

The application of "children graffiti" style painting in children's drawing teaching

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Abstract

Children's graffiti style in the form of training, the composition of color and the cultivation of creative ideas, can give students reference. This paper expounds and analyzes the definition and characteristics of children's graffiti style painting, and discusses its important position in art history from three aspects of artistic value, historical value and economic value. Taking the basic training of color as an example, this paper shows the ways and methods of introducing children's graffiti style painting into the basic art teaching. The results show that the introduction of children's graffiti style painting has a positive influence on students' understanding of color and control of image language.

Keywords: Abstract Art, Action Painting, Pollock

Professor Susie Hodge has written a book named <Why Your Five Year Old Could Not Have Done The Art> and the writer described some artists' work by using children's doodles. These artists' work did not have specific forms and painters used messy sketches to make it difficult to read the paintings' themes. These messy paintings were similar as kids' doodles.

However, this doodle art style is acceptable by Picasso, who is a Spanish painter. Picasso supports the idea that the less skills in painting, the more arts in painting. Meanwhile, he believes that each child is an artist and the problem is that whether the kid can keep his/her soul of art when he/she grow up. From the ideas mentioned above, we can conclude that the abandon of forms and techniques in painting by the artists themselves leads to the messy painting style and this style reflects artists' rebellion to existentialism and modern art style. Having compared with traditional art courses, courses with doodles can provide kids with opportunities to get in touch with doodle painting styles and complete basic art training to broaden students' horizon and prepare for future art study.

I. The values of paintings with style named "kids' doodles"

In art history, many representative painting styles exist. Many people pay attention to "kids' doodles" because of its artistic value, historical value and economic value. People who study cultures present that artists who use surrealism, impressionism, abstract expressionism, informal

art, pop art, expressionism, and cubism reach later peak in their careers while artists who use fauvism, nabis and post-impressionism reach earlier peak in their careers.

A. Artistic values

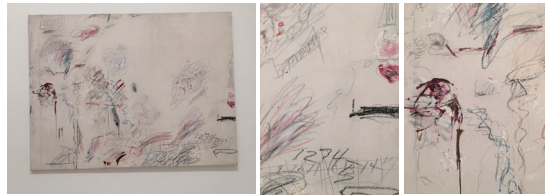


Fig. 1 Cy Twombly: Second Voyage to Italy (second Version) 1962 (Oil, crayon and graphite are used on linen, The whole and the part of the painting, Photographed in SFMOMA (San Francisco Museum of Modern Art))

Artistic works do not convey in traditional ways after Dadaism appears, especially after Pop art and abstract art appear. Artistic works are no longer discussed forms, content or themes. Abstract artists are closer to musicians or poets in inner heart. Abstract arts come from trial and error. Instead of describing correct content at on go, abstract arts keep exploring and searching for uncertainty and this process make the art creating process uncertain, mystery and be full of possibilities, which lead to brilliant achievements in abstract art. Abstract artists pursue deeper, macro and abstract topics including ego, society and even the universe. For these complicated definitions, any forms to convey can be constraints. Abstract artists can obtain the nature of the universe, vitality that appears in pre-objective stage and creation step by step.

Some abstract artists convey more straightforwardly and their creation style against existing artistic styles. For example, Mark Rothko said "I am not an abstract artist. I am only a person who is interested in expressing humans' emotions by using colors and I try to inspire viewers' emotional action or emotional thinking". The most straightforward way for artists to express objective facts is painting by doodles. Although, this painting method is closer to children's painting, these are not works that can be finished by children.

Taking Cy Twombly as an example, doodles and scratches with crayons, pencils and oil paint can be seen anywhere in the whole painting. In his work named 《Second Voyage

to Italy 》, there are full of falling numbers, vibratory lines and solidified oil colors. Although it looks like messy, the surface of oil color represents chaos, carnality and even lapse. The title of this painting evokes the journey for classical heroes. The heart of this kind of expression is Cy Twombly's working method. He uses paintings to discuss how the human existence and body essential elements invade intelligence and culture deeply. Critics think that daily-life materials are applied to his painting and his painting pushes traditional paintings from quadratic way to three dimensions. He makes up the gap between real life and arts.

B. Historical values

The appearance of paintings using doodle style is not occasional. This artistic style appears in most of abstract artists' paintings and almost each of these artists have high social status. Ellsworth Kelly won the Top Honor Award for artists and artistic sponsors –National medal of Arts from American government. The previous president Barack Obama presented this award to this artist who were 90 years old. The artist himself said "my painting is made of pieces of the world and I just dig them out and present it to the public."

Researchers try to compare semantic features with low-level and intermediate-level features in paintings. Then, having investigated artist's works and compared with others', researchers tend to answer the question "who has impact on this artist?". The style of artist is not individual but a trend that can be seen in same period. For example, Cy Twombly who are in the same period uses abstract symbols as main expressions. His sense looks messy and without orders. The objective characteristics of painting can help researchers do study in historical arts and aesthetics.



Fig. 2 Crimson Spinning 1959/Oil on canvas

Fig. 3 Pat Steir, Three Pointed Waterfall 1990/Oil on canvas

Discussions among philosophers, critics and artists have shown that paintings that seem meaningless or too simple have their deep themes. What impressed Michel Foucault, a French philosopher, is a painting named <this is not a pipe>, which is painted by Magritte who is a painter uses surrealism. The philosopher not only analyzes the painting systematically with ideas used in linguistics and images but also thinks highly of this painting. Roland Barthes, who is both social critics and literary critics, has written < civilization in writing> to Roger Druet

and Herman Grégoire. In the preface, he writes "writing is not only a technical activity but also an enjoyed experiment. To get knowledge of this simple fact, painters need to combine writing elements with their paintings. (such as Andre Masson and Cy Twombly)

The paintings created by Adolph Gottlieb has become one of the two models of 1950s American painting because he combines color with gestures in his paintings. Painting named <crimson spinning> is made with an invisible circle and a dense mass of strokes. The floating red ball is made of thin paint and it creates a glowing outer circle because lights are absorbed by canvas. Compared with this floating red ball, the surface of the painting uses thick and black color. Although, the color combination evokes evocative landscapes and even atomic explosions, the ambiguous expression of the work gives the audience the opportunity to interpret freely. Like their ambiguous titles, this represents common inspiration and similar emotions in classic arts and mystery power of myth.

Paintings created by Pat Steir combine white oil paint with canvas used for washing face and create a landscape of waterfall bottom. Paintings convey rhythms, water drops and splashes. The poetic title of this work not only highlights the water-like form of the work, but also shows the artist's interest in landscape. It is similar with Richard dibenkerson's work named <who is working> and cy twombly's work named < # 47>. This kind of work takes advantage of colors, textures and layers to avoid literary description. The artists think and show the true nature of oil paints. Although paintings often contain narrative elements, painters make a balance between realistic descriptions and abstract imagery.

C. Economic values

The artistic work named <blackboard> are created by deceased abstract artists Cytwombly. This painting fetched 70.53 million dollars or 449 million CNY at Sotheby's auction in New York on Nov. 11, 2005. Until now, the auctions of these painting all come from international auction institutions. The Sotheby has offices in 40 countries and 250 auctions are held in 10 auction houses around the world. It covers more than 70 collections. Some works of art are certified by these auction houses can guarantee the value.

We can't judge artworks by the amount of ink and the categories we can understand in the sense. After all, <the blackboard> was sold for 70.53 million dollars, which is its current economic value. It's not clear whether the re-auction can create a higher price. The value is closely related to the status of artists in art history, the aesthetic trend in this period and the level of consciousness of the audience. The economic value of artworks has always been difficult to define, which seems to be only related to the buyer's artistic aesthetics and

personal interests. In fact, there is a deep structure behind it, and auction institutions are a big reason.

II. Several methods can be used to introduce doodles to painting courses.

A. The compositions of forms

The most apparent characteristic of abstract painting is giving up forms. Paintings with on boundary can expand without limitations and paintings without forms is the biggest breakthrough in forms. As the most individualized and intelligent form of painting, the abstract painting is either in several industries or concentrated in an unknown and simple form. Important information can be hidden in simple paintings because of no forms. Taking Pollock's paintings as an example, there are misunderstandings for Pollock's artistic value. Some artists think that he only has an experiment in painting forms and painting materials. Forms are one of things that focused by artists.

Free expression on forms means that students can explore their unique language after having traditional art courses and students themselves can find their potentials in graphic control instead of being limited in forms.

B. Color training

Abstract artists mainly pursue meaningless forms in the expression of their works and focus on the expression of aesthetic feelings. For example, Kandinsky's works have no specific forms, and all elements and colors are combined only to look good, which conforms to the aesthetic law of human beings. Similar forms appear in Pollock's works. Pollock is a representative in American modern paintings. His expression has more freedom and elements he uses are only splashes and splashes of paint traces. Their works seem casual and full of uncertainty. Different viewers can have different psychological feelings towards his works.

Similar concepts can be found in works created by Wu Guanzhong, who is a Chinese contemporary famous artist. He supports that forms should be more important than contents. However, his abstract works can make viewers feel his themes deeply. Color training based on similar painting styles is to combine abstract expression method with a specific topic to serve color to contents. This training can take advantage of abstract paintings' strength and maximize the nature of color.

C. Creative thinking

Paintings using doodles are not equal to children's painting. We are interested in Gerhard Richter's work is not because of simple and unrecognized image but because of its anti-personal charm, anti-heroism and anti-everything existing artistic style. "It has European style and its appearance is the turning point of European history. The painting is not

related to swagger. It is a creation that artist finishes by using anti-tradition method." The artist's seemingly expressive brushwork is actually a careful calculation and consideration.

Artists deliberately avoid the themes of the paintings and the traditional structures. They only use colors, or even does not consider colors. They keep rejecting procedural or structural standard and try to find the true nature of the painting only. What they pursue is Picasso's pursue throughout his life.

III. Experiments are used in doodle painting courses

Paintings with doodle style are introduced in fundamental art courses. The traditional color composition courses help students practice color hue, lightness and saturation. This can provide students with a solid conception of color recognition. However, when it comes to color applying, it is difficult to apply the knowledge into practice. Based on discussions above, three crucial modules need to be introduced when design a course.

The first module is centered with topic of "season". This topic mainly focuses on color induction and color summary. Main colors are selected from a specific season to achieve the goal of switching an abstract concept into concrete images. Our perception to a season is known by specific things. This process can achieve the conversion between concept to vision. Teachers should inspire students to use different tools to express colors, guide students to recognize the specific things of the season and then convert the specific things into colors. Finally, students can use the principle of dot, line and plane to present abstract concepts in the picture.

The second module is centered with the topic of "taste". There is a subtle relationship between taste and vision. Colors that are close to fresh food are sure to increase the person's appetite while colors with low saturation are easy to be off-flavor color. Creative thinking are needed for students to express feelings in tongue by using feelings through visual. To inspire students to express this theme, students should first be guided to give typical food with the taste perception, and then summarize the color of the food.

The third module is the most complex and difficult one to express in the homework of this course. The topic is "seven emotions -- joys, angers, sadness, happiness, anxiety, sorrows and worries. Students need to put the psychological feelings into the drawing paper with colors. Students need to grasp of color psychology rather than stay on physical properties of color to transfer abstract feelings to specific feelings to convey emotions. Each color has a specific psychological feeling. It is easy to express cool color with red and blue but if students want to use green color with same hue to express feelings of cold or warm through the change of the purity and lightness, students will need

practices. After practices, they will finally find suitable visual language.

Each module has its unique teaching purpose. Having experience related training, it is free to express arts, color and the relationship between colors.

In the first module, students learn to transform abstract concepts into concrete things. The concrete things must be typical. Taking "spring" as an example, at the beginning, teachers should inspire students to list representative things in spring, such as "peach blossom", "jasmine", "sakura" and other representative plants. Besides, there are also "breeze", "melting of ice and snow", "swallows' return" and other abstract concepts. When students finish their works, teachers should encourage students to start from the typical things to looking for main color relations. Students can start from the concept of the abstract to show the unique expression methods, such as the visual sensation of the wind produced by a dry brush sweeping across the picture.

In the second module, teachers should help students to transfer sense of taste to sense of vision. Each practice needs students to master color knowledge to complete. For example, acid is excitant color, its expression requires students to associate the taste to specific things, and then list the specific things by specific hues. In the expression of acid, the choice of the color is particularly important because hue, a fundamental color of the whole works, determines theme. Besides, saturation and brightness are also required to be higher because of the characteristics of acidity. However, when it comes to taste of "bitter", things become different. Things related to taste of bitter are different. Bitter melon tastes bitter and its color is usually the sign of high lightness while coffee tastes bitter as well, but its color has low lightness and low purity.

In the third module, it is centered with colors' psychological emotions and visual expressions. Although all feelings aim to affect visual feelings, it is most difficult to transfer psychological emotions to visual expressions. As can be seen from the doodle style painting, the picture color is full of the artist's psychological feelings. Even the language of color alone can give the bystanders the context of creation. In this process of creation, the physical natures of color are recognized and transferred to psychological feelings.

IV. Conclusion

Doodle style painting can be used as reference in cultivating students' picture composition and color expression. Different people will use different methods and strokes to express their unique psychological feelings. In psychology, one kind of feeling can link with another kind of feeling and it is called synesthesia phenomenon. People tend to have synesthesia about color. The reason is that colors

are easy to have various influences on people's psychology. People who have the same feeling may have different synesthesia, which makes each student's expression completely different. Finally, same subject can have different works.

Based on the completed homework, students have deeper and systematic knowledge in colors. Having applied this creative training method under a specific topic, teachers understand students' unique thinking to a specific color. Painting is not just colors but expressions of real things. This experiment can be a preparation of future paintings and creations.

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