Contents:

- What is the definition of “Contemporary”?
- A brief introduction to my contemporary research and practice
- The contemporaneity of illustration as an art form
- The contemporaneity of myth in artistic creation
- The contemporary significance of my research and practice
- Conclusion and reference

Contemporary

How can I prove that I am a contemporary practitioner/researcher?

Name: LI YANG

Student Number: 2407169

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Fig.21



I

Definition of “Contemporary”

Definition from dictionary:

The Oxford English Dictionary (1989) defines “contemporary”as time relative to the present.

It usually refers to the period from the late 20th century to the present.

For different research fields and themes, “contemporary” refers to different time frames:

- **Contemporary art** often refers to art created from the 1960s onward (Smith, 2009).
- **Contemporary literature** often refers to works published within the
- last few decades (Atkins & Morrow, 1989).
- **Contemporary society** often refers to the period after major social and technological changes in the late 20th century (Fowler, 2002).

“Contemporary” is a flexible term, and its exact meaning depends on the specific context.

Some art works of contemporary art after 1960



Figure 1: Various Signs
(Georg Baselitz, 1965)



Figure 2: The Devil's Rotation Makes the World Quiet - Automatic Control Device (Dai Fan, 2015)



Figure 3: Lemon Tree
(Glendon Cordell, 2021)



Figure 4: Underwater Weather
(Chen Huilin, 2023)



Figure 5: The Village Voice
(Aaron Johnson, 2024)

"Contemporary" significance involves specific responses to current societal, cultural, political and artistic contexts. In the field of art, "contemporary" is not only a marker of time but also represents a dynamic mode of cultural expression within a globalized framework. Smith (2009) adds that "contemporary" entails a global and multi-centric perspective, making art and culture more inclusive and interactive.

Contemporary technological changes (late 20th century)

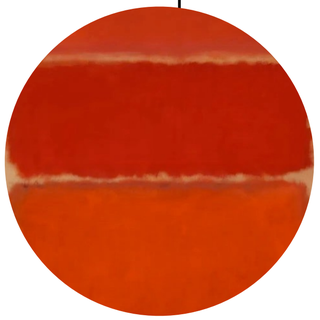


Figure 6: Color-Field Painting (Mark Rothko, 1961)



Figure 7: Shot Sage Blue Marilyn (Andy Warhol, 1964)



Figure 8: Super Hardware (Richard Estes, 1974)



Figure 9: Wall Drawing (Sol LeWitt, 1972)



Figure 10: Coca-Cola Project (Cildo Meireles, 1970)



Figure 11: Still Life (George Baselitz, 1976)



Figure 12: Digital Painting (Craig Mullins, 1987)

The art movement continued to develop and technology progressed. The dates represent the periods of peak activity and influence for each movement:

Post-Painterly Abstraction (roughly 1950s-1970s) — **Pop Art (1950s-1970s)** — **Photorealism (1960s-1980s)** — **Minimalism (1960s-1970s)** — **Conceptual Art (1960s-1980s)** — **Neo-Expressionism (1970s-1980s)** — **The Rise of Digital Art and its Influence on Painting (1980s-present)**

- Explored new ways of painting
- Used industrial materials and techniques
- Focused on the flatness of the canvas.

- Incorporated imagery from popular culture
- Used unconventional techniques like silkscreen printing

- Create incredibly realistic representations of photographs
- Used airbrushes or other tools to achieve a smooth, photo-like finish.

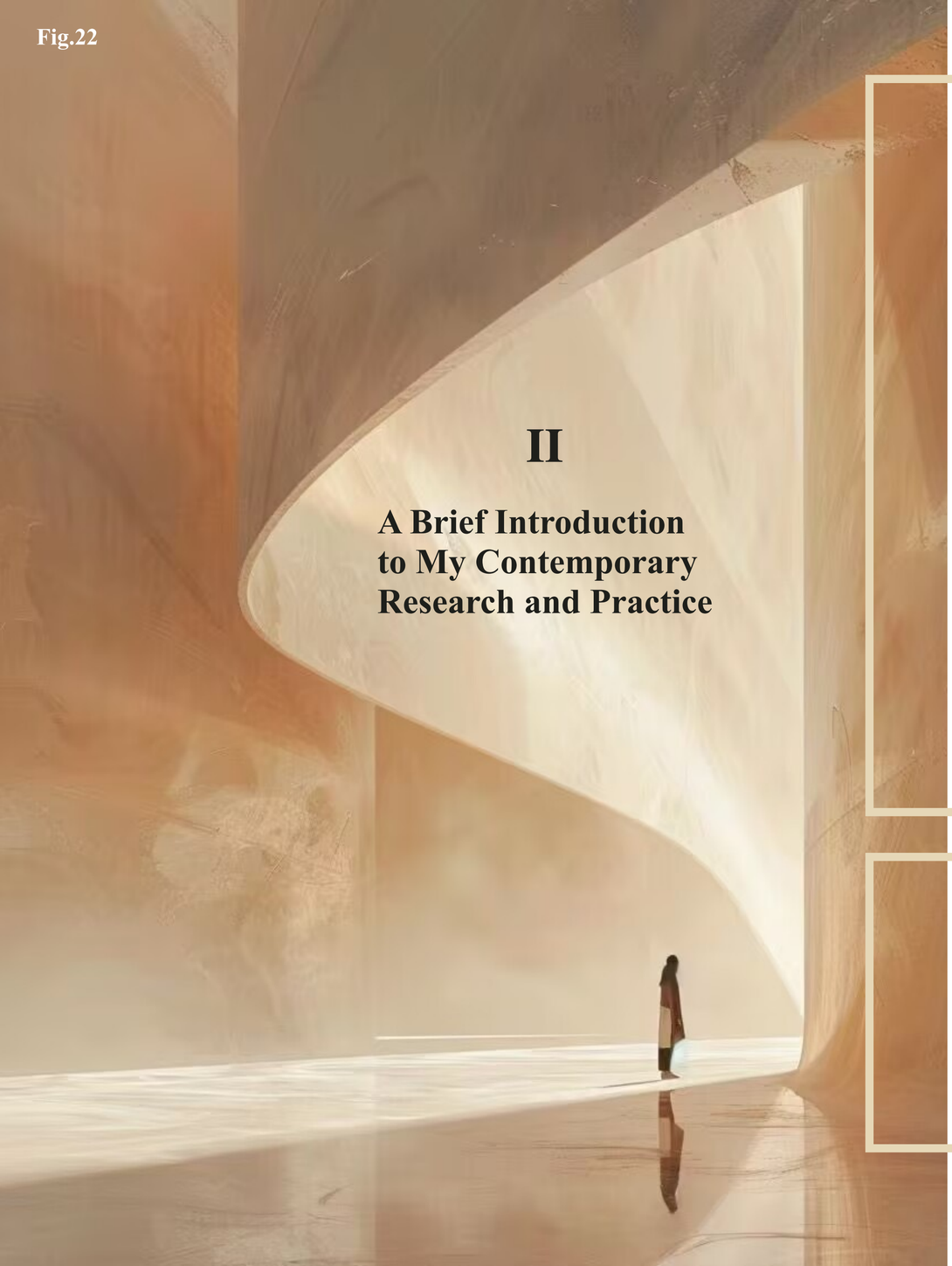
- Focused on simplicity and reduction
- Used industrial materials and repetitive patterns.

- Prioritized the idea or concept behind the artwork over its visual execution.
- Involve unconventional materials and processes

- Revived expressive brushwork and emotional intensity in painting.
- The techniques were often gestural and spontaneous.

- The advent of digital technology significantly impacted painting.
- Create entirely new visual effects

Fig.22



II

A Brief Introduction to My Contemporary Research and Practice

So when designing my future research and practical plans, I pay attention to the combination of art and culture, and plan to use "interactivity" as the characteristic of my future creations.

My future research direction:

In the era of digital media/in contemporary times, how can illustrations with mythological themes use new technologies to improve cross-cultural communication?

My Practice Plan: Dynamic and interactive mythological-themed illustrations

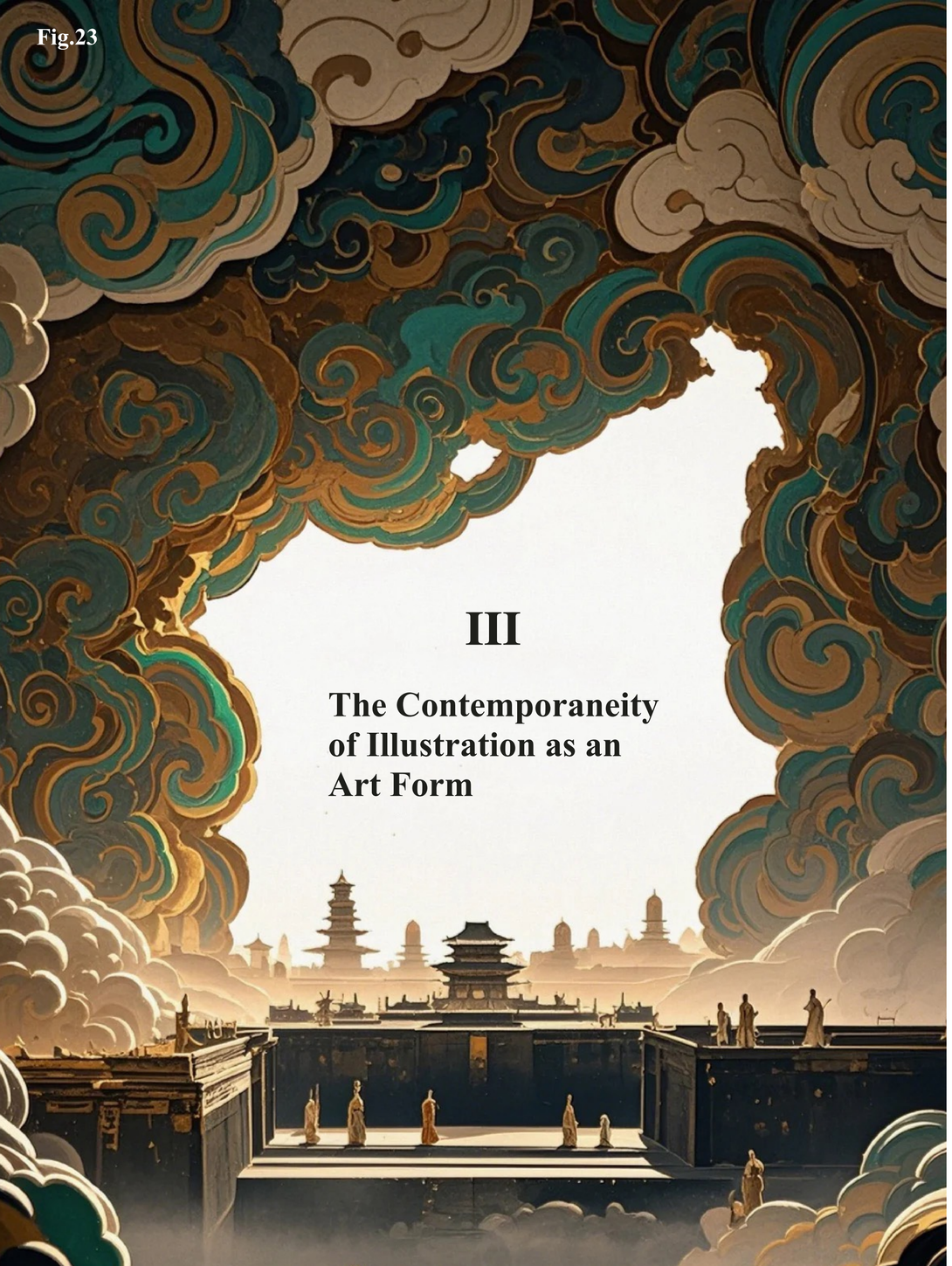
I chose a mythological theme and planned to use contemporary tools to draw and create illustrations.

On this basis, I will create an interactive illustration device and show dynamic illustrations to the audience.

What is the contemporaneity of illustration?

- Interactivity and sense of participation
- Multidimensional response
- Wide cultural context and narrative ability

Fig.23



1. Interactivity and sense of participation:

- By combining new technologies such as AR and virtual VR, illustration has transformed from a passive viewing medium to an immersive art experience.
- The audience is not passive, they will become a part of the narrative and form a deep interaction with the illustration. This evolution broadens the boundaries of illustration creation and enhances its social and cultural value.

Some theories that can support this viewpoint:

- Artworks have openness, and artists need to inspire active participation and diverse interpretations from viewers through their artworks (Scruton, 2011).
- Dewey's theory of artistic experience emphasizes the subject participation and narrative process of the audience (Dewey, 1934)

2. Multidimensional response

- As a way of visual expression, the contemporaneity of illustration is not only reflected in the innovation of technical media, but also in the multidimensional response to culture, society and individual experience (Smith 2009).
- Static flat expression to digital, dynamic, and interactive forms. These new forms enable illustration to integrate more closely into contemporary visual culture and form a dialogue with multimedia art forms.

Fig.23

III

The Contemporaneity of Illustration as an Art Form

3. Wide cultural context and narrative ability:

- The contemporaneity of illustrations is also reflected in their wide cultural context and narrative ability. Contemporary illustration often explores social hot topics such as environmental protection, gender equality and multiculturalism through visual ways.



Figure 13: Polluted rivers (John Sabreau, 2022)

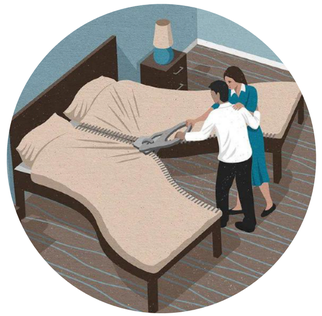


Figure 14: Gender Equality (John Holcroft, 2023)



Figure 15: Urban Abstract Painting (Idris Khan, 2020)

- At the same time, illustration creation in the context of globalization highlights the characteristics of cross-cultural dialogue, by reconstructing traditional visual symbols and narrative logic, making them universal and shareable in different cultural backgrounds.

In short, the contemporaneity of illustration lies in its sensitivity to technological, cultural and social change, showing the deep integration of tradition and innovation, and opening up a broader space for development in the era of globalization and digitalization.

Fig.24



IV

The Contemporaneity of Myth in Artistic Creation

1. Its cross-cultural dialogue:

In the context of globalization, art builds bridges to understand different cultural traditions by reconstructing mythological narratives.

- Redefines the value of traditional myths
- Provides audiences with the opportunity to reinterpret and experience myths in the current context.

  Therefore, the contemporary creation of myths through artistic forms shows the organic combination of tradition and innovation.

> Myths around the world have a fundamental and common structure beneath surface differences. This means a cross-cultural dialogue, not through explicit dialogue, but through shared narrative patterns (Campbell, 2008).

2. As an important narrative form：

Myth presents new ways of expression and interpretation in contemporary art, highlighting its close connection with current society, culture, and technology. The contemporaneity of mythology is not only reflected in the continuation of traditional narratives, but also in the reactivation and deconstruction of these narratives, which is the demand of the times.

Fig.24

IV

The Contemporaneity of Myth in Artistic Creation

3. Through artistic creation, myths have new meanings:

- Artists use mythological elements to explore contemporary social issues
- The use of digital technology and interactive media enables mythological narration to transcend the limitations of time and space, and provide the audience with an immersive multi-sensory experience.
  For example, dynamic imaging, VR and AI technologies make the expression of myths more participatory and interactive.

Mythology has the potential to serve as a tool for cultural and social change.






The contemporaneity of illustrations and mythological themes is included in my future research and practice, the following presentation will return to my research and practice:

My future research direction:

In contemporary times, how can illustrations with mythological themes use new technologies to improve cross-cultural communication?

My Practice Plan:

Dynamic and interactive mythological-themed illustrations

Fig.25

The Contemporary Significance of My Research and Practice

V

My research and practice show the integration of traditional narrative and contemporary technology, reflecting various cultural, social and artistic meanings.

Its contemporary significance is mainly reflected in five aspects

(Some of the content is similar to the previous pages — about the contemporaneity of illustrations and myths):

1. Revitalizes the narrative power of traditional myths



Fig.16

Participation and Experience:

- Dynamic expression and real-time interactivity
- Experience ancient narratives in a multi-sensory way
- Transform the audience from passive observers to active participants
- Deepen their understanding and perception of mythological themes

Participatory culture is a decisive feature of the digital age, where consumers are no longer passive recipients of media but active participants in its creation, dissemination and meaning-making (Jenkins, 2011).

2. Play a important role in cross-cultural communication


Fig.17

- Overcome language and cultural barriers
- Reconstruct mythological narratives from different cultural backgrounds
- Form artistic expressions with a global perspective
- help traditional myths to gain new life in modern society
- Provided an innovative medium for communication between different cultures.

3. New interpretative dimensions for mythological themes


Fig.18

- Audiences can explore multiple narrative pathways within a work through technological means.
- This nonlinear narrative approach reflects contemporary culture’s emphasis on inclusivity and plurality.
- show a fusion of traditional content and cutting-edge innovation.

4. Social and educational significance



Fig.19

- Through entertainment, it is easier for young people to get in touch with and understand traditional culture.
- Young people will develop an interest and sense of identification with traditional culture.

5. The sustained value and significance


Fig.20

- The dynamic and interactive illustration of mythological
- themes is an innovative practice of technology and art
- An important cultural expression form that connects tradition and contemporary, region and the world

VI Conclusion-I am a contemporary practitioner:

I define the contemporary in terms of time, illustration and mythology. And combine their contemporary expression and significance with my future research and practice to further explore.

I explored my proposed research ideas, process, mindset, and practices in this 8-minute presentation. And through this presentation, I have proven that I am a contemporary practitioner.



Fig.26

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Figure 21- 26: My digital Illustrations (2024)