

Innovation and Inheritance of Western Art during the Renaissance

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Abstract: The main purpose of this study is to explore the innovation and inheritance of Western art during the Renaissance, and how these changes have influenced the development of art in later generations. Through in-depth research on the art of the Renaissance, this article summarizes the innovations in techniques, themes, and forms of art during that period, as well as the inheritance of ancient Greek and Roman art, medieval art, and the Northern Renaissance. Moreover, the important value of Renaissance art in modern art creation, aesthetic concepts, and the spirit of the Renaissance was discussed. On this basis, suggestions and prospects for future research were proposed. These studies will contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the innovation and inheritance of Renaissance art, and reveal its important value in modern society.

1. Introduction

Renaissance is a European ideological and cultural movement that reflected the requirements of the emerging bourgeoisie in Europe from 14th to 17th century[1]. It originated in Italy, and then gradually spread throughout Europe. It marks the transition from the Middle Ages to modern times. During this period, Europe gradually got rid of the feudal system in the Middle Ages and the strict control of the church, and ushered in the prosperity and development of commerce, science, technology and art[2]. Emerging cities and merchant classes have become the main sponsors of culture and art, and promoted the revival and innovation of art and culture[3].

During the Renaissance, western art experienced unprecedented changes and innovations, and Moreover, the artistic heritage of ancient Greece and Rome was deeply studied and passed on[4]. The in-depth study of this particular period can help us understand the development of western art history more comprehensively and reveal the deep reasons behind the thoughts and techniques of those great artists[5]. In addition, the innovation of Renaissance art in techniques, themes and concepts had a far-reaching impact on later generations. These changes not only promoted the social and cultural progress at that time, but also laid a solid foundation for the development of modern art. Therefore, it is of great historical and practical significance to study the artistic innovation and inheritance during the Renaissance.

2. The artistic background of the Renaissance

2.1. Artistic characteristics of the Renaissance

Table 1 Artistic characteristics of Renaissance

Marked feature	Describe	Representative works/artists
Humanism	Emphasize human dignity, value and ability, and advocate people-centered artistic expression.	Da Vinci's Mona Lisa
Realism	Pursuing natural and realistic artistic expression, studying anatomy, perspective and light and shadow.	Michelangelo's Sculpture Works
Classicalism	The study and inheritance of ancient Greek and Roman art draws lessons from the techniques, themes and forms of classical art.	Raphael's "The School of Athens"
Religion and secularism coexist	Although religious themes are still important, secular themes and portraits have also begun to receive attention.	Botticelli's "Spring" and "The Birth of Venus"

Renaissance art has some remarkable characteristics: humanism, realism, classicism, religion and

secularism coexist. Details are given in Table 1.

2.2. The main artists and their works during the Renaissance period

Leonardo da Vinci: Leonardo da Vinci is one of the most outstanding artists in the Renaissance. His works cover many fields such as painting, sculpture, architecture and science. His representative work *Mona Lisa* shows its unique painting techniques and humanistic spirit. Through subtle smiles and realistic portraits, Da Vinci successfully captured the inner world and spiritual outlook of the model.

Michelangelo Buonarroti: Michelangelo is a great sculptor, painter and architect. His works are full of strength and dynamics, reflecting the in-depth study of human anatomy and perspective. His sculpture "*David*" has become one of the representative works of Renaissance art with its majestic posture and fine carving skills[6]. Moreover, his mural *Genesis* painted in the Sistine Chapel in the Vatican is also a masterpiece in the history of western art.

Raphael Sanzio: Raphael is famous for his soft and harmonious painting style. His works are usually full of elegance and balance, which embodies the deep understanding and integration of classical art and Renaissance spirit[7]. His representative work "*Athens School*" shows his love and inheritance of classical culture by depicting the scenes of ancient Greek philosophers and scholars. Moreover, his portraits also show his keen insight into the psychology and emotion of the characters.

3. Artistic innovation in the Renaissance

During the Renaissance, artists made bold innovations and attempts in techniques, materials, themes and contents, which promoted the progress and development of western art.

3.1. Application of perspective method and linear perspective

Perspective is a painting technique that creates a three-dimensional sense of space on a two-dimensional plane. During the Renaissance, artists began to systematically study and apply perspective, especially linear perspective. By accurately describing the size, position and distance of objects, they succeeded in creating depth and three-dimensional sense on the plane. This technique has been widely used in architecture, landscape and figure painting, which has brought revolutionary changes to western painting.

3.2. Innovation and development of oil painting techniques

Oil painting is a technique of painting with oily media. During the Renaissance, oil painting techniques were greatly innovated and developed[8]. Artists began to use drying oil and resin as painting media instead of traditional egg white and wax. This new medium makes the picture smoother and more delicate, and the colors are more vivid and lasting. Moreover, they also explored different oil painting techniques, such as multi-layer superposition, *Bo Tu* and thick painting, which enriched the expressive force and layering of the picture.

3.3. Innovation and breakthrough of theme and content

Renaissance artists made bold innovations and breakthroughs in theme and content. They began to pay more attention to individuals, emotions and real life, and got rid of the single and rigid religious theme in medieval art. For example, portrait painting became one of the important themes in the Renaissance, and artists showed the inner world and spiritual outlook of the characters through delicate brushwork and in-depth psychological insight[9]. In addition, they also explored diverse themes and contents such as scenery, still life and historical themes, which brought a brand-new visual experience and way of thinking to western art.

3.4. Innovative practice of sculpture art

In terms of sculpture art, Renaissance artists also carried out bold innovative practices. They began to study anatomy, the proportion of human body and the law of movement, which improved

the realism and dynamic sense of sculpture. Moreover, they also borrowed sculpture techniques from ancient Greece and Rome, such as high relief, round carving and hollow carving, which enriched the form and expressive force of sculpture. Michelangelo's works are outstanding representatives of sculpture art in the Renaissance. His works show the accuracy of human anatomy and the Excellence of sculpture techniques, and set an example for the development of sculpture art in later generations.

4. Artistic inheritance in the Renaissance

Renaissance art not only has remarkable innovation, but also has a profound inheritance foundation. Artists deeply studied the artistic heritage of ancient Greece and Rome, and at the same time learned from the artistic traditions of the Middle Ages, forming a unique Renaissance artistic style.

4.1. Inheritance and revival of ancient Greek and Roman art

Renaissance artists made in-depth research and inheritance on ancient Greek and Roman art. They rediscovered the techniques, themes and forms of classical art, such as human anatomy, perspective, classical mythology and portrait sculpture. By using these classical elements for reference, they created works of art with Renaissance characteristics. For example, Michelangelo's sculptures show the delicacy and vividness of ancient Greek sculptures, and at the same time add new expressive force and emotion.

4.2. The continuation and transformation of medieval art

Although Renaissance artists pursued innovation and change, they did not completely deny the artistic tradition of the Middle Ages. On the contrary, they drew inspiration and elements from the art of the Middle Ages, and continued and changed. For example, in painting, they inherited the elements of symbolism and mysticism in the Middle Ages, and at the same time added the perspectives of humanism and realism. In architecture, they borrowed some elements of Gothic architecture, such as flying beams and minarets, and combined them with classical architectural styles to create a unique Renaissance architecture.

4.3. The influence and exchange of the Northern Renaissance

Renaissance art was not limited to Italy, but also spread to other parts of Europe, especially the northern region. The Northern Renaissance is different from the Italian Renaissance in techniques, themes and styles, but there are also close exchanges and influences between them. For example, German artists such as Diu Lei and Holbein were influenced by the Italian Renaissance, and they also made innovations in portraits and copperplate prints. This cross-regional artistic exchange and influence enriched the diversity and inclusiveness of Renaissance art..

4.4. The influence and inheritance of Renaissance art on later generations

The art of the Renaissance had a far-reaching influence and inheritance on later generations. First of all, it laid the foundation in the history of western art and provided valuable inspiration and influence for later artists. Secondly, it promotes the diversified and inclusive development of western art and provides an opportunity for the exchange and integration of different cultures and artistic traditions. Finally, it influenced the cultural and ideological development of western society by emphasizing the values of humanism and realism. For example, Baroque Art, Romanticism and Modernism were all influenced and inspired by Renaissance Art..

5. The value of innovation and inheritance of art during the Renaissance in modern society

Renaissance art is not only an important part of history, but also has important value in modern society. Its innovation and inheritance provide valuable inspiration and influence for modern artistic creation, aesthetic concept and Renaissance spirit.

5.1. Enlightenment and influence on modern artistic creation

Renaissance artists made bold innovations in techniques, themes and forms, which provided important enlightenment for modern artistic creation. Modern artists can draw inspiration from Renaissance art and create works with individuality and novelty by combining modern materials, technologies and concepts. Moreover, the concern for individuals, emotions and real life during the Renaissance also provided a broad creative space for modern artistic creation. Modern artists can learn from the themes of Renaissance portraits and landscapes, and reflect the complexity and diversity of modern society by depicting contemporary figures and social scenes.

5.2. Influence and shaping of modern aesthetic concept

The artistic inheritance and innovation during the Renaissance had a far-reaching impact on modern aesthetic concepts. First of all, it promotes the diversified development of aesthetic concepts. The concern for individuals and emotions during the Renaissance expanded the aesthetic concept from a single religious and mythical theme to a wider range of themes and contents, providing a variety of choices for modern aesthetic concepts. Secondly, it promotes the subjectivity and individuality of aesthetic concepts. Renaissance artists emphasized the subjectivity and individuality of aesthetic experience by describing the inner world and spiritual outlook of individuals, which provided an important reference for modern aesthetic concepts. Finally, it shapes the balance between rationality and emotion in modern aesthetic concepts. The Renaissance emphasized the balanced development of reason and emotion, which not only pursued scientific and objective expression, but also paid attention to the expression of individual emotion and subjectivity, which provided important reference for the balance of reason and emotion in modern aesthetic concepts.

5.3. The embodiment and value of Renaissance spirit in modern society

Renaissance spirit is a spirit of pursuing truth, freedom and innovation. In modern society, this spirit still has important value. First of all, it encourages people to pursue truth and knowledge. Renaissance artists promoted the progress of science and art through in-depth research and exploration. This spirit of pursuing truth still has important value in modern society, inspiring people to explore and innovate constantly. Secondly, it advocates individuality and free expression. Renaissance artists pursued the expression of individuals and emotions and got rid of the shackles of tradition and dogma. This spirit of advocating individuality and freedom encourages people to express themselves bravely, pursue their dreams and choose their lifestyle freely in modern society. Finally, it promotes cultural and artistic exchanges and cooperation. Renaissance artists promoted the diversity and inclusive development of art through cross-regional exchanges and cooperation. This spirit of promoting cultural and artistic exchanges is of great significance in modern society, which has promoted cultural and artistic exchanges and cooperation on a global scale.

6. Conclusions

Renaissance art made bold innovations in techniques, themes and forms, which promoted the progress and development of western art. These innovations include the application of perspective and linear perspective, the innovation and development of oil painting techniques, the innovation and breakthrough of theme and content, and the innovative practice of sculpture art. These innovations not only provide valuable inspiration and influence for later artists, but also enrich the content and diversity of western art history. Moreover, the artistic inheritance during the Renaissance embodies the inheritance and revival of ancient Greek and Roman art, the continuation and transformation of medieval art, the influence and exchange of the Northern Renaissance and the influence and inheritance to later generations. These heritages make Renaissance art a diversified and inclusive art system, which provides valuable resources and inspiration for later artists. In addition, the innovation and inheritance of Renaissance art still have important value in modern society. They provide inspiration and influence to modern artistic creation, shape the formation and

development of modern aesthetic concepts, and embody the value of Renaissance spirit in modern society. These values not only enrich our cultural and artistic heritage, but also provide important reference and guidance for our artistic creation, aesthetic experience and social progress. Future research can continue to deepen the exploration and understanding of Renaissance art in many aspects, so as to reveal its wider influence and value.

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