

Taking an exhibition of "mysterious world" works written by women as an example, the art and form of female images in contemporary illustration

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Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to summarize the artistic language and image characteristics of Leonora Carrington, the Muse of the 2022 Venice Biennale, through the analysis of her works in an exhibition of "mysterious world" from women's pen, and then to study the artistic expression forms of women's images in contemporary illustrations. Leonora Carrington is a typical representative of surrealism. In his works, in addition to focusing on the "spiritual automation" of the subconscious and dreams, he also integrates Celtic culture, Renaissance paintings, Central American folk art, medieval alchemy and Jungian psychology. Most of his works focus on the half human and half animal images in the natural environment, and the combination of various wild animals. With the softness of women, they are merged into sacred and bizarre "magic temples". At the same time, it explores the themes of identity and gender, feminism and so on.

Keywords: Art and form; Surrealism; Female image; Illustration.

1. Introduction

Leonora Carrington, a surreal artist and novelist born in Mexico, England, spent most of her adult life in Mexico City and was one of the last surviving participants in the surreal movement in the 1930s. He was also a founding member of the Mexican women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s. She once said: "I hope most of us can understand that women should not claim rights. Because rights are there from the beginning. They must be recaptured, including the myths that belong to us and have been violated, stolen or destroyed." Carrington's childhood was imbued with Celtic myths. After coming to Mexico, she learned about local folk stories. She was also deeply interested in the traditional customs of other cultures. Many of Carrington's works are inspired by ancient legends and mysterious rituals. In her eyes, they can help us rediscover the independence and strength of women deprived by modern society, and establish a pure and harmonious connection between people and the distant world.

2. A feature of "mysterious world" works written by women

A large number of Leonora Carrington's works are surreal. This style is a representative of western literary and art schools, which prevailed in Europe between the two world wars at that time and had a profound impact on the field of visual art. Surrealism is an in-depth exploration of human subconscious psychology, which puts forward clear viewpoints such as breaking through logical and practical reality. This style breaks the real logic, breaks through people's conventional thinking, and completely abandons the traditional conventional images inherent in the mind, thus integrating these unconventional logical thinking with self-consciousness and instinct, and showing another wonderful world. There are too many rational logics in the real world, so that people's subconscious desires that they are not aware of will be suppressed and shelved. For a long time, the most real face in the heart of human beings will not be displayed. The

emergence of surrealist style, which excavates and saves the world in the heart of human beings at the same time, can bring people to the world outside the reality - the detached world on the other side. The way to break through the shackles of rationality and consciousness is very obvious in Carrington's works. He pursues the free release of original impulses and ideas, and regards literary and artistic creation as a purely personal spontaneous psychological process, which is the perfect embodiment of surrealism.

2.1. Loose and bold ideas

From Carrington's works, it is not difficult to see that each of his works is bold and wild in composition and creative ideas, and her pen is loose, which is a typical synonym for her surrealist illustration. In her pictures, she often uses techniques such as segmentation, dislocation, deformation and abstraction to closely fit surrealism with her own pictures and perfectly display a world full of magic colors in front of people. In her self-portrait: the inspiration of dawn horse, she vividly embodies her bold creativity and abstract skills. At that time, the favorite theme of surrealist female artists was self-portrait.

Carrington's self-portrait, completed in 1938, is one of her most famous works. In this semi open indoor space, a white horse like a doll on the wall seems to jump into the woods separated by a wall and become a real wild horse. Carrington sits on a chair. Her long, fluffy hair looks like a fluttering horse mane. Her raised right hand also looks after the slightly raised left leg of a female hyena at her feet. This work is full of symbolic meanings.

2.2. Incomprehensible magic world

In 1937, at the age of 20, Carrington met Max Ernst, a 46-year-old German artist. Ernst is known as the "Da Vinci of surrealism". He plays an important role in many art movements, such as the da da da movement and surrealist art. Carrington was deeply attracted by Ernst's fantastic artistic talent. Soon after getting along, he fell in love and came to Paris to live with Ernst without hesitation. Their love stories

are as puzzling as Ernst's works at that time. To give a simple example, in one of his works, there is such a scene: a house is embodied in the form of wood collage. There are fences on the left and right picture frames. The fields, the sky and the buildings in the distance form a beautiful little world. In this small world, the most exaggerated element is the doorbell. His picture is that his hands can never reach the doorbell. It is impossible for normal people to understand this strange picture. His paintings are one abnormal dream world after another. Of course, what cannot be ignored is Sien's young experience, which also affected his later creation. For example, his little sister was born, and his pet parrot died. This kind of magic feeling in the past is combined with a kind of unconscious knowledge in the present, which makes the work feel strange.

3. Artistic expression of reality and dream in surrealism illustration

3.1. The real world in surrealist illustration

As we all know, art comes from life and reality. Artists are observing and experiencing in life. It can even be said that as long as we give play to our imagination, everyone can become a self-identified artist. Surrealist illustrations are no exception. They can also see the profound imprints of reality in the irrational world, that is, in the world of self-imagination. Many surrealist illustrators have brought their lives into their works, which is also the technique used by surrealist illustrators and the unique creative way they like. In many of Carrington's works, she can shape the world that seems to be possible because she has been seeking a way out in rebellion and rebelling against the confinement of her native family and gender all her life. For example, her paintings juggler and the green tea are very obvious.

3.2. Dream world in surrealist illustration

The most important and core theme of surrealist illustration is fantasy. Dream is the artistic conception that designs the picture into a dream and fantasy effect. It breaks the constraints of stereotypes and thinking patterns in real life experience, tries its best to express the inner world of human subconscious, and triggers endless imagination of the viewer. In addition to Carrington, there is also an Indonesian female illustrator, Niken Anindita. Her works have a fantastic atmosphere, with a sense of freedom, romance and reverie. The pictures are full of children's imagination, which fully reflects the dream world in surreal illustrations.

4. The art and form of female images in modern illustration

4.1. Female images in foreign ancient art creation

Western countries have never stopped depicting the image of women. People's praise of women is first manifested in the worship of reproduction. In the early period, a large number of female images appeared in the frescoes of "Lasca Cave". In the Greek and Roman times, women's social status was generally low, but they still played an important role in handicraft production and family life. Therefore, it is enough to see the importance of women. The importance of women is often reflected in Greek myths and legends. Women in myths are in the transitional stage of maternal and male power society. The contradiction of status and treatment between the

two sides urges them to show pride and meekness, fight and compromise, and makes their images more colorful. In ancient times, due to the uncertainty of the controversy between male rights and feminism, the expression of female images was controlled by male painters. For example, the famous Western painter Raphael, whose virgin image was always noble and pure, elegant, gentle and fraternal, and radiated maternal brilliance. It is these artists' depictions of women in Greek mythology that create the ideal beauty in people's minds. However, due to regional and transitional cultural differences, most of their female images are related to religion.

4.2. Female images in domestic ancient art creation

When it comes to the images of women in traditional Chinese paintings, most people's first impression is often that of women in ancient costumes with fluttering clothes, low eyebrows and drooping eyes, and weak willows. The reason for this phenomenon is that the image of ladies has been deeply rooted in the hearts of the people since the Ming Dynasty. Although this image is far from the real image of women at that time, it is indeed a stereotype of ancient Chinese women. The characteristics of female images in ancient times mainly originated from the male audience's self-imagination of women. In the Ming and Qing Dynasties, this imagination reached its peak. But now, this phenomenon is still continuing and developing. From this, we can see how far-reaching the influence of traditional ideology and culture on us. However, if we look back at the history of the development of female images in Chinese art, we will find that not all female images have this style. For example, another female image in ancient China - Mulan Ci, a poem in the Northern and Southern Dynasties, vividly shows women's confident vitality and high-spirited state in the paintings. Of course, the embodiment of this female image is also related to the social background at that time, "Mulan Ci" should be a work of the Northern Wei Dynasty. According to research, it was a common phenomenon for women to join the army in the Northern Wei Dynasty. Therefore, the characteristics and forms of the female images in "Mulan Ci" in the picture are of course vibrant and energetic on the battlefield.

4.3. Art forms of female images in contemporary illustration

The illustration style of female images has many styles both from the artistic point of view and from the political and social point of view. The author summarizes the following points:

(1) Concrete style

Illustrative works with realistic style often take the real female image in life as a model, but they are not simply copied. Instead, they integrate the personal feelings and subjective performance of illustrators and create realistically subjectively according to the content and theme. This kind of illustrative figure depiction is delicate and gentle, beautiful and romantic, true but not exaggerated. The paintings of Wang Ling, a famous Chinese illustrator, are of this style. Most of the characters in her paintings are women and tend to be realistic. The protagonists in the paintings have many metal ornaments. The lighting and shadow in the pictures are created properly, and the personal illustrator atmosphere is integrated to foil the characters. In her paintings, the large effect of most of her works perfectly explains the beauty of

women. In terms of details, such as the facial features, body, hair and clothes of women, she has made very delicate depictions, which makes the image of women shine in her illustrations.

(2) Flat abstract style.

Flat abstract style is more rational than realistic style. It condenses the shape of the characters, and with its generalized form, exaggerated expression of female characteristics, bold fashion, simple and capable artistic style, it makes the picture full of vitality and interest, makes people feel relaxed, naughty, friendly and pleasant, and greatly shortens the distance between products and consumers. Especially in recent years, with the rapid development in China, people's quality of life is also getting higher and higher. At the same time, consumers will mostly choose products that can meet their personal visual and psychological needs at the same time when shopping. Then, with its own generalized form and exaggerated performance characteristics, flat illustrations will naturally gain more people's choice and recognition. In addition, women prefer shopping more than men, and the emotional side is more obvious than men's. In this way, the rational form of flat illustration itself and the emotional feelings of women will be integrated, which may have more resonance for products with female flat illustration style.

(3) Fantastic dream style

Most of these styles are divorced from the real society and expressed through the imagination of illustrators. Most of their creative inspiration comes from fictional plots such as novels or fairy tales. Illustrators display the mythical beauty and wonder of female images by exerting imagination, and create a surreal artistic atmosphere. Hirano Mizuho, a Japanese illustrator, presents the feminine beauty in a fantastic way, deeply touching the viewer's heart. Most of her illustrations are fantasy art, which is a perfect interpretation of the wonderful and dreamy female illustrative style. The overall color is elegant and dreamy, and the hand-painted illustrative works have the same curve as the wind. In almost every of her illustrative works, there is a romantic and melancholy female image. Every painting seems to have a soul, which expresses her feelings through her works. For example, Boris Vallejo, an American fantasy illustrator, is also very fond of this fantastic and dreamy style. His works often create the theme of "beauty and beast". The colors in the pictures are rich and bold, with super imagination and courage. His works have been popular in Europe and the United States for a while, and have won a large number of fans. Nowadays, these wonderful and dreamy forms of female illustration are mostly used in science fiction movies, magazines, characters in virtual games, art exhibitions, and so on.

(4) Decorative style

There is no more commonly used artistic style in illustration than decorative style. This style of women can be expressed in many forms, such as hand drawing, collage, or computer drawing. To take a simple example, the pop art movement that took place in Britain in the 20th century. At that time, most of the graphic design styles were collage, hand-painted and other unconventional decorative forms. At that time, it also caused quite a storm, blowing a breeze into the rational, cold and rigid modernist design style. To sum up, decorative style is not limited to concrete and abstract forms, but also decorative patterns with national characteristics and typical characteristics of the times. Integrating these form characteristics and representative patterns into female themed illustration creation will not only bring traditional decorative

styles with national characteristics and cultural flavor into the picture, but also make the picture more classical, and the scope of application will be more extensive. In addition, the form of female illustration and the proportion of characters in the decorative style need not be reflected in the form of exaggeration and deformation, as long as the colors are novel, properly matched, and have the effect of decoration or beautification. According to research, in modern social life, decorative female illustrations will generally appear on the walls of homes or offices, and are widely used as interior decoration.

(5) Cute cartoon style

This style may be suitable for people of all ages. Female images in cartoon style female images in cartoon style have lively, lovely and childlike expression. Their images are easy to get people's instinctive love because cartoon women have a childlike round and lovely body shape and cute expression with big eyes. In particular, most cartoon women's images are humorous, vivid and cute, which vividly reflects the children's images with a dull and clumsy proportion, which easily makes most people feel good about them. In today's society, parents attach great importance to the education of their children. There are also many children's picture books on the market, and picture books designed with female illustrator images are undoubtedly more popular. It is difficult to refuse all beautiful and cute illustrator designs.

5. Prospect of female illustration art

In today's society, the times are developing, science and technology are advancing, the comprehensive strength of China is far greater than that of other countries, and the Chinese market is rising and growing. Through various market surveys, it is found that business publicity cannot be separated from illustration and entrepreneurship, and female themed illustration is becoming more and more popular with the public with its various forms of display. Therefore, business publicity will be more closely integrated with female illustration, and at present, it has already borne rich fruits. The emergence of this situation has created a vigorous and promising industry of female illustration. I believe that in the near future, the artistic forms of women's images will be presented to us in various poses, continuing the different forms of beauty in women's illustrations.

6. Conclusion

The beauty of women is the eternal theme of human art. Since ancient times, many artists have expressed it in a variety of generous and clear language. Every excellent work is filled with fresh, elegant and noble artistic temperament. It is also these beautiful, fresh and elegant female artistic images that bring us the infinite romantic color of modern people. I believe that in the near future, female themed illustration will surely show its vigorous vitality with the continuous progress of society and science and technology, and its artistic value is also poised to develop toward a bright future.

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