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STAGES IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF MONUMENTAL PAINTING ART

Hilola Orifjon qizi Abdusalomova
Kamoliddin Behzod National Institute of Painting and Design
Faculty of Fine Arts Student of the Department of Monumental Painting

Abstract. This article analyzes the historical stages in the development of monumental painting. It examines the evolution of this art form from prehistoric cave paintings through the civilizations of the Ancient World, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Modern Period, and the Contemporary Era. The study demonstrates how the content, artistic style, and technical characteristics of monumental painting have transformed throughout history while developing in close harmony with architecture. In addition, brief information is provided about mural paintings in Central Asia and examples of contemporary monumental art. The findings of the study confirm that monumental painting is an essential component of the cultural heritage of humanity.

Keywords: Monumental painting, monumental art, fresco, mosaic, murals, cave paintings, Renaissance, architecture, Central Asian art, mural, artistic heritage.

Monumental painting is one of the oldest forms of visual art intended to decorate architectural structures. Throughout history, it has developed through various techniques such as fresco, mosaic, stained glass, and sgraffito. By combining historical traditions with modern technologies, monumental painting continues to evolve through the large-scale representation of historical figures, national values, and the beauty of the natural environment.

The development of monumental painting is characterized by several important features.

Variety of Techniques. Monumental painting employs numerous artistic techniques, including fresco, tempera painting, Roman and Florentine mosaics, sgraffito, and stained-glass compositions.

Tradition and Modernity

While preserving ancient artistic methods, monumental painting has gradually been enriched by modern materials, technologies, and artistic styles.

Artistic Content

Through the expressive use of color, monumental painting reflects nature, the surrounding environment, and human emotions. The works of artists such as Bakhodir Jalolov vividly demonstrate national traditions and historical events, which occupy an important place in monumental painting.

Harmony with Architecture

Monumental painting is directly connected with architecture. It plays a significant role in shaping the appearance of buildings and the urban environment. In independent Uzbekistan, this form of art continues to develop as an effective means of educating young people and preserving the nation's cultural heritage.In monumental painting, color serves to represent the forms of natural objects, the beauty of the surrounding environment, and various emotional states.

Monumental painting is a branch of fine art that is executed on a large scale and is generally created to decorate the walls, ceilings, and façades of public buildings. It is closely integrated with architecture and is considered an inseparable part of both the interior and exterior design of a building. Monumental paintings are distinguished by their impressive dimensions, profound ideological content, and long-lasting durability.

The main characteristics of monumental painting include:

- Large-scale compositions covering extensive wall or ceiling surfaces.
- Harmonious integration with architectural structures and decorative elements.
- Representation of historical events, national values, heroic figures, and symbolic ideas.
- Long-term preservation due to the use of durable artistic techniques and materials.
- Monumental painting is divided into several principal types:

- Fresco – a painting executed on wet plaster, allowing pigments to bond permanently with the wall surface.
- Mosaic – an image created by assembling colored pieces of stone, glass, or ceramic.
- Panel – a large decorative painting produced separately and later installed on a wall.
- Stained Glass (Vitral) – decorative compositions made of colored glass, commonly used in windows.

In contemporary Uzbekistan, numerous examples of monumental painting can be found in public buildings, metro stations, and cultural centHistorical Stages in the Development of Monumental Painting

Monumental painting developed alongside human civilization and became increasingly rich in both content and artistic style throughout different historical periods. Its development can be examined through the following historical stages.

The Prehistoric Period (Ancient Cave Paintings)

The earliest examples of monumental painting date back to prehistoric society. Hunting scenes and images of animals painted on cave walls, such as those found in the Lascaux Cave in France and the Altamira Cave in Spain, represent the earliest forms of monumental art. These paintings were closely connected with religious beliefs, ritual practices, and everyday life. Primitive people believed that depicting animals before hunting would bring them success. Consequently, cave paintings served not only as artistic expressions but also as spiritual and ritual symbols.

Ancient Civilizations

During the civilizations of Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome, mural painting experienced remarkable development. Monumental painting was widely used to decorate temples, palaces, and tombs.

In Ancient Egypt, wall paintings illustrated the lives of pharaohs, religious ceremonies, and beliefs concerning the afterlife. Artists followed strict compositional rules, using symbolic colors and stylized figures.

In Mesopotamia, palace walls were decorated with reliefs and colorful paintings depicting military victories, royal ceremonies, and mythological events.

Ancient Greece placed greater emphasis on realism and the ideal beauty of the human body. Monumental paintings were used in temples and public buildings to portray mythological heroes and historical events.

The Romans further developed mural painting by introducing advanced fresco techniques. They decorated villas, baths, palaces, and public buildings with landscapes, architectural illusions, portraits, and mythological scenes. Roman frescoes reached an exceptionally high artistic level and greatly influenced later European painting.

Monumental painting refers to large-scale artistic compositions executed on walls, ceilings, façades, and other architectural elements. It is generally intended for public or religious buildings, including palaces, theatres, churches, museums, and metro stations. The primary purpose of monumental painting is to express significant social, political, historical, or religious ideas while creating a sense of grandeur and magnificence.

Because monumental painting is inseparable from architecture, artists usually work in close cooperation with architects during the design process.

The Middle Ages

During the Middle Ages, monumental painting was primarily associated with religious architecture. Churches, monasteries, and cathedrals became the principal centers of artistic production.

Byzantine art introduced magnificent mosaics characterized by golden backgrounds, solemn figures, and symbolic compositions. These artworks emphasized spirituality rather than naturalism.

In Western Europe, churches were decorated with frescoes illustrating biblical stories, the lives of saints, and scenes from Christian history. These paintings played an educational role because many people were unable to read.

In Central Asia, wall paintings flourished in cities such as Samarkand, Bukhara, Afrasiab, and Varakhsha. These murals reflected royal ceremonies, hunting scenes, musical performances, and everyday life. They remain valuable historical evidence of the region's rich artistic heritage.

The Renaissance

The Renaissance marked one of the greatest periods in the history of monumental painting. During the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, artists developed new approaches to perspective, anatomy, proportion, and composition.

Masters such as Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, and Raphael created monumental masterpieces that combined scientific observation with artistic excellence.

Michelangelo's ceiling frescoes in the Sistine Chapel are regarded as one of the greatest achievements in monumental painting. His works demonstrate extraordinary mastery of anatomy, composition, and expressive movement.

Raphael's frescoes in the Vatican introduced harmonious compositions and idealized human figures, while Leonardo da Vinci contributed revolutionary ideas concerning perspective, light, and psychological expression.

The Renaissance transformed monumental painting from a primarily religious medium into an artistic language capable of expressing humanism, philosophy, science, and cultural progress.

The Modern and Contemporary Period

From the seventeenth century onward, monumental painting continued to evolve with the emergence of new artistic movements, including Baroque, Neoclassicism, Romanticism, Realism, and Modernism.

Industrial development and technological innovations expanded the possibilities of monumental art. New pigments, construction materials, and painting techniques enabled artists to create larger and more durable works.

Today, monumental painting extends beyond religious and governmental buildings. It is widely represented in museums, universities, airports, theatres, metro stations, sports complexes, and urban public spaces.

Contemporary monumental art also includes murals, which have become an important means of expressing social values, environmental awareness, historical memory, and national identity. Large-scale murals can now be found in many cities around the world, contributing both artistic and educational value to urban environments.

In Uzbekistan, monumental painting continues to develop through the decoration of public institutions, metro stations, museums, educational establishments, and cultural centers. Modern Uzbek artists successfully combine traditional artistic heritage with contemporary techniques, preserving national identity while responding to modern artistic trends.

Conclusion

In conclusion, monumental painting is an important branch of visual art that has evolved alongside human civilization. Closely connected with architecture, it reflects historical events, cultural values, and artistic achievements through large-scale compositions. Studying its development helps students improve their artistic skills, creativity, and understanding of composition, color, and visual expression. Today, monumental painting remains a significant part of the world's cultural heritage and continues to inspire both artists and society.

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