A Brief Discussion on the Presentation of the Artistic Characteristics of Postmodernism in Sculpture Art

Shangqiu Lin
Zhejiang QiuYE Landscape Architecture Engineering Co., LTD., Yuhang District, Hangzhou Zhejiang, 311100, China

Abstract: Postmodernism art is an art movement that emerged in the 1970s and 1980s. It has influenced many fields with its unique artistic charm and various forms and characteristics. Sculpture art, as a kind of plastic art, is inevitably affected by it, and has made remarkable development in application and participation, and people's understanding of sculpture art is more diversified. This paper combines cases to analyze the specific presentation of post-modernism artistic characteristics in sculpture art works from multiple perspectives, providing new thinking dimensions for contemporary sculpture creation.

Keywords: Postmodernism Art Features; Sculpture Art; Form of Presentation.

1. Introduction

Postmodernism art, as an important art movement that emerged in the 1970s and 1980s, has exerted a profound influence on many art fields including sculpture with its challenge to traditional art norms and embrace of diversified forms of expression. It not only overturns the established boundaries of art, but also encourages artists to express their personal opinions and emotions freely, thus leading to the development of art in a more liberal and inclusive direction. In the field of sculpture, this art movement prompted artists to break through the limitations of traditional materials and forms and explore more creative methods and techniques of expression, making sculpture art not only more diversified in form, but also more diversified in concept and significance. The purpose of this study is to deeply explore the specific manifestation of postmodernism art characteristics in sculpture art works, and analyze the significance of these characteristics to contemporary sculpture creation and theoretical construction, so as to provide a new perspective and thinking dimension for understanding and evaluating modern sculpture art.

2. Overview of Postmodernist Art

Post-modernism art, rising in the middle and late 20th century, is a reflection and transcendence of the modernist art concept. This art movement not only shows uniqueness in definition and historical context, but also reveals the challenge to traditional artistic boundaries and the inclusion of cultural diversity in its core features. Postmodernist art rejects the pursuit of purity, universality and objectivity of modernism through its anti-traditional stance, and instead focuses on individual experience, subjectivity and relativity. It emphasizes the integration of cultural diversity and advocates the convergence of art forms from different cultural backgrounds and historical conditions to reflect a more complex and pluralistic modern society. In addition, post-modernist art blurs the boundary between art and daily life, integrates the creation and appreciation of art works into People's Daily life, and emphasizes the participation of the audience and the interactivity of art.

3. Definition and Characteristics of Sculpture Art

Sculpture art, as an ancient and diversified form of plastic art, shows the creativity and emotion of artists through three-dimensional works. The definition of sculpture not only includes traditional figures, animal images, abstract structures, etc., but also extends to various novel forms of expression in modern and contemporary art, such as installation art, environmental art, etc. This art is not limited to traditional materials such as stone, wood and metal, but also non-traditional materials such as glass, plastic, paper and even light and sound. Sculpture art is characterized by its strong sense of space and physical presence, which occupies physical space and interacts with the surrounding environment. This spatiality not only refers to the three-dimensional form of the work itself, but also includes the spatial relationship between the audience and the work and the work and the environment. The artistry of sculpture is reflected in its formal beauty, material beauty and creativity. Through the artist's processing of materials and realization of ideas, it shows rich visual and tactile effects. At the same time, the sculpture is strongly expressive, which can not only convey the artist's thoughts and feelings, but also arouse the emotional resonance of the audience and stimulate people's thinking.

In addition, with the passage of time and the development of society, the characteristics of sculpture art are constantly evolving. In contemporary times, sculpture pays more attention to the expression of ideas, forms are more diversified, and the use of materials and technologies is more extensive and innovative. Sculpture art is no longer just for the display of beauty, but more for the discussion of social, cultural, political and other issues of the media, emphasizing the interaction and participation with the audience, so that sculpture art occupies an important position in the field of contemporary art.

4. The Embodiment of Postmodernism in Sculpture Art

4.1. Anti-tradition and Anti-art

The embodiment of post-modernism in sculpture art is
particularly prominent in its anti-tradition and anti-art attitude, which is particularly obvious in the use of ready-made products as an artistic technique. Marcel Duchamp's "Spring" is a typical representative of this idea. This work is essentially a common ceramic urinal, but Duchamp gives it new meaning and value by putting it in the context of art. This act challenges the traditional definition of art and the way of creation, that is, the view that works of art must be handmade by artists through their personal skills, and shifts the focus of art creation to ideas and thinking. The presentation of Spring not only subverts people's traditional cognition of sculpture art, but also triggers a profound reflection on the relationship between art and daily objects.

The anti-tradition in post-modern sculpture art is also reflected in the integration of art and daily life, breaking the boundary between art and life. Sculpture art is no longer limited to the exhibition in museums and galleries, but more into the public space and daily environment, and is closely related to the daily life of the audience. This art form emphasizes participation and interactivity, making the audience a part of the creation and experience of art, thus making art more life-oriented and popular. Through the integration with the daily environment, sculpture works not only enrich people's living environment, but also provide a new way to reflect on reality and society.

The embodiment of modernism in sculpture art, especially through the use of ready-made products and the integration of art and daily life, not only broadens the form and content of sculpture art, but also challenges the traditional art concept and aesthetic standards. This anti-tradition and anti-art spirit has injected new vitality into the development of sculpture art and promoted its continuous development to a more open and diversified direction.

4.2. Expression of Emotion and Metaphor

In the post-modern sculpture art, the expression of emotion and metaphor has reached the extreme through the use of symbolism and metaphor, and the works of Joseph Beuys are undoubtedly the outstanding representative of this artistic expression. Boies's artistic creation is deeply influenced by his personal experience. He integrates his life experience, philosophical thinking and social and political concern into his sculpture works, conveying deep emotions and thoughts to the audience through rich symbols and metaphors.

Boyece believed that every work of art should be a "social sculpture", able to promote social change and the awakening of the individual spirit. He often uses unconventional materials such as felt and beeswax to create sculptures, which are themselves rich in symbolism and closely related to Boyce's personal experience and therapeutic themes. For example, his work Grease Chair uses animal fat and felt, materials that not only respond to his personal experience in World War II, but also symbolize warmth, healing and protection. Boys's sculptures are full of metaphors and symbols, which usually require deep thinking and interpretation by the audience. His art works are not only visual enjoyment, but also an exchange of spirit and ideas. By combining personal experiences with a wide range of social and cultural issues, Boyce's work encourages audiences to engage in the process of creating and interpreting art, stimulating their imagination and critical thinking.

In post-modern sculpture, Joseph Beuys's work shows how deep emotions and metaphors can be expressed through art, and how personal experiences can be translated into a universal artistic language. His artistic practice not only enriches the means of expression of sculpture art, but also provides new thinking and exploration direction for postmodernism art.

4.3. Integration of Elements of Popular Culture

Another notable feature of postmodern sculpture is the integration of elements of popular culture, of which the works of Claes Oldenburg are exemplary. With his unique Pop art style, Oldenburg transforms ordinary objects from daily life into stunning sculptural art. Through this transformation and reconstruction, he explores the impact of consumer culture and materialism on modern society. Oldenburg's sculptures, such as giant soft hamburgers, cherries and typewriter erasers, not only have a strong visual impact, but also cause people to think about the meaning behind the objects of everyday life.

In Oldenburg's art practice, the characteristics of pop art are particularly prominent, that is, through the symbols and images of popular culture, reflecting and criticizing the social situation. His works display humor and satire on popular culture through exaggerated forms and dimensions, as well as sharp colors and simplified shapes. These works are both critiques of consumer society and explorations of the boundaries between art and everyday life. By elevating everyday objects to the level of art, Oldenburg's sculptures break through the traditional boundaries between high art and popular culture, and emphasize the close connection between art and life. This transformation and reconstruction of everyday objects not only enables the audience to examine the world around them from a new perspective, but also challenges people's established understanding of what "art" is.

Through the case of Claes Oldenburg, we can see the deep integration of elements of mass culture in postmodern sculpture art and how artists use these elements to express observations and criticisms of contemporary society. This integration not only enriches the language and expression form of sculpture art, but also expands the communication mode between art and audience, making art closer to people's life and feelings.

5. Practice and Innovation of Postmodern Sculpture Art

The practice and innovation of post-modern sculpture art are reflected in many levels, especially in the innovative use of materials, the integration of technology and media, and the strengthening of participation and experience. These practices not only push the boundaries of sculpture to expand, but also provide a new way for artists and audiences to experience.

In terms of the use of materials, post-modern sculpture art breaks the traditional restrictions and adopts a variety of non-traditional materials, such as plastic, light, sound, and even digital media. The innovative use of these materials brings new forms of expression and visual effects to sculpture art. Artists not only focus on the physical properties of the material itself, but also explore its symbolic meaning and emotional expression, so that the work has a deeper connotation and a wider range of interaction possibilities. The integration of technology and media is another important aspect of postmodern sculpture art innovation. With the development of science and technology, digital technology, virtual reality, 3D printing and other new technologies have been introduced into sculpture creation by artists. These
technologies not only change the production process of works, but also provide a new perspective and space for artistic expression. The integration of technology enables sculpture art to go beyond the traditional physical form and expand to the virtual space and digital world, thus broadening the boundaries of art and the scope of experience for the audience. The intensification of participation and experience is another remarkable feature of post-modern sculpture art. Many postmodern sculpture works are no longer passively displayed to the audience, but invite the audience to participate and become part of the work. Through interactive installations, movable structures, and participatory performances, artists create art spaces that require the audience to actively explore and experience, thus strengthening the audience’s sense of participation and immersive experience. This approach not only strengthens the connection between the art work and the audience, but also makes the art experience more personalized and diversified.

Through the innovative use of materials, the integration of technology and media, and the strengthening of participation and experience, the practice and innovation of post-modern sculpture art not only enrich the means of expression and connotation of sculpture art, but also provide a broader and deeper space for artists and audiences to explore art.

6. Conclusion

Post-modernist art does not require the audience to consistently restore the original spirit and aesthetic expression when appreciating the art works, and the aesthetic significance of the works is constantly changing. It is more inclined to encourage the audience to have a new personalized aesthetic perception and mobilize their participation. In this era of pluralism, it brings infinite space for the development of artistic creation and provides an important way for more people to communicate with the outside world. It can not only deeply express the designer's design concept and integrate it into daily life, but also let more people understand the characteristics of art development in certain historical periods. Therefore, art design workers need to continue to carry out relevant research, and at the same time combine the actual situation to apply, so as to promote the integration and development of postmodernism art concept and modern sculpture art.

References