Research on the Influence of Western Renaissance Thought on Modern Painting Art

Changhuan Chen¹

¹ Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts Guangzhou China 510665

Abstract. The comparison between poetry and painting in the Renaissance has ancient origins, which was directly inspired by some ancient scholars' comments on the relationship between poetry and painting. People admire outstanding works of art, but they think that artistic creation is contemptible physical labor. Therefore, even the best artists are just excellent craftsmen. In the Italian Renaissance, a large number of outstanding painters emerged, and they made great achievements in art, leaving behind a painting aesthetic theory that benefited the whole western painting field. In this paper, the author analyzes the influence of western Renaissance thought on modern painting art, taking Italian Renaissance paintings as representatives. The Renaissance not only had a far-reaching impact on European society and politics, but also affected modern painting art to another extent. Advocating individual freedom, with the help of rationality and scientific knowledge, vivid images and real scenes are reproduced, which creates realism.

Keywords: Renaissance, Painting art, Melancholy beauty.

1. Introduction

Renaissance is a magnificent ideological and cultural movement that rose in Italy from the 14th century, gradually spread to the whole of Europe from the late 15th century and reached its peak in the 16th century. The purpose of humanism is to take people as the center, oppose the feudal thought of the church centered on God, advocate humanity, think that people should enjoy friendship, love and art, have the right to pursue personal happiness, oppose the asceticism of the church, and oppose the idea that life is guilty. Therefore, humanism focuses on people instead of God, and pursues human happiness, ideological liberation and freedom of personality. Due to the liberation of thoughts and superb skills, these literary giants have become the most dazzling stars in the art sky; Due to the high unity of artistry and ideology, these literary and artistic works have become the brightest pearl in the vast sea of works, because these works are symbols of humanism. The Italian Renaissance is the beginning of the western modern art tradition. At that time, painters and sculptors were usually regarded as humble craftsmen engaged in manual labor, and were at the lower level of society like ordinary craftsmen such as shoemakers, carpenters and barbers. With the overall prosperity of literature, painting, architecture and sculpture, the great change in this cultural field first found the artistic soil on which it germinated, and then it was full of vitality in the Netherlands, Germany, France and other regions and countries [1]. This does not mean that artists at that time denied the achievements of the Renaissance or the skills of ancient masters. On the contrary, their achievements have always been the insurmountable peak in the art palace. In the Italian Renaissance, a large number of outstanding painters emerged, and they made great achievements in art, leaving behind a painting aesthetic theory that benefited the whole western painting field. In this paper, the author analyzes the influence of western Renaissance thought on modern painting art, taking Italian Renaissance paintings as representatives.

2. Melancholy beauty contained in painting techniques

The Renaissance is an event that is almost impossible to repeat. It has left a deep imprint on the western world, and its influence continues today. Under the background of feudalism and religion, artists empathize to explore the connotation of painting theme, and their works contain melancholy sentiment, which deeply expresses the artist's emotional side. Melancholy in the classical period was regarded as the most abominable state and despised by people. Melancholy people were all
unfortunate and disgusting people. Most discourses in the Middle Ages mentioned that melancholy people were negative people, which were reflected in dark, languid and scattered images [2-3]. This tragic romanticism has a great influence on artists, from the composition of the picture to the color of the painting, which is an important inspiration flash point for artists.

During the Renaissance, due to the liberation of people's thoughts and humanity and the further rise of spiritual level, artists often give themselves more emotions in their artistic creation, and in the process of artistic operation, confrontation and consensus are two different cultural attributes, which are indispensable for artistic creation. It is precisely because of this contradiction between opposition and unity that it promotes the formation of "melancholy beauty" [4]. Through painting techniques and language, under the specific political and cultural background, artists integrate melancholy beauty into their works of art, and all kinds of details have rich aesthetic significance and ideological connotation. The works prove the importance of melancholy beauty and its indispensability in artistic creation, which also shows the rich melancholy beauty contained in the works of art in the Renaissance.

From the Middle Ages to the present age, melancholy feelings incarnate the most elegant beauty in aesthetics. Renaissance artists perfectly interpret the artistic value of melancholy beauty through exquisite paintings, surpassing the definition of all beautiful things in aesthetics, and sublimate aesthetics into an increasingly different kind, that is, melancholy beauty. This irreplaceable classical and noble beauty has become more modern at present, because it is necessary to trace the vision of modern art back to the ancient Renaissance, and Renaissance painting has far-reaching contact and influence with contemporary painting creation [5-6]. From the perspective of modernity, "melancholy beauty" just provides artists with necessary reference value, while from the perspective of artists and viewers, the melancholy beauty of the Renaissance is more unique and contemporary. It shows the unique charm of Renaissance with melancholy beauty, and its artistic value is of far-reaching significance to modern academic research and art field.

3. Subconscious awakening

The comparison between poetry and painting in the Renaissance has ancient origins, which was directly inspired by some ancient scholars' comments on the relationship between poetry and painting. People admire outstanding works of art, but they think that artistic creation is contemptible physical labor, so even the best artists are just excellent craftsmen [7]. Artistic creation has realized the transformation from divinity to humanity, and this transformation is largely attributed to the painters' deep understanding of the structure of the human body and the innovation of painting techniques. In order to accurately represent people, they made a thorough and detailed study of human anatomy. Giotto di Bondone combines perspective with natural realism, becoming a turning point of Western painting, as show in figure 1. Artists have further extended their brushes to the hidden and hard-to-find characters' hearts hidden under the exquisite appearance, and devoted themselves to the exploration and characterization of the characters' inner spiritual characteristics with keen perspective and great enthusiasm, striving to make the images in the paintings more full and convincing.

Figure 1. Lamentation of Christ
For a long time before and after the Renaissance, natural realistic entities were all composed of lines. Human consciousness obeys everything calmly, but grotesque, rebellion, doubt and confusion have never disappeared from human collective subconscious. Finally, one day, the subconscious broke through the shackles of consciousness and began to hide and quietly show the tip of the iceberg in human paintings, which was reflected in the paintings of Fauvism. People think that the works of consciousness originated from a stable state, or more precisely, from a static point in space [8]. This primitive point grows in spatial latitude until it has three dimensions. The general rules are confused, but the small rules are still observed, which shows that the rules still exist despite being subverted, that is to say, although the subconscious has made a breakthrough and penetrated into the consciousness, it is still controlled and concealed by the consciousness.

Figure painting has always been the core of Renaissance painting, and it is also the core of academic teaching. The most important thing is to describe the eyes in order to make the characters look good. The key to the success of reproduction lies in whether the characters are depicted according to scientific means of reproduction and whether they convey the inner spiritual atmosphere. Just like the establishment of college system in Renaissance to make painting art and artists gain dignity and status, breaking this system in the wave of French Revolution today to make art and artists gain new dignity and status is the embodiment of some political demands.

In Venice at the end of the Renaissance, painters began to use brushwork, which is a very emotional way of painting. It is from this time that art no longer exists as a slave of nature, but as an expresser. Art has just begun to keep pace with natural science, because thought and consciousness are involved. Subconscious has got rid of the shackles of pre-consciousness and is playing an increasingly important role in works of art.

4. Primitive taste

The Renaissance tried to restore the classical culture of Greece and Rome, in fact, it created a new culture by learning the classics, not simply retro [9]. The concrete form of classical art inspires everyone, but it is important to understand the realistic method and the democratic thought of classical society. Renaissance advocated attaching importance to real life and opposing authority, which broke the situation that religious mysticism dominated the whole country and effectively promoted and influenced the religious reform movement. The Renaissance advocated attaching importance to real life and opposed authority. Get rid of superstition and emancipate your mind.

Primitive art has become one of the important factors to enlighten and develop artists’ creation, and it has promoted the reform and innovation of painting art and reflected the characteristics of the times. Therefore, some artists draw nutrition from the original art and combine their own personality characteristics to create new artistic forms and personal styles, and create works with strong original interest. Primitive art is like his bridge to the new art world; Picasso's research on the original artistic spirit and the overall information of the original works of art made him find a suitable modeling method and freely use the "original" language to create, making him one of the main representatives of modern primitivism.

In the sculptures and paintings of artists, the status and value of people are fully demonstrated, and the image, lofty humanity and feelings of people in beautiful real life are described. Artists try their best to use the advanced scientific achievements at that time, such as human anatomy and perspective, to make the image accurate and vivid, full of three-dimensional and spatial sense; In terms of techniques, the sketch method of light and shade is emphasized to make the artistic image structure rigorous and solemn. Although Michelangelo is an architect, a sculptor, a painter, a poet and an engineer at the same time, what he values most is the title of sculptor. Because he thinks sculpture can better express people's image in space. Of course, Michelangelo's zenith painting is also a model of the art world.

During the Renaissance, the changes in the concepts and methods of science and technology also promoted the renewal of painting art. On the basis of perspective and optics, Leonardo da Vinci
invented the famous "fading method" in painting. "Fade-in method" is a visual sense that objects appear faded or even disappeared by contrasting extremely soft colors with soft light and shade. Giotto, alberti and Da Vinci were the representatives of Italian painting aesthetics theory in Renaissance, and they reached a high degree of agreement in discussing the authenticity of art, as show in figure 2. Giotto put forward a new aesthetic concept of picture composition. He thinks that painting is "not just a substitute for words", "as if seeing the real events happen with one's own eyes, just like when performing on the stage". As Leonardo da Vinci said: "Painting is actually the legitimate daughter of science and nature."

![Figure 2. Saint John the Baptist](image)

From the perspective of art's own history, the emergence of primitive interest in modern painting is an inevitable law of art development. Throughout the history of western art development, we can find that the traditional realistic art in the west has been revived many times, and the whole system has been perfect, and almost no one can make new achievements. Primitive art is a valuable heritage that can be used for reference, which is different from ancient Greek art, Renaissance, realism, Impressionism and other reproduction-oriented arts. The inheritance of modern painting to primitive art has just found a foothold across western traditional art. The primitive interest phenomenon in modern painting is influenced by the primitive social ideological trend and has become the composition and development of modern primitive social ideological trend. This development structure of art creates conditions for the return of primitive art. In order to oppose the artists opposite to themselves, modern artists have found the "giant" of primitive art in the long river of history and combined it with their own strength to form an irresistible trend. Primitivism, as a social trend of thought, has a long history. Understanding and thinking about the primitive interest phenomenon in modern painting from the horizontal and vertical aspects of this social trend of thought will help us to understand this phenomenon from a holistic perspective and a deeper level.

The original works of art convey the information it contains in a straightforward and exaggerated way in visual language, which is full of contingency and spontaneity, does not reproduce the object based on three-dimensional space, and has a tendency to simplify. These characteristics of primitive art are integrated. Modern painters with primitive taste also adopt the skills, methods and concepts of primitive art comprehensively, but the emphasis of these artists is different [10].

Under the influence of Cezanne, Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, he created his own painting style, became the leader of the French Fauvism painting movement, and made achievements in oil painting, sculpture and printmaking, which can be said to be one of the most ambitious artists. In this respect, Matisse has made remarkable achievements. He skillfully and harmoniously combined various elements, and reduced the three-dimensional space into two-dimensional space, thus gaining more free space, releasing people's spirit and soul, thus creating a brand-new artistic concept.
5. Conclusions

During the Renaissance, due to the liberation of people's thoughts and humanity and the further rise of spiritual level, artists often give themselves more emotions in their artistic creation, and in the process of artistic operation, confrontation and consensus are two different cultural attributes, which are indispensable for artistic creation. For a long time before and after the Renaissance, natural realistic entities were all composed of lines. Human consciousness obeys everything calmly, but grotesque, rebellion, doubt and confusion have never disappeared from human collective subconscious. The Renaissance not only had a far-reaching impact on European society and politics, but also affected modern painting art to a certain extent, becoming a real painting and reflecting its style in the humanistic atmosphere. Advocating individual freedom, with the help of rationality and scientific knowledge, vivid images and real scenes are reproduced, which creates realism and has a far-reaching impact on modern painting art.

References


