



Love Lasts Forever: An Exploration of Love Based on Works of Art

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Abstract: Love, as one of the most universal emotions, is also an important theme in artistic creation. Artistic creation derives from love, and the huge tension from emotion and creation produces heart touching works. Love links the boundary between art and life. People can find the traces of love in the works of art, so as to move from loneliness to the rebirth of love. It can be said that art works freshen human love emotion, so that love can exist in personal life or human history. Based on the discussion about love in art works, this paper will explain the relationship between love and art from several aspects: Love is the original driving force of art, art works are the depiction and record of love, art works are the vague of love, and art makes love not be forgotten.

Keywords: works of art, love, relationship

1. Introduction

What is love? Plato in ancient Greece once asked his teacher Socrates. People go through historical time and philosophical speculation to understand that love is “the best ear of wheat”, “the most lush tree” and “the most beautiful flower”. However, with the evolution of times, the connotation of love has also changed, and people try to find an exact definition, but they can’t reach a consensus. There is a line in the movie *Coco* that says, “When no one in the living world remembers you, you disappear from this world. We call it ‘the last death’ “(*Coco* 00:44:30 -- 00:44:40). Chinese poet Yu Guangzhong wrote in *Homesickness* that “Homesickness is a low grave, with me outside and mother inside” (lines 10 — 13 from *Homesickness*). When people talk about love, they cannot escape the two emotions of forgetting and missing. They are the two sides of love, which tell the life and death of love. The philosopher is explaining love. When art and love collide, a work of art with life and soul is born. The love that could disappear is solidified in a painting, a note, or a text. Love is immortalized and eternal through art.

2. Love is the original power of art

In light of love and art, modern British novelist Alice Murdoch argues in *Art and Eros: A Conversation About Art* that “art comes from the depths of the soul, where there is a great power...Without this power there is no art, no science, and no man, for without love man is but a ghost.” The greatness of love is that it entrusts life with vitality and vitality. It makes life experience full and rich. At the same time, it gives birth to art as a force from the soul. When there is abundant love, the artist needs to describe and express the burst of love in some form, and the abstract love can be transformed into a concrete image to survive.” I must paint, as a drowning man must struggle,” Maugham said in *The Moon and Six Pence* of Charice Strickland, a banker who has abandoned his privileged life.

Painting is like an image in the novel, which is an outlet for the hero’s passion. “ If one is deeply in love, he may block out all the things in the world...He’s like a slave locked in a wooden boat at the OARS. The protagonist’s love is not the love of a woman, but the love of painting, this love is strong and majestic, it prompted the protagonist to abandon the enviously before the middle life, hiding in poverty and the island to reckless painting creation, thus, artistic creation by a kind of passionate love triggered.

Surrealist painter Salvador Dali met the love, Ms. Gallas, in 1929. Dali, who was emerging internationally at that time, was inspired by his Muse and reached an unattainable height in art, becoming the leader of surrealist painting at that time. It is because of his strong and passionate love for Gallas that Dali created a series of works containing Gallas elements. Especially, many religious images he created in the later period were based on Gallas. It can be said that his love for Gallas was Dali’s continuous creative motivation. People can still see the traces of love in the painter’s work years after his death. Art cannot be separated from the emotion of love. In essence, every active artistic creation is supported by love. As one of the simplest and most precious emotions, love is the fuel of artistic creation and ignites the brilliant fire of human civilization art.

3. Art is the depiction and record of love

People know that life is limited, and when the scale of life comes to an end, the love attached to the human soul will disappear. In Johann Berger's essay "Towards a Small Theory of Visibility," painting is a way for people to rescue love and memory. "In art museums, we encounter visible objects from other periods, which provide us with companions...In the realm of the visible, all ages coexist and are fraternal, whether separated by centuries or thousands of years" (Berger 21). Every day something comes and goes without a word of goodbye. We can always find a part of ourselves in photographs and paintings in art galleries. It might be a child watching himself stretch in the sun, a family having dinner together, or a group of teenagers laughing and running along the beach. As Berger wrote, "If we listen, what we paint speaks" (21).

No matter painting, photography, or literature, they are all the love that creators can feel or want to express at a certain moment. The love is mixed into colorful paints, frozen in a casual moment, and also buried in the emotions of the words. Once love is recorded by artistic creation, it is sublimated in a sense. It is no longer the emotion of nameless people that easily dissipates, but arouses a universal and common feeling of love through artistic expression. The Little Prince says, "I try to write about him so as not to forget him. It's sad to forget a friend. Not all of us have had friends." The Little Prince is a fictional character of Antoine de Saint-Exupery, who is the shadow of the author's childhood. He expresses his love and remembrance for the lonely boy in his childhood. Saint-Exupery poured his purest and beautiful love into the Little Prince. He let the little prince take him back to the simple childhood without worldly complications, and he also loved the lonely and confused figure of the little prince when he got lost in the desert. The reason why the book *The Little Prince* has long conquered readers around the world is that Saint-Exupery has sincerely recorded his love in his heart and awakened people's memory and yearning for the simple world of childhood. Taiwan female writer Zhu Tianxin wrote "Love in the Blossom of Lotus in Early Summer", which depicts a middle-aged version of love, middle class women, and there is no love sentiments with her husband, her husband's diary when he was young awakened the woman to love again. One day, the husband and wife pretended to be cheating men and women and they had a youth date.

Middle-aged people's marriage is often like cold tea overnight, warm white water, but middle-aged people's desire for love has not been extinguished, "Love in the Blossom of Lotus in Early Summer" records and describes this kind of love, although this kind of love is universal, but only be recorded and described can really be seen.

4. Art is a metaphor for love

When love is transformed to realness in the form of art, some artists tend to express love passionately directly, like Dali, Monet and others, the creation of the Dali many is to vindicate the naked love William Gallas, and Monet is wife, as the only actress of all painting, he's the famous "water lily" is the be fond of according to his wife before painted.

However, in general, the expression of love in art works is often obscure and symbolic, with reference and symbolic symbols to highlight the meaning of love, just like a rose, a Cupid's arrow, they often represent love, while the elements of love symbols created by artists are more rich and diversified. Freud mentioned a novel called *Gradivo* when he explained the relationship between dreams and psychoanalysis.

The novel tells the story of a young archaeologist infatuated with a girl in a relief of cultural relics, whom he called Gladivo. He kept searching for the same special gait with the girl, but found nothing. One day, he dreamed that the girl was killed in the volcanic eruption of Pompeii, so he went to Pompeii alone to find the historical traces of the girl in the relief, and he met many lovers on the way. Uncomfortable for a man so obsessed with archaeology and so far from love. However, what he finally found in Pompeii was his childhood friend Zoe, and he finally realized that he had been in love with Zoe all along, and that the relief Gladivo was just a symbol of his love for Zoe, and those lovers he met during Pompeii could be used as a metaphor of love.

The old fisherman Santiago in Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" is an old man full of confidence and love for life. He did not catch fish for 84 days in a row and was still full of fighting spirit. Finally, one day he tried his best to catch a big fish, but on the way home, he was attacked by many sharks. The love in "The Old Man and the Sea" is Santiago's love for life. The big fish and the predatory shark are both inevitable hardships and tribulations in life. The fight between the old man and the fish in the work symbolizes the old man's attitude towards life, that is, "a person is not born to be defeated, you can destroy him, but you can beat him". It also represents the old fisherman's ultimate love for life.

5. Art keeps love from being forgotten

When people is immersed in the history museum, it seems that they can hear all the cultural relics having a dialogue from the past to the present. Viewers are talking to people who lived hundreds of years ago, listening to the artworks talk about their time, culture and love. Many people and things are physically lost, but the scenes and emotions the artists want to

convey are passed on from generation to generation. The artist Reuben painted many portraits of his family in his later years.

People can feel the love of their families just by looking at the paintings. When we stand in front of the artwork, their love comes back to life. In this way, love will never die. In Zweig's *Letter From a Strange Woman*, a woman wrote her love for a man into a story and a letter. Although the woman died, her love reappeared in the world of men. In Zweig's novel, the love of a woman also appeared in the world of readers, and love became an inscription, through which countless people touched the almost paranoid love. So it doesn't go away, it gets told in the form of stories.

In "The Little Prince", the little prince's love for the rose will not disappear. The language of the rose, like the thorn on her body, once pierced the little prince's heart and made readers feel the pain of the little prince's heart in the form of words. Those loves are still recorded and felt, so they will not disappear or be forgotten.

"Is it their heartbeat or ours" (Cave 00:22:00-00:22:40)? This is a line from Herzog's film *Cave of Forgotten Dreams*. Scholars from different fields stood in front of the mural and listened in silence. They heard their own heartbeats, as well as the heartbeats of ancient humans that in some ways went back 32,000 years. Their tracks matched those of ancient humans. At this moment, they met across time and space.

As they saw the moving light and fire, they imagined the dance of ancient humans, their shadows on the walls. This is art created by nature, with the common memories of animals from different times. The rich cultural and artistic assets that history has left us are printed on paper, or recorded on CD, or hung in art galleries, or displayed in museums, enabling people of different times to share a common feeling. A love that can pass through ten years or thousands of years can still move someone who passes by later. Therefore, love can realize immortality and eternity through art.

6. Conclusion

Human develops toward a more modern community, cities and nature seem to be two different worlds, but we forget that all living things and things belong to nature, from the beginning to the end. The earliest human artworks reflect the unparalleled creativity of ancient humans and inspire viewers to consider what it is to be human. They have to have families and entertainment like we do. Nothing lasts forever as things and people are in constant changes. Although these artists and animals no longer exist, we can still trace their stories and feel some of their emotions. There are millions of languages in human civilization, but these differences can never bridge the gap between us. We are born with creativity, and we can enjoy its glory and endure its decline in the long river of time. Finally, we become a part of it. Therefore, the love carried by the works of art is like being added to the preservative of time, and every time we taste it, the love will never expire and never fade.

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