

A Study on the Visual Order and Aesthetic Tension of “Point, Line and Plane” in the Plane Composition of Oil Painting

Hui Xue^{1*}

¹ College of Fine Arts, Jingdezhen Ceramic University, Jingdezhen, China

*Correspondence: Hui Xue

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Abstract:

Point, line and plane, as the core basic visual elements in the plane composition system of oil painting, play an irreplaceable and fundamental role in rationally organizing the picture structure and creatively creating unique formal aesthetic feeling. Based on the basic principles of plane composition, combined with formal aesthetics theory and a large number of oil painting creation practices, this paper systematically combs the morphological characteristics, combination rules and mutual transformation logical relationship of point, line and plane in painting language. It focuses on analyzing the scientific ways to establish stable and harmonious visual order and achieve rhythmic balance in the picture, as well as the deep internal logic of generating rich aesthetic tension through formal contrast, spatial conflict and multi-element interaction. Through the in-depth formal analysis of oil paintings of different styles and periods, this paper explains the complete transformation process of point, line and plane from concrete modeling means to independent aesthetic symbols, and further illustrates their important application value and practical guiding significance in contemporary oil painting creation, so as to provide solid theoretical reference and feasible practical ideas for the deepening and expansion of oil painting formal language.

Keywords:

Oil Painting Language, Plane Composition, Aesthetic Tension, Formal Expression

1. Introduction

1.1. Research Background and Value

In the long transformation process of oil painting from the traditional realistic modeling system to modern formal language expression, representational and narrative expression has gradually given way to the independent emotional and spiritual expression of formal structure, and plane composition has thus become an important and core way of modern oil painting picture organization. Point, line and plane are no longer just auxiliary means for shaping specific images and describing objective objects, but have become the core visual symbols for artists to control the overall picture, convey inner emotions and express artistic concepts. Visual order determines the overall stability, harmony and integrity of the picture, while aesthetic

tension determines the visual appeal, emotional infection and spiritual depth of the work, both of which are efficiently realized through the reasonable arrangement, contrast and interaction of point, line and plane elements.

The study on the visual order and aesthetic tension of point, line and plane in oil painting is not only helpful to sort out the clear development context of modern oil painting formal language, summarize the evolution law of formal expression, but also can provide creators with clearer composition ideas, standardized formal methods and innovative creative paths, and promote the high unity of rational structure construction and perceptual emotional expression of oil painting in the two-dimensional plane space, so as to enhance the theoretical depth and practical value of oil painting creation. [6][7]

1.2. Overview of Domestic and Foreign Research Status

Western formalism art theory has systematically explained abstract visual elements and picture compositional relations earlier. Kandinsky's in-depth discussion on the independent spiritual value and expressive power of point, line and plane has laid a solid theoretical foundation for the formal research of modern painting. Artists such as Cézanne, Mondrian and Matisse promoted the important transformation of painting from figurative representation to planar expression and abstract creation through long-term practical exploration. Most domestic researches focus on the simple application of composition rules in concrete painting creation, while the thematic systematic research on the internal connection and dynamic generation mechanism of visual order and aesthetic tension still has broad room for further deepening and expansion. [6][7]

1.3. Research Ideas and Methods

This paper adopts the comprehensive research methods of theoretical interpretation, classic work analysis and practical experience summary, carries out research in strict accordance with the logical idea of “element characteristics - order construction - tension generation - work verification - creation application”, and systematically explains the complete visual laws of point, line and plane by means of formal analysis and comparative research, combined with the unique language characteristics of oil paintings in different historical periods and artistic schools. [2][5]

2. Theoretical Basis of Plane Composition and Point, Line, Plane in Oil Painting

2.1. Connotation of Plane Composition and Oil Painting Expression

Plane composition is a scientific modeling method of arranging, combining and reconstructing visual elements in two-dimensional space according to the objective laws of formal beauty, emphasizing the establishment of clear picture order with rational structural design and the realization of personalized artistic expression with rich formal changes. The planar turn of oil painting has transformed plane composition from a basic design method into a painting ontology language that runs through the whole creative process, becoming an important way to adjust picture composition, create visual rhythm and strengthen the spiritual connotation of works. [1]

2.2. Visual Characteristics and Interrelationship of Point, Line and Plane

Point is the most basic and smallest visual unit in the picture, which has the core functions of focusing vision, prompting theme and activating the static picture. The size, position, density, actual situation and color of points will directly affect the center of gravity, visual rhythm and emotional tone of the picture. A single point can become the visual center, while scattered points can form a soft and rhythmic visual effect.

Line is formed by the continuous movement of points, with a clear sense of direction, strong fluidity and efficient picture segmentation function. Straight lines tend to be rational, stable and rigorous, curves tend to be soft, lyrical and graceful, and broken lines are more likely to produce intense conflict, strength and impact. Lines act as the skeleton and veins supporting the whole picture, connecting and organizing all visual elements.

Plane is formed by the enclosure of lines or the dense aggregation of points, with a strong sense of volume, coverage and dominance. The shape, proportion, texture, color and arrangement of the plane jointly determine the overall atmosphere, style and emotional expression of the picture, and are the basic unit for constructing the large structure of the picture.

Point, line and plane are not isolated and independent, but can be transformed into each other naturally: multiple points connect in sequence to form a line, the closed extension of a line forms a plane, the reduction and contraction of a plane can be regarded as a point, and the thickening and widening of a line can be transformed into a plane, which together form a complete and unified two-dimensional visual system. [1]

2.3. Support of Formal Aesthetics for the Study of Point, Line and Plane in Oil Painting

Kandinsky proposed that point, line and plane have their own unique spirituality and independent expressiveness, and can directly convey rich emotions and profound ideas without relying on specific concrete images. This view provides important theoretical support for the plane composition research of oil painting, elevating point, line and plane from simple modeling tools to advanced painting language with independent aesthetic value, and also provides a solid theoretical basis for the in-depth study of visual order and aesthetic tension. [4]

3. Ways and Laws of Constructing Visual Order of Oil Painting by Point, Line and Plane

Visual order is the overall state of coordinated relationship, clear primary and secondary, reasonable rhythm and unified style between picture elements, which is an important foundation and prerequisite of oil painting formal aesthetic feeling. [4][6]

3.1. Symmetry and Balance: Constructing a Stable Picture Structure

Symmetry achieves strict and absolute balance with the central axis, with a regular, solemn and harmonious visual effect, which is often used in classical oil painting to create a sense of dignity; balance achieves relative and dynamic stability through the flexible distribution of visual weight, which is more flexible, vivid and expressive, and is widely used in modern oil painting. The density of points, the length of lines

and the size of planes echo and balance each other, which can effectively maintain the stable center of gravity of the picture and avoid the problems of loose, messy and top-heavy picture. [3][5]

3.2. Rhythm and Rhyme: Endowing the Picture with Fluidity

Through the regular repetition, gradual change and staggered arrangement of point, line and plane elements, a unique visual rhythm similar to music can be formed. The intermittent jump of points, the ups and downs fluctuation of lines and the gradual evolvement of planes make the static two-dimensional picture produce a unique temporal fluidity and dynamic beauty, making the visual order more vital and infectious. [2][4]

3.3. Primary and Secondary and Hierarchy: Establishing a Clear Visual Path

Lay the overall tone and large structure of the picture with large color blocks, guide the viewer's line of sight with key skeleton lines, highlight the core theme with key decorative points, and form a clear hierarchical relationship from plane to line to point. Create rich spatial hierarchy by means of overlapping, virtual and real, density, size contrast and other techniques, so that the flat picture produces deep visual depth and orderly logical level, and accurately guide the viewer's visual reading order. [6][7]

3.4. Unity and Change: Realizing Richness in Harmony

Unity ensures the overall sense and integrity of the picture, making the elements coordinated and unified; change avoids the dullness and monotony of the picture, enriching the visual experience. Point, line and plane maintain high consistency in shape, direction, texture and color tone, while forming rich contrasts in size, density, curvature, weight and color, making the picture full of rich changes in overall unity, and forming an advanced and orderly formal structure. [1][4]

4. Internal Logic of Aesthetic Tension in Oil Painting Generated by Point, Line and Plane

Aesthetic tension is the strong visual attraction and profound emotional infection formed by the contrast, confrontation, complementary and interaction of picture elements, which is the key to enhancing the artistic charm, spiritual strength and appeal of the work. [4][7]

4.1. Formal Contrast: The Direct Source of Tension

The contrast between straight line and curve, geometric shape and organic shape in morphological form; the contrast between gathering and scattering, virtual and real, sparse and dense in spatial distribution; the contrast between smooth and rough, light and thick in texture touch; the contrast between horizontal and vertical, radiation and parallel in direction trend, all can directly produce strong and intense visual tension, impacting the viewer's vision. [1][7]

4.2. Combination of Virtual and Real: The Implicit Expression of Tension

The real points, lines and planes clearly define the main image and core content of the picture, and the virtual points, lines and planes leave sufficient breathing space and imaginative space for the picture. The combination of virtual and real not only makes the picture have a proper degree of relaxation, avoiding excessive crowding or

emptiness, but also creates a broad imaginary space in the blank part, achieving a subtle, far-reaching and meaningful aesthetic effect. [4][5]

4.3. Density Arrangement: Tension in Dynamic Balance

Dense elements bring a strong sense of tension and visual focus, and loose areas bring a relaxed, comfortable sense of relaxation. The alternate arrangement of density forms a unique visual rhythm and dynamic balance. The gathering of points, the interleaving of lines and the tight arrangement of planes make the picture switch freely between tension and relaxation, forming a continuous and attractive visual traction. [6][7]

4.4. Breakthrough in Order: Enhancing Spiritual Tension

Making a moderate and reasonable breakthrough in the overall stable order, creating a striking visual focus with local morphological mutation, color mutation, direction mutation or texture mutation, can produce strong visual impact in stability, break the conventional monotony, and enhance the unique spiritual strength and distinct contemporary temperament of the work. [2][3]

5. Analysis of Visual Order and Aesthetic Tension of Point, Line and Plane in Oil Paintings

5.1. Van Gogh The Starry Night

In this classic work, starlight and moonlight are distributed in the form of soft dots, forming a jumping and vivid visual rhythm; rotating curves and radial lines run through the whole picture, constructing a picture structure with strong dynamic sense without losing rational order; the large-area blue night sky plane and warm-color village plane form a strong color block contrast, effectively stabilizing the center of gravity of the picture. Point, line and plane form a high unity between strict order and emotional turbulence, making formal expression and emotional transmission perfectly integrated. [3][5]

5.2. Matisse The Harmony in Red

The work constructs a unified and strong overall tone with a large area of red plane, consciously weakening the three-dimensional space and pursuing planar decorative beauty; orderly decorative lines reasonably divide the picture structure and enrich the level; delicate patterned dots are used as local details to enhance the delicacy of the picture. The planar point, line and plane create a harmonious, concise and clear visual order, and at the same time produce strong decorative aesthetic tension with the contrast of color and form, fully reflecting the unique formal innovation of Fauvism. [2][3]

5.3. Mondrian Composition with Red, Yellow and Blue

The work strictly divides the picture into regular rectangular planes with simple straight lines, and black, white, gray and pure primary colors form a strict, rational and concise geometric order. Point, line and plane form a high-intensity contrast in the extremely simplified minimal structure, producing a calm, rational but powerful and shocking aesthetic tension, becoming a typical representative of abstract composition painting. [1][3]

5.4. Chinese Freehand Oil Painting Creation

Some contemporary Chinese oil painters creatively combine point, line and plane with the traditional freehand brushwork spirit of Chinese painting, pile up rich texture with scattered color dots, outline vivid images with free and easy lines, and form the main body of the picture with layered color blocks, making the elements show orderly beauty in randomness and harmonious beauty in contrast, forming a unique painting language with both Oriental artistic conception charm and modern formal beauty. [5][6]

6. Enlightenment of Point, Line and Plane to Contemporary Oil Painting Creation

6.1. Strengthen Plane Consciousness and Return to Formal Ontology

Contemporary oil painting creators should get rid of the excessive reliance on objective representation and narrative description, take point, line and plane as the core elements to organize the picture, pay attention to the internal logic and law of plane composition, and make the formal structure itself an important and independent part of artistic expression. [1][6]

6.2. Balance Order and Tension to Improve the Style of Works

Use scientific visual order to ensure the overall integrity and harmony of the picture, and use rich aesthetic tension to enhance the artistic appeal and spiritual depth of the work, avoiding the two extremes of being too regular and dull or too free and scattered, so as to create works with both formal beauty and emotional power.

6.3. Form Personal Language and Promote Formal Innovation

Combine the characteristics of materials, techniques and concepts, endow point, line and plane with personalized expression ways, integrate traditional composition rules with contemporary aesthetics, and form unique artistic symbols.

6.4. Integrate Chinese and Western Aesthetics and Broaden the Boundaries of Expression

Actively integrate the rational structural spirit of Western plane composition with the freehand artistic conception of Chinese traditional painting, so that point, line and plane can achieve a high degree of unity between rational order and Oriental artistic conception, greatly enrich the spiritual connotation and expressive force of oil painting, and broaden the creative boundary of contemporary oil painting.

7. Conclusions

Point, line and plane are the most basic, core and important visual elements in the plane composition of oil painting. They are not only the basic structural units to establish stable and harmonious visual order, but also the core formal carrier to generate rich and profound aesthetic tension. Visual order realizes picture harmony and integrity through balance, rhythm, hierarchy, unity and other scientific ways, while aesthetic tension is presented through contrast, virtual reality, density, order breakthrough and other expressive ways. The two depend on each other, interact and promote each other, jointly constituting the deep internal logic of oil painting formal language. [1][7]

From traditional realism to modern abstract expression, point, line and plane have completed the important transformation from simple modeling means to independent aesthetic symbols, becoming an important carrier for artists to express inner emotions and artistic concepts. In contemporary oil painting creation, in-depth study of the visual laws of point, line and plane and balancing the relationship between visual order and aesthetic tension are not only the inheritance and development of formal aesthetics theory, but also an important path to promote the continuous innovation and sustainable development of oil painting language. With the continuous development of painting media and artistic concepts, point, line and plane will continue to provide new possibilities and creative directions for oil painting art in a richer and more diverse form. [2][5]

Conflicts of Interest

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

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