

## A DESCRIPTIVE ANALYSIS ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE *TORANG* ART COMMUNITY IN SULAWESI UTARA

Angelia Feren Rondonuwu<sup>1</sup>, Jans G. Mangare<sup>2</sup>, Ruly Rantung<sup>3</sup>

*Art & Music Study Program, Faculty of Language and Arts*

*Universitas Negeri Manado, Tondano, Indonesia*

*Email: [angelafron30@gmail.com](mailto:angelafron30@gmail.com)*

**Abstract** : This present study aims at analyzing the existence of the *Torang* Art Community in North Sulawesi. This research uses qualitative descriptive method which are used to determine and report the existing situation according to reality. In this study, the data collection was carried out by using observation, interview and documentation techniques and supported by data triangulation techniques as data validity. The obtained data are then analyzed descriptively. The results of this research show that the *TORANG* art community was declared on November 5, 2018 in Tomohon at the Maria Budiyatni plenary exhibition formed by several North Sulawesi artists. The existence of the *TORANG* art community existed only in the early years of this community. Several art activities have been carried out by the *TORANG* art community, including exhibitions, discussions of works, work reviews, sketches on the spot and several art activities that often complement the exhibition when the exhibition is held such as body painting, live painting, and so on. But currently, according to the data found, the *TORANG* Art community can be said to have begun to fade or have not been active in art activities for approximately the last year. Then there are also several factors that influence the *TORANG* Art community, both supporting factors such as a sense of togetherness and mutual care and inhibiting factors such as distance between members and funds in art activities.

**Keywords** : *Art Community, Art Activities, Torang Art Community.*

### INTRODUCTION

Along with the development of the world, the development of communities is currently increasing, one of which is the art community. There are various art communities in Indonesia such as typography communities, painting communities, black pen communities, fine art communities, painting communities and others (Utami *et al*, 2019). In developing the art of painting, community is one of the efforts. There are many art communities that grow and develop in Indonesia. In research conducted by Lalu Aswandi Mahroni and Mi'Rajus Subyan Rahmat (2020), the community is important in encouraging the art system in an area. An art community is a community that is formed because there are people who have the same interest in art, for

example painting. The art community was formed to be a place to channel talents and a place to develop their potential by exchanging ideas and supporting each other.

In North Sulawesi, art communities began to emerge. According to Jaya Masloman and John Samuel, the communities that were formed and booming at the time were the C Art community, HIPMA, HIPTA, KOMPELKA and so on. Not a few of them have survived to this day. The art community that still exists and is often heard in all circles of North Sulawesi artists is the *TORANG* Art Community. *TORANG* Art Community is an art community that holds exhibitions quite often and its members actively participate in exhibitions both organized by the

community and exhibitions outside the community. Some members of *TORANG* Art Community have witnessed the journey of painting in North Sulawesi. In addition, several lecturers and alumni of the Department of Fine Arts and Crafts, Universitas Negeri Manado are also members of this community.

*TORANG* Art Community is the only community selected to hold an exhibition at the National Gallery of Indonesia in 2020. The National Gallery of Indonesia supported the exhibition titled "Arus Timur" as one of the efforts of the *TORANG* Art Community to show their works and strengthen their role in developing the fine arts of North Sulawesi. This is also one of the reasons for researchers to study the community in addition to the fact that its members are still actively working.

Based on the explanation above, the author is interested in conducting research with the title Existence of the *TORANG* Art Community in North Sulawesi. The aim of this study is to provide descriptive analysis on the existence of the *Torang* art community.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The present study uses qualitative approach with a descriptive analysis method. This research uses a natural setting, and is carried out by involving various existing methods. In qualitative research, methods that are usually utilized are observation or observation in the field, interviews, documentation studies, and finally triangulation techniques (combining all methods).

This research was conducted in Manado, North Sulawesi in approximately two months from June 1, 2013 to August 1, 2023. The main subjects in this research are the founder of the *TORANG* Art

community, the *TORANG* Art community management and several community members. In this study, the authors collected data sourced from primary and secondary data.

- Primary data in this study were obtained from several sources, in this case the founder of the *TORANG* Art Community, the chairman and core management and several members of the *TORANG* Art Community.
- Secondary data in this research includes books, photographs and documents related to the *TORANG* Art Community.

The data collection techniques used are observation, interview and documentation. In this research, researchers used semi-structured interviews. The tools used by researchers in conducting interview activities are a list of questions, notebooks, smartphones (for photos and voice recording). Furthermore, researchers summarize the results of interviews that have been conducted systematically to make them easier to understand.

The interview technique used is to choose someone as a key informant who knows things related to the research, then from the informant asks for several names that can be interviewed so that the acquisition of data is getting bigger and more valid interviews. This technique is called snowball technique. Snowball sampling is an interview method carried out until the required data is deemed sufficient.

## Data Validity

Researchers collect data related to the existence of the *TORANG* Art Community, both from observations, interviews from informants and from supporting

documents then adjust and match so that valid data is obtained.

In this study, researchers collected data from observations and then interviews with several informants including the key informant and founder of the *TORANG* Art community, John Samuel. Then from John Samuel, the researcher asked for references to the next source. Researchers also sought data from archives of documents and photos from the *TORANG* Art community through the secretary of the *TORANG* Art community, Friets Konduwes. Then from the data obtained, researchers sorted and selected data in order to obtain valid data.

### **Data Analysis Technique**

The analysis technique used is descriptive, which means that this research is carried out based on existing facts that appear to the speakers so that it is said to be like a portrait or description of the art as it is (Sudaryanto, 1988: 62). The data analysis process of this qualitative research is divided into 3 stages, namely:

- **Data Reduction.** Data reduction is the stage of selecting, deciding, paying attention to simplifying, abstracting and transforming data that emerges from written notes in the field. Information such as information on the *TORANG* Art Community from several informants, documents, some online newspaper reports and a supporting bibliography related to this research. From the information collected, only data that is really needed in this research will be selected.
- **Presentation of Data.** When the necessary data has been collected, the author then takes the following steps:
  - Categorizing the collected data records, then grouping them

according to the type of data and the subject matter.

- Composing the type of problem sequence in accordance with the subject matter of the Existence of the *TORANG* Art Community which includes, community history, background, profile, artistic activities and some examples of works from several members.
- **Inference.** Drawing conclusions is an attempt to interpret everything from the data that has been collected, both from interviews with various informants as well as newspapers and books. The data obtained is analyzed to get conclusions about the expected data. The relevant data analysis is descriptive qualitative because the data obtained is qualitative. After the data is obtained, selected, simplified and data presentation is carried out, the next is the conclusion drawing which is carried out by making a description of the understanding of the data presented in the form of a description according to the focus of the problem. Data analysis is a systematic process of compiling notes from observations or observations, interviews and other sources to improve understanding of the case under study and present it as a friend to others (Muhajir 2000: 171).

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Beginning of *TORANG* Art Community**

*TORANG* Art Community was declared on November 5, 2018 in Tomohon during Maria Budiyaatmi's painting exhibition. The formation of this community began when John Samuel and Fadjar Sahante attended an exhibition in Jakarta on June 23-28, 2018 and were influenced by the spirit of the art

communities there. When John and Fadjar returned to Manado, they talked about forming an art community with their artist friends in Manado. However, there were no results or clarity on several occasions in discussing the formation of this art community. Until August 30 to September 10, 2018, an art exhibition Torang 19 was held in two different places, namely at the Peninsula Hotel and at Manado Town Square (MANTOS). After the exhibition, there was an agreement to form an art community called *TORANG* Art Community. The main founders of the community were John Samuel, Fadjar Sahante, Deni Katili, Jaya Masloman. This cannot be separated from the motivation of Mr. Yusuf Susilo Hrtono as a journalist and painter who has written a lot about the development of painting in North Sulawesi. The formation of the *TORANG* Art community began in July and continued to process until November 5, 2018 when the *TORANG* Art community was officially declared.

The background of the formation of the *TORANG* Art community is because they have a common goal of developing fine arts, especially painting in North Sulawesi. In addition, they have a desire to gather with people who have one feeling, one idea, one artistic goal. *TORANG* Art was formed to awaken the spirit of each member to inspire each other and give sprit in creating art. *TORANG* Art Community is here to build and develop art with sustainable generation in North Sulawesi. This is one of the reasons for the formation of this community, which is to prevent a break in the generation of art in North Sulawesi. In the sense that it is always sustainable. The name *TORANG* Art community comes from the Manado language "Torang" which means us. It is named *TORANG* Art Community because

the word torang is more familiar in the city of Manado.

### **Artistic Activities of *TORANG* Art Community**

Various artistic activities have been carried out by the *TORANG* Art Community since its inception, such as exhibitions, discussions, work reviews, workshops and other artistic activities. Not long after the formation of this community, the development process was disrupted by the covid-19 which affected the plans and artistic activities that would be organized by the *TORANG* Art Community. Within various limitations, members continue to actively work in their respective studios, and still have the enthusiasm to maintain this community so that it becomes a forum for artists to develop painting in North Sulawesi. Before the covid-19 outbreak, meetings between community members were very intense. But after the outbreak, meetings became very limited. In handling this, meetings or communication between members, which are usually carried out face-to-face, are replaced by online communication due to the occurrence of PPKM due to covid-19 which makes it impossible to gather in person.

Art activities that are often carried out by the *TORANG* art community are exhibitions. When holding an exhibition, the *TORANG* Art Community always inserts other art activities such as art discussions, work reviews, workshops, live painting and so on. However, outside of the exhibition activities, there are also art activities carried out such as meetings for sharing, art discussions and discussing the next agenda of the *TORANG* Art Community.

Organizing exhibitions is one of the strategies of the *TORANG* Art community

and introducing fine art, especially painting, to the public. In addition to exhibitions, discussions of works, workshops, and other art activities are also held. The following are the activities organized and participated in by the *TORANG* Art Community:

### 1. Exhibition

- *Torang Mo Beking Bagus Exhibition (people's expression)*

The *TORANG* Art Community held an art activity called *Ekspresi\_Torang.051119* as a form of togetherness and solidarity and pride in the profession as an artist on November 16, 2019 as well as the 1st anniversary of the formation of the *TORANG* Art Community. Art activities such as painting, murals, sculptures, sketches, installations, drawing, crafts, body painting and so on were echoed in this activity.

- *DOArt 2019 Exhibition*

The exhibition titled 'DOArt 2019' was organized by *TORANG* Art Community together with the Regional Cultural Office, UPTD Taman Budaya and Museum of North Sulawesi Province on December 2-6, 2019.

The word DOArt is taken from the suffix of the capital city of North Sulawesi, *manaDO*, and the word art, which means art. The exhibition titled DOArt was held as gratitude to God for His grace in the artistic life of artists in North Sulawesi in 2019, especially for the *TORANG* Art Community.

- *Exhibition of Museum Collections & Painters of North Sulawesi 2020*

This time the organizer was the Regional Cultural Office but members of the *TORANG* Art Community participated in enlivening this exhibition.

The painting exhibition was held virtually for 6 days (July 29 - August 3, 2020). 25 paintings were exhibited in this activity. The Governor of North Sulawesi gave his appreciation to the Regional Culture Office for helping to improve the quality of life of the community by involving artists throughout North Sulawesi. In this activity, the Governor hopes that the painting exhibition event can be an antidote for artists to increase motivation and creativity.

### *'East Stream' Online Exhibition 2020*

On December 4, 2020 Galeri Nasional Indonesia together with *TORANG* Art Community of North Sulawesi held an online exhibition entitled "Arus Timur". "Arus Timur" is suitable as a theme because it wants to underline the *TORANG* Art Community as a representation of the social field of art as well as seeing the dynamics of art development in North Sulawesi.

This exhibition was organized so that the *TORANG* Art community could showcase its artistic activities as well as solidify its role in the art scene. The exhibition was originally scheduled to be held offline at the National Building of Indonesia in Jakarta, but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yusuf Susilo Hartono, Citra Smara Dewi and Heru

Hikayat curated the exhibition, which featured 25 works in the form of paintings, sculptures, sketches, murals, Islamic calligraphy, pottery and batik tulis. 2 of the 25 artists who participated in this exhibition were invited artists by the curatorial team.

- *Painting Exhibition (KST 3rd Anniversary) 2021*

This exhibition was held on November 6, 2021, centered at the Manado City Tourism Office to commemorate the 3rd anniversary of the establishment of the *TORANG* Art Community.

In addition to art exhibition, art activities such as North Sulawesi art discussion, Live Painting were held in this event. This activity was not only a ceremony but also a discussion with the special staff of the mayor of Manado for Cultural Arts and Local Wisdom Development of Manado City, Mr. Drs. Elias Daud Pangkey, M.Pd. In the discussion, one of the topics of discussion was the existence of art galleries in Manado City.

- *Indonesia Drawing Exhibition North Sulawesi Chapter*

*TORANG* Art Community also held an exhibition entitled "Wale Ne Pinaesaan" in commemoration of the National Drawing Month which falls on May 2. In North Sulawesi there are 3 exhibition points in commemorating the national drawing month, namely at Universitas Negeri Manado (Tondano), Sangihe and in Manado which is located at the UPTD Museum Negeri North Sulawesi Province. The exhibition entitled

"Wale Ne Pinaesaan" was held on May 14 - May 24, 2022.

In this exhibition, 90 drawing works were exhibited. Besides the drawing exhibition, there were also drawing workshops and discussions on drawing. On May 24, an art performance was also held at the end of the event.

- *Fine Art Exhibition 'E Do Do E' 2022*

'E Do Do E' is an art exhibition held from July 26-August 6, 2022 at the Hall of the Regional Culture Office of North Sulawesi Province.

The exhibition was attended by 14 painters from the Torang Art Community including Alfred Pontolondo, Alvin Tinangon, Adres Pratama, Bertly Sulangi, Djemi Tomuka, Fadjar Sahante, Ferdy Padang, Friets Konduwes, Gustaf Raming, Jaya Masloman, Jeffry Watimena, John Samuel, Maria Budiyatmi and Melky Runtu.

In addition to these exhibitions, some members of the *TORANG* Art community also took part in the "Bakar Manyala" exhibition held in Gorontalo in November 2021 and the "Bakar Manyala" #2 exhibition held in Sangihe in May 2023. The organizer of both exhibitions is not the *TORANG* Art community. These exhibitions were held for Gorontalo and North Sulawesi artists, according to Alfred Pontolondo and Fadjar Sahante the exhibitions are still one entity with the *TORANG* Art community.

## 2. On the Spot Sketches

- *Sketches of September 2020 On the Spot at Karangria Tumungting beach area*

- *Sketch on The Spot November 2020 at Henk Ngantung's family home together with the Tomohon City Education and Culture Office. It was a collaboration with the National Gallery of Indonesia*

In addition to artistic activities, the TORANG art community has held social activities, namely raising funds to help disaster victims of 3 North Sulawesi artists.

#### **Factors affecting the community as well as the benefits of the community on members**

It is not easy to develop and maintain the existence of the TORANG Art community. In the community, each member has a different character so it is not easy to understand each other.

There are several factors that influence the development of the TORANG Art Community, including the following:

1. Member awareness. This community still survives because of the awareness of one goal by members, which is to make the TORANG Art community a place to exchange ideas and provide enthusiasm in developing fine arts, especially painting in North Sulawesi.
2. The togetherness factor, the care between fellow members.
3. Willing to sacrifice. Every time an activity or exhibition is held, members voluntarily spend funds from their own pockets and complement each other's tools and materials needed in carrying out activities.
4. Distance and the busyness of each member. Distance is one of the inhibiting factors in the community. The residence of each board and member is far away, making it difficult

to organize meetings. But in this case, the strategy taken by the TORANG Art community is online communication.

5. Funds or costs. In terms of funds, the TORANG Art community only relies on funds from members. This is the reason why it is difficult to hold exhibitions regularly, namely because of limited funds.

The existence of the TORANG Art community provides a new color in the world of fine arts, especially painting in North Sulawesi. The presence of the TORANG Art community has a positive influence / provides benefits to community members. The existence of the community, members feel helped.

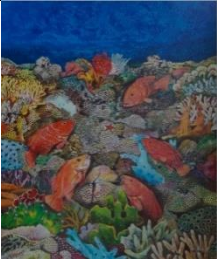



In addition, according to the members, the existence of this community has a positive impact on them, such as the existence of this community adds to the relationship between artists, increasing the craft of work because it is triggered by the enthusiasm of other members. When conducting solo exhibitions, tools can be borrowed from other members. Its presence in the art scene in North Sulawesi, with its organized art activities, has a considerable impact on creating a competitive atmosphere.






However, in the past year there have been no art activities carried out by the TORANG Art Community. This was recognized by Alfred Pontolondo who said that this community has not carried out any art activities in the past year other than members working in their respective studios. According to Alfred Pontolondo, this may be due to the distance and the busyness of the administrators and members. John Samuel and several other members hope that there will be regeneration in the TORANG Art Community so that the TORANG Art

Community will continue to transmit enthusiasm to the next generations and become a sharing forum for artists in North Sulawesi.



**Examples of work from some members of the TORANG Art Community**

**Table 1.** Some of the Community Members and their works and titles  
(Image Source: Copy of TORANG Art Community document file)

No	Name	Work & Title
1.	John Samuel	 MY HOME
2.	Jaya Masloman	 ONE GOAL
3.	Deni Katili	 FIVE LOAVES OF BREAD TWO FISH
4.	Fadjar Sahante	 FIGHT

5.	Friets Konduwes	 STANDARD DAPA, STANDARD ATOR, STANDARD PROMISE
6.	Alfred Pontolondo	 WHEN THE WORLD IS LIKE PIRANHAS
7.	Maria Budiyatmi	 MAHAWU WAY OF THE CROSS
8.	Jeff Watimena	 YAKIKU
9.	Aji	 KOPRA BEKING



10.	Jhon Gaghana	 <p>PUAN DIPERTUAN, UNIVERSAL WOMAN</p>
11.	Lodrik Lumondone	 <p>TUDE</p>

## CONCLUSION

*TORANG* Art Community is an art community of North Sulawesi artists. This community was declared on November 5, 2018 by John Samuel in Tomohon. *TORANG* Art Community was formed to develop fine arts in North Sulawesi and to raise the spirit of each member to inspire and encourage each other in their work. Currently, *Seni TORANG* consists of 30 active artists.

This community has a positive impact on members such as increasing relationships between artists, increasing the craft of work because it is triggered by the enthusiasm of other members. The existence of the *TORANG* Art Community in the art scene in North Sulawesi with the art activities that were organized, had an impact that was enough to create a competitive atmosphere in its time. Various art activities have been carried out by the *TORANG* Art Community such as exhibitions, discussions of works/paintings, workshops, joint sketches and others. Judging from the art activities that have been described previously, currently or for the past one year, the

*TORANG* Art community has not held any art activities. Although this community is declared to exist and has not disbanded, it can be said that currently the *TORANG* Art community is less active and can even be said to be inactive for the past year. The *TORANG* Art Community will continue to spread the spirit to the younger generation to remain active in their work.

## REFERENCES

- Ahmad Fauzy, *et al.* (2022). *Metodologi Penelitian*. Banyumas: CV. Pena Persada.
- Alvianto, W. A., & Joseph, W. (2012). Eksistensi Grup Musik Keroncong Gema Irama di Desa Gedongmulya Kecamatan Lasem. *Jurnal Seni Musik*, 1(1).
- Arikunto, S. (1999). *Prosedur Penelitian Suatu Pendekatan Praktek*. Jakarta: Rineka Cipta
- Bagus, L. (2009). *Kamus Filsafat*. Jakarta: Gramedia Pustaka Utama.
- Hadi, I (2015). *Eksistensi Komunitas Waroeng Keroncong di Kota Semarang*. Skripsi, Fakultas Bahasa dan Seni, Universitas Negeri Semarang.
- Hakim, L. (2023). Eksistensi Grup Keroncong Rosmalasari di Surabaya. *Repertoar Journal*, 4(1), 90-106.
- Iqbal, M. N., Aesijah, S. A., & Rachman, A. (2020). Bentuk Komposisi Musik Tradisional Balo-Balo Grup Kampung Tirang di Kecamatan Tegal Barat Kota Tegal. *Jurnal Seni Musik*, 9(2), 145-151.
- Mahroni, Aswandi, & Rahmat, M. (2022). Eksistensi Komunitas Perupa Lombok dalam Pengembangan Seni Lukis. *Jurnal SASAK: Desain Visual Dan Komunikasi*, 3(2), 75-86. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.30812/sasak.v3i2.1656>.

- Marianto, M. D. (2015). *Art & Levitation: Seni Dalam Cakrawala*. Yogyakarta: Pohon Cahaya.
- Mattiro, S. (2016). Perkembangan Musik Tradisional Sattung Suku Bajau Rampa. *Pelataran Seni*, 1(2), 101-122.
- Pratama, N. Y., & Wafa, M. U. (2020). Eksistensi Grup Musik Tegalan Joend Pro Di Slawi Kabupaten Tegal. *Jurnal Seni Musik*, 9(2), 119-126. <https://doi.org/10.15294/jsm.v9i2.33109>.
- Salam, S., et al. (2020). *Pengetahuan Dasar Seni Rupa*. Makassar: Badan penerbit UNM. Diakses dari <http://eprints.unm.ac.id/18130/1/Pengetahuan%20Dasar%20Seni%20Rupa%202020%20lengkap.pdf>
- Sarwono, J. (2006). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif & Kualitatif*. Yogyakarta: Graha Ilmu.
- Sholihah, R. A. (2016) *Kiprah Komunitas Tugitu Unite dalam Kancah Seni Rupa di Surakarta*. Skripsi, Institut Seni Indonesia (ISI) Surakarta. Diakses dari <http://repository.isi-ska.ac.id/id/eprint/1504>
- Situmorang, F., Silaban, A. A. H., Rohmi, Z., & Suryawan, I. B. (2020). Eksistensi Jasa Transportasi Konvensional Milik Masyarakat Lokal pada Era Revolusi Industri 4.0 di Kelurahan Ubud, Bali. *Jurnal Destinasi Pariwisata*, 8(1), 141-53.
- Soerdarso. (2006). *Trilogi Seni Penciptaan, Eksistensi dan Kegunaan Seni*. Yogyakarta: BP ISI Yogyakarta
- Sudaryanto. (1988). *Metode linguistik bagian kedua*. Yogyakarta: Gajah Mada University Press.
- Sugiyono. (2010). *Metode Penelitian Pendidikan Pendekatan Kuantitatif, kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta
- Sukma, K. M., Wahyuningtyas, T., & Widyawati, I. W. (2023). Keberadaan Sanggar Seni Acharya Budaya dalam Pengembangan Seni Tari di Kabupaten Blitar. *JoLLA: Journal of Language, Literature, and Arts*, 3(5), 739-754.
- Wiratno, T. A. (2018). *Seni Lukis, Konsep dan Metode*. Surabaya: Jakad Publishing.