

Analysis of Angell's Painting Style Characteristics

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Abstract:

Engel is regarded as the outstanding representative of French neoclassicism in the 19th century. Although his painting style is mainly categorized as neoclassical, it is not difficult to find the interweaving of realism and romanticism elements in his works. Engel's innovative ideas and painting practices have had a profound impact on modern art, and his beautiful works not only touch the viewers' emotions, but also actively shape their psychological world. Through the study of the causes of Engel's painting style and the analysis of his works, we can gain a deeper understanding of this great artist. His works show a multi-faceted and all-encompassing artistic charm, providing us with valuable insights and inspirations.

Keywords:

Angell, Painting, Stylistic Features

1. Introduction

Engel's painting style is unique, and its formation is due to a number of factors. In exploring the causes of his style, we need to pay attention to the background of the era in which he lived and his personal experience. Angell was deeply influenced by French neo-classicism, and at the same time had a deep study of ancient Greek and Roman art, which together shaped his artistic concepts.

1.1. Background of the study

Engel is a pivotal figure in the field of French neo-classical painting, and he occupies an important position in the neo-classical school with his unique modeling techniques. His works not only show superior skills and deep artistic heritage, but also leave a colorful mark in the history of painting. His works are highly admired and sought after by future generations, and have played a positive role in the development and inheritance of neoclassical painting.

Engel was a controversial figure who was praised and criticized consistently throughout the era in which he lived. As a well-known French painter in the 19th century, Engel left notes on his ideas and concepts of painting as well as excerpts from some of his letters in his book *Engel on Art*, which is a great help in understanding the full picture of Engel. In all kinds of art works, there are different

judgments and analyses of Engel, but there is no comprehensive and correct analysis of him. This book brings together Engel's unique personal views on art, and it also includes the multi-faceted evaluations of some of the leading critics of the time. These precious materials provide us with powerful evidence for a comprehensive understanding of Engel's artistic thought, and help us understand his artistic connotation and value more accurately. Therefore, the study of Engel's painting style is supported by rich research materials, and the analysis of his painting style characteristics is also more helpful for the study of Engel's overall image, and his paintings will contain more rich humanistic connotations, which has significant research value.

1.2. Status of research

The current domestic research on Angell's painting can be divided into three main aspects. Respectively from the artistic characteristics, change and innovation, as well as comparative research. Artistic characteristics of Ji Xueyan in the "biography of Angell's painting" combed Angell's life trajectory, in-depth excavation of each important stage of Angell's life, from his early education and artistic enlightenment, to the late years of creative style and ideological changes, to show us a three-dimensional and rich Angell's image. At the same time, it provides a comprehensive interpretation of the artistic characteristics of his works, revealing the multiple factors and backgrounds that led to the formation of Engel's artistic style. French Art History by Gao Tianmin analyzes the formation of Engel's creative style and his artistic characteristics from the perspective of historiography. The book explores in detail the influence of artistic trends and social environment on Engel at that time, revealing how Engel formed his unique artistic style under the influence of these factors. In his article "Formalist Elements in Engel's Paintings," Cheng Jie digs deeper into the use of formalist elements in Engel's works and how these elements affect the composition of the picture and the overall visual effect. Wang Zhenzhi, in his article "The Creative Consciousness in Engel's Paintings and Its Significance for the Transformation of Modern Art," provides an in-depth exploration of Engel's paintings from the perspective of innovation. The study focuses on analyzing how Engel incorporates a sense of innovation in his works and how this innovation influences and drives the change of modern art. In the book *Engel and Delacroix* by Yang Xiaohong, the author analyzes the relationship between Engel and Delacroix in depth from three aspects. Firstly, from the point of view of the subject matter of the works and the inheritance of tradition, both Engel and Delacroix show respect for and inheritance of tradition, but there are differences in their specific choices and expressions. Secondly, there are also many similarities in the trajectory of their artistic lives, both having had a strong interest in oriental art and an obsessive pursuit of the female human body. Finally, in terms of artistic debate, they differed in their emphasis on sketching and color, as well as in their demands for form and nature, reflecting the differences in their artistic views and stances. These analyses provide important academic references for us to understand the relationship between these two artists. The book *Tradition and Desire*, translated by Mr. Ding Ning, contains a systematic and detailed exposition of the characteristics of art in the period from David to Delacroix. The book first analyzes how David and subsequent painters moved from absolute inheritance to the shaping of their own styles from the perspective of the transmutation of the figure in traditional painting. The book digs deeper into Angell's work, exploring how he borrowed elements from Raphael and ancient Greek works and transformed them into his own unique expression. This involves vicarious and transpositional shifts in composition,

character dynamics, and more. This process reveals a strong connection between Engel and Delacroix, who have a relationship of mutual influence and borrowing in their artistic creations.

In summary, these academic studies have analyzed and interpreted Engel's life, painting style and sense of innovation from different perspectives, providing important academic references for our comprehensive understanding of Engel's artistic contributions and influence. However, the categorization and analysis of his works from the perspective of stylistic features has not been perfected yet. Therefore, this dissertation aims to re-examine Engel's painting art from the perspective of stylistic features' genesis, and break the traditional research paradigm by analyzing his painting stylistic features in depth. A variety of methods are used in the study, especially the image comparison method and image dissection method. By comparing Engel's works in different periods, the changes in his style and the trajectory of his art are clearly revealed. At the same time, the in-depth analysis of specific works explains Engel's creative concepts and techniques in greater depth. The thesis combines rich illustrations and textual descriptions to provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis. In particular, the detailed interpretation of key images enables readers to understand more intuitively the characteristics and techniques of Engel's paintings. It is hoped that through this sorting and summarizing, Engel's painting style can be broadly categorized, summarized and generalized, and the research on Engel's painting style characteristics can be more perfected by combining the creation of his painting subjects with the historical background of different periods and the embodiment of his painting style characteristics.

2. Causes of Style

Engel is a profoundly influential artist whose works fully embody the essence of classicism. He devoted himself to the pursuit of a standardized style, focusing on the purity and simplicity of form and emphasizing the formal elements of classical beauty. His paintings absorbed the legacy of the 15th century Italian paintings, ancient Greek pottery decorative painting, painting method of craftsmanship, the importance of line modeling, and thus almost every painting strives to achieve a rigorous composition, color simplicity, elegant image, these characteristics are particularly prominent in his series of paintings that express the beauty of the human body, such as the "Spring", the "Grand Courtesan", "Wappinsong's Bathing Girl", "Turkish Bath", "Homer's Salute", "The Homer's Salute", "The Himalayan" and "The Himalayan", "Harem Beauties", "Bohlin Elenore of Gala", "Mrs. Mordecier" and so on.

Born in an artistic family, Engel was nurtured by his family's artistic atmosphere from an early age, which laid the foundation for his later artistic development. From an early age, he demonstrated a keen interest and talent for painting, constantly pursuing artistic progress and innovation. Engel was an outstanding disciple of Davik, who shared his teacher's interests and was filled with a love for the subject matter of ancient Greek historical creation. In the presentation of his paintings, he clearly favors the representation of nature. In Engel's perspective, nature is not simply a reference to the scenery of nature, nor is it a universal popular style, nor is it an objective event occurring in society. He believes that nature is a deep, inner reality that needs to be revealed and expressed through the form of art. He pursued a kind of rigor and harmony, using the flowing curves of the human body under his brush, the transformation of light and darkness, and the vivid and lifelike flesh of the skin, to express a kind of quiet and idealized mood, and was the last guardian of 19th-century

French neo-classicism. [1] On the basis of the harmony and beauty of classical painting, Engel showed a unique and innovative perspective. The atmosphere created by the figures and scenes in his works exudes an aristocratic elegance that makes the viewer feel a sense of beauty that is difficult to integrate. This beauty, noble and cold, as if the characters in the paintings only focus on their own instruments, indifferent to any external evaluation. This characteristic makes Angell's works not only give people the comfort of sensory enjoyment, but also away from the world's clamor, providing a unique aesthetic experience for the viewer. This elegant beauty on Engel's picture is distinguished from the sublime beauty of classicism in the traditional sense, and the difference between Engel's and David's painting styles can be seen. [2] Engel's paintings reflect different historical backgrounds and periods. Below are some of the historical contexts of Angell's paintings:

Neoclassical Period: Engel was one of the representative figures of neoclassicism, and his works were deeply influenced by ancient Greek and Roman art. During this period, Engel created many works of classical beauty, such as *Achilles Meets Agamemnon's Messenger* and *The Oath of Louis XIII*.

Napoleonic Wars and the French Revolution: Angell lived during a period when the Napoleonic Wars and the French Revolution had a profound impact on society and politics. Some of Engel's works reflect the social upheaval and political changes of this period, such as portraits like the *Portrait of Madame de Rivière*, which depicted socialites and political figures of the time.

Study in Italy and Renaissance Influence: Engel traveled to Italy to study and was heavily influenced by the Renaissance masters, especially Raphael. During this period, Engel studied Renaissance art in depth and created some works in the Renaissance style, such as *The Martyrdom of St. Severian*.

Orientalism and the pursuit of exoticism: In his later years, Engel created a number of paintings with an Orientalist style, such as *The Turkish Bathhouse*. These works show Engel's strong interest in exoticism and oriental culture, and at the same time reflect the enthusiasm and pursuit of oriental culture in Europe at that time.

To summarize, the causes of Engel's painting style are multifaceted, including both the influence of his personal background and the context of the times, as well as his personal artistic pursuit and creative practice. Engel's paintings involve a number of historical backgrounds and periods, such as Neoclassicism, Napoleonic Wars and French Revolution, Italian Study and Renaissance, Orientalism, etc., and his works also profoundly reflect the social, political and cultural characteristics of these periods.

3. Forms of Painting

3.1 Portraits

Classical painting in the 18th and 19th centuries was typical aristocratic art, a high-level portrait is often very labor-intensive and time-consuming, as little as a few months, as many as a few years, so the price of portraits is very expensive, usually only the aristocrats can afford to buy them, which was very popular in Europe at that time. [3] Engel's portraits can be categorized according to type as private portraits, historical portraits, and formal portraits. [4] Engel's portraits pay great attention to the character's appearance, and he pursues the realism and naturalness of the form. The figures in his portraits are usually very natural, without too much exaggeration or deformation, but through delicate brushstrokes and colors to show the characteristics

and personality of the characters. Secondly, Engel's portraits pay attention to the details of the portrayal. He is good at capturing the character's mannerisms and expressions, and shows the details of the character's skin, clothing and background through delicate brushstrokes and soft colors, making the picture very realistic and vivid. In addition, Engel's portraits are characterized by conciseness and simplicity. His painting style focuses on concise lines and simple colors, which makes his portraits very fresh and elegant. He is good at expressing the charisma and temperament of the characters through simple lines and colors, which makes the picture more vivid and powerful. In terms of lines, Angell creates perspective relationship through the combination of abstract lines, or uses different light to weaken the effect of light and darkness, and puts the details of each image in his works, through the rigorous structure as well as the abstract combination of lines, to express his need for creation. [5] In terms of color treatment, Engel holds a rigorous attitude against over-emphasizing hues. The way of composition adopts a flat composition, which is cleverly combined with lines and forms, and this way of composition provides favorable conditions for him to use colors according to his personal principles, which further strengthens the artistic effect of his works.

Engel advocated that the use of color should be coordinated with the shape and texture of the picture in order to achieve a harmonious and unified effect. This concept reflects Engel's deep understanding of the relationship between color and shape, and is also a principle he has always adhered to in his paintings. In terms of composition, Angell made portraits of characters of both sexes on the action of more than three-quarters of the side or close to three-quarters of the side of the left or right side of the sitting, or the standing part of the turn to the front of the front and side of the standing or seated portraits. [6]

3.2. Body painting

Angell has a unique observation and study of the structure of the human body. He studied human anatomy in depth, focusing on the fine portrayal of the human body's structures such as muscles, bones and internal organs. In his works, the muscles and bones of the human body are weakened, and instead of focusing on anatomical accuracy, he pursues the effect of hiding the anatomical structure. This kind of treatment makes his works present a kind of "shallow relief" modeling, leaving a deep impression on people.

In addition, Engel is also good at expressing the dynamics and gestures of the human body through simple lines and colors. By accurately grasping the human body's posture and using smooth lines, he shows a simple but powerful artistic style. This style makes his works have both the solemnity and elegance of classicism and the emotion and passion of romanticism. Angell's observation and study of the human body structure is unique, he focuses on the details and expression of emotions, and pursues the reality and naturalness of the form, which makes his works become masterpieces of classical paintings. Angell's paintings are rigorously composed, focusing on balance and stability. He follows certain compositional principles and adopts different compositional rules according to different subjects and painting styles. He pursues the stability and balance of the picture, and through reasonable layout and arrangement of images, the picture presents a quiet and solemn aesthetic sense. Secondly, Engel's human body paintings pay attention to the details and texture of the performance. He is good at portraying the skin, texture and texture of the human body through delicate brushstrokes and color changes, giving the picture a high degree of

realism and three-dimensionality. At the same time, he also has an in-depth study of the human body's muscles, bones and posture, showing the strength and beauty of the human body through accurate depiction.

In addition, Engel pursues the simplicity and purity of lines in his human body paintings. He is good at using simple lines to outline the outline and posture of the human body, focusing on the smoothness and naturalness of the lines. His pictures are soft and fresh, showing the softness and beauty of the human body through color changes and matching. Angell's classical art emphasized the pursuit of ideal beauty, tending to stay away from reality and avoiding social issues. He focuses on the expression of form and line, and strives for harmony and elegance in color tone, while integrating abstract classical beauty with figurative realistic style. In his paintings, the existence of human spine seems to be invisible, without any skeletal support, without the use of real bright colors and luster on the flesh, showing women with swan-like necks and flower-like hands, and the smooth and elegant spine of the female human body has long exceeded the real sense of femininity. [7] In Engel's "The Great Courtesan", in order to create a world of great beauty, the proportions of the female body are not afraid to add three vertebrae to the waist to achieve the ideal beauty in the author's mind. [8] In the visual treatment, the author exaggerates the beauty of the woman's body, and portrays the female features to the fullest extent. In Engel's eyes, the femininity emanating from the female body is incomparable. This aesthetic tendency reflects Engel's unique understanding and pursuit of beauty.

4. Style

4.1. Stable composition

In the world of painting, composition is one of the key factors in determining the work. It not only concerns the layout of the picture, but also involves the artist's aesthetic concept and creative intention. In classical oil painting triangle composition is its biggest feature, the stability, permanence and solemnity that classicalism has is realized by using triangle composition. [9] In order to achieve this effect, classical painters usually use a solid structural base for composition, which is called "triangular composition".

As one of the outstanding representatives of French neoclassical painting, Engel has a profound attainment in triangular composition. His skillful use of this composition gives the picture a pyramid-like stability. Whether it is a figure or other objects, Engel places them on top of a stable structure to ensure overall balance and harmony. When working with full-body portraits, Engel was able to ensure the stability of the center of gravity even though a triangular composition was not possible. This is attributed to his keen observation of details and precise capture of dynamics. In Engel's paintings, in order to enhance the spatial depth of the figures in the picture, increase the interest of the viewer, and make the work more attractive, he often uses S-shaped composition. This kind of composition can better show the curves of the human body and inject more vigor and elegance into the picture. Through S-shaped composition, Engel can skillfully show the dynamics and posture of the human body, making the picture more vivid and three-dimensional. At the same time, this kind of composition can also guide the viewer's line of sight, making the picture more layered and deep. As the pinnacle of his body paintings, Engel's Fountain skillfully utilizes the S-shaped composition to perfectly present the soft curves of a woman's body, bringing female elegance to its fullest extent. This work demonstrates Engel's keen insight into the

beauty of the human body and his exquisite skills. The oval shape was a favorite of noble women at that time, and the round shape was full of inner tension, which was suitable for expressing the woman's plumpness and roundness, and Engel also skillfully used these two frame forms to further harmonize the overall composition of the picture.

It can be seen that Engel pursues a kind of eternal beauty, and he firmly believes that a perfect composition can make the work transcend the limitations of time and space. In order to realize this goal, he carefully chooses suggestive moments before the apex. This choice not only leaves infinite space for the viewer's imagination, but also makes the picture incorporate endless imagination in the realism. This unique artistic approach demonstrates Engel's great skill and profound artistic insight.

4.2. Subtle colors

During the period of classical painting, color was usually regarded as an auxiliary element of sketching, and its practice and theory had not yet reached the point of perfection, especially in the expression of contrasting relationships and changes in warmth and coldness, which appeared to be quite limited. However, Angell's paintings show a light, clear and distinctive use of color, and he does not tend to use strong tones, colors or contrasts of light and dark. With his exquisite artistic skills and unique aesthetic vision, Engel skillfully uses colors in his works to create a serene and harmonious atmosphere. He pays attention to the soft matching and delicate transition of colors, so that colors and other elements such as lines and compositions are in harmony with each other, and together they build a harmonious and unified artistic picture. Engel understood color in this way: "The basic element of color is not in a painting of light and dark color blocks with proper coordination, it is mostly shown in each depicted object on the special hue difference. For example, white fabrics with glitter affect the complexion of a dark, olive-toned person, and it is especially important to identify the relationship between soft golden colors and cooler tones, and between unexpected and localized tones on the human body." [10]

It is worth mentioning that Engel's unique use of color is not only reflected in his paintings, but also highlights his inheritance and innovation of the classical painting tradition. From *The Rescue of Angelica* by Roger to *The Princess of Broglie*, we can see Engel's embodiment of color in his paintings. In Engel's view, passion and fire are all fleeting things, while something calm and deep will appear in the end. The use of color is cool and calm, and the carving is refined, giving each work a new spiritual connotation and a quiet mood. [11] On the basis of his in-depth study of classical color theory, combined with his own artistic sensibility and innovative spirit, he has formed a set of unique methods of color expression. This method not only retains the solemnity and elegance of classicism, but also injects the simplicity and brightness of modernism, showing high academic and artistic value.

4.3. Spiritual lines

In the creation of his paintings, Angell studied the use of lines in depth and formed a set of individualized line modeling language. Based on the drawing tradition of his predecessors and through his own practical exploration, he gradually developed a unique style of sketching art. In Engel's works, he often uses simple and smooth lines to express the characters, so that the lines are perfectly integrated with the characters. This way of composition and the use of lines complement each other, highlighting Engel's keen capture and precise expression of the character's features. At the same

time, this simple and smooth line language also gives the works a unique artistic aesthetic, which is impressive.

His works, such as *Portrait of Paganini* and *The Grand Courtesan*, demonstrate the unique charm of his line modeling language. Engel skillfully utilizes the various characteristics of lines in order to accurately display the characteristics of the figures and the sense of space in the picture. This flexible and varied way of using lines makes Engel's works visually richer and more three-dimensional, further strengthening the artistic effect of his paintings. Engel strives to use every line to express beauty and interpret beauty, and to bring the expressive power of lines in plastic arts to the point of perfection. Lines are like the life of his art, and each one contains the flow of his emotions. [12] In depicting the faces of the characters, Engel uses soft and detailed lines to outline the facial structure, so as to show the subtle emotions and inner world of the characters. This delicate way of portrayal makes the characters more three-dimensional and vivid, and provides the audience with a window into the inner world of the characters. In the representation of clothing decoration, Engel utilizes smooth and precise lines, and injects rhythmic changes to make the content of the picture richer and more varied. This treatment allows the texture and details of the clothing to be delicately displayed, further enhancing the visual effect of the image.

It is based on Angell's unique line modeling language that makes his figures vivid and realistic, with different postures. His works create a calm and peaceful atmosphere, enabling the viewer to feel a sense of peace and beauty. An in-depth study of Angell's line modeling language helps us to understand the artistic value and unique charm of his paintings more deeply.

5. Conclusions

Angell's painting style is unique and loved by the art world and the audience. In his works, the lines are smooth and elegant, the composition is rigorous, and the colors are soft and layered. Engel focuses on detailing, showing the inner emotions and temperament of the characters through exquisite brushstrokes. His painting style not only inherits the solemnity and elegance of classicism, but also incorporates the simplicity and brightness of modernism, forming a unique artistic style. In the use of color, he is good at using intermediate tones, so that the picture presents a harmonious and unified visual effect. Angell's works not only have high aesthetic value, but also show his deep understanding and unique insight into art. His works are full of profound insight into human nature and delicate feelings for life, which makes his paintings have a universal value beyond the times. Angell's painting style not only influenced his contemporaries, but also had a profound impact on the art creation of later generations, and his works became a bridge connecting the past and the future, tradition and innovation. When enjoying Engel's works, we can not only feel the shock of beauty, but also realize the true meaning and power of art.

Conflicts of Interest

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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