



The Art of Stylized Batik: Bima's Creative Journey

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In a sun-drenched art studio, Bu Aruna introduces a grand project to her eleventh-grade students. They are to create unique hand-drawn batik by using the stylization technique, which involves transforming natural forms into beautiful, decorative motifs.



Bima sits at his desk, staring at a blank sheet of paper while imagining the form of a Birds-of-Paradise he wishes to transform. He begins to simplify the bird's body lines, adding artistic curves and harmonious dots without losing its original character.



Once the stylized sketch is complete, Bima carefully transfers the design onto a piece of smooth white mori cloth. His pencil moves gently, ensuring every detail of the stylized motif is clearly visible as a guide for the waxing process later.



The scent of melting wax fills the room as Bu Aruna lights the small stoves at each group table. Bima prepares his canting, a traditional tool with a small copper spout that will flow the hot wax to seal the cloth fibers.



With a steady hand, Bima begins to apply the wax following the sketch lines on the cloth, a process known as nyanting. Every drop of wax must be precise so that the dye does not seep into the areas that are meant to remain white.



Bu Aruna approaches Bima and explains the importance of maintaining a stable wax temperature during the batik-making process. Bima learns that patience and precision are the primary keys to creating high-quality hand-drawn batik with immense artistic value.



Once the entire motif is covered in wax, the cloth is ready to be dipped into a vat containing a deep blue synthetic dye. Bima watches as his mori cloth slowly changes color, while the parts covered by wax remain perfectly protected.



The next step is the color-locking process to ensure the motif does not fade when washed later. Bima rinses his cloth with clean water, looking hopefully at his work which is still covered in layers of dark brownish wax.



The long-awaited moment arrives: the pelorodan process, or removing the wax by boiling the cloth in hot water. Gradually, the wax layers melt away, revealing Bima's stylized Birds-of-Paradise motif in pure white against the deep blue background.



Bima spreads his dried batik cloth under the sunlight, feeling proud of his own creation. The work is not just a piece of fabric, but a blend of ancestral tradition and modern creativity born from the diligence of his own hands.