



Article

The Movement of Contemporary Life

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Abstract

The Movement of Contemporary Life consisted of two purposes, which were to study the movement and development of the modern life and to create the visual arts which was paintings that expressed via form of apartment buildings was used from mixed media (digital printing and acrylic painting on canvas) which conveyed the rapid pace of modern life leading to diverse movements in viewer's feeling. The operation of this creation was collected field data, documentary data, and influence from creative work. The data analysis was clearly analyzed in order to theme, form, technique, and process to satisfy of concept and specially character for pieces.

Keywords

Movement; Contemporary Life; Visual Art; Acrylic Painting; Digital Art; Urban Space.

1. Introduction

In the current context, the process of urbanization has a great influence on the development and completion of urban areas in the 21st century. The urban movements will be based on the impact factors of urbanization such as a myriad appearance of buildings, a noisy environment with a fast-paced, volatile life. In Vietnam, the process of urbanization has taken place rapidly, has created in psychology opposite changes and become a significant issue of social development.

The Movement of Contemporary Life is originated from the different stories of humans to adapt the development of modern society. In specifically, the life of urban residents who live in the concrete buildings are suffering changes in the spiritual life.

With the perception of an urban person, I have interested

in the movement and transformation of modern life which I am exposing and living in day by day. By experiences in photography, I have collected documents about urban objects like buildings, constructions or urban subjects which are not only inspiring to me about the significant changes of living spaces thanks to the urbanization but also causing the complexing in my feeling when trying to imagine behind windows be other lives, different scenes of life, joys, sorrows, contentment, anticipation or jubilation. These above thinking motivated me to study the aspects of city life in urbanization era and manipulate such topic to creative artworks.

2. Methodology

This article aims to highlight ways of The Movement of Contemporary Life, the abstract shapes are combined

with flexible lines which are inspired from forms of apartment buildings and to describe the movement of personal emotion and activity behind the windows of buildings.

The two main methods used in this study are the document collection method and the mix media method. The method of gathering documents related to the study of contemporary society and the urban lifestyle of Vietnam, the study of the urban landscape in visual art. The mix media method involves creating the visual arts which was acrylic painting on canvas after digital sketching and printing that expressed via form urban objects and virtual lights was used from distorted shapes which conveyed the rapid pace of modern life leading to diverse movements in viewer's feeling.

3. Documentary Data

In contemporary society, the process of urbanization is always associated with the process of industrialization and modernization, sustainable urban development and civilized lifestyle. Urban changes in the process of accelerated urbanization have multi-dimensional impacts on the urban lifestyle of Vietnam in general and the lifestyle in large cities in particular. In general, the urban lifestyle in Vietnam is increasingly diversified, changing faster and more complicated in the direction of modernity and integration with the world. It can be said that the essence of the process of urbanization and urban development in Vietnam today lies in the process of changing culture - lifestyle from rural to urban which contains many positive factors but also many negative. (Nguyen, 2020)

Today's world has been taking place at the same time many complex processes, both cooperation and struggle, which have a decisive influence on the development of humanity and each nation, such as: globalization, international integration and the fourth industrial revolution. These processes have been having unpredictable and uncertain impacts in both directions: advantages and disadvantages on the renovation and development process of Vietnam. Social development in the context of the fourth industrial revolution in Vietnam must take into account the approach and application of the latest achievements of science - technology, especially information technology.

In contemporary society, the movement and change in the new era, the creative era is indispensable to keep up with

the development trend of the times, the era of civilization, intelligence and globalization. Vietnamese society needs to absorb advanced cultural values of humanity, technology is a means to change lives, promote strong urban development, and have global connectivity. Urban issues are also changed daily in the direction of modernity, catching up with new trends.

A city is a form of large-scale human settlement within which a series of activities take place, making the city the center of power in relation to the smaller settlements outside. Quite a few early sociologists were interested in cities and urban life; Max Weber even wrote a book titled *The City* (The City, 1921), in which he described the situation that made it possible for modern capitalism in Western cities to return to the Middle Ages. The German sociologist Ferdinand Tönnies (1855-1936) was deeply interested in the influence of urban life on community bonds and social solidarity. He reasoned that the process of urbanization, which coincided with the Industrial Revolution, had irreparable consequences on social life. (Giddens, 2006)

Writers who write about cities are writing about a part of their life, with deep experiences and torments, incessant obsessions about the human condition in front of the hustle and bustle of the city and the divided country strongly by changes in economic, moral and ethical life. The writers of the 8x and 9x generations are people who have almost completely grown up in the urban atmosphere, and the city becomes a part of the writer in them. This has had a huge impact on the representation of urbanism in literature. It is possible to mention Ha Thuy Nguyen (*Beyond the door*), Nhat Phi (*Sleeper*), Dinh Phuong (*Nuoc Khuc, Waiting for your turn*), Hanh Nguyen (*Suspended youth*). The city seems to have more intimate, becoming a safer haven for lonely and isolated individuals, because of the entanglement of popular culture, which easily corrodes the collective consciousness and the need to assert individual identity in the popular population. New experiences are creating new aesthetic experiences for contemporary Vietnamese literature, in the space brought by urbanization. (Doan, 2016)

In the modern or contemporary world of art, the urban landscape is a fairly common subject in modern art, from the dramatic perspectives of Paris by Camille Pissarro or Claude Monet to the realistic New York of Richard Estes, or even the abstract landscapes of Willem de Kooning.

In addition, Italian Futurists have characteristically exploited the movement of the contemporary city (Umberto Boccioni: "The City Rises", 1910-11, New York, Museum of Modern Art). Photorealist and hyperrealist painters have become famous in urban landscape painting in recent times. Richard Estes (born 1932) is possibly the most important New York City landscape painter since the days of George Bellows, whose artwork ranges from "Horn and Hardart Automat" (1967) to "Broadway Stop Bus, Near Lincoln Center" (2010). (Fernández, 2022)

4. Theory

My creativity focuses on the stories behind the windows in the city with different feelings which includes cramped, loneliness, happiness or noise. Depending on experiences of each viewer, they could imagine the stories seeing the windows. My works are under the influence and close to ideas of Abstract Expressionism. I study visual elements to describe aesthetics and meaning in painting.

The idea by René Descartes (1586-1650) that a picture is a marked surface that produces the experience that is normally caused by seeing an object of the kind depicted that is, that it imitates the effect of a visible object on the senses rather than the object itself (the illusion theory). The importance as stated by Descartes significantly effecting my creativity is the critical role of the object and the experience of the senses. (Hyman, 2008)

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel (1770-1831) argues that art in contemporary remains to give expression to human life and freedom; on the other hand, it is unlimited to any art-forms. Modern art can base on features of any of the art-forms in its presentation of human life which can be presented indirectly through the depiction of nature. (Houlgate, 2009)

Han Feizi, 280 BC - 233 BC considers the value of works of art to be determined only in relation to the person who receives them, but the perceiver always uses his own experience to evaluate the work. Products. Therefore, art wants mean to be associated with real life. Any fantasy apart from reality is monstrous and illusory. (Watson, 2003)

Immanuel Kant (1724-1804) regards that the vibrancy of a given color contrast, may in its empirical contingency appear variously to different viewers. Only the formal aspect can require the feeling of enjoyment which marks the exercise of taste. (Pillow, 1994)

5. Results

5.1. Results of Data Analysis

In "The movement of contemporary life", the abstract shapes are combined with flexible lines which are inspired from forms of apartment buildings and to describe the movement and development of technology in modern life. From the result of data analysis of modern life, the artist's incisive critical look at the effect of urbanization and globalization on contemporary life. Development is always one of the inseparable factors in life. In order to develop, people are forced to move according to the rotation of the times. Therefore, I have continued to develop my project through a different direction, which breaks away from the original symbol to switch to exploiting urban and city elements through feelings from my inner mind. I look at the surrounding life through the impact it has on me and the spirit of people living in busy cities may be more tense and concentrated than in the countryside. The development of modern society along with the domination of science and technology is the key factor for these effects. These things have enabled me to create works with the content of "The Movement of Contemporary Life". It represents the bustling, vibrant and colorful. The movement of fast-paced life and connections and interactions on the background of abstraction.

The artworks were the combination between digital overlapping and acrylic painting on canvas. Visual arts expressed via form urban objects and virtual lights was used from distorted shapes which conveyed the rapid pace of modern life leading to diverse movements in viewer's feeling.

5.2. Results of Creation

From the research and practice process, I have gradually determined characteristic my artwork styles. The concrete creative direction in the paintings have presented the movement of urban life. During researching time, data and materials have been collected carefully to convey content and ideas clearly. In addition, thank to suggestions of experts and advisors, the artworks are increasingly progress and approach closer to the topic. It can be clearly seen as follows:

5.2.1 Artwork 1

Idea/ Concept: Describe the urban space at night, the movements of the bustling nightlife. The structure of the modern living space and the brightly colored lighting contrast with the depth of the night. Form and Art style: The lines are abstracted on the shape of the building with many doorways hidden behind the winding lines, creating an interwoven connection and interaction between urban elements, creating an impressive aesthetic effect with striking colors.

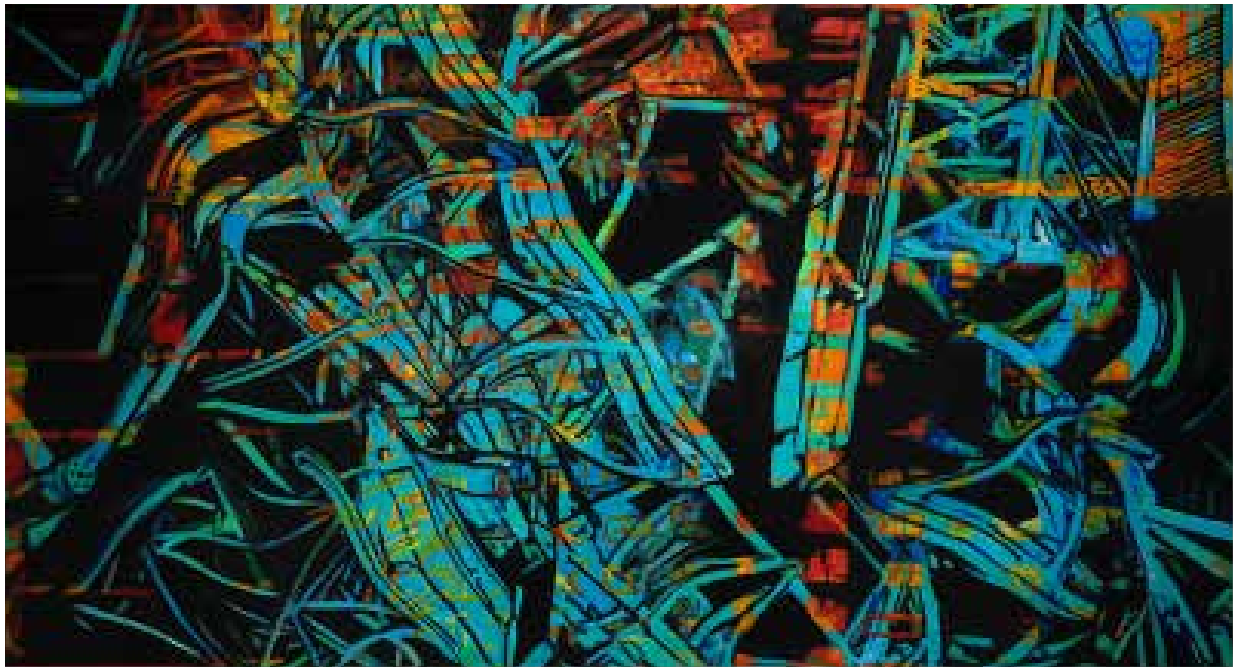


Figure 1. Art work 1

Title: Structure

Size: 100 x 185 centimètre

Technique: Mix Media (Digital Print, Acrylic on Canvas)

5.2.2 Artwork 2

Idea / Concept: The content depicts vibrant and colorful urban life, with different spatial layers expressing strong emotions and enthusiasm in the fast pace of life in modern cities where machines and technology bring about dramatic changes in people's lives. Artistic form and style: The shapes of buildings from a multi-dimensional perspective with the appearance of high-rise blocks are arranged in many directions and abstracted with diverse lines and vibrant colors create depth and illusion.



Figure 2. Art work 2

Title: Urban Space

Size: 100 x 185 centimètre

Technique: Mix Media (Digital Print, Acrylic on Canvas)

5.2.3 Artwork 3

Idea / Concept: The work presents a colorful scene of a modern city in an atmosphere of artificial light. The excitement of modern urban areas is interesting with the interaction and connection between the lines and blocks that bring the breath of the technology city. Artistic form and style: The artist uses a close-up view of the main facade of the block, the structure of the buildings, but is combined and interwoven with lines and colors inspired by the elements of Urban areas such as electricity systems, streets and various machinery create depth and strong illusions.



Figure 3. Art work 3

Title: Overlap

Size: 100 x 185 centimètre

Technique: Mix Media (Digital Print, Acrylic on Canvas)

5.2.4 Artwork 4

Idea/ Concept: The idea in the paintings is a modern city landscape with a fast pace of life and different layers of space mixed with artificial light showing strong development, the energy hidden behind the windows.

Form and Art style: The image of the city mixed with artificial light under the panoramic view along with soft curves and diagonal lines creates a magical feeling.



Figure 4. Art work 4

Title: Movement

Size: 100 x 185 centimètre

Technique: Mix Media (Digital Print, Acrylic on Canvas)

6. Conclusion

Thank to field studies which creates knowledge about the life of people, society and architecture in Vietnam, I take notes and make sketches about the process of urbanization with a noisy and bustling life. Then, I studied the artist's works which show the development of modern life via the images of building, street, machine. These abstract works have unique applied techniques, expressive forms of vibrant color with diverse lines from brush strokes are used in mixed media paintings. My works are under the influence of Abstract Expressionism and the theory about human life of Hegel as well as the theory of color by Kant. Therefore, these studies play a vital role to applied to the creative structure of the architecture in the development of the concept.

From this inspiration about urban livings, the result of creations is presented through 4 art works used visual elements with exploration of the more universal aspects of aesthetics, mobilizing the power of color, line, texture, and form to bring people together in a visual space of contemplation.

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