

The Renaissance and Influence of Renaissance Art from The Perspective of Humanism

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Abstract. The purpose of this article is to explore the revival process of Renaissance art and its various influences from the perspective of humanism. The introduction summarizes the importance of Renaissance as a great ideological emancipation and cultural renaissance in European history, and the core position of humanism in this period. Then, by systematically combing the technical and formal innovation, the evolution of theme and content, and the formation and influence of the art market, this article analyzes the promoting role of humanistic thought in Renaissance art. The results show that humanism not only promoted the change and innovation of artistic style in the Renaissance, but also promoted the shaping of social and cultural concepts and the promotion of education and scholarship. Renaissance art promoted the awakening of individual consciousness, the spread of scientific and rational spirit and the change of social structure by spreading humanistic ideas, which had a far-reaching impact on the artistic style and social and cultural development of later generations.

Keywords: Renaissance; Humanism; Artistic Innovation; Social and Cultural Concepts; Individual Consciousness.

1. Introduction

Renaissance, a historical period spanning the 14th to 16th centuries, marked the transition of Europe from the Middle Ages to modern times [1]. During this period, with the rise of cities, the prosperity of business and the change of social structure, people's ideas have also undergone profound changes [2]. More importantly, the rise of humanism, which emphasizes human value, rationality and respect for classical culture, has brought a fresh atmosphere to European society [3]. Humanists advocated people-centered, concerned about people's secular life, and pursued knowledge, beauty and freedom, which profoundly influenced the artistic creation at that time [4-5]. Artists began to pay more attention to people's images and emotions, and expressed their exploration and praise of human nature through their works, thus promoting the innovation in the art field [6]. Therefore, examining the revival of Renaissance art from the perspective of humanism will help researchers to understand the artistic achievements in this historical period more deeply and reveal the key role of humanistic thought in artistic development.

In view of the far-reaching influence of humanism on Renaissance art, this article aims to explore the revival process of Renaissance art from the perspective of humanism. This article not only pays attention to the changes in artistic styles and techniques, but also explores the humanistic motivation behind these changes; At the same time, it will also analyze the extensive influence of Renaissance art on social culture and ideas. Through this study, it is expected to reveal the internal relationship between humanism and Renaissance art, and how this relationship has shaped the development track of art history in Europe and even the world. In addition, it will also discuss the influence of Renaissance art on later artistic creation and aesthetic concept, with a view to providing beneficial enlightenment for the development of contemporary art.

This article will be divided into five sections, respectively, to discuss the historical background of the Renaissance, the influence of humanism on art, the revival process of Renaissance art and its role in shaping social culture. Finally, the research results are summarized and prospected in order to provide a new perspective for the research in related fields.

2. Humanism and the rise of Renaissance art

2.1. The core idea of humanism

Humanism, as the core ideology of the Renaissance, had a profound influence on social culture and artistic creation at that time [7]. Table 1 summarizes some core ideas of humanism, which have been deeply embodied in the works of art during the Renaissance.

Table 1 The core concept of humanism

Core Principle	Explanation
Individual Value	Emphasizes the uniqueness and irreplaceability of each person, advocating for respect, equality, and the pursuit of personal freedom, development, and happiness.
Rational Thinking	Advocates for rationality and science, opposes superstition and blind obedience, and encourages people to use rational thinking to understand the world and solve problems.
Humanistic Care	Focuses on the inner world and emotional experiences of individuals, promotes a people-centered approach, respects human emotions and needs, and pursues the perfection of humanity and spiritual elevation.
Progress Belief	Believes in the continuous progress and development of human society, encourages the pursuit of knowledge, innovation, and progress, and promotes social prosperity and development.
Free Will	Asserts that individuals possess free will and the right to choose, enabling them to autonomously determine their own destiny and life path, and pursuing a free and equal social environment.
Aesthetic Pursuit	Admires art and aesthetics, considers beauty an essential part of human spiritual life, pursues aesthetic experiences and creation, and enhances human cultural literacy and aesthetic appreciation.

Humanists advocate the cultural heritage of ancient Greece and Rome, believing that it contains the essence of human wisdom and virtue, so they are committed to reviving classical culture as an important resource to promote social progress and artistic innovation [8].

2.2. The germination of Renaissance art

Under the influence of humanism, Renaissance art began to sprout and develop rapidly [9]. Humanism plays a key role in the promotion of artists' status. In the Middle Ages, artists were often regarded as craftsmen or craftsmen, and their social status was low [10-11]. However, during the Renaissance, with humanism attaching importance to individual values, the status of artists was significantly improved. They began to be regarded as individuals with creativity and unique talents and were respected by society [12]. The promotion of this status has stimulated the artist's creative enthusiasm and promoted the innovation in the art field. Humanism also changed the theme of Renaissance art. In the Middle Ages, works of art mainly focused on religion, emphasizing divinity and supernatural power [13]. In the Renaissance, with humanism's concern for secular life, the theme of artistic works began to turn to secular life, and depicting people's images, emotions and activities became the mainstream (Figure 1). This transformation not only enriches the content of artistic expression, but also makes the works of art closer to the audience's life.



Figure 1 Renaissance art works

2.3. Representative artists and analysis of their works

Among the many artists of Renaissance art, the works of several key figures deeply embody the spirit of humanism [14]. Da Vinci, an outstanding representative of the Renaissance, left behind numerous immortal artistic treasures for future generations with his outstanding talent and profound ideas. Among them, the Mona Lisa is one of his most representative works and can be regarded as a model of humanistic art, as shown in Figure 2:



Figure 2 Mona Lisa

In this work, Leonardo da Vinci presents an elegant and confident female image through delicate brushwork and realistic description. Her face is beautiful and her skin is delicate, as if she could feel the real touch through the canvas. The most fascinating thing is her mysterious smile. This smile is implicit and profound, as if it contains endless stories and emotions. It is not only an attraction to the

audience, but also an external expression of Mona Lisa's inner peace and confidence. Mona Lisa sits in a chair, leaning slightly, her hands slightly overlapping, forming an elegant and natural posture. This gesture shows her upbringing and grace, and also reveals a kind of inner peace. In the concept of humanism, individuals should not only pursue external beauty, but also pay attention to inner cultivation. Mona Lisa's gesture is a perfect interpretation of this concept.

Michelangelo's sculpture David is also a masterpiece of humanistic art, as shown in Figure 3. This sculpture not only shocked the world with its exquisite craftsmanship and profound connotation, but also deeply reflected humanism's respect for individual strength with its heroic and strong male image.

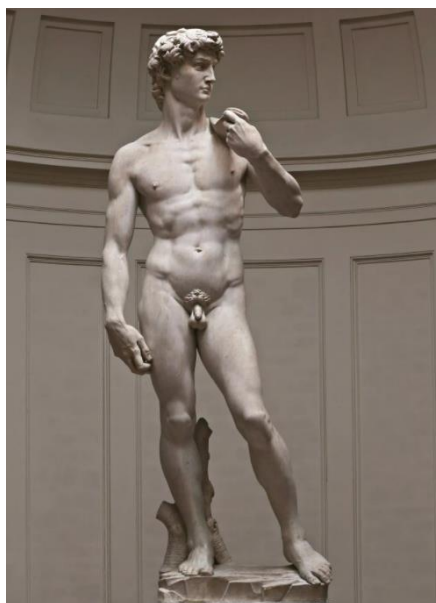


Figure 3 "David"

The sculpture "David" is based on the King David in the Bible story, but Michelangelo did not choose to depict the moment of David's victory after defeating Goliath, but chose the tense preparation moment before David's battle. David in the sculpture is tall and straight, with tight muscles and firm and courageous eyes, as if he is gathering all his strength and preparing for the coming challenge. This ultimate display of strength and courage is precisely the celebration of individual potential and heroism in the spirit of humanism. "David" sculpture, with its perfect proportion and delicate texture treatment, shows humanism's ultimate pursuit of beauty [15]. Michelangelo portrayed David's body lines with exquisite carving skills, which made the sculpture achieve a perfect balance between strength and beauty. This pursuit of beauty is rooted in humanism's respect and praise for human brilliance and life value.

Through the analysis of these representative artists and their works, we can understand the embodiment of humanistic spirit in Renaissance art more deeply.

3. The revival process of Renaissance art

3.1. Innovation in technology and form

During the Renaissance, a remarkable synergy existed between art and science, fostering an environment where technological innovation flourished and opened up unprecedented avenues for artistic expression. This interconnectedness was particularly evident in the realm of painting, where the advent and mastery of perspective techniques marked a significant breakthrough. These principles allowed them to create paintings that exhibited an extraordinary sense of space and depth, immersing viewers in a world that seemed to extend beyond the canvas.

The application of perspective was transformative, granting artists unparalleled creative freedom. It enabled them to render nature and humanity with unparalleled precision, capturing the essence of scenes and individuals in a way that had never been achieved before. Renaissance artists were deeply

committed to understanding the human body, and their meticulous study of human anatomy stands as a testament to this dedication. By dissecting cadavers and analyzing the structure of bones, muscles, and skin, they gained an intimate knowledge of the human form. The figures seemed to breathe and move, their forms so accurately rendered that they transcended the boundaries of the canvas.

The techniques and principles developed during this period continue to influence artistic creation today, providing invaluable insights and lessons for those who seek to capture the beauty and complexity of the world around us. Thus, the Renaissance remains a testament to the power of innovation and the enduring connection between art and science.

3.2. Evolution of theme and content

Renaissance art has also undergone significant evolution in theme and content, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2 Evolution of Themes and Contents in Renaissance Art

Period/Stage	Characteristics of Themes	Evolution of Contents
Early Renaissance	Dominated by Religious Subjects	Transition from the stiffness and rigidity of Late Medieval art to more natural and vivid representations, with a growing focus on the exploration of human anatomy and perspective.
High Renaissance	Rise of Humanism	Emphasis on human values, dignity, and beauty, with numerous works depicting biblical scenes but with greater attention to individual emotions and personality expressions.
Late Renaissance (Mannerism)	Emphasis on Emotion and Dynamism	Pursuit of more intense emotional expression and dynamic compositions, with colors and forms becoming more complex and varied, sometimes deviating from naturalistic depiction towards a more theatrical and exaggerated style.

In the Middle Ages, artistic works mainly focused on religious myths, emphasizing divine and supernatural power. However, during the Renaissance, with the rise of humanism, the theme of artistic works began to gradually turn to real life, personal feelings and natural scenery. Artists began to pay attention to people's inner world and emotional expression. At the same time, they also have a strong interest in natural scenery, taking natural scenery such as mountains and rivers and flowers as the theme of creation, showing the beauty and harmony of nature. Behind this change is the concern of humanism for secular life and the exploration of human nature, and it is also the artists' profound understanding of the real world.

3.3. The formation and influence of art market

During the Renaissance, with the prosperity of urban economy and the rise of the civil class, the art market gradually formed and developed. The rise of the art market has facilitated the circulation and exchange of works of art, enabling artists' works to be more widely disseminated and displayed. This not only promotes the communication and learning between artists, but also promotes the diversification and innovation of artistic style.

The formation of the art market also has an impact on artists' creative style and audience preference. In order to meet the needs of the market and the tastes of the audience, artists began to pay more attention to the ornamental and market value of their works. It was this commercialization and secularization that made Renaissance art closer to people's lives and emotions and became an important part of social culture at that time.

4. Humanistic influence of renaissance art

4.1. Influence on later artistic style

Renaissance art, which flourished during a pivotal era in human history, not only achieved unparalleled brilliance in its own time but also cast a long shadow over the artistic landscape of subsequent centuries. Its profound humanistic spirit, rooted in the celebration of individualism, rational thinking, and reverence for the classical heritage, laid the groundwork for a multitude of artistic movements that followed. This spirit served as a crucial ideological cornerstone for the later development of Baroque, Rococo, and even the diverse array of modern artistic styles.

Baroque art, building upon the foundations established by the Renaissance, further enhanced the depiction of movement and drama, infusing works with a heightened sense of emotional intensity and dynamism. Meanwhile, Rococo art, with its emphasis on relaxation, pleasure, and ornamental beauty, demonstrated a continuation of the Renaissance's interest in human nature and the joys of secular life, albeit through a more whimsical and decorative lens.

Both these styles, along with numerous others, bore the indelible mark of the Renaissance's human-centered perspective, showing how deeply its ideas had penetrated the artistic consciousness. In the modern art period, the humanistic ideals of the Renaissance continued to resonate strongly, inspiring artists to delve deeply into the complexities of human nature and express their insights through innovative and often groundbreaking works.

4.2. Shaping social and cultural concepts

Renaissance art has indeed had a profound and far-reaching impact on social and cultural concepts, primarily through its dissemination of humanistic ideas, as vividly illustrated in Figure 4. This transformative period witnessed a remarkable shift in artistic expression that mirrored a broader societal awakening.

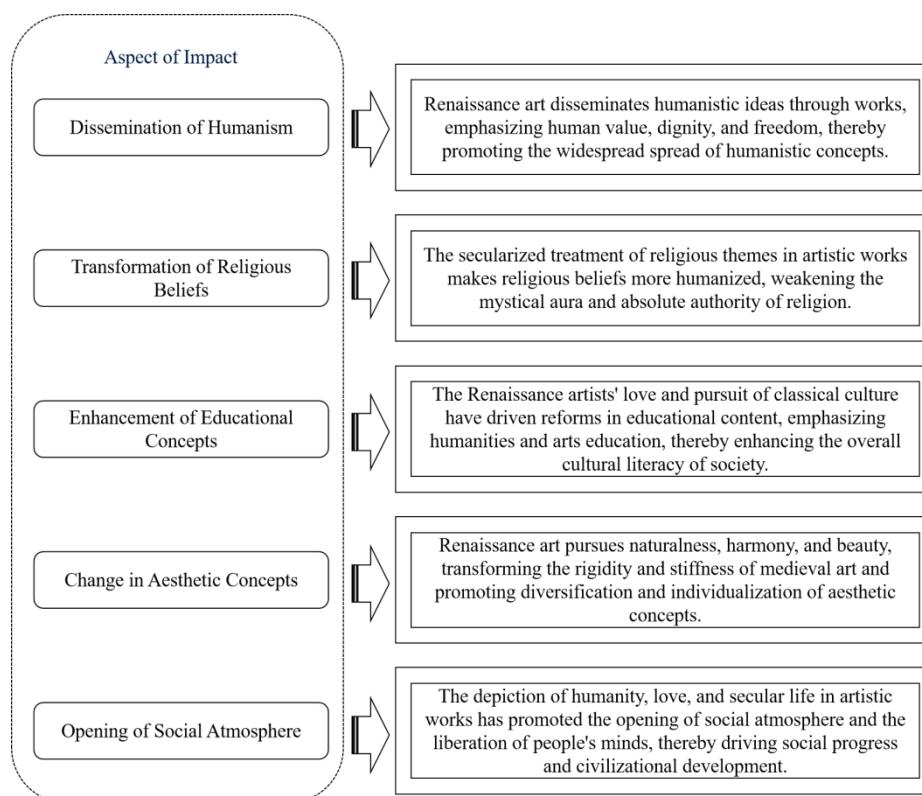


Figure 4 The influence of Renaissance art on social and cultural concepts

Renaissance art not only promoted the awakening of personal consciousness but also fostered a deeper introspection and appreciation for the inner world and emotional expression of individuals. Artists, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael, depicted human emotions and

experiences with unparalleled realism and depth, inviting viewers to engage with their works on a more personal level.

Furthermore, Renaissance art played a pivotal role in promoting the spread of scientific rationality. By incorporating principles of perspective, anatomy, and optics into their creations, artists encouraged people to understand the world in a more rational and scientific manner. This spirit of scientific inquiry and rational thinking laid the groundwork for the later scientific revolution and the Enlightenment, where reason and empirical evidence became the cornerstone of knowledge and progress.

Beyond its artistic and intellectual contributions, Renaissance art also facilitated significant changes in the social structure. It challenged the rigid hierarchies of medieval society, breaking the bonds of feudalism and promoting the rise of the civil class. As cities flourished and commerce expanded, a new social order emerged, characterized by increased individual freedom, creativity, and social mobility. This period marked a crucial turning point in human history, as societies began to embrace the values of humanism, progress, and the pursuit of knowledge.

4.3. Education and academic promotion

During this period, with the vigorous rise of humanistic thought, the field of education underwent a profound transformation. Educational content was no longer confined to traditional theology and classical scholarship but began to place greater emphasis on the study and exploration of the humanities. Disciplines such as literature, history, and philosophy received unprecedented attention during this time. Literary works, including Dante's "Divine Comedy" and Shakespeare's dramas, not only enriched people's spiritual worlds but also elevated readers' cultural literacy through profound themes and rich emotional expression. Historical research broke free from the singular chronicle model, shifting its focus to the analysis of deep-seated causes of historical events and character personalities, enabling people to gain a more comprehensive and profound understanding of history. In the realm of philosophy, particularly with the revival of ancient Greek and Roman philosophy, people were inspired to contemplate fundamental questions about the universe, nature, and human nature, laying a solid foundation for the development of philosophical thought in later generations.

Renaissance art also greatly propelled innovations in academic research methods. Artists and scholars of this period, such as Da Vinci and Michelangelo, were not only outstanding creators but also scientists who dared to explore the unknown. They advocated examining traditional knowledge with critical and creative thinking, encouraging the discovery of new truths through experimentation, observation, and reasoning. This innovation in academic research methods facilitated the rapid development of natural sciences like physics and biology, and also provided new perspectives for the study of the humanities, making academic research more rigorous, systematic, and thorough.

Renaissance art furnished abundant ideological resources and creative inspiration for the development of the humanities. The humanistic ideas expressed through artists' works, such as respect for human beings, the pursuit of freedom, and the love of beauty, became important themes in humanities research. The spirit of innovation and experimentation in Renaissance art also inspired subsequent scholars and artists to continuously explore new creative techniques, thus driving the prosperity of the humanities.

5. Conclusions

Renaissance is not only a great change in the history of art, but also an important symbol of human ideological emancipation and cultural revival. During this period, humanism gradually emerged, emphasizing human value, rationality and freedom. These ideas have profoundly influenced the content and form of artistic creation. Artists began to pay attention to people's real life, emotion and personality expression, and their works were full of praise for the brilliance of human nature and pursuit of natural beauty. This transformation has promoted the innovation of painting, sculpture, architecture and other artistic forms, and promoted the all-round development of science, literature

and philosophy. The renaissance of Renaissance art not only shows the progress of human civilization, but also reveals the far-reaching influence of humanism on the development of art.

This study provides a new perspective for understanding the evolution of artistic style in this period by systematically combing the humanistic thought in the Renaissance and its relationship with artistic creation. The study also reveals the influence of humanism on artists' creative ideas and how these ideas are conveyed to the audience through their works, thus deepening the understanding of the artistic connotation of the Renaissance.

Looking forward to the future, there are still many directions worth exploring in the study of Renaissance art. First of all, we can further explore the internal relationship between humanism and other art schools, so as to understand the diversity of artistic styles in the Renaissance more comprehensively. Secondly, with the rise of interdisciplinary research, we can put Renaissance art in a broader historical, cultural and social background and explore its interaction with science, philosophy, literature and other fields. Through these studies, we can reveal the charm and value of Renaissance art more comprehensively and provide enlightenment for contemporary artistic creation and cultural development.

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