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Analysis of Matisse's Painting Style

-- Taking "Harmony in Red" as an Example

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Abstract: Henry Matisse is an important representative of contemporary "Fauvism" and a revolutionary figure in Western art history. The artistic concept he advocated broke free from the constraints of traditional painting, broke free from traditional colors and forms, and achieved a revolutionary innovation. "The Harmony of Red" is an important work by Mattis, who abandoned traditional views and created a harmonious, relaxed, and peaceful atmosphere by linking colors with vine patterns. This transformation has had a profound impact on contemporary painting.

Keywords: Matisse; The Harmony of Red; Fauvism.

1. Fauvism

1.1. Fauvism

Fauvism was a popular art style in France from 1898 to 1908. Although there was no clear theory or program, it was created by a group of artists who gathered together for a period of time and worked together, making it a form of art. Fauvist painters like to use bright and heavy colors, often using oil paints squeezed out of paint tubes to create strong visual effects with straightforward and rough brushstrokes, expressing their pursuit of emotional expressionism. Fauvist painter Fritz defined "Fauvism" as "using acoustic techniques of color to produce the same effect as sunlight, a frenzied depiction (starting from the touch of nature), and a frenzied pursuit to establish truth." Fauvism painters extensively used rough themes and heavy colors to express emotional wildness, relying on structural principles, ignoring volume, objects, and light and dark, and replacing perspective with pure single colors. His painting style is very simple, with intricate lines and smooth brushstrokes, full of childlike innocence and vitality, often conveying a joyful emotion that makes people feel pleasing to the eye. In the visuals of the Fauvism, for the first time, colors and lines are no longer used to reproduce natural objects, but rather to express the artist's inner emotions through shaping objects and using color and brushstrokes. Colors do not need to rely on any natural form or authenticity to possess independent character traits.

1.2. The Source of Fauvism

The Fauvism painting school emerged in the early 20th century. At a painting exhibition in Paris in 1905, a group of avant-garde painters represented by Henry Matisse attracted people's attention for their artworks. Because these works completely deviate from the traditional realistic oil painting's focus on perspective and the rules of creating light and dark relationships, they express the relationship between light and dark through rich colors, and the lines are simple and elegant, with strong subjective emotions of the painter. At that time, some people jokingly called it "Fauvism", but unexpectedly it became the name of a new school of painting. From the 19th century to the first half of the 20th century, Paris, France was known as the capital of world art, with very active literary and artistic ideas, and many different schools of thought emerged. The main schools of thought include neoclassicism, impressionism, and abstractionism. The smaller schools include Romanticism and Critical Realism. If Impressionism is a significant breakthrough and crucial node in Western oil painting from classical oil painting to modern oil painting, then Fauvism oil painting is another step towards modern oil painting based on Impressionism oil painting. The characteristic of Fauvism oil painting is to simplify the form of oil painting, and pay more attention to the color effect of oil painting. Through simple and bright lines, it creates an atmosphere in the picture with heavy makeup and colors, expressing rich thoughts, emotions, and emotions, creating a strong visual impact, and achieving the artistic effect that the painter wants. Although the establishment of the Fauvism was not long, it had a profound impact on contemporary art.

2. A Brief Analysis of Matisse

2.1. Understanding Matisse

Henry Matisse is the leader of the "Fauvism". He was the leader of the earliest modernist reform in the 20th century. Matisse broke through the western conventions in his paintings, emphasizing the initiative and self-discipline of color, making the picture show a strong abnormal tension, more subjective in color, and also made a comprehensive innovation in color and space, that is, the anime without perspective replaced the three-dimensional space, which transformed light and darkness into the principle of three-dimensional and perspective, realizing the liberation of color.

2.2. The Stylistic Features of Matisse's Works

2.2.1. A Concise and Strong Decorative Composition

Composition is an art in which a painter arranges various elements according to their own feelings and wishes. Matisse's goal is to create a new use of color through his coherent lines and his connection to time and space, making his body feel so lifelike. Matisse combined the colors on the pigment tube with Eastern painting techniques. Pursuing simplicity. His works have a unique decorative style. Matisse made a bold innovation in his work, guiding us with a strong sense of form, allowing us to understand that beneath its surface lies its rich meaning. In "Harmony in Red", no details are depicted, nor are food, plates, tables, walls, floors depicted, everything seems to blend perfectly. Matisse wants to depict

a combination of lines and colors, with rose red as the main color tone. Emphasis was placed on the tangled vines, the trees in the windows were abstracted, and all the scenery was patterned, highlighting a strong decorative quality. Matisse's creation of a dreamy world that transcends objective space also evokes contemplation in tranquility.

2.2.2. Simple and Unrestrained Color Expression

Matisse advocates for viewers to consciously immerse themselves in all the colors of the picture and be completely influenced by them. At the same time, attention should be paid to the subtle differences in the treatment of light ink, from the high gloss of thick ink to the light ink treatment that reveals the background color. He separates colors from concrete things and gives them new meanings, providing a free composition for them. He said, "I didn't use colors in a preconceived way, and the safety of colors surged into my mind like a tide." Since 1909, Matisse has been trying to use large-sized color images. His "Dance" (Figure 1) is 258.1x389.8 cm in length, with only three colors. The bodies of five people seem to be wearing a red piece of clothing because of its visual characteristics, as if floating on a blue earth, and both the earth and the body are suspended on this blue background. And on them, there are also spaces of varying sizes, allowing their gaze to wander back and forth between red, blue, and green. The balance and coordination of the three colors in quantity and space, combined with the rhythm and rhythmic lines that make up the human body, form a unique artistic charm. The connotation and design of simplicity are not limited by traditional space and light, making people ignore the meaning conveyed by its form and accept the power it expresses itself. At the same time, he also used a large area to gain absolute control over his canvas. The exciting colors, the shapes and lines that divide the image, and the arrangement of space all have a power that makes the dance lively - a force emanates from the center of the image, which is the swinging arms of the girls, and the power gathered in the air from their toes, forming a contradiction and coordination of power, forming a momentum. In the wild picture of "Dance", the author infects people with simple lines and passionate colors. In this work, colors express a bold, passionate, and strong vitality. Color is not only a way of painting, but also has the ability to control emotions.

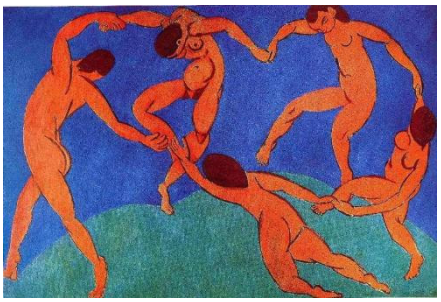


Figure 1. Dance

2.2.3. The Lyrical Meaning of Harmony and Tranquility

Matisse pointed out in "The Painter's Notes" that what he seeks is a kind of harmony, like a comfortable chair that can provide spiritual comfort and rest for the tired body. All of his works embody this spirit, and Matisse is full of passion for a calm and peaceful life. With the brightest colors and the most coordinated way, he creates a relaxed and comfortable living atmosphere, leading people to praise the sunshine. In the work of "Music" (see Figure 2), Matisse focuses his attention on a focused listening and wholehearted reflection, depicting blue skies, verdant hills, red characters, pure colors, simple and exaggerated forms, and refined lines, making the characters feel as if they are immersed in a nearly rigid, heavy, and slow music. Even the lines of the mountain seem to tremble, respond, and echo. In this unified dreamlike world, everyone is attracted by this beautiful melody and shaken by its soul. The lines and colors in the picture express a kind of unrestrained, passionate, and strong vitality. "Music" adopts a typical simple composition, strong color contrast and smooth feeling, combining color and music, perfectly combining decoration and expression, presenting a heavenly tranquility and happiness. In "The Joy of Life" (see Figure 3), large flat color blocks are connected together using curved Arabic patterns, and the lines of characters and trees are constantly changing; Rhythmic beauty is a form in which painters use their unique artistic language to create a peaceful, simple, and decorative world that transcends time and space. This is a true pastoral poem, completely immersed in a secular fatigue and pastoral joy, Matisse's spiritual landscape is like a dreamy scroll.



Figure 2. Music



Figure 3. The Joy of Life

3. Red Harmony

3.1. Background of the Creation of "Red Harmony"

Between 1907 and 1925, Matisse visited an Islamic religious exhibition in Munich. During this visit, he discovered some valuable decorations. After visiting, Matisse returned to Paris and opened an art studio there, beginning his creative career. Red Harmony is a representative of this era, and Matisse boldly used bright red to present the entire image in a nearly flat state. However, in his initial work, red was originally green, and after multiple considerations, it was ultimately decided to prioritize red. The overall image reflects Matisse's pursuit of simplicity, simplicity, and tranquility. Matisse's series of works broke through the constraints of traditional concepts and, with its unique Eastern artistic expression techniques, played a pioneering and inspiring role in the development of art.

3.2. The Theme and Content of "Red Harmony"

In this painting, a woman is busy at the dining table. Using a high-purity red color, all spaces in the room are confined within the red range, while on both sides of the window, there is a thin light yellow line. The green surrounded by those two yellow lines is like an open window, separating the contradiction between red and green, creating a tense and stable force between the big red and green, creating a huge contrast between the outdoor and indoor environments. The picture has childlike features, bright colors, and is not meticulously depicted. The table was filled with fruits and melons, and the bottle should be filled with fine wine. The room was beautifully decorated, full of a decorative atmosphere. The contours of the table, wall, and floor are not delineated with specific lines, but rather with shapes such as figures, chairs, and bottles to suggest the spatial relationship between the table, wall, and floor, forming a unique spatial connection in the picture. The vine pattern is evenly distributed on the walls and tables, adding a red visual effect.

Matisse did not seek external unity in the composition of his work, he tried his best to harmonize his inner self. It is like the roof and chair on the window. The branches on it are the same as the patterns on the table, the patterns on the table, and the hair of the maid. But at the same time, it also demonstrates an inherent harmony and unity, reflecting a unique artistic form sought by Matisse through strong color contrast and mutual influence. Using colorful decorative patterns, tables and chairs, figures, vases, wallpapers, and other decorations are arranged indoors. Combined with the flowers, plants, and trees outside the window, the connection, rhythm, melody, and originality of the "dot line rhythm" are emphasized. The planar structure has a strong decorative and flat texture.

3.3. The Application of Painting Language in "Red Harmony"

3.3.1. Color

The overall color tone of "The Harmony of Red" (Figure 4) is single, with few color combinations, but the color effect is very good. The indoor color is mainly red, which is the main tone of the entire picture, creating a clear contrast with the outdoor blue-green color. The orange and yellow colors on the window make this contrast no longer abrupt. The house outside the window appears pink, echoing the red in the room. The indoor tablecloth, the patterns on the wallpaper, and the fruits on the table all create a harmonious beauty with the blue sky, green space, and yellow flowers outside the window. Matisse made a color transition to avoid color collisions. He used the yellow of the seat cushion, fruit, and hair as a jumping motion, which also subtly became the connection of the entire picture; The white skirt hem transformed into a clever division between the wall and the tabletop; The blue flowers and branches shuttle through the red, and the picture surprisingly becomes more dynamic and flexible. Matisse meticulously blends high-purity colors such as red, yellow, blue, and green, which have a strong visual impact but are not artificial. A feeling that is both dreamy and realistic, beautiful and harmonious.

Matisse didn't originally intend to paint red harmony; he painted the background in blue. The blue color has a broad and expansive field of vision, which was not ideal during the painting process. He felt that it was too close to the blue sky and white clouds, which would inevitably be tacky, so he changed the background to red. Red is the purest of the three primary colors, consistent with the simple feeling sought in Matisse's works.



Figure 4. The Harmony of Red

3.3.2. Perspective

In previous paintings, painters followed the principle of perspective, while Impressionism gradually disintegrated perspective. Under the influence of C é zanne, Matisse was no longer limited to traditional painting and adopted an extraordinary perspective. In "The Harmony of Red", Matisse completely abandoned the perspective method and presented a world full of contrasting colors with rich colors. Although this is a very ordinary indoor and outdoor painting, all objects and scenery are completely disconnected from their true appearance. Even the internal space has been carefully adjusted to depict an anime red plane. The image of the work is close to reality, but disconnected from reality, adding the author's imagination and emotional expression of things.

3.3.3. Iine

In this painting, there is not only strong color contrast, but also a strong world of patterns that cannot be ignored. The table is not distinguished by straight lines, but is replaced by blue patterns that twist and highlight the edges of the table. The lines of these patterns are smooth and orderly, extending upwards, symbolizing the vitality of prosperity and implying changes in the desktop space. The lines and colors complement each other, forming a harmonious and peaceful picture. Matisse boldly used lines and color blocks in his works to separate the relationship between the front and back, rather than using conventional perspective methods, and placed more emphasis on using colors and lines to emphasize spatial connections.

4. Conclusion

Matisse is a world-renowned Western painter, whose painting style is full of strong Eastern colors. Single colors, such as ink and wash lines, and the subjective initiative of characters, all demonstrate the intricate relationship between Matisse and Eastern art. Matisse's art style is his artistic talent and strong desire for creativity. He boldly innovated in Western realism painting, and his works are filled with the essence of Eastern art. He drew a lot of nutrients from Chinese painting and pottery, and also added many new artistic colors to Matisse's paintings.

Traditional Chinese painting has had a profound impact on the Western art world, especially its unique expression in composition, which has had a profound impact on contemporary art. Matisse's paintings have many structures similar to traditional Chinese painting. He absorbed the essence of traditional Chinese painting and applied it to his

own creations, making it exhibit a unique expressive power. His works often use the method of "flat painting" to express the connection between things and space, breaking through the scientific perspective theory and methods in Western painting, and cleverly integrating the perspective techniques drawn from traditional Chinese painting, making the picture more rich.

In traditional Chinese literati painting, only a few strokes can complete a work. This is an extreme emotional creation, and the artist's subjective consciousness has risen to a state of "unity of things and myself", expressing the author's inner emotions through subjective descriptions of external imagery. Matisse is a master painter who is also seeking a form that can express the painter's emotions in a concise way. As he said, "The easiest way is to let the artist perform at their best." This is also a true portrayal of Chinese painters throughout history. In traditional Chinese character painting, painters attach great importance to the overall feeling, and no matter how finely they depict it, they cannot exceed the author's true emotions.

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