

Color Culture— Artistic Expression in Delacroix's Paintings

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Abstract

Eugene Delacroix is a representative figure of French Romantic painting and the greatest French Romantic painter. Together with Victor Hugo and Hector Berlioz, he represented the highest achievement of French romantic art. Through bold innovations in painting techniques, as well as his unique use of expressive colors, he integrated the color theory expression methods into a system to strengthen and unify it, and obtained a lot of far-reaching results. Later French painting had an extremely important influence. He believes that the main beauty of a painting is color, and the main influence on future generations is also in this respect. It is easy to see in his works that the unique color cultural connotation and the romantic art concept admired by Delacroix are perfectly combined. Starting from color aesthetics, combined with Delacroix's works, the expression of color culture in his works is superficial analyzed and explained. This article will briefly analyze the artistic performance of Eugene Delacroix's painting from three aspects: historical background, color expression, and color contribution.

Keywords

Delacroix; Artistic expression; Color; Painting.

1. Origin of Romanticism and Introduction of Delacroix

French romanticism is the same in art history and literature. It was popular in the 1920s and 1930s. At this time, literary and artistic works mostly expressed the dissatisfaction with the real society. It is closely linked to democratic politics and humanism in society, which is fully reflected in the painter Delacroix with his paintings. The resistance of the people in a turbulent social background shows positive romanticism, and negative Romanticism is manifested in a socially chaotic and politically unstable situation, adopting a passive evasive attitude. Unlike negative romanticism, positive romanticism adopts emotions, hopes, and ideals for the future, and yearns for a new and better life. The creative ideas of romanticism are equality and freedom, expressing strong personal feelings, shaping characteristic depictions, pursuing rich composition changes, strong color contrasts, and free strokes, which make the pictures have strong emotional colors and exciting artistic charm. Neoclassicism attempts to use universal and timeless values. What is different from neoclassicism is that romanticism is more prominent in subjectivity. Individual subjective use of art to change the creative method and attitude of art has had a profound impact!

Delacroix is a typical representative and founder of the French Romantic School in the 19th century. Born in 1789, Delacroix was influenced by many aspects of education, giving him creative artistic talent, unique imagination, and at the same time being touched by the works of romantic pioneer Gericault, Delacroix began his own unusual Romantic Art Road. His great achievements made him rank irreplaceable in the history of art. He was a rebel of classicism and a pioneer of the famous Western painting system Impressionism and modernism painting. Due to the turbulence and bumpy life encounters in his period, he has a deeper understanding of freedom, and the love and passion for life is fully reflected in painting, full of imagination different from the past, he does not want to endure The predecessors' works that were too quiet and solemn, in the paintings refused to be cold and rigid, and re-searched for the painting language with intense emotions. He created a new era of undisguised romanticism in the art field. It is the desire and pursuit of freedom. Cezanne once said: "There is no

need to say anything about Delacroix, there is something like an unprecedented enthusiasm." Zola was called "romantic lion".

2. The color performance under the background of the era

Since the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789, the whole of France has fallen into a state of social chaos, political instability and turbulent ideas. During this period, France has undergone six coups. In this environment, Delacroix coincided with the Romantic Revolutionary Movement in France, which directly led to the "July Revolution" of 1830. Delacroix's "Guide the People Freely" depicts the events that occurred at the time, depicting the scene of smoke-filled smoke. In the picture there are injured and dead people, but they still cannot hide the people's desire to fight for freedom. The whole painting is magnificent, with strong contrast between color and light, compact structure, freely sublimating the significance of the entire revolution with a pen boldly, incorporating personal emotions and pursuits, fully showing the style characteristics of Delacroix painting, with a strong infection force. It can better show that his paintings are contemporary. His paintings spoke for the people and attacked the dictatorship of the ruling class. For example, Delacroix's early work "Dante and Virgil in Hell" reflects that when he created this work, he was completely trapped in the atmosphere of grief. In Delacroix's eyes, red is the color that best reflects contemporariness. The artistic and cultural connotation and symbolic meaning of red are consistent with the emotions expressed by his paintings and works of art. In his hands, red shows a fierce, fuzzy, Blood and fear are manifested in all aspects. As a romantic painter, Delacroix is best at using colors. This is the same as his emphasis on personal subjectivity. His works fit people's lives and are contemporary. This is also one of the important factors for his great success. In the "Slaughter of Shia" created in 1824, in order to strengthen the tragic atmosphere, most of the images are presented in half-naked nudes, the picture is full of red, and the color contrast is strong. It shows us the effect of hell on earth. And in "The Death of Sardanapalus" in 1828, red runs through almost the entire work. The expression method is also to show the scenes of horror, despair and depression through the color red, which is a masterpiece of romanticism with strong color expression.

3. Expressive colors and Strokes

Delacroix was influenced by Rubens and Rembrandt's painting styles. In his paintings, he used strong color contrasts. His brushes were bold and magnificent, especially to study the changes of shadows and reflective colors of objects under external light. Expressed in a more natural way, these are vividly expressed in his paintings. In his "Diary", a large number of color theories are described, and he writes: "Unless it is suitable for the object being depicted, and can increase the effect of the picture through imagination, otherwise it will not be a color." It is because of his unique cognition of color, the color problem that he raised, constantly seeking its scientific laws and the different expression forms of color under the condition of external light, and was criticized by the neoclassical school of thought that his painting was an emotional vent, Although Delacroix has suffered a lot of tribulations and criticisms, he is still a great colorist. Paul Signac, the greatest theorist of French pointillism, believes that he is the founder of the new era of color. This is undeniable. He is good at using unique expressive colors and brushstrokes. In his eyes, the unrestrained colors and brushstrokes have become the closest expressions for setting up the characters, shaping the scene, and rendering emotions. Taking "The Death of Sardanapalus" as an example, the main characters in the picture are arranged on a diagonal, inclined composition, and rendered in red as the keynote, highlighting King Sardanapalus fell into a desperate situation, expressing emotions such as tension, panic, and pain. It can be seen that his paintings are based on color strokes, light, and emotion. It is not limited by rigid rules. Self-portraits and other small nude images also have this feature. He wrote in his diary: "Style can only be formed through repeated exercise. Once appropriate brush strokes appear, the smooth large strokes should not be used." It can be seen that he constantly summarizes and improves his painting techniques and skills. In 1832, Africa travel was the demarcation line of Delacroix's creation. The expression of color strokes is more mature and vivid, and the complementary color contrast is

consciously applied to restore the 18th century brilliant colors. At the same time, it opens up to new impressionist path, many works show the tendency of aestheticism. The *Women of Algiers*, completed in 1834, is a work composed of coordination and interlacing of colors. His rich color expressiveness and intersecting multiple color strokes are unforgettable. In 1840, Delacroix borrowed Rubens' experience and processed *Crusader into Constantinople* into a dramatic composition, Strong expressive color combination and contrast of light and shade, rendering the tragic atmosphere in the turbulent environment, also confirmed that he is a great painter, Delacroix's emphasis on color and its strong emotions, repeatedly emphasized free strokes The French Romanticism movement really entered his era. In the later period, Delacroix continued to work hard for romantic art. In his masterpiece "*Chasse aux lions*", it can be seen that the romanticism style is stronger. Contrasting color blocks and smooth brush strokes vividly convey a strong and tense atmosphere, and feel the life expressiveness of Delacroix.

4. Summary

The nineteenth century was the most transformative and brilliant period in the history of painting. When studying traditional color painters, we will find that the colors of these painters gradually become clearer, and they master light and color. Delacroix was inspired by some of John Constable and Turner's works and studies, and he encouraged color painters to be bold and not afraid of harmonious color drawing too much. He is a creator of color authority and a great educator. His theory and his paintings are very precious. Delacroix has made unremitting efforts in color. Perhaps his paintings now look quite different from other paintings that inherit his works. The colors are not enough, but It is precisely because of this color expression technique that he can better present the meaning of his works. After Delacroix, the expression of color was also more perfect in the impressionist painter's art paintings. The emergence of Delacroix laid an important theoretical foundation for the color innovation advocated by later generations. Delacroix plays an important role as a standard bearer and inheritor. He pays attention to expressing his personal emotions freely, without being restrained and restricted. As a revolutionary in color, his exploration and innovation in color have made him open to modern the way of art, and later the color has been fully developed, the emergence of his artistic conception gave a strong impetus to the lonely and declining French art. His paintings were full of imagination and passion for the future. The freedom and liberation of the broad masses of people, In the form of creation, he broke through the limitations of his era in the color, composition, light, and strokes of the painting, and inspired the later realism, impressionism, and modernist painting. It had a profound impact, and also had a profound impact on the development of world art. His colors have had a profound impact on impressionists, Neo-Impressionists, Post-Impressionists and Fauvists, and later painters. It is through historical changes and scrutiny that such a giant in the history of art has been created. What Delacroix conveys to us is the infinite possibilities that humans give. and at the same time his paintings are left to us not to forget the former life on the road truly gives you freedom and realizes your own value!

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