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The Influence of Postmodernism on Art

Introduction

Postmodernism is a unique idea which trend with a philosophical tendency against the modernism system, it is playing an important role in the modern art. In this essay I am planning to write about postmodernism. I would like to include three parts: The first part is to introduce about what is postmodernism, and how the idea of postmodernism influence artist. The second part I'm planning to write about famous artist of postmodernism. According to my research so far, I decide to talk about Charles Jencks and Andy Warhol, they are the pioneer of postmodernism in art field, It has made a significant impact on the development of contemporary art. In the end is about what is my opinion about postmodernism art I get from my own study and analysis, include the positive view and the negative view.

What is postmodernism art

Postmodernism is a trend of thought which has an anti-western modern system philosophy tendency since the 1960s (*Post-modernism* p6). With the discovery of modern science, humans have come to understand that science has its uncertainty view and can't be used to solve anything. The modern-postmodern debate took as its main point of reference the fate of the modern Enlightenment project, the eighteenth-century European vision of transforming the world in the name of rational progress. The Enlightenment was the high point of modernity, an era encompassing the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation, and the Scientific Revolution through the American and French Revolutions to the flowering of socialism. (*Negotiating Postmodernism* p4) The shaking of postmodernism caused the rise of postmodernism. In conclusion, the idea of postmodernism is Anti-authoritarianism (*Post-modernism* p44). Which means it believes that there are infinitely many interpretation possibilities for a given text, representation and symbol, refusal to recognize any kind of authority.

Postmodernism art included many areas, for example painting, architecture, media, design and literature. However, in the style of artistic creation, postmodernism is hard to define as a specific and single style because they all have a disruptive thinking in theme and the form of the art works. On the other hand, it also, cannot be given the name "postmodernism" just because of the age of the works. The theorists have looked been quite different from those looked to by modernists: they are being characterized neither by classic order and clarity

nor by romantic assertion of the self. But by what architect Robert Venturi calls "complexity and contradiction". (*Modern/Postmodern: A Study in Twentieth-Century Arts and Ideas* p12) Even whether postmodernist theory or postmodernist art came first has no conclusion. To challenge the limits of modernism, artists and designer combination several abstract concepts with no clear physical meaning, such as materialism, feminism, multiculturalism, deconstruction, the application of media and the element of time as postmodernism. When Post-Modernism was defined in the other arts, sciences and cultural forms, it was understood as 'subversion from within' the establishment, using the reigning voice to send a different message. it continues to play this role. (*What is radical post-modernism*)

One of the most elegant expressions of modern epistemological skepticism is Pirandello's 1917 play, *It Is So!* (*Così è, se vi pare!*). The play is rooted in the assumption that contradictions can exist—that something or, in this case, someone can simultaneously be who she is and who she is not—and accepting this anti-logical premise works out the consequences (ironically) with complete logic. (*Modern/Postmodern: A Study in Twentieth-Century Arts and Ideas* p25)

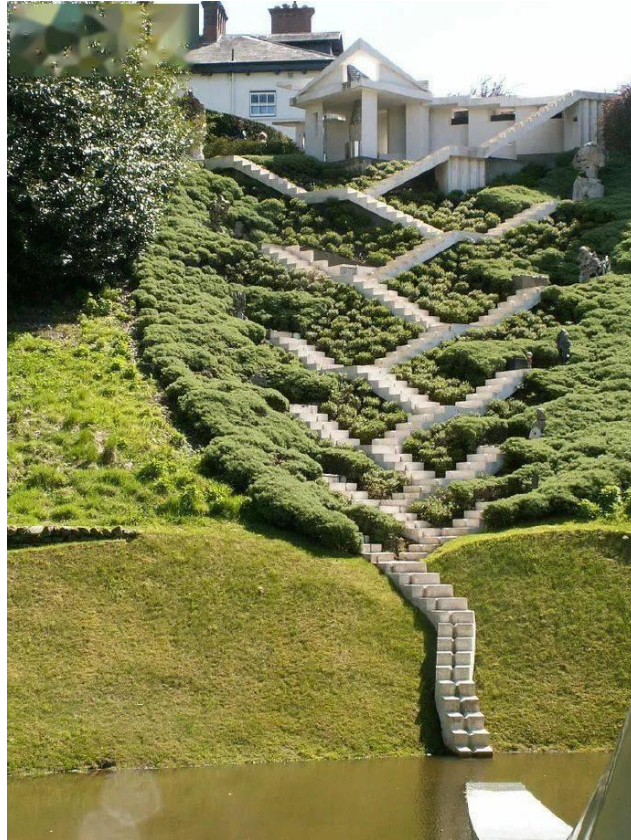
From the view of postmodernism theory, people believe that there is not judgment standard for art and aesthetics. Meanwhile, by mixing the author, audience and environment into the works of art, the way of creation and the perspective of appreciation are become more diverse.

In modern society, technology develops fast, and more types of arts are coming

out, postmodernism also has the unique understanding. (*Postmodern Culture-Social and Cultural Consequences of Technological Development* p143) that "It is not art that should adapt to technology, but the development of technology should adapt to cultural and humanistic situations, which is required today". That gives many modern artists a new version and style for modern art, it encourages them to try many kinds of new materials for illustration or any kinds of postmodernism design such as building and furniture design.

Famous artist of postmodernism

The pioneer of bring postmodernism into design is Charles Jencks. Charles Jencks was a breath of fresh air. From the outset, I was intrigued by his freewheeling interpretations of the architectural scene. (*Charles Jencks: 1939–2019*) He is the first artist to put forward and explain the concept of postmodern design and has formed a wide and far-reaching influence in the process of promoting the theory of postmodernism design to the world. Which opened new space for postmodern art.



Part of The Garden of Cosmic Speculation – Charles Jencks architectural design

One of the most famous artists is Andy Warhol. Who is an American artist, film maker and writer. The content of Andy Warhol's works is closely related to the economic and consumerism of American society, which is the product of the consumer society, mass culture and media. He was famous for painting giant typewriters, that he was heroic, that he had turned the soup can into art, that he had made fame into a work of art, that he was a terrible artist with one idea.

(Andy Warhol remembered) In Warhol's works, due to his selection of themes and extensive content, his works began to break through the previous single mode, reflecting a strong spirit of innovation. Its most obvious feature is machine-produced reproduction, where the same theme elements repeatedly

appear in the same work.



Coca Cola – Andy Warhol 1962 illustration



Campbell's Soup Cans – Andy Warhol 1962 illustration

My opinion for postmodernism

Postmodernism sounds mysterious for most of the people who hear this word

for the first time, however it is not that far from our lives. According to my study

and research so far, I understand postmodernism as the idea that art should use everything artist can use to express the idea of the artwork. Everything that ever appeared or even didn't appear in the past can be material for creative. It is more like a theory of creative thinking than a simple art style, that breaks many of the classic rules or stereotypes for art and gives it more possibility and vitality. Which means it change the original idea that "only artist create art works", in postmodernism everyone has their potency of art, even scientist or writer can make unique works with the material which they are good at, that brings the definition of art much closer to our daily life. Under that background, the theme of art works has become more touching and cause audience think deeply because that the theme of work is the thing happening around them.

But on the negative view, postmodernism breaks the limits of art and life. Which makes the art used to be elevated being too close to normal people. Which makes art lost the value and spirit it used to have. Artist spent months or even years for create an artwork before postmodernism appear. But after this idea has spread, an artwork sometime just means took a photo and copy for hundred times. The replicability makes many artists lost their style or even creativity, less people are keeping spending decade of years to training their skill and making every effort for a single painting as before. As a result, the rejection of artistic skill and originality in postmodernism makes the quality and meaning of art will not be as perfect as it used to be. In addition, due to the vague definition, a lot of

postmodern art is not art in the real sense, but a kind of "fashion nonsense". As a result, there are many creations that are difficult to accept and estimate.

In conclusion, even postmodernism is an important part of illustration and design, but in my point of view this is not a good tendency for art in the future. People should bring art to life, that is a good point, but totally break the limit of art and life should not happen to both artist and audience.

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