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INSPIRATION

Unconscious burst of creativity in a literary, musical, or other artistic endeavour- Wikipedia

All artists encounter days (or weeks, or even months) when we feel unspired or uncreative. The despair really gets into your head, and you feel the need to eliminate this lack of creativity immediately. It's ok to be uninspired, but here are some tricks that could help you get back on track.

Art is always evolving though time- it's been affected by historical events, technology, trends, things that are constantly changing. Art is taking an idea, twisting it, and making it into your own. You could also imitate art or recreate other artists' work. This is a way of learning new techniques and experiment.

Research Rummage

Keep researching, through whatever source possible— the internet, books, magazines, newspapers, anything can get you inspired. Somethings you've overlooked could be an inspiration. Movies, music, and literature are also great places to start - developing an idea you like from these original pieces. If you come across something interesting hidden in a pas-

Art is thoughts expressed through visual forms. Sometimes, art communicates louder than words. Take your feelings and turn it into a visual form. You can treat art as a form of journal; to record your feelings and what you encountered.

Get out in the open, take a sketchbook and some pens with you, find a quiet spot, sit down, and start drawing something. Inspirations can hit you at anytime, so it is a good idea to carry your book of ideas around for when an idea strikes. Doodling is another way to boost your creativity. Get out of your comfort zone—be

up for something different. If you've never try sculpting, give it a try, it could inspire you to do something new that you've never thought of before.

Talk to your fellow artists and mates, share ideas and your artworks, to acknowledge what is good or what you need to improve on for your artworks. Some artists prefer to work with solitude, but making a change by having a company might help you out of the lack of inspiration. You might also be getting more ideas by seeing how other artists approach their situations.





THE UNIQUENESS of the RENAISSANCE

Each and every art period brings a change to the history, to the world. The Renaissance, with its literal meaning 'Rebirth'. Lasting from the 1400s to the 1600s, Renaissance was the *rebirth* of the Middle Age period, when the values of Ancient Greece and Rome were recognised and appreciated. People started putting the pieces together after the period of despair and helplessness of the Dark Ages— it was the blooming season for philosophy, literature, and art.

During the Dark Ages, Christianity was the dominant religion and knowledge was lacking. In the time of the Dark Ages, the church was in charge of education, and religious figures were powerful in the society— religion was all people looked up to. The plague, the Hundred Years war, the riots that ran through Europe, the unveiled truth of Catholic churches and the religion, brought grief and desperation to humanity. Renaissance was not only a cultural rebirth, but the period of new inventions and ideas— when the mind and beauty of human beings were appreciated.

The art period originated in Italy in the late 13th and early 14th centuries— the scholars and artists saw themselves as the leading figures and took it as their responsibility to rejuvenate classical Roman cultures— this is known as the "proto-Renaissance" period (1280-1400). Renaissance art started spreading all through Italy during late 14th century, reached its peak during late 15th and early 16th centuries. it was the days of many of the most renowned artists such as Michaelangelo, Leonardo da Vinci, and Raphael. Renaissance art is recognized to captivate the individuality, beauty, and nature of the world. The Renaissance brought the attention to painting, sculpture, architecture, and more.

Renaissance art associates greatly with religious values and rituals, as seen in the 'Virgin Mary' or 'Madonna'. What we call exceptional artworks today, were devotional commodities in those days. Many altarpieces correlated to religious beings, were made during the Renaissance period, and displayed in Catholic churches as they were donated by patrons. While Dark Ages art was mostly religious and fixated on Christianity— its concepts and values, art in the Renaissance was not as focused on religions. The

concept of Realism was also brought in and has became a prevalent painting technique, as well as perspective drawing, and the further use of light and shadow.

New roles in the art society were introduced— patrons. Patrons are religious characters and organizations such as popes, prelates and convents, in which most are wealthy citizens who appreciate the arts. Patrons have the role of promoting knowledge, revivalism, culture and the arts. Artworks were commissioned by the government and wealthy individuals— purchasing art is a way of elevating one's status. The prominent patrons in the Renaissance were the Borgias and the Medicis.

The Borgias were an Italian family of talented men and women, originally from Spain. Despite their enviable, hated although dramatic rise in the society, they were corrupt and treacherous. The Borgias were the infamous, feared family of the Renaissance. Crimes of lechery, murders, and slaughters of own siblings, were committed and known all around. What they







The Borgias

stood for, attracted a brilliant crowd regardless of the hatred put upon the Borgias. Their successful period was in the late 1400s and early 1500s.

The leading group of patrons of the period was the Medici family. By the end of the 14th century, the Medici were perhaps the most prosperous family in Italy with their progressive development of the family through serving crucial roles in society and government, such as Savesto de Medici, who was a gonfalero (bearer of a high ceremonial office), and Cosimo de Medici, who basically controlled the government of Florence. The family spent a large amount of money on supporting artists, building facilities such as churches and libraries. With the help of the Medici,

Florence became the most impressive and influential state in Italy, and the most exquisite city in the world.

Painting made up a big part of
Renaissance art. Elements were added onto the
field of art— emotions became a bigger part of an
artwork— to portray the feelings of the artist, and
for the audiences to receive an emotional
experience. It was also a teaching form, to have
the viewer endure a certain emotion to encourage
them to become a better citizen. In addition to the
creation of perspective drawing, artists made their
paintings more realistic by displaying emotions and
illustrating ideal forms of living things. The use of
shadows and lights were popular as to add a more
realistic touch to an artwork.



animals.

Leonardo da Vinci

(1452-1519),

Supper,
Leonardo
da Vinci
(late 15th
century)

or the "Renaissance man", well-known for his wide
range of intellect, interests, and talent. His ability to
allure audiences through his expression of
humanist and classical values in his paintings.
Leonardo's paintings, Mona Lisa (1503-05), "The
Virgin of the Rocks" (1485) and fresco, The Last
Supper (1495-98) are some of his most well-known
artworks. His remarkable techniques includes his
ability to portray light and shadow, the proportion
between physical figures such as humans and

Another concept of art that came up during the period was *Perspective Drawing*, introduced by the architect Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446). Perspective drawing allows the artist to add three-dimensional depth to their work—offering a new angle to look at a work of art. The three main branches of perspective drawing are linear perspective (the further the object is, the smaller it is), horizon line (a point where the object becomes infinitely small), and vanishing point (where parallel lines join in distance).

Raphael Sanzio (1483-1520) learned from both da Vinci and Michelangelo. His painting, "The School of Athens" in Vatican (1508-11), was painted at the same time as Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564)'s Sisten Chapel—both expressed the classical ideas of beauty, serenity, and harmony.

Artists such as
Giorgione (1477-1510)
and Titian (1488-1576)
developed their oilpainting skills by painting
directly onto the canvas; this
technique allowed artists to
retouch their artworks— when
fresco painting on plaster would
not. Fresco painting is a
technique of mural painting on
lime plaster, usually on walls or
ceiling, when the paint is settled,
the painting is integrated into the

David, Michelangelo

Artists in the period of time created the first free-standing nude *statues* in the era. This was a shock to the public at first, although it became accepted afterwards. Statues were believed to communicate realism through form, motion, and feeling— and is the divine creation. One of the most recognized sculptures of all time, *David*, is the work of Donatello in 1440.

Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), one of the most well-known artist, specialty in sculptures, seek inspiration on the human bodies and created artwork on various materials. Having produced sculpture pieces such as the Pietà in St. Peter's Cathedral (1499) and *David* in Florence (1501-04), in which he carved by hand, starting from a block of marble; the finished statue

measures five meters tall. Although he considered himself a sculptor, his reputation in painting is as favorable, remarkably his colossal fresco



covering the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (1508-12), depicting scenes from Genesis.

Perspective study by da Vinci

All through the 15th and 16th centuries, the idea of Renaissance made its way throughout Italy, into France, northern Europe and Spain. Renaissance has changed the society to become the world where knowledge and art flourished. Besides the excellence in the field of arts, most of other leading figure such as da Vinci— not only did he bring up new concepts of art, but also had an essential role in the medical field. Although the period of Renaissance reached its end of era, it is still being celebrated until today, through the new ideas that were created and has made advances in the society.



What differentiates REALISM, IMPRESSIONISM post-IMPRESSIONISM and FAUVISM/ EXPRESSIONISM ?????

"I don't know much about art, but I know what I like."

Translated from the French phrase "Je ne connais pas grand chose à l'art mais je sais ce que j'aime."— it remains unknown of whose quote this is, but it sure is a mutual thought shared among art-viewers. An artwork could evoke a positive or negative reaction from the audience. Having some knowledge of the styles of painting would give you a better sense of what the artist might be trying to communicate, or the message the artwork delivers. Modern art is the art in which 'traditions of the past have been thrown aside in a spirit of experimentation' (Wikipedia, "Modern Art").

There are many styles of paintings: Abstract, Photorealism, Impressionism, Realism, Expressionism, Surrealism, and many more. In this article, I'll be focusing on the four consecutive art periods/ movements taking place during the end of 19th century up until the beginning of 20th century in France and slowly spread throughout Europe— Realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Expressionism/ Fauvism.

The similar overall look of the four styles of painting creates confusion as to pin-point on what the style of an artwork is. While the Realism art period falls under the Post-Renaissance Art (1600-1850) period, the other three styles mentioned above: Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and Fauvism and Expressionism, are all under the Modern Art (1850-1970) category, which is the period that follows right after the Western Art period.

Realism (1848-1900)

The Renaissance period highly inspired, and essentially 'dominated' the Western Art period—the period of idealized painting and high-society art. After the Industrial Revolution, the main focus turned towards the realistic depiction of subjects, that is out of the high art tradition to create a contrasting style of art. The exploration of 'visual reality' from the invention of photography in 1840 also inspired Realism.

Realism— a French style of painting focusing on the reality of the subject. Realism is an action against the exaggerated emotions of Romanticism (1765-1850). Realist painters such as Millet, Corot, Courbet, and Manet, preferred the unbiased view that reflected realities rather than dramatic painting.

The use of Realism ranges from Historical painting, personal portraits, and landscapes. Scenes of the contrasting rural and urban working class life, street-life, nudity/ sensual objects are the popular subjects of painting. This came out as a shocking approach to the upper and middle class patrons, although that goes right to the point as they are



Jean-François Millet (1814-1875) 'Haystacks: Autumn', 1873 (oil on canvas)

trying to distant from the 'ideal' (a.k.a. classical mythology, Renaissance art).

Hence, Realism artists tend to draw *real* people not the *idealized* body types in figure drawing. Most realist paintings are usually of activities in daily basis—the life of the people during the Industrial Revolution.

Realism offers artists the independence in interpreting the aesthetics and authenticity.

Impressionism (1865-1885)

The Anonymous Society of Painters, Sculptors, Printmakers, etc., a group of artists held an exhibition that led to the Impressionism movement in 1874. Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Camille Pissarro, Pierre Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley, and Henri de Toulouse Lautrec are some of the founding members. While conservative critics judged their work as unfinished, sketch-like pieces,

the more liberal ones praised Impressionism for its depiction of modernity. Impressionism was the quiet protest of the traditional rules of the wellrespected French Academy of Fine Arts to present art through a different perspective.



Impressionism, also originated in France during late nineteenth

Post-Impressionism (1885-1910)

Post-Impressionism was rather a collective title to the works of independent artists at the end of the 19th century. Post-Impressionism was an act of revolt against the limitations of Impressionism as to develop personal styles.



Vincent Van Gogh (1853-1890) 'Cypresses', 1889 (oil on canvas)

Georges Seurat (1859-1891) 'A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte', 1884-1886 (oil

paint - pointillism)

century, was a style of vivid and vibrant colors where the artists seek to capture the momentary effects of the light in nature. Visual impressions of nature is appreciated tremendously in Impressionism, particularly on the effect of light and color.

Focusing on transitory visual impressions, these paintings are often painted directly from nature, emphasising on the effect of light and color. Impressionists preferred working outdoors.

Outlines and detail of the subject are replaced by the use of small coloured strokes of paint. Similarly to Realism, Impressionism enriched the use of colors with the idea that complementary colors of the object make up the shadow of an object rather than using the traditional brown and black.

Claude Monet (1840-1926) 'Bridge over a Pond of Water Lillies', 1899 (oil on canvas)



Paul Gauguin (1848-1903) 'When Will You Marry?', 1892 (oil on canvas)

Among the most significant Post-Impressionists, Paul Cézanne, recognised for his use Fauvists and Cubists twist of art, was one of the most influential artists of the twentieth-century, as well as a respected figure to Picasso and Braque. Other major artists include Vincent Van Gogh, Georges Seurat, and Paul Guaguin. 'Les Fauves' was inspired by Gauguin's symbolistic colors and Seurat's pointillist technique.



Fauvism and Expressionism (1990-1935)

Expressionism; an art movement that covers two major forms of art in Europe: Fauvism and German Expressionism.

Expressionism first made its appearance in Paris as one of the first avant-garde* movements of twentieth century art. French artists including the art students of the Ecole des Beaux-Artes Art Institute, students of professor Gustave Moreau, such as Henri Matisse and André Derain, called themselves Les Fauves or 'wild beasts'. Les Fauves exhibited their paintings at the Salon d'Automne, in which the works were described as distorted and anti-naturalistic. Fauvism celebrates the outrageous, bold colors as to express not only the artist's interpretation of the subject but the emotions as well. Fauvist paintings can be either extremely simplified or intensely exaggerated.

Expressionism is the emphasis and distortion of emotions— the emotional or spiritual vision of the world. Although it spreads all through Northern

Europe, it is especially popular in German. Similarly to Surrealism - the art of exploration of the dark side of the human mind, German Expressionism is a reflection on psychoanalysis by Sigmund Freud.





Ernst Ludwig Kirchner (1880-1938) 'Street Dresden', 1908 (oil on canvas) Fauvism, German

Gothic, Primitive

art, the works of Vincent Van Gogh and Edvard Munch are all influences of German Expressionism.

Expressionists were divided into two main groups: Die Brücke and Der Blaue Reiter.

Die Brücke (The Bridge) - Led by Ernst Ludwig Kirchner and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff, the society of young artists in Dresden aimed to overcome the conservative traditions of German art to break out of the tradition.

Der Blaue Reiter (The Blue Rider) - With Kandinsky, Marc, and Macke as its founding members, the Blue Rider published and exhibited their works to find a common ground for the diverse Expressionist forms.

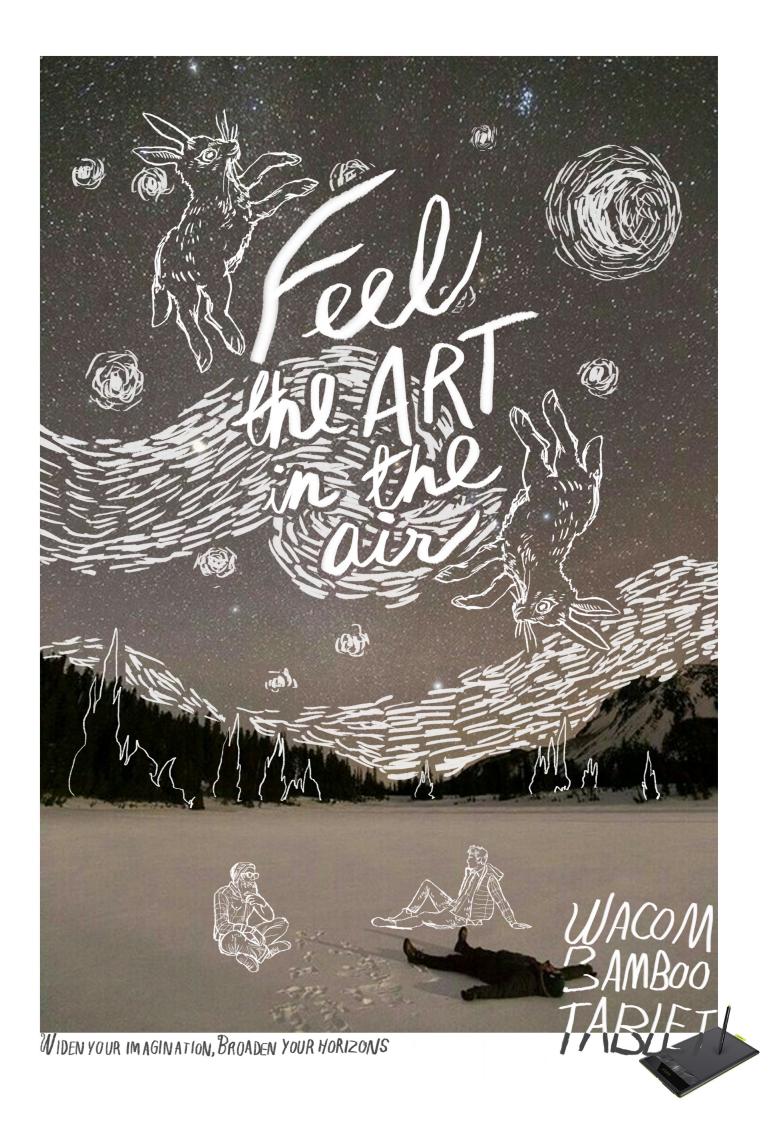
Paul Cézanne (1839-1906) 'Antoine Dominique Sauveur Aubert (Cézanne's uncle), as a Monk', 1866 (oil on canvas) >

'Dish of Apples', 1875-77 (oil on canvas)





^{*}Avant-garde new, unusual, or experimental ideas



A DAY AT BACC

On an ordinary, boiling day in Bangkok, I decided to have a quick look through the famous art museum of Thailand, *bacc*. I then stepped into the all-white modern enormous building standing next to the National Stadium BTS station.

Bangkok Art and Culture Centre, or as known as *bacc*— is a contemporary art museum of Thailand, is one of the most well-known art museum among the society of art-admirers. The museum holds a number of different exhibitions of either Thai artists or international.

Anything from art, design, music, theatre, and film to the cultural and educational events can be found at *bacc*.



eross over For the fifth time I've visited the art museum, I found it interesting to come back from time to time. I've had a visit to the museum once not long before, and had a glance at these exhibitions only for a short time, although this time I've had a chance to look further into the explanations and appreciate the artwork.

The series of 'Crossover: The Unveiled Collection' was on display through the seventh floor. The purpose of this collection, is to show the development of art through the Thai history and changes that has happened in the art society. What has influenced and shaped up what art is in the Thai society today. The controversy of traditional values that

has compromised with the idea of modernity. These artworks are made up of pieces of memories, added with what the artist has and found along the way during the process.

Strolling along the corridors, there was one particular set of painting that

captured my sight—it was a series of oil painting with the color scheme of blue and white, with a

hint of other soothing, calming, warm colors. The 'Ballad for Khrua Inkong' by Natee Utarit consists of 13 paintings At first, the piece struck me as photography pieces, although that is the point the artist is trying to make, which is to be very precise with how it's painted and to have the painting closely imitates the actual photograph and atmosphere, as known as *Photorealism*. With a little research, I've found out that Utarit was, in fact, contradicting the 'idealism' of communicating emotions through the delicate brushstrokes.

As I walked along, I saw what looked like boxes of pieces of artworks caught my attention. As I walked closer towards the pieces hung up on the walls across the hallway, I discovered that these were different styles of artworks on different mediums, by various different artists. The collection is of Phakphong Ching, who didn't overlook the beauty of small pieces of artworks. Each one tells a story, and most might seem like they don't connect— it doesn't add up. Although when put together, they all connected in the way of colors - how the simplistic and complexity of each fulfilled each other. Which connects back to the society, how everything should be balanced, the extreme fulfilling the minimal. Most of the artworks look unfinished, or they might be seen as doodles - this is because these pieces were originally the artists' immediate ideas and experiments, thoughts drawn onto paper. When compiled together, it is easier to observe the other sides of artists we don't normally see. Some of the works shown are by Sakarin Krue-On, Angkarn Kalayanapongsa, Thawan Duchanee, Parsing Luemaung, and others. The style and medium of the pieces vary from a black canvas with a simple, tiny dot of black ink in the middle, line drawings of a member of one of the member of the royals family, to a full-on mixed media portrait.

One of the main exhibitions was Imply - Reply— work of Huang Yong Ping and Saran Krue-On. Huang Yong Ping, a provocative, avant-garde Chinese artist collaborating with Sakarin Krue-On, a distinctive contemporary Thai artist.

Imply - Reply talks about the ideas of art and its relationship with various issues of the world through the changing era. I was intrigued by the exhibition as to how the artists have chosen such

a deliberate topic to somehow display through abstract, representative art. In the

VIKING LINE



exhibition, a range of different and unusual choice of materials were used— the abstract pieces varies



from construction brick blocks, monkey figures on old, antique table with textbooks, and animals' faeces in a cage.

One of the pieces, Passage, talks about the concept of distinguishing borders and

nationhood. The concept is represented through a lion cage, its faeces and carcasses. At first, the idea didn't add up, although after having read the description, it made a lot more sense. The piece was inspired by the artist's own experience of being sorted into categories as a non-western traveller, arriving at the Airport of Glasglow. I have experienced this many times myself, as someone who travels a lot. The cage symbolises the power and network that is invisible to the eyes, and what's left behind— not being shown to the public, is its faeces and waste.

Although out of all the sculptures from *Imply Reply*, this one was my favorite. *L'Ombre Branche*, or 'White Shadow' is a sculpture of a white elephant, representing goodness and purity, and what looked like the shadow of the figure, was actually the skin of a buffalo, to make it seemingly like what the elephant's shed. Having known of the animal being an elephant, but shedding the skin of a buffalo, evokes the question of if there's a deeper meaning of the piece, furthermore, to allow the freedom of interpreting the implication by the audiences themselves.

This particular piece grabbed my attention more than the others— the first glance I took, I was just examining the delicate details of the elephant figure, although with a more careful look, I realized that the shadow was not *just* the shadow— it was the skin of another animal. So that was drove me to find out more about it.

At the end of the day, I left with insights and new knowledge that's been passed to me through these pieces of artworks. If you've never been to *bacc*, I highly recommend you do so—even if you're not reading about the descriptions, I'm sure the artworks will evoke some emotions in you. It's always worthwhile to have a visit at the museum.



'L'Ombre Branche'



'Passage', Huang Yong Ping

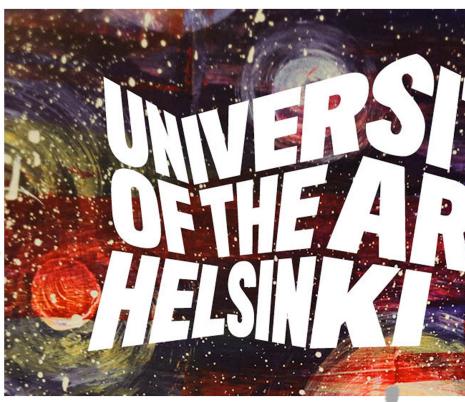


Bacc is opened everyday except monday, from 10 am to 9 pm.

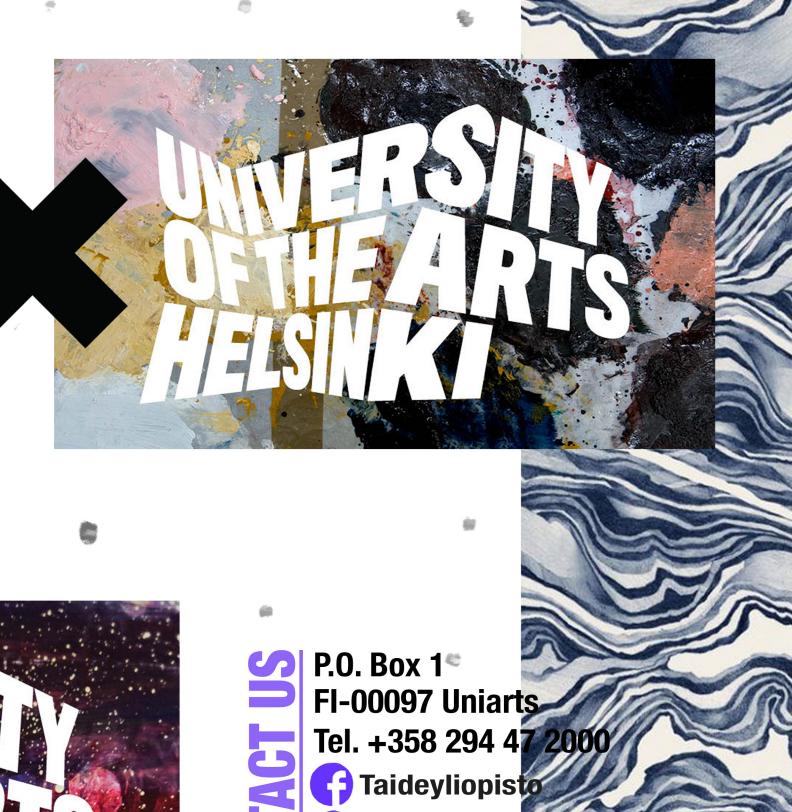
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