

Historical Art Periods

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Introduction

Art period is a term typically used to describe a phase in the overall progression of a work in the field of art and is characterized by a number of artists and art movements. The work of art varies largely from time to time in terms of styles and genres (Lawson, 2012). It has been observed that this work originates from the characteristics of the preceding periods and is influenced by various underlying social and political events. In addition to this, the work of art is considered to be a continuation of the earlier artistic styles. This effectively means that the classical work from the ancient times of Greece was revolutionized in the neoclassical era. In the similar way, cubism was considered to be a result of the styles of European culture. In this regard, the primary aim of the study is to critically analyze the historical art periods with specific focus on classical and romanticism. Both of these historical art periods have various similarities and differences between them. A comprehensive account of the comparison and contrast between them is incorporated in the study.

Classical Historical Art Period

The classical period was found to be rich with various social events that largely changed the course of the world. These events include American Revolution, French revolution, and various Napoleonic wars. In the wake of these events, it was observed that there was an imposition of tax on sugar and every piece of paper (DeFelipe, et al, 2014). Moreover, in this era, the colonists were prepared to free themselves from the heinous oppression of the English people. The art during this era was influenced by the developments in the fields of science, music, philosophy, and literature. In this period, the artists used somewhat exaggerated techniques of the previous eras. In addition to this, music was

considered to be extremely organized in the classical period in terms of various synchronized movements in the sonata as well as symphony (Boardman, 2013). The most notable attributes of this period were that the music was ornamental, structured, simple, and orderly.

Romanticism Historical Art Period

The nineteenth century era is principally termed as the romantic era. Romanticism is the name given to a movement related to culture that demonstrated an aesthetic style, attitude, and spirit. Therefore, it may not be wrong to say that the overall era of romanticism typically involved the aspect of revolt against the quest for freedom in the personal as well as artistic lives. It has also been observed that romanticism is an overall reaction against the neoclassical approach related to the order and intellectual control (Gomez-Gesteira, et al, 2010). It is in favor of free expression of ideas and opinions. It also involves the spontaneous outpouring of the feelings and emotion, which are as significant as the reason itself. The romantic form of poetry and music are characterized by the norms of intuition and use of senses. Therefore, the most prominent attributes of romanticism include structuralism, expressive forms, and rich in feelings and emotions (Gardner, 2013).

The Relationship between the Periods

Stylistic and Historical Similarities and Differences

Classical and romanticism periods of historic art are considered to have various similarities and differences. Artists that are of the classical era tended to look back to the work of the Ancient Greece and Rome in order to gain inspiration and ideas from them (Gardner, 2013). On the other hand, in the Romantic period, the artists used to look to the nature to gain inspiration. The latter were rebellious of the ideals and strict rules of the former. In classic approach, the world is viewed from the aspect of rigidity and sternness. In contrast to this, romanticism believes in considering the world as a place to express the

feelings and share ideas (Larceneux, et al, 2014). However, both of these historic periods strived for observing the world and understanding the behaviors of people.

Artistic and Traditional Similarities and Differences

Both of the aforementioned historic art periods differ in respect of their views on the connection between the individual and the society. They also differed in respect to the opinions about nature. Classical approach viewed nature as a self-contained machine; whereas, romanticism believed that nature is mysterious and ever-changing. Classical approach asserted that the imagination is essential but it is needed to be restricted by the boundaries of reason and imagination (Gomez-Gesteira, et al, 2010). In opposition to this, romanticism posited that the imagination is ultimately better than reasons and logic. In addition to this, the classical approach viewed tradition as an aspect that should be considered to the point of resisting the change. It also posited that the literary aspect is the one which shows moral values to humanity. Romanticism negated this stance through emphasizing on the human power for the purpose of social progress as well as spiritual growth (Lawson, 2012).

Comparison of Mozart's and Mahler's Music

Mozart was one of the most prominent artists of the classical period of historical art. He had adopted Italienate style, in which he tended to take more risks as compared to Mahler. Mahler was an artist and musician in the romanticism period of art. His Symphony No. 1 in D major called Titan was scored for a huge orchestra, which was consisted of around 100 musicians (DeFelipe, et al, 2014). Mozart's Clarinet Quintet was considered to be a work of string quartet and clarinet. The string quartet comprised of a viola and cello, and two violins. The rhythm of Mozart's music was found to be more complex and repetitive as compared to Mahler's, which was more melodious and has beautiful moving lines. The former focused

more on the brass and violin, while the latter emphasized on using woodwinds and strings (Gomez-Gesteira, et al, 2010).

Influence of Romanticism on Future Art World

It has been observed that the nineteenth century romanticism art work has largely paved ways for the artists, composers, and singers of the later times. The reason to this is the fact that it is considered to be more inclined toward the involvement of style, theme and variety in the art work (Boardman, 2013). According to this historical art, there is the effective development of a sense in which the past, present and the future are mixed together in the overall human consciousness. A number of various poets and novelists in the modern times, especially in the United States, have found their voice in the romanticism approach. They are of the opinion that through the expression of feelings and emotions, the message can be easily conveyed far and wide. Therefore, it may be safe to posit that this approach is expected to influence the literary and musical work of various artists from future as well (Gardner, 2013).

Conclusion

From the above discussion about the classical and romanticism periods of art, it is evident that both are significant for gaining an insight into the art work. The former was comparatively more organized in terms of various synchronized movements in the sonata as well as symphony. On the other hand, the latter is associated to the adoption of an aesthetic style, attitude, and spirit. Moreover, classical approach was viewed from the aspect of rigidity and sternness, while romanticism believes in considering the world as a place to express the feelings and share ideas. In addition to this, there is a difference in the way both of these approaches consider nature. Classical approach viewed nature as a self-contained machine; whereas, romanticism believed that nature is mysterious and ever-changing aspect. Mozart and Mahler of the classical and romanticism periods of history, respectively, also differed in

their music. The differences discussed are mainly based on the use of musical instruments and rhythm. Mozart had a more structural style, which was considered to be rather complex and critical. In contrast to this, Mahler had adopted a soft style, which was full of feelings and emotions.

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