



The Rise of Expressionism: When Literature Meets Art in History

¹B. Dhanalakshmi, ²S. Pavithra, ³D. Daniel Sebastian, ⁴K. Vishnu, ⁵K. Swarna*

128,2nd Floor Padmanaba Naidu Street, Vadarajapuram, Ambattur, Chennai-53, Tamilnadu.

2, Sivasankaran Street, Kamarajapuram, Ambattur, Chennai-53, Tamilnadu.

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ABSTRACT

Expressionism was a literary and artistic avant-garde movement that originated in Germany at the turn of the 20th century. The expressionist writers and artists wanted to create and bring to life their reality, as well as their inner idea or vision of what they saw. Their approach to their subject matter was more creative. They thought it was completely pointless to make just an imitation of the world. Expressionism could be seen as the revival and development of the Romantic tradition because of this attitude turning away from physical reality. The expressionist drama introduced a novel method of directing, designing scenes, and staging. This study highlighted the journey of literature in terms of sharing knowledge and amazed the audience with greater visualization. The study of art's evolution and stylistic shifts over time in art history. Western art history, or the progression of art from the Renaissance to modern art, is the primary topic of this page. Many writers shared their thoughts, the truth behind the artwork, and the social and economic condition of the artist in the racing time of the 20th century

Keywords: literature, artworks, society, expressionism

I. INTRODUCTION

An art movement is a group of artists who used a particular style of art for a while. Multiple disciplines like literature, music, art, and philosophy were frequently involved in movements. The early 1900s were a time when painting primarily about emotion was a form of art. Literature known as expressionism emphasizes extreme emotion and the inner workings of the human spirit. The traditional approaches to realism led to the development of this style in the 20th century, following World War I.

Expressionist literature can also elicit powerful images of beauty and transcendence, despite its pessimistic outlook on human nature and society. The literary movement known as expressionism is best known for its emphasis on subjective experience and emotional expression rather than objective reality. In response to the horrors of World War I, expressionism came to life in countries like Germany. It was a reaction to realism, which dominated in the nineteenth century. German Expressionist Woodcuts clarifies that "The rise to power of the Nazis, with their repressive artistic programs, put an end to the Expressionists' period of greatest productivity, although many continued their work until after World War II" (Weller 2).

The literary movement known as realism tried to convey reality as clearly and objectively as possible. On the other hand, expressionism emphasized subjective experience and emotion.

II. DEEPER THAN SURFACE MEANINGS

Poetry is a form of literature or literary work that is written in a rhythmic, repeated style and is based on a single subject or theme. Poetry and writing have a rich and long history. Poetry has a unique language that combines and uses words to convey meaning and communicate ideas, feelings, sounds, gestures, signs, and symbols. This is one of the characteristics of poetry. It is a language of wisdom because it connects human experiences and observations to the universe around us. It is also a vehicle for emotion, thought, and spirit disguised in words that frequently have multiple layers of meaning and are often very subtle, enigmatic, and ambiguous. Poetry can be overflowing with meaning. This becomes even more apparent as you read and reread a poem. Readers can learn a lot from poetry, but they can also learn a lot from it. Ernst Stadler, a German expressionist poet, wrote the intriguing and widely read poem *Early Spring*. Despite only having three stanzas, the poem is extremely effective. Through a first-person perspective, the poet describes the speaker as he walks down the road at night and is moved by the world around him.

Expressionist poetry relies heavily on colour and visual image, and the era's poetry and art share numerous thematic parallels. Georg Heym is a major Expressionist poet who wrote many beautiful poems, especially in the *Umbra vitae* collection. He was also known for his poems about war and the city. He also painted powerful portraits of people, like Robespierre and Savonarola. He painted a series of street scenes in Berlin in 1912 and 1913, regarded as the most mature example of German Expressionist art. Here are some examples; Wassily Kandinsky's *Glance and flash*, JomarFörste's *To a wounded Frenchman At night*, Henriette Hardenberg's *Southern heart Longing*, George Grosz's *Song*, Kurt Schwitters's *To Anna Blume*, etc.

In poetry, extreme form abstraction is another set of the characteristic of abstract expressionism. Even when the work is written in verse, gesture, syntax, or musical "movement" breaks up lines. Thematic unity, the completion of a rhythm, or the development or creation of a "return," a simplified version of the lyric epiphany, are all built toward a colloquial tone that reflects the American idiom. The poetry began with a clear conceptual concept, a poem idea; phenomenologically logical, based on a desire to record experience; or collaborative, either with another poet or an artist working in a different medium. Poetry is more about the experience than it is about description. Language poetry uses language experience and process reflection to critique "art for art's sake" thanks to the invitation of "occasion" and tolerance of experimentation.

III. CHARACTERISTICS OF ULTIMATE THEATRES

Expressionism can be seen in a variety of literary works, including novels, short stories, poetry, and more, in addition to drama. Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1930 led to the movement's demise. Even though it only existed for a short time, the movement made a mark on contemporary literature and art. The art movement known as expressionism was founded in Germany. Painters were influenced by a variety of avant-garde trends in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which is where expressionism got its start. At the beginning of the 20th century, expressionism became a movement for the first time. Expressionist theatre conveyed strong emotions and ideas to audiences by exaggerating and distorting theatrical elements and scenery. Most of the time, the characters don't have names and move grotesquely, and always represent a certain social class or attitude, which is made more obvious by their costumes, masks, or makeup.

Many of the artists who established this style were educated in Western art schools and came from Eastern Europe and Germany. They used unconventional techniques like distorted figures and colour to convey their feelings about society and life, which is why expressionism got its name. Expressionistic writing is characterized by words expressing feelings and emotions through the form. Through distortions of time, space, and reality, the author frequently conveys a sense of confusion or even craziness. Grotesque images can elicit a sense of fear or suspicion. In an expressionistic text, the characters may be irrational, destructive, and out of step with the norm. The literary movement known as expressionism aims to depict emotional experience rather than physical reality. To convey emotions or sensations more effectively, writers who employ this style frequently distort reality and exaggerate the work's emotional content. Franz Kafka, a German Expressionist writer, was the first to use the style in history.

IV. ICONIC IDENTIFICATION OF AN EXPRESSIONIST WORK

The first thing you need to do is figure out how many senses are used in the writing. The text is not expressionistic if only one or two senses are present. Additionally, it must be brutal and violent. It probably isn't an expressionist work if that's the case. An artist who expresses his or her feelings and emotions exaggeratedly is known as an expressionist. This is evident in literature, film, and art. One of the most significant and influential modernist artists is regarded as Edvard Munch. He pioneered expressionist painting and belonged to the Symbolist movement. In Paris, impressionists and post-impressionists like Claude Monet, Vincent van Gogh, and Paul Gauguin had an impact on him. His career, which spanned nearly 60 years, resulted in numerous contemporary masterpieces.

A portion of the book of Exodus is depicted in Dance Around the Golden Calf. When Moses went up to Mount Sinai because they feared he might not return, the Israelites created the Golden Calf, according to the Old Testament story. Unaware of the idol's falsity, the unsophisticated people in the painting perform a votive dance around it. The art piece's intense emotion is emphasized by the rough brushstrokes and vivid colours. A painting with bright colours and distorted lines is an illustration of this. When determining whether a piece of literature is expressionistic, there are several distinct characteristics to look for, including emotional subject matter, distorted images, and the use of exaggeration. Like Street, Berlin portrays Kirchner's snide assessment of Berlin's life. It will frequently take place in a realistic or fantastical setting, and the protagonist will be cut off from society. Every artist needs a little bit of inspiration whether it's because of the circumstances or just because they need a spark to begin the work.

An artist's life experiences can be a great source of inspiration. It's a great way to get in touch with both yourself and the people you want to reach. It's a great way to put your life experiences on paper and reflect on them. The extent to which biblical stories have influenced painting and art in general (and continue to do so) can be seen in European cathedrals and churches.

The majority of the time, artists depicted human fatalism and duality, which transcend space and time and remain relevant even in the present day. However, literary inspiration for paintings came from more than just holy books and myths. In the history of the figurative arts, poems have also been a genre that has inspired great works. Many artists were influenced by Dante's *Inferno*, an epic poem from *The Divine Comedy* that depicts Dante's journey through Hell, Purgatory, and Paradise, where he meets his beloved Beatrice. The Divine Comedy is a notable illustration of a literary masterpiece of expressionistic ideas that served as the model for numerous outstanding artistic creations, from the original poem's illustrations to subsequent paintings executed in a variety of styles and techniques. Since the early 20th century, expressionism has been a popular literary movement. It is characterized by a focus on violent emotional states and a distortion of form and colour. This method is frequently used by expressionist writers to convey their troubling personal experiences with society and the environment.

V. CONCLUSION

Art is important because everyone can enjoy it. It is commonly held that not everyone is artistic. Some people believe that they were not born artistic. There is a belief that you are not an ideal artist if you are unable to create a stunning sculpture or beautiful painting. The fact of the matter is that art can be created by anyone. Art can act as a distraction, which can help you deal with stress in your life. Relaxing hobbies like painting, sculpting, drawing, and even photography can help you feel calmer and more clear-headed mentally. When we can fully participate in an activity, we can forget about all of

our worries and concentrate on the task at hand. Art therapy is beneficial to many people who are seeking professional assistance and thrive when they can express their creativity. Physical, mental, and emotional health can all be improved through art therapy. Art can also help to cure depression and anxiety. Thus, when literature meets art, it sparks immense creativity beyond the limitations of visualization around us.

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