu PLAM, Titled Inxeba linzulu.

Inxeba linzulu meaning the wound or pain is deep this certainly refers to the pain that women feel or hide, the violence and the abuse on women. They hide

the pain meaning inxeba linzulu, the abuse towards women has become a norm nowadays this means when victims are taken into art therapy under the abuse or rape, there is no guarantee that they will heal because the pain is too deep, as the sculpture has scars and dents it is intentionally to underline the pain that is incurable but with art the victim can express themselves and find some closure and relieve the trauma. There is no guarantee that a victim will get healed by art therapy within their deep Pain.

PRACTICAL INSPIRATION

The practical influencer behind these works is Henry Moore.

The late Henry Moore, who created semi-abstract reclining sculptures expressing the idea that humanity is part of nature, his work was also mainly focusing on the women figures that are abstract, these artworks were made during the war, I was inspired by these works. Henry inspired me to create my own ideas about life's perspectives using clay. The idea is to find balance within the creation of women and to appreciate their existence by uplifting women. In my artworks, I use white and brown clay with two oxides mixed on several art pieces, namely copper and black copper, with scars indicating the difficulties they face.

The researcher made some abstract busts and some realistic busts that are covered with oxides and other busts are covered with shoe polish. Henry Moore influenced me by his use of clay and literature. I liked the way he used to read an abstract figure which made me create my own idea on my own perspective. Artworks that inspired me are listed below.



Figure 4. Artist: Henry Moore, Titled, Seated women reclining figure

INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

The main purpose of this study is to find out and to dig out on a matter of the role performed by visual art and art therapy on gender-based violence towards women particular on highlighting the values of art on reducing or finding balance in means of creating awareness on the women abuse.

The major goal of this chapter is to bring together the data gathered through interviews and field notes, discuss it, and present it in a way that is constant

with the study's research goals. The presentation style used tries to highlight links between the research questions and the themes that emerged from the summarized data to showcase the most important replies and insights gleaned from the data analysis. The study attempted to answer the following research sub-questions: that is

1. In your view, how do you see art as a discipline for creating change?
2. How do you see art therapy and visual art on a broad context of gender-based violence?
3. Do you think that visual art is making an impact in means of reducing the violence in the region if yes what are the differences?
4. What do you think needs to be done to end these femicides that occur in eastern cape.?
5. How does this study relate to the visual art that is done by the researcher?

In your view, how do you see art as a discipline for creating change

The researcher asked the participants on many responded as follows:

Participant 1: stated that art can be used to change the world because art is universal, mostly anyone understands art, weather they are from any part of the world, so art can be used as a tool to change the world because of its universality, as we have many artists showing works on different platforms and expressing themselves.

Participant 2: mentions that art is a discipline of change on its own. Because artists always portray things that are hidden around the world in which we had no clue about, art can change the world by focussing on the social ills and the positive, also political as we have seen that art has a bigger voice because it is everywhere on this world. We see it on billboards and magazines, galleries, Television, its everywhere underlining different things so it would make a great change.

Participant 3: approves with the statement of the previous participants, asserting that art is not just about painting, design, and other disciplines' it also shows the deeper side of human beings, values and beliefs, it changes the way of thinking and in terms of connecting diverse cultures, it reflects on different contexts the negative and positive .it also bring people together and meaning to people's lives ,art is a universal language whether you are rich or poor.

How do you see art therapy and visual art on a broad context of gender-based violence

Participants answered to the question as follow:

Participant 1: indicated that art therapy and visual art in terms of gender-based violence is that visual art as artists are portraying the gender-based violence creating awareness by making artworks by creating a context by

reminds people by works that we are against gender-based violence, making sure that gender-based violence should be fought against to make a change. As for art therapy it paints a good image to habilitated minds to make changes, art therapy helps people to find closure and express themselves

Participant 2: asserted what the previous participant said that art is a therapeutic but not therapy, art can be used as a tool of healing, art helps to distress and think of something positive as we see it as therapeutic on a context of gender-based violence people can be healed emotionally just to find relief.

Participant 3: indicated that visual art and art therapy are more of a platform of expression and raising awareness on gender-based violence.

Do you think that visual art is making an impact in means of reducing the violence in the region if yes what are the differences?

Participant 1: started that so far art is making an impact because we see many murals many artist created in terms of reminding people of the social ills should come to the end the gender based violence ,murals , billboards that are there ,artists are creating more of the works that reflect on social standard , visual art makes an impact everywhere we can see works that talk about this violence , it tells that our society might come to change ways as people see that this is wrong.

Participant 2: indicated that art does make an impact and a huge difference to people because it makes them express their emotions, feelings through drawing, painting, and sculptures, it is also important to everyone because art connects deeper connections with people by telling stories, experiences, and trauma.

Participant 3: disagrees with the previous participants, visual art has no impact at all in reducing gender-based violence because the statistics show that violence is increasing every time because man do what they want, there should be more programs.

The study findings have shown that art has made a good impact on changing the world or creating awareness towards gender-based violence although it's not easy, it shows that art can manipulate and educate minds.

What do you think needs to be done to end these femicides that occur in eastern cape?

Participants answered to the question as follow:

Participant 1: asserted that what can be done is to create neighborhoodlike watch, create more billboards on the theme of gender-based violence to create awareness and make sure that youth have positive ways of spending their time, maybe creating community projects like

painting walls, knitting clothes that reflect on the gender-based violence to create this awareness.

Participant 2: indicated that firstly man should be educated on how to behave because this thing starts on the mindsets, man in the eastern cape basically think that women are there to be treated the way they want to be treated because they are man, the mentality that wants to control and take every decision without acknowledging their presence and power, the history has affected us as our grandfather started that women belong in the kitchen which is wrong these stigmas are still attached to many man in this province, man should be take responsibility to end gender based violence and kill the way we think, also talk about gender based violence not only when it occurs.

Participant 3: started that man are to be blamed for these actions so they should wake up and fight it, there is no other way to fix it but to have man also involved in it to stop it from happening, also the programmes art fairs.

The study findings have shown that the most blamed gender for femicides has to males which concludes that on this study man are to be blamed for the violence towards women, for their ignorance in the matter, the art scene must develop more of the awareness on every platform not just visually but verbally and on the social media.

Reviews Based on Practical

How does this study relate to the visual art that is done by the researcher?

The participants responded to this question as follow

Participant 1: The researchers work is more diverse but what I see is that the study underlines the role of art on the violence against women now I see breasts that are scared , engraved with names such as inxeba linzulu , that is more on pain that women hidden meaning they are strong even with the difficulties, as I read the title of works I see appreciation towards women and the way to promote peace under the thing of violence.

Participant 2: The major thing I have seen from the works is that they are naked, and they resemble women features which is a breast, that defines women, this corresponds to the study one can see clearly it is about women empowerment.

Participant 3: agrees to the previous participants that these works are more on giving appreciation under the appreciation of women in general, the titles of these works are deeper as a reader on the research you can relate that the study corresponds to the visual narrative that these works are busts that are mostly naked and by analysing them one can see that they are appreciating as the study says the role of art on gender-based violence now one can relate without going deeper but to see some few traits. The findings towards the practical have shown

that there is a link to the study based on the sculpturers made that reflect on the appreciation and awareness of violence by highlighting it also on the titles of the work. The sculptures resemble hardships by portraying cracks and scars which women go through, this concludes the study is corresponding with practical.

The selected participants are six, the three answered the questions based on the study and the two answered questions based on practical narrative, the last participant couldn't finish the interview due to the sensitivity of the topic of gender-based violence.

LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

This chapter analyses the broader implications of the current study's findings. Boundaries in the research design and data analysis methodologies are also explored, and recommendations for further research are provided. It should be noted that as and when various themes are presented in this chapter, ideas for such possible research are mentioned.

Participants appeared to have chosen in the inappropriate way. The study was also mostly intended to question perpetrators and victims, but they were too afraid to open. the study is focused on art, one of the research's goals was finding volunteers who had experience on gender-based violence and knowledge of art. some of the participants lack understanding of art, various people declined to participate because they had no experience of it. The researcher faced the challenge of first introducing the topic and then giving a description of what art is all about, which took extra time. The participants knew nothing about art but know what gender-based violence is in the sensitivity of the topic some were not comfortable sharing information or even talk about it, but they communicated with the researcher.

RESULTS OF THE STUDY

There were almost the equal number of participants in this study. There were no other races present; the study was done in Alice, therefore only the Xhosa tribe was present. Participants who were insensitive about the topic managed to voice up and communicated; the participants that are man were defensive towards the topic because of its biasness as they got deeper with the study, they understood what was intended for this study. The study is significant because the findings of this study advice and gives opinions on the matter of gender-based violence. Almost all the participants have never experienced this violence only one person who was kept anonymously and couldn't open when the interview beg: the participants know what gender is-based violence because they all come from Eastern Cape, Alice and Mdantsane the high zones of violence. according to the findings of the study indeed art has made a wonderful role as some people are exposed to it, art speaks in high volumes it may not end violence, but we can conclude it can reduce it by implementing it

everywhere tv, radio, magazines, newspapers, and visually.

RECOMMENDATIONS

On the matter of the impact made by art in the world or on the gender-based issue. This research has investigated the matter or the impact of art in the community, when conducting a research , the topic has to align with the practical work made in which it is known that a research has its ways to conduct a study but as for the upcoming fine art researchers it would be a good idea to let alone with interviews because participants are struggling to answer art based questions they don't really like art I suggested them to pick a better way to get data. Art should not be for artists only, on the matter of art that plays a role on gender based equality it provides closure and it is therapeutic, the researcher suggests that promoters , everyone who has power to change things to consider art as a number one platform to reduce violence .he also suggests that healing applicable to both perpetrator and the victim suggests, in jail perpetrators get better services, the programmes of habitation, that should be offered to the victims , instead victims are being victimised in government institutions such as police stations and hospital. It is reported by the state and trauma council 80 % of raped and abused women complain about bad services received in health care services, this has led to some victims being relucted to visit health care service, government officials should use professional techniques when dealing with victims.

CONCLUSION

Art must be taken seriously, the violence towards women in Eastern Cape is bad , the femicides and rape are way too much in the Alice and Mdanstane, especially man need to change their ways , there is no man who calls himself a man but they abuse a women ,even women should kill the tendency of saying that feminism is against man to be fighting man there is no mentality like that , we are working to end this violence we not fighting each other feminism is for everyone , we support each other by putting an end to the violence. Men in the Eastern Cape should get involved and learn some things, and mostly accept some things, that women are not property or objects that can be ordered around. men who calls themselves man should love and support women, only if man could get together by saying a no is a no meaning we look after each other. On the other hand, people must take uplift and listen to art. To end the violence the mindsets of people should be manipulated or educated by making more of those murals. billboards and other platforms to create awareness because art can speak loudly as it is universal.

REFRERENCES

1. Abdalla, M. (2018). Fighting gender-based violence through art. *The Arab Weekly*.

2. Abdul, N. (2018). Using art as a medium to raise awareness on gender-based violence. Nissa FM. Retrieved from <https://www.radionisaa.ps/en/article/597/Using-art-as-a-medium-to-raise-awareness-on-gender-based-violence>
3. Bhandari, P. (2020). What is qualitative research? Methods & examples
4. Bird, J. (2018). Art therapy, arts-based research and transitional stories of domestic violence and abuse. *International Journal of Art Therapy*, 23(1), 14-24.
5. Burkart, E. (2021). *Ending Gender-Based Violence: 'See It, Hear It, Speak Out!' at Cause and Affect Gallery*. Arts Help
6. Caulfield, J. (2022). *Textual analysis guide: 3 approaches and examples*. Retrieved from <https://www.scribbr.com/methodology/textual-analysis/>
7. Cohen, A. (2020). *Body Issues: Feminist Artists of the 1970s Used Art to Condemn Sexual Violence*. Retrieved from <https://www.artsy.net/article/artsy-editorial-body-issues-feminist-artists-1970s-art-condemn-sexual-violence>
8. Cohen, L., Manion, L., Morrison, K. R. B. (2000). *Research Methods in Education. Hungary*: RoutledgeFalmer.
9. Dean, E. (2020). Healing: Recovering from sexual assault through creativity. *Cronkite News*.
10. Dekel, T. (2013). *Gendered: Art and feminist theory*. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.
11. Dillon, G., Hussain, R., Loxton, D., & Rahman, S. (2013). Mental and Physical Health and Intimate Partner Violence against Women: A Review of the Literature. *International journal of family medicine*, 2013, 313909. <https://doi.org/10.1155/2013/313909>
12. Dresden, D. (2020). *What is art therapy, and how does it work?* Medical News Today.
13. Simister, J., & Kowalewska, G. (2016). Gender-based violence and Christianity: Catholic prevention of divorce traps women in an abusive marriage. *Psychology*, 7(13), 1624-1644.
14. Haaken, J. (2010). *Hard knocks: Domestic violence and the psychology of storytelling*. Routledge.
15. Hanekom, S. (2018). The need for ethical clearance. *Stellenbosch Business School*.
16. Hiska, R., & Chopra, P. (2015). Can fashion and art help prevent gender-based violence? Retrieved from <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/voices/can-fashion-and-art-help-prevent-gender-based-violence>
17. Palinkas, L. A., Horwitz, S. M., Green, C. A., Wisdom, J. P., Duan, N., & Hoagwood, K. (2015). Purposeful Sampling for Qualitative Data Collection and Analysis in Mixed Method Implementation Research. *Administration and policy in mental health*, 42(5), 533-544. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10488-013-0528-y>
18. Jones, A. (2007). The return of the feminist art. *X-Tra Contemporary Art Journal*.
19. Julia, C. (2019). Art is therapeutic, not therapy. Retrieved from <https://juliacameronlive.com/2019/11/16/art-is-therapeutic-not-therapy/>
20. Langa, H. (2004). Recent feminist art history: an American sampler. *Feminist Studies*, 30(3)
21. Lieberman, J. S. (2018). Violence against women in the work of women artists. In *The Courage to Fight Violence Against Women* (pp. 177-188). Routledge.
22. Princenthal, N. (2019). *Unspeakable acts: Women, art, and sexual violence in the 1970s*. Thames & Hudson.
23. Okunola, A. (2020). *This visual artist highlighting Nigerian women's stories of gender violence*. Global Citizen.
24. Purdon, J. (2014). *Pointless exercise: Alain de Botton's "art therapy."* Apollo Magazine.
25. Simplilearn. (2022). *What is data collection? Methods, types, tools, and techniques*. Retrieved from <https://www.simplilearn.com/what-is-data-collection-article>
26. Takei, S., & Riley, S. (2014). Positive Effects of Art Therapy for Women and Children from Backgrounds of Domestic Violence. Retrieved from <https://minds.wisconsin.edu/handle/1793/68984>
27. Thomas, David R. (2003). A general inductive approach for qualitative data analysis. *American Journal of Evaluation* 2006 27: 237.
28. Thomas, E., & Magilvy, J. K. (2011). Qualitative rigor or research validity in qualitative research. *Journal for specialists in pediatric nursing : JSPN*, 16(2), 151-155. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6155.2011.00283.x> Retrieved from <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1744-6155.2011.00283.x>