

PROBLEM OF LIGHT AND COLOR IN THE WORKS BY CLAUDE MONET

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Introduction. Actuality of the chosen topic is connected with the significant influence of the works by impressionists and Claude Monet on the further development of art. The topic needs a special study.

Purpose of the study. The aim of study is to investigate impressionism as one of the art trends of the XIX century in France, to study the main periods of the history of this trend, to analyze the works by the most famous impressionists of XIX century, including Claude Monet.

Materials and methods. The sources of the study are the works by Claude Monet and the examples of impressionism art. The main research methods are based on structural analysis and comparative method.

Results. Impressionism emerged in France in the 1860-ies. Impressionism largely determined the development of the art of the XIX century. The central figures of this trend were Claude Monet, Edgar Degas, Edouard Manet, Auguste Renoir, Alfred Sisley, Paul Cezanne, Camille Pissarro and their contribution to the art development is unique. Impressionists were against the conventions of classicism, romanticism and academician style, maintained the beauty of everyday reality, simple democratic motives, tried to catch the “impression” of what the eye sees in particular moment, not focusing on drawing specific details. They didn’t use dark and earthen colors and used pure spectral colors, almost without mixing them. Impressionism emerged from the workshops in the open air. An important principle of impressionism was a departure from the typicality. An art got instant and casual look features, it seems that impressionism canvases painted by simple passers-by who walks along the boulevard and enjoys life.

During the two decades impressionism spread all over the world, affected the works by many artists in other countries, they learnt new aspects of reality, mastered the effects of plein air and some new techniques.

Impressionists created a new method of painting trying to express their immediate impressions of things. The essence was to transfer the external impression of light, shadows, and reflections on the surface of objects by separate strokes of pure colors that form visual diluting the surrounding light and air. The favorite genres of impressionists were landscape, portrait, multi-figure compositions in which they tried

to convey their impressions of the world: the scene on the street, in cafes, sketches of Sunday walks, etc. Impressionists portrayed the life full of natural poetry with a person in a harmony with environment that is always changing in pure and bright colors.

Claude Monet is among the few artists whose works represent a whole era in the history of art. Claude Monet paid a special attention to the study of variability of tone and color of objects in the environment every moment that changed. With the help of this approach he reproduced the same scenes several times trying to get exceptional color purity and actually removing from his palette the black paint. Claude Monet was interested in the works by chemist Eugene Chevreul who made a revolutionary observation in physiology of vision and color perception. The artist used a combination of fundamental physical laws and additional colors as strong means of artistic expression. Claude Monet art was characterized by special coloristic system. The system included the expansion of complex tones for certain solid colors of the light spectrum. Some colors gradually imposed on the canvas with the expectation of optical mergers in the eyes of the viewer. This technique created a surprisingly lively, kind of fresh painting.

Early paintings by Monet, such as “Woman in Green” (1866), “Women in the Garden” (1867), and some later, such as “Bridge to Argenteuil” (1874), “Rocks in Belle Ile” (1886) marked freshness and rich flavor. In his later works, such as “Impressions. Sunset” (1873), “Boulevard des Capuchins in Paris” (1873) and especially the paintings of recent years – a series of “Grainstacks” (1890 – 1891), “Poplars” (1891 – 1892) and views of London (1900 – 1904) Monet admired a transmission of subjective, random, fleeting impressions, self-contained experiments in color decomposition. The best works by Monet belong to the world heritage art.

Conclusions. Impressionism in art opened for artists and audience a new vision of the nature of color and light. Impressionism is a philosophy and technology, it is a new artistic vision of the world.