

A Multidimensional Exploration of the Mechanism of Color Emotion Elicitation in Oil Painting under the Perspective of Psycho-Aesthetics

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Abstract: This thesis focuses on the psychological aesthetics perspective, and deeply analyzes the emotion-inducing mechanism of oil painting colors. By elaborating the theory of emotional expression of color, exploring the specific mechanisms of emotional evocation of oil painting color in the basic attributes of color, symbolic connotations, landscape oil painting techniques, synergy with other elements of painting, as well as psychological interaction between the artist and the viewer, the thesis reveals how the color of oil paintings touches the emotions in the process of creation and enjoyment, and provides the theoretical basis and practical guidance for a deeper understanding of the art of oil paintings.

Keywords: Psychological aesthetics; Oil painting color; Emotional evocation; Symbolism; Synergy of painting elements.

1. Introduction

Oil painting art is unique for its rich color expression. In the vision of psychological aesthetics, oil painting color is not only a visual presentation, but also a powerful inducer of emotion. From the gorgeous classical oil paintings to the modern oil paintings full of innovation, the color always conveys the emotional world of the painter and stirs up various emotional ripples in the viewer's heart. In-depth investigation of the emotion-inducing mechanism of oil painting color helps us to better understand the connotation of oil painting art, which is of great significance both for the creators of oil paintings to accurately express their emotions and for the appreciators to deeply feel the emotional depth behind the works.

2. The Basis of The Relationship Between Psychological Aesthetics and Color Emotion of Oil Painting

2.1. Theory of color and psychology

Color psychology explores the connection between color and psychology. The physical properties of colors, such as wavelength, are related to specific emotions and psychological states. For example, red has a longer wavelength and is associated with passion and vigor, possibly from its association in nature with danger or ripe fruit. Blue, with its shorter wavelength, symbolizes serenity and fits with the intuitive feelings of the sky and ocean. The psychological effects of color include psychological temperature and spatial perception. Warm colors such as orange and yellow give a sense of warmth, while cool colors such as blue and green give a sense of coolness. Warm colors make objects appear closer, while cooler colors have a sense of receding. Colors can also affect visual proportions and emotional atmosphere, such as bright colors convey a sense of purity and openness, while darker tones may suggest mysterious and depressing emotions.

2.2. Characteristics of color emotional expression in oil painting art

Subjectivity. In oil painting, the use of color by painters is strongly subjective. Even when depicting the same objective object, different painters will choose very different color combinations according to their own emotional experience, aesthetic concepts and creative intentions. For example, when depicting an autumn landscape, one painter may use bright and warm colors such as golden yellow and orange-red to render the whole picture in order to highlight the harvest and joy of autumn; while another painter who wants to express the lonesomeness and despondency of autumn may focus on grey and dark shades and only embellish a little bit of bright colors in the local area. This subjectivity makes the color of oil painting become a unique carrier of the painter's emotion, and each oil painting contains the painter's personal emotional imprint, becoming a visual expression of his inner world.

Symbolism. Color in oil painting has rich symbolic meaning. In religious paintings, white often symbolizes holiness and purity, black symbolizes evil and darkness, and gold represents holiness and solemnity. In oil paintings of secular subjects, green may symbolize vitality and hope, and purple may represent nobility and mystery. These symbolisms are not fixed, but have evolved and developed in different cultural backgrounds, historical periods and artistic genres. For example, in modern art, traditional color symbolism may be broken, and painters will give colors a new symbolic connotation to express their unique understanding and feelings about modern social phenomena.

3. Specific Aspects of The Emotion-Inducing Mechanism of Oil Painting Colors

3.1. Basic attributes and psychological effects of color

Physical properties of color. The physical attributes of color mainly include hue, saturation and brightness. Hue refers to the type of color, such as red, yellow, blue, etc.

Different hues can directly trigger different emotional associations in the viewer. For example, see the pink, people will often associate with gentle, sweet; see the brown, will feel rustic, calm. Saturation refers to the purity of the color, high saturation of bright colors, can produce a strong visual impact, stimulate a more intense emotional response, such as high saturation of red will give a person a strong sense of excitement and enthusiasm; and low saturation of the color is softer, lighter, conveying tranquility, soothing emotions, such as light blue is often used to create a quiet atmosphere. Brightness that is, the brightness of the color, bright colors such as light yellow to give people a sense of lightness, pleasure, and dark colors such as dark gray is easy to trigger melancholy, heavy emotions.

The psychological impact of color. Color has a direct stimulus and influence on the human psyche. From the perspective of emotional response, bright and vivid color combinations such as red and yellow, easy to arouse the viewer's pleasure, joyful emotions, often used to express the joyous scenes; and dark and monotonous colors such as sepia and black collocation, may trigger sadness, depressed emotions, in some of the depictions of the war suffering or characters of the tragic destiny of the oil paintings are more common. In terms of atmosphere creation, soft tones such as lavender, light blue, etc. can create a romantic, dreamy atmosphere, often used in the expression of love themes or fantasy scenes in the oil paintings; and strong contrasting colors such as black and white and accompanied by distinctive red embellishments, can create a tense, intense atmosphere, suitable for the expression of the conflict or passionate picture. In addition, color also has a symbolic meaning, as mentioned above, white symbolizes purity and innocence, and is often used in the depiction of angels, the Virgin Mary and other images; black symbolizes death and fear, and is indispensable in the expression of horror and sadness of the situation.

Color shapes the sense of spatial depth and temperature. In oil painting, color plays a key role in shaping the depth of space. Warm colors are forward and cold colors are backward. By reasonably utilizing this characteristic, painters can create a three-dimensional sense of space on a two-dimensional plane. For example, in an oil painting depicting an indoor scene, depicting the furniture and other objects close to the viewer in warm colors, and treating the distant walls in cool colors, can create a strong sense of depth in the picture. In terms of shaping the sense of temperature, warm colors such as orange and orange-red give people a warm feeling as if sunshine is pouring on the picture, while cold colors such as blue and blue-green give people a cool feeling as if they are in a cold environment. The creation of this sense of temperature not only enhances the realism of the picture, but also conveys different emotional atmospheres, such as warm tones can express warm, friendly emotions, cold tones can convey indifference and loneliness.

The emotional experience of color contrast and harmony. Color contrast and harmony are commonly used techniques in oil painting. Color contrast includes brightness contrast, purity contrast, hue contrast and so on. Strong brightness contrast, such as the contrast between black and white, can produce sharp visual effects, attract the viewer's attention, but also convey a strong emotional conflict, such as the confrontation between good and evil; purity contrast, the juxtaposition of high purity colors and low purity colors can highlight the main body and create a clear emotional

hierarchy, for example, in an oil painting with the character as the main body, the character dress with high purity colors and the background with low purity colors. For example, in an oil painting with a character as the main body, the character's dress is in high purity color and the background is in low purity color to emphasize the importance of the character and express the character's distinctive personality and the relationship with the surrounding environment. Color contrast can create a lively and vivid picture effect, such as the contrast between red and green, which can convey the vitality of life and the beauty of contrast under proper use, but if not handled properly, it will look too harsh and messy. The harmony of colors can bring the viewer a comfortable, peaceful emotional experience, such as the adjacent color collocation, like yellow and orange, blue and green, etc., so that the picture color transition is natural and soft, expressing a harmonious and cordial emotional atmosphere.

3.2. Color symbols and cultural connotations

Emotional meaning and symbolism of colors in different cultural backgrounds. In Western culture, red symbolizes passion, but also associated with love and courage, such as in the creation of the theme of Valentine's Day, the red heart pattern is widely used; white in the Western wedding culture symbolizes purity and beauty, the bride usually wears a white wedding dress. In Chinese culture, red represents joy and good fortune, and red lanterns and spring scrolls can be seen everywhere during traditional festivals such as the Spring Festival; white symbolizes mourning and sadness in traditional funeral culture. The color green has a jealousy connotation in Western culture, while in Chinese culture it represents vitality and nature. Yellow is sometimes seen as a symbol of timidity and cowardice in Western culture, but in ancient Chinese culture it is a color reserved for royalty. These cultural differences make it necessary to fully consider the diversity of color symbolism in cross-cultural communication and creation, in order to avoid misunderstanding and better convey emotions.

Eastern and western landscape oil paintings have their own characteristics in the use of color and emotional expression. Traditional Chinese landscape oil painting focuses on the creation of mood, and the use of color is more elegant and subtle. Painters often use ink as the main color, supplemented by a small amount of colorful embellishments, such as using cyan to express the distant mountains, and using light red to express flowers, through this simple and rhythmic color combination to convey the feelings of serenity and longevity, reflecting the Chinese people's feelings of reverence for and yearning for natural landscapes, and the pursuit of a heavenly and mankind in one realm. Western landscape oil paintings, especially Impressionist painters, pay more attention to the capture of instant changes in light and color. They use rich and bright colors, such as Monet's Sunrise Impression, with orange and yellow, light purple, blue and grey colors to depict the hazy scene of the harbor at sunrise, through the interweaving and fusion of colors to express the intuitive feeling of the natural scenery and instant emotional touch, emphasizing the visual impact of color and the restoration of the true colors of nature, showing the exploration and love of nature and the pursuit of immediate expression of personal emotions in Western culture. It shows the exploration and love of nature and the pursuit of instant expression of personal emotion in western culture.

3.3. Color application techniques in landscape oil painting

Objective color and realistic expression. In landscape oil painting, the use of objective color is based on the principle of natural light and color. By carefully observing the influence of light changes in the natural environment on the color of scenery, painters strive to realistically restore the color of natural scenery. For example, when depicting a clear sky, depending on the light at different times of the day, the color of the sky will gradually change from light blue in the early morning to azure blue in the middle of the day, and then to orange-red, purple-red, etc. in the evening. By accurately capturing these color changes and using delicate brushstrokes and color transitions, the artist presents the natural scenery on the canvas as it is. This realistic use of color can convey the true beauty of nature, making the viewer feel immersed in the scene, and at the same time, it can also trigger the emotional resonance of the viewer through the emotional qualities contained in the natural scenery itself, such as the awe and relief brought about by the natural landscape of the serene lakes, majestic mountains, and other emotions.

Subjective color and emotional projection. Painters in the creation of landscape oil painting are not only limited to the depiction of objective colors, but also often incorporate subjective colors to express their emotions. They will adjust the colors of the scenery according to their own emotional needs. For example, when painters want to express their inner loneliness and melancholy, they may paint the originally bright grass into gray tones and the blue sky into a deeper shade. By changing the saturation, lightness, darkness and hue of colors, painters can strengthen or weaken the features of certain scenes to highlight their emotional expression. In addition, painters also use exaggeration, distortion and abstraction to use color as a direct carrier of emotion. For example, in the expression of inner excitement and fervor, the painter may use a large area of highly saturated, strongly contrasting colors, and even break through the conventional combination of natural colors, to create a very impactful visual effect, so that the viewer can intuitively feel the painter's surging emotions.

3.4. Synergy between brushwork, composition, subject matter and color

Emotional communication of brushstrokes. Brushstroke is an important means of expression of the painter's emotion in oil painting, and it is synergistic with color. Different strokes can produce different emotional effects. For example, rough and powerful brushstrokes combined with heavy colors can convey bold and impassioned emotions, which are more commonly used in the expression of war scenes or heroes; while delicate and gentle brushstrokes matched with soft colors can express gentle and delicate emotions, such as in the depiction of female figures or quiet indoor scenes are more appropriate. Fast, smooth strokes and bright colors can create a cheerful, dynamic atmosphere, which can play a role in the expression of dance, music and other vibrant scenes; slow, heavy strokes and dark colors can convey a sad, heavy emotions, such as in the depiction of funerals, disasters and other scenes can enhance the emotional impact of the picture.

Emotional guidance of composition. Composition in oil painting in the form of emotional guidance can not be ignored, and closely match with the color. Symmetrical composition gives a sense of stability and balance, when paired with

harmonious colors, such as warm symmetrical composition is often used to show solemn, peaceful scenes, such as religious ceremonies or family reunions; while asymmetrical composition can produce a sense of dynamism, change, if combined with contrasting colors, it can convey a tense, uneasy emotions, in the performance of the conflict or crisis scene is more effective. Closed composition will picture elements concentrated in a certain range, giving a complete, introverted feeling, with deep, rich colors can express the mysterious, oppressive emotions; open composition is to guide the viewer's line of sight to the outside, and bright, open colors together to create a free, open-minded emotional atmosphere, often used to express the broad natural scenery or longing for the future of the theme.

Emotional connotation of the subject matter. Different subjects of oil paintings carry specific emotional connotations and echo each other with colors. Landscape painting subjects are often associated with natural emotions, such as peaceful rural scenery is usually depicted in soft, light colors, conveying the emotions of leisure and relaxation; while the seascape in a storm may use deep, gray and contrasting colors to express the majesty of nature and the insignificance of mankind. In the subject of figure painting, the identity, expression and posture of the characters and the colors work together to shape the emotions. For example, when depicting heroes, bright, vibrant colors with a sense of power are often used to highlight the bravery of the characters; depicting sad characters may use dull, cold-toned colors to accentuate their melancholy state of mind. Still life paintings express emotions through the color selection and matching of objects, such as a bouquet of flowers with bright, colorful colors to express the vitality and beauty, while a pile of old and worn-out objects may use dull, mottled colors to convey the vicissitudes of time and despondency. The subject matter of historical paintings selects colors according to the nature and emotional tone of the historical event; a major victory scene may be depicted in brilliant, magnificent colors, while a tragic historical event is shown in grave, mournful colors.

3.5. The effect of the psychological state of the artist and the viewer on emotional resonance

Artist's emotional projection. When artists create oil paintings, they integrate their emotions into the colors. Through the selection, mixing and application of colors, they project their inner emotions such as joy, anger, sadness and ideal pursuit into their works. For example, in his Sunflowers series, Van Gogh depicted sunflowers with bright and intense yellow and orange colors, which not only praised the vitality of sunflowers, but also expressed his own inner passion and desire for life. The artist's emotional experience, cultural literacy, and aesthetic concepts all affect the way and depth of his emotional projection, and once these emotions are incorporated into the colors, they become the soul of the work, waiting to be felt and interpreted by the viewer.

The viewer's emotional experience. When the viewer appreciates the oil painting, his or her own psychological state will affect the experience and resonance of the color emotion of the work. The viewer's emotional state, life experience, cultural background and other factors will play a role in how the viewer interprets the emotion of oil painting colors. For example, a viewer who is in love may have stronger emotional resonance when seeing an oil painting with red color as the main tone and expressing the theme of love,

because his or her own emotional experience matches with the emotion conveyed by the work; while a viewer with rich life experience and many frustrations may have a more profound understanding of the emotion contained in the deep, gray color of the picture when enjoying an oil painting that expresses the suffering of life. deeper understanding of the emotions contained in the deep, gray colors in the picture. At the same time, the viewer's cultural background also affects his or her understanding of the symbolic meaning of colors, which in turn affects the emotional experience, such as the differences in the understanding of colors between Eastern and Western cultures mentioned above. When the viewer can understand and feel the emotion conveyed by the artist through the color, the emotional resonance between the art work and the viewer is realized, which is also the charm of oil painting.

4. Conclusion

Under the perspective of psychological aesthetics, the emotion-inducing mechanism of oil painting color is a multi-dimensional, complex and subtle system. From the basic attributes of color to the symbolic connotation, from the technical application of landscape oil painting to the synergy with other elements of painting, and then to the interaction between the artist and the viewer's psychological state, each link is interrelated and mutually influential. Color is not only a visual component of oil painting, but also a bridge of emotion, connecting the artist's inner world and the viewer's emotional experience. An in-depth understanding of this emotion-inducing mechanism helps oil painting creators to better use color to express their emotions and create more contagious works; it also helps viewers to improve their appreciation of oil painting art and more deeply appreciate the emotional depth and artistic charm behind oil paintings. In the future, with the continuous development of psychology,

aesthetics and other related disciplines, as well as the innovation and evolution of oil painting art itself, the research on the mechanism of color emotion evoking in oil paintings will continue to deepen and expand, providing continuous theoretical support and practical guidance for the prosperous development of oil painting art.

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