

Landscape painting

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Landscape Painting Insert Landscape painting has undergone tremendous transition in form and style through various periods and most significantly the Romanticism period and Impressionism period. Both romanticism and impressionism periods had a unique form of art that were highly regarded at its era and had substantial links to culture and religious practice of its time. The romanticism movement came into existence around the second half of the 18th century and developed further during the industrial revolution in Western Europe. Its emergence was mainly a revolt against the political and social norms of the age of aristocratic enlightenment. Thus, the romanticism movement reacted against the rationalization of nature, which was mostly represented in music, literature and visual arts. Romanticism put more emphasis on emotion and romantic ideals as a source of aesthetic experience that was achieved by confronting untamed nature and its qualities from a picturesque perspective in all categories (“ Romanticism in art”, n. d).

Thus romanticism style of art involved exotic, more authentic, familiar and distant modes in harnessing imagination power as portrayed in landscape paintings that were prepared during this period. Romanticism went beyond the confines of population, industrialization unlike it preceding periods, the classical period and medievalism. In fact, romanticism exalted subjectivism, imagination, irrationalism and individualism. The art was highly characterized and influenced by artists’ fascination by their passions, nature, their moods, their mental potentials and the heroes (“ Romanticism”, n. d)

On the other hand, the Impressionism movement thrived in France between

late 1860s and 1890s. This movement was inclined to optical realism since it sought to relate art to visual experience and the effect of light on appearance of various objects. The form of art in impressionism involved transcription of the artists' visual sensation towards nature, which was unconcerned with the actual depiction of the objects. The main ideas of impressionism were, a quick painting of a landscape could depict its actual physical appearance and that art is promoted by a naïve vision, free from influence by intellectual preconceptions which were realist traditions and naturalist traditions (“ Impressionism, n. d)

In comparison, the romanticism form and style of art applied to landscape paintings is distinguishable from the impression form art employed in landscape painting (“ Romanticism”, n. d). This is evident from a keen observation of the following paintings, *soleil levant* by Claude Monet (impressionism painting)

and

Female Nude In A Landscape by William Etty (Romanticism painting). (“ Impressionism”, n. d).

In fact, it is clear that the Impression painting above gives less emphasis on the physical representation of the objection, but emphasizes visual experience whereas the Romanticism painting expresses emotion, moods and stresses on physical representation of the painting.

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