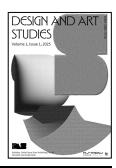
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#### Research Review

# Reimagining Urban Narratives: The Aesthetic Evolution and Cultural **Transformation of Contemporary Mural Art in Malaysia**

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#### Article History

#### Abstract

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#### Keywords

Contemporary murals; participatory aesthetics; cultural innovation; urban art; community engagement

Contemporary mural art in Malaysia has undergone significant transformation since the early 2000s, evolving from decorative elements to dynamic platforms for cultural expression and community engagement. This study develops a theoretical framework to understand this reconceptualization, introducing the concept of "participatory aesthetics" to analyze how murals function as catalysts for social cohesion and urban revitalization. Through theoretical analysis synthesizing insights from art theory, urban studies, and cultural sociology, we examined documented transformations in Malaysian mural practices from 2018-2024. The analysis identifies four key dimensions of transformation: (1) interactive storytelling that converts passive viewing into active engagement through physical, narrative, and digital participation; (2) cultural synthesis generating new aesthetic languages through selective appropriation, generative fusion, and dynamic equilibrium among Malaysia's diverse cultural traditions; (3) community-centered creation processes that democratize artistic production through genuine collaboration between artists and residents; and (4) digital amplification extending murals' impact through social media platforms and emerging technologies. These findings demonstrate how Malaysian mural practices challenge Western-dominated public art discourse while offering transferable insights for multicultural urban contexts globally. The participatory aesthetics framework provides analytical tools for understanding collaborative art practices that genuinely share creative agency, contributing to broader conversations about cultural democracy and inclusive urban futures.

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#### 1. Introduction

The proliferation of mural art across Malaysian cities since the early 2000s represents a significant transformation in public art practices, urban aesthetics, and community cultural expression. This phenomenon extends beyond mere beautification to encompass complex processes of identity negotiation, place-making, and social innovation within rapidly urbanizing Southeast Asian contexts. While global street art movements have received substantial scholarly attention (Hansen & Flynn, 2021; Poon, 2023; Rahman, 2021), the specific dynamics of mural art in Malaysia warrant theoretical examination to understand how global artistic practices are reconceptualized within local cultural frameworks.

The Malaysian context presents unique conditions for analyzing public art's evolution. As a multicultural society comprising Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous populations, Malaysia offers rich aesthetic traditions that intersect with contemporary global art movements in distinctive ways. Rapid urban development, burgeoning tourism industries, and digital media proliferation create additional layers of complexity (Jalaluddin et al., 2022; Wang & Chen, 2020). These factors combine to produce mural practices that differ significantly from Western street art traditions, necessitating new theoretical frameworks for adequate analysis.

This article develops a comprehensive theoretical framework for understanding mural art's reconceptualization in contemporary Malaysia. Through analysis grounded in art theory, urban studies, and cultural sociology, I argue that Malaysian mural practices demonstrate a fundamental transformation from static decoration to what I term "participatory aesthetics"—collaborative processes that generate new forms of cultural expression while strengthening social bonds and enhancing urban environments. This reconceptualization offers insights relevant beyond Malaysia for understanding public art's potential in culturally diverse, rapidly developing urban contexts.

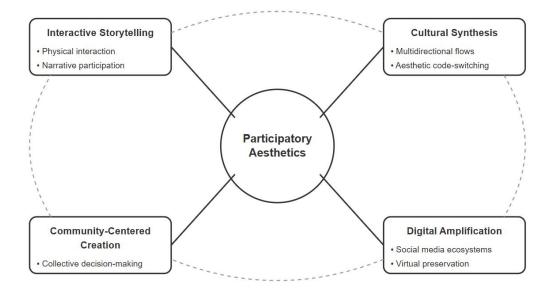
#### **Research Questions:**

- 1. How does mural art in Malaysia transform urban narratives through participatory aesthetics?
- 2. What are the specific mechanisms through which contemporary murals foster cultural innovation and community engagement in Malaysian contexts?
- 3. How do digital technologies and social media platforms reshape the production, circulation, and meaning-making processes of public murals?
- 4. What theoretical frameworks best capture the complex interplay between global artistic practices and local cultural traditions in Malaysian mural art?

These questions guide our exploration of how mural art functions as a catalyst for urban transformation while contributing to broader theoretical conversations about public art, community participation, and cultural production in superdiverse societies.

## 2. Theoretical Framework

## 2.1 From Object to Process: Reconceptualizing Public Art



#### **Participatory Aesthetics Framework**

Figure 1. Theoretical Framework of Participatory Aesthetics

Traditional approaches to public art analysis, rooted in art historical methodologies, focus primarily on formal qualities, iconographic programs, and stylistic genealogies (Abdullah et al., 2018). While valuable for understanding aesthetic dimensions, such object-centered approaches inadequately capture contemporary murals' social functions and processual nature. Building upon recent scholarship in socially engaged art (Jackson, 2020; Thompson, 2019), this analysis proposes understanding murals as "socio-aesthetic assemblages" that catalyze ongoing processes of meaning-making and community formation.

This processual understanding draws upon contemporary assemblage theory applications in urban studies (McFarlane, 2021), recognizing murals as heterogeneous compositions of human and non-human elements—artists, residents, walls, paints, digital cameras, social media platforms—that produce emergent effects exceeding their individual components. The assemblage framework captures murals' dynamic nature, where meaning emerges through interactions rather than residing in static objects. This approach aligns with recent developments in participatory art theory (Jasmi et al., 2021; Sholette & Bass, 2018) while addressing specific dynamics of public art in urban contexts.

The concept of "participatory aesthetics" extends existing frameworks by recognizing genuine co-creation where aesthetic value emerges through collective engagement. Unlike earlier formulations that maintain artist-centered hierarchies (Bourriaud, 2002), participatory aesthetics in the Malaysian context involves more horizontal relationships where community members contribute aesthetic decisions, technical skills, and ongoing maintenance. This reflects recent scholarship on collaborative art practices in Southeast Asia (Tian, 2023).

## 2.2 Cultural Synthesis in Superdiverse Contexts

Malaysia's cultural complexity requires theoretical frameworks that transcend conventional hybridity concepts. While Bhabha's (1994) third space remains influential, recent scholarship on superdiversity (Bin Ahmad et al., 2020; Wen, 2013) more accurately captures contexts where multiple ethnicities, languages, religions, and cultural traditions interact through varied historical and contemporary relationships.

Building upon these foundations, I propose "multidirectional synthesis" as a framework for understanding how Malaysian murals negotiate among numerous aesthetic traditions simultaneously. This synthesis operates through three mechanisms clearly observable in contemporary practice.

Selective appropriation represents the first mechanism, whereby communities consciously choose elements from various traditions based on strategic calculations about identity, communication, and aesthetic effectiveness. Research on Southeast Asian visual culture (Muhammad et al., 2016) demonstrates how this selectivity functions as active cultural production rather than passive reception. Communities engage in sophisticated decision-making processes, evaluating which cultural symbols will resonate across diverse audiences while maintaining authentic connections to specific traditions.

Generative fusion constitutes the second mechanism, moving beyond simple combination to create new aesthetic possibilities through unpredictable outcomes emerging from cultural encounters. Recent studies of Malaysian contemporary art (Abd Rahman et al., 2020) document how traditional motifs transform when scaled to architectural dimensions and combined with street art techniques. This transformation is not merely additive but produces genuinely novel visual languages that could not have emerged from any single tradition alone.

Dynamic equilibrium forms the third mechanism, where elements maintain distinctiveness while contributing to unified compositions, exemplifying what recent multicultural theory describes as "convivial cultures" (Gilroy, 2019; Mohamad Quzami An-Nuur bin Ahmad Radzi et al., 2022). In Malaysian murals, this appears as visual compositions where Islamic geometric patterns, Chinese calligraphy, and Indian kolam designs coexist without hierarchy, each maintaining its integrity while participating in a larger aesthetic conversation.

#### 2.3 Space, Place, and Urban Transformation

Understanding murals' urban functions requires spatial theories that address rapid transformation and cultural diversity. Recent urban studies scholarship (Shi, 2023) provides frameworks for analyzing how cultural meanings become embedded in and expressed through urban spaces, particularly in Asian contexts.

I introduce "adaptive place-making" to describe how communities utilize murals to navigate urban change while maintaining continuities. Unlike preservation approaches that freeze places in time, adaptive place-making acknowledges transformation while selectively maintaining elements essential to place identity. This concept builds on recent research on creative placemaking in Southeast Asian cities (Som, 2024).

Adaptive place-making operates through four interconnected mechanisms: (1) narrative anchoring that embeds local histories in visual form, creating memory landmarks; (2) identity negotiation through careful symbol calibration acknowledging multiple groups; (3) future orientation that bridges past, present, and potential futures; and (4) spatial activation that transforms underutilized areas into community gathering points. These mechanisms enable communities to assert agency over urban transformation while maintaining essential continuities.

#### 2.4 Digital Mediation and Translocal Connections

Contemporary murals exist within what recent scholarship terms "platform urbanism" (Bertasa et al., 2020; Juhari et al., 2022), where digital media fundamentally alters cultural production and circulation. MacDowall's (2019) work on Instagram's impact on street art provides a starting point, but Malaysian contexts reveal additional dynamics requiring theoretical elaboration.

"Digital amplification" describes how online circulation enhances rather than replaces physical encounters with murals. This amplification operates through multiple mechanisms identified in recent transmedia scholarship (Freeman & Gambarato, 2019; Jenkins, 2021). Networked documentation enables multiple perspectives to be captured and shared, creating composite understandings that exceed any single viewpoint. This multiplicity enriches interpretation as viewers encounter murals through various lenses, from professional photography to casual snapshots, each adding layers of meaning.

Hashtag communities form digital gathering spaces that transcend geographic boundaries, developing specialized knowledge that circulates globally while maintaining local relevance. Remix culture transforms mural images into raw material for new expressions—from digital collages to augmented reality filters—extending cultural impact beyond original intentions. Algorithmic visibility introduces new power dynamics as platform logics privilege certain aesthetic qualities and engagement patterns, with algorithms becoming invisible curators determining cultural circulation. Understanding these dynamics becomes crucial for communities seeking to leverage digital platforms while maintaining control over their cultural narratives.

## 3. Analytical Approach

This theoretical analysis synthesizes insights from multiple disciplinary perspectives to examine mural art's reconceptualization in Malaysia. Rather than empirical investigation of specific cases, the analysis develops conceptual frameworks for understanding documented transformations in public art practices. This approach follows established traditions in cultural theory where theoretical innovation emerges through critical synthesis (Ahmed, 2019).

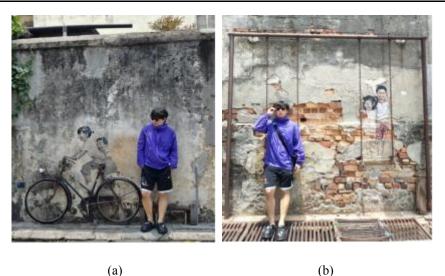
The analysis draws upon published academic literature on public art, urban studies, and Southeast Asian cultural dynamics from 2018-2024, prioritizing recent scholarship that addresses contemporary developments in these fields. Theoretical frameworks from contemporary art theory, cultural studies, and urban sociology provide the conceptual foundation for analysis. Documented examples from recent journalistic and online sources illustrate theoretical concepts, offering concrete instances of abstract principles. Comparative perspectives from global public art practices, particularly in Asian contexts, enable identification of both regional specificities and broader patterns.

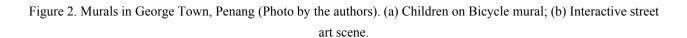
This theoretical approach enables identification of patterns and development of conceptual tools applicable beyond specific cases, contributing to broader understanding of public art in contemporary urban contexts. By synthesizing diverse sources and perspectives, the analysis aims to generate theoretical insights that illuminate not only Malaysian mural practices but also wider transformations in how public art functions in superdiverse urban environments.

#### 4. Analysis: Four Dimensions of Reconceptualization

#### 4.1 Interactive Storytelling: From Contemplation to Participation

Contemporary mural practices demonstrate a fundamental shift from passive viewing to active engagement, transforming audiences into co-creators of meaning. This interactivity extends beyond superficial participation to involve what recent scholarship terms "performative spectatorship"—active interpretation and meaning-making that challenges traditional artist-audience hierarchies.





Interactive storytelling operates through multiple strategies. Physical interaction involves bodily engagement with artworks—viewers pose within frames, add temporary elements, and create performative responses that become part of the artwork's evolving narrative. As illustrated in Figure 2, George Town's heritage murals exemplify this through deliberate incompleteness inviting viewer participation. Narrative participation draws on transmedia storytelling research, as audiences complete open-ended narratives across platforms, sharing personal stories that create collective meanings. Digital interaction transforms cultural participation from individual contemplation to networked experience. Malaysian murals leverage these dynamics through hashtag campaigns, augmented reality features, and user-generated content that extend artwork lifespans and geographic reach.

Ernest Zacharevic's "Children on Bicycle" mural exemplifies these interactive dimensions. Since 2012, the artwork has evolved through over 500,000 documented Instagram posts, standardized poses becoming cultural memes, and integration into location-based apps. Community-generated maintenance ensures longevity despite tropical weather, demonstrating how interactive engagement extends to preservation efforts.

These dimensions reflect broader transformations toward "post-digital participation"—seamless integration of physical and digital engagement. Audiences move fluidly between platforms and spaces, discovering murals online, visiting physically while sharing experiences, then continuing engagement digitally. This continuous cycle challenges traditional notions of artistic completion, positioning murals as ongoing collaborative projects rather than finished products.

## 4.2 Cultural Synthesis: Generating New Aesthetic Languages

Malaysian mural practices demonstrate sophisticated processes of cultural synthesis that generate innovative aesthetic languages. Recent research on transcultural aesthetics (Mignolo & Vazquez, 2018) provides frameworks for understanding how these processes exceed simple multicultural representation to create genuinely new forms of expression.



Figure 3. Contemporary Community Murals in Malaysia (Photo by the authors). (a) Cultural synthesis in Tanjung Malim; (b) Heritage mural in Kuala Kuala Baru.

Contemporary murals in Tanjung Malim and Kuala Kuala Baru (Figure 3) exemplify cultural synthesis through three interconnected mechanisms. Technical innovation adapts traditional techniques to architectural scales—batik patterns reimagined for building-scale application require mathematical precision while developing new methods to suggest textile qualities on concrete. Material translation reinterprets traditional media in contemporary contexts, as Chinese ink wash techniques transform through spray paint on walls, creating hybrid approaches honoring historical practices while embracing contemporary possibilities. Color harmonization carefully calibrates distinct cultural palettes—Islamic greens, Chinese reds, Indian saffrons—to create visual harmony without diminishing cultural significance.

Symbolic synthesis operates at deeper meaning-making levels. Visual code-switching navigates multiple cultural languages within single artworks. Tanjung Malim's education murals combine Jawi script with mathematical formulas, creating metaphors for integrating Islamic scholarship and modern education. Kuala Kuala Baru 's mining heritage murals integrate Chinese prosperity symbols with industrial imagery while indigenous motifs provide temporal context, acknowledging multiple historical layers without privileging any perspective. Multicultural festival scenes depict Hari Raya, Chinese New Year, and Deepavali as interconnected celebrations constituting Malaysian cultural life.

Aesthetic code-switching mechanisms employ compositional strategies using central unifying elements—local landmarks or shared symbols—to anchor diverse cultural references (Gorter & Cenoz, 2023). Rhythm and flow guide viewers through different cultural zones using visual movements creating narrative pathways. Scale hierarchies ensure important community symbols receive prominence regardless of cultural origin, democratizing visual space to reflect multicultural realities.

#### 4.3 Community-Centered Creation: Democratizing Aesthetics

The reconceptualization of artist-community relationships represents a radical departure from traditional public art commissioning toward genuine collaboration. Recent scholarship on participatory governance and creative citizenship provides frameworks for understanding these transformations in practice.



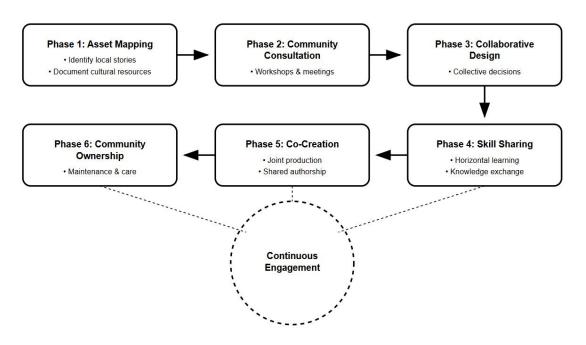
Figure 4. Hatta' Mural (Hatta, Malaysia, 2024). (a) Community members participating in the creation process; (b) Children engaging with the completed 3D mural.

The Hatta 3D Mural project (Figure 4) demonstrates community-centered approaches through its comprehensive engagement process. The initial asset mapping phase (three months) identified forty-seven significant local stories through community surveys, walking tours, and elder interviews documenting oral histories. Youth workshops explored contemporary identity, revealing navigation between traditional culture and global influences. A digital archive preserved findings for future reference.

The skill development phase (two months) conducted perspectival drawing workshops reaching 150+ participants, transforming community members from observers to creators. Traditional craft integration sessions facilitated knowledge exchange between master craftspeople and mural artists. Digital design training and maintenance education ensured long-term sustainability, creating a community of practice extending beyond the immediate project.

Collaborative creation (four months) featured daily painting sessions where neighbors worked alongside professional artists, breaking down expert-amateur hierarchies. Rotating leadership among cultural groups ensured diverse perspectives shaped the mural. Public progress presentations maintained transparency, treating the mural as a living document responsive to community input. Residents' social media documentation created parallel digital narratives of the creation process.

The activation and maintenance phase transforms static artworks into venues for ongoing cultural activities. Monthly gatherings host traditional performances and contemporary celebrations. Seasonal touch-up sessions enable intergenerational skill transfer. Educational programs ensure cultural transmission to future generations while tourism integration balances economic benefits with community needs.



#### **Community-Centered Mural Creation Process**

Figure 5. Community-Centered Mural Creation Process

Recent evaluations (Belfiore & Bennett, 2020) confirm horizontal approaches produce superior outcomes: social capital strengthens through trust-building collaboration, cultural preservation occurs through hands-on practice, economic benefits flow through cultural tourism, and civic engagement enhances as successful projects inspire broader participation.

#### 4.4 Digital Amplification: Extending Reach and Impact

Digital technologies fundamentally transform how murals function as cultural objects and social catalysts. Recent research on digital placemaking (Halegoua, 2020; Poon, 2023) provides frameworks for understanding these transformations in practice.

Platform-specific strategies reveal sophisticated understanding of different social media affordances. Instagram leverages visual algorithms favoring colorful, interactive murals, with George Town murals generating over 5,000 posts monthly under #georgetownstreetart. Instagram Stories document mural evolution while geotagging creates digital maps linking physical locations to online content. WhatsApp networks emphasize community coordination through private groups facilitating maintenance communication and intergenerational cultural education. TikTok introduces dynamic storytelling through dance challenges, transformation documentation, and educational content reaching younger demographics.

Augmented reality features represent cutting-edge digital-physical integration. QR codes link to multimedia content, three-dimensional effects enhance optical illusions, and multilingual audio guides ensure accessibility. These technological layers create "thick murals"—artworks whose meaning deepens through digital excavation. Recent studies (Abdullah, 2021) reveal sophisticated content strategies: morning light photography for optimal engagement, festival-synchronized releases for cultural relevance, and user-generated campaigns for organic reach expansion.

Digital preservation addresses temporal vulnerability through 360-degree documentation, blockchain certification for attribution, and AI-powered maintenance prediction. Community-sourced metadata enriches archives with cultural

context automated systems cannot provide. Emerging technologies—IoT environmental monitoring, VR cultural tourism, and cryptocurrency funding—point toward increasingly integrated experiences while maintaining community control over cultural narratives. These innovations demonstrate how digital amplification enhances rather than replaces physical encounters, creating new forms of cultural participation and preservation.

#### 4.5 Challenges and Critiques

Critical examination reveals significant challenges complicating optimistic narratives about participatory public art (Zheng, 2023; Zhu, 2023). Gentrification pressures represent the most serious challenge. In George Town, property values in mural-rich areas increased 40% between 2015-2020, displacing long-term residents and converting traditional businesses to tourist-oriented establishments (Foo & Krishnapillai, 2019). Participation inequalities persist through language barriers, digital divides, time constraints favoring retirees, and gender disparities with male voices dominating public forums. Aesthetic conflicts manifest in generational divides over style preferences, religious sensitivities regarding representation, commercial pressures for tourist-friendly imagery, and political tensions around historical narratives. Sustainability challenges include funding structures supporting creation but neglecting maintenance, volunteer fatigue, and climate impacts accelerating deterioration through tropical weather conditions. Digital disparities amplify inequalities through inadequate rural infrastructure, algorithmic biases favoring popular locations, corporate data ownership, and privacy concerns.

These multifaceted challenges necessitate evolving approaches that address structural inequalities while maintaining participatory ideals. "Just sustainabilities" frameworks (Agyeman & McLaren, 2021) offer potential pathways emphasizing equitable distribution, meaningful participation across difference, and long-term thinking. Implementation requires fundamental shifts in how mural projects are conceived, funded, and evaluated, moving beyond aesthetic success to consider social justice outcomes. Only through acknowledging and actively addressing these challenges can participatory public art realize its transformative potential in creating more inclusive and equitable urban futures.

#### 5. Discussion: Implications and Future Directions

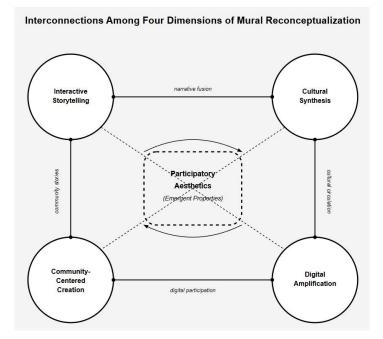


Figure 6. Interconnections Among Four Dimensions. This figure demonstrates the dynamic relationships between Interactive Storytelling, Cultural Synthesis, Community-Centered Creation, and Digital Amplification, showing how each dimension reinforces and amplifies the others in creating transformative mural experiences.

#### **5.1 Theoretical Contributions**

This analysis advances several theoretical contributions to public art scholarship, explicitly articulating how the participatory aesthetics framework contributes to global conversations about art, community, and urban spaces.

The participatory aesthetics framework provides analytical tools that recognize aesthetic value as emergent through collective processes rather than residing in objects. This challenges fundamental assumptions about artistic creation through horizontal relationships where artists become facilitators and community members transform into co-creators. By centering Southeast Asian experiences often marginalized in Western discourse, it offers insights from multicultural collaboration unavailable in homogeneous settings. Similarly, the concept of multidirectional synthesis advances cultural theory beyond binary hybridity models, recognizing multiple traditions interacting simultaneously without predetermined hierarchies through three mechanisms: selective appropriation based on strategic identity calculations, generative fusion creating new aesthetic possibilities, and dynamic equilibrium maintaining distinctiveness within unified compositions. These tools apply to multicultural urban contexts globally.

Adaptive place-making theory bridges urban planning and cultural studies by reconceptualizing community engagement with spatial transformation. It asserts community agency through narrative anchoring, identity negotiation, future orientation, and spatial activation, offering alternatives to preservation-versus-development dichotomies. The digital amplification framework extends digital humanities scholarship by demonstrating how online circulation enhances physical encounters through platform-specific strategies, hashtag communities, and algorithmic visibility. By examining non-Western contexts, this framework reveals alternative possibilities for technology-mediated cultural engagement beyond Silicon Valley-dominated perspectives. Together, these theoretical innovations provide comprehensive tools for understanding how public art functions in contemporary superdiverse urban environments.

## **5.2 Practical Implications for Policy and Practice**

These theoretical insights translate into concrete recommendations for various stakeholders involved in urban cultural development.

Policymakers must fundamentally reconceptualize public art programs to reflect participatory aesthetics principles through frameworks mandating genuine community involvement, sustainable funding models recognizing murals as community assets requiring ongoing care, and proactive gentrification countermeasures including cultural preservation zones and inclusionary zoning. Digital infrastructure support through public wifi, device lending, and literacy training ensures equitable participation. Urban planners need to integrate mural planning into comprehensive strategies by mapping cultural assets alongside infrastructure, creating design guidelines anticipating performative engagement, and developing policies recognizing murals as living artworks requiring community-responsive modifications and climate adaptation strategies.

Cultural managers facilitate meaningful engagement through skill transfer programs, comprehensive documentation capturing both processes and products, and network building connecting local initiatives. Measurement frameworks should holistically assess social cohesion, cultural vitality, and community wellbeing alongside visitor numbers. These practical applications require coordinated efforts across sectors, moving beyond isolated interventions toward integrated approaches that recognize murals' multiple functions in contemporary urban environments.

#### **5.3 Future Research Directions**

This theoretical analysis reveals multiple areas requiring empirical investigation to deepen understanding and improve practice.

Longitudinal impact studies tracking community-mural relationships over 5-10 years could measure social capital development, assess economic impacts versus gentrification, and document evolving cultural expressions. Comparative regional analysis across Southeast Asian cities could identify common patterns through multi-sited ethnographic research while facilitating South-South learning opportunities. Technology and innovation research must examine AI's role in community design, blockchain for collective ownership, VR/AR accessibility, and platform affordances shaping cultural participation.

Critical examinations balancing celebratory accounts with honest assessment should document project failures, resistance movements, labor conditions, and environmental impacts to strengthen the field through complexity acknowledgment. Interdisciplinary collaborations between artists, researchers, technologists, and communities could generate innovative methodologies, tools, and governance frameworks through sustained support. These research directions collectively contribute to developing more nuanced understanding of participatory public art's possibilities and limitations in diverse global contexts.

#### 6. Conclusion

This theoretical analysis reveals that contemporary mural art in Malaysia has undergone fundamental reconceptualization from decorative objects to dynamic platforms for cultural expression, social engagement, and urban transformation. The participatory aesthetics framework developed here demonstrates how murals function simultaneously as social infrastructure, cultural archives, community platforms, and global/local interfaces through four interconnected dimensions: interactive storytelling, cultural synthesis, community-centered creation, and digital amplification.

The framework contributes to global theoretical conversations by centering Southeast Asian experiences often marginalized in Western-dominated art discourse, offering analytical tools applicable beyond Malaysian contexts for understanding collaborative art practices that genuinely share creative agency. Through examples from George Town, Tanjung Malim, Kuala Kuala Baru, and Hatta, the analysis illustrates how these dimensions produce synergistic effects that transform urban spaces and strengthen community bonds.

While celebrating these transformative potentials, critical examination reveals significant challenges including gentrification pressures, participation inequalities, and sustainability obstacles that require ongoing attention. The Malaysian case offers valuable insights for global urban contexts grappling with cultural diversity and rapid change, suggesting how public art can contribute to more inclusive urban futures when structural inequalities are actively addressed. This reconceptualization necessitates fundamental shifts in theoretical frameworks, policy approaches, and practical strategies, with implications extending to broader questions of cultural democracy, urban justice, and collective imagination.

AI	Artificial Intelligence
AR	Augmented Reality
ІоТ	Internet of Things
QR	Quick Response
UNE	United Nations Educational
SCO	Scientific and Cultural Organization
VR	Virtual Reality

#### **List of Abbreviations**

#### **Ethics Approval and Consent to Participate**

Not applicable. This theoretical analysis did not involve human participants or require ethical approval.

#### **Data Availability Statement**

Not applicable. This theoretical analysis did not generate or analyze datasets.

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## **Conflicts of Interest**

The authors declare no competing interests.

## Author's Contributions

Conceptualization, M.Z.K. and M.Z.; methodology, M.Z.K.; formal analysis, M.Z.K.; investigation, M.Z.K.; resources, M.Z. and H.F.H.; writing—original draft preparation, M.Z.K.; writing—review and editing, M.Z. and H.F.H.; visualization, M.Z.K.; supervision, M.Z.; project administration, M.Z. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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