

DREAM IMAGERY IN THE WORKS OF EUROPEAN AND CHINESE SURREALIST ARTISTS AND THEIR INTERPRETATIONS

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Surrealism, as an important art genre, breaks traditional art rules and integrates dreams with reality. The dream imagery in the works of European and Chinese surrealist artists during this period is the key to understanding their creative concepts and the spirit of the times. On the one hand, this study helps to deepen the understanding of the essence of surrealist art and analyze the role of the use of dream imagery in promoting artistic innovation. On the other hand, by comparing the creations of European and Chinese artists, it can reveal the commonalities and differences in artistic creation under different cultural backgrounds, promote cross-cultural art exchanges, and provide theoretical and practical references for the development of contemporary art.

This study aims to comprehensively analyze the dream imagery in the works of Surrealist artists from Europe and China from the 20th century to the early 21st century, and explore their profound connotations and symbolic meanings.

Materials and Methods. Select representative works of Surrealist artists from Europe and China during this period, such as the paintings, sculptures, and literary works of European artists like Salvador Dalí and Joan Miró, as well as those of Chinese artists influenced by Surrealism, as analysis samples. The main methods are historical-chronological, comparative, formally plastic and software design method. This study also used complex methods for analyzing the material under study. We employ image analysis and text interpretation, combine the creative backgrounds and personal experiences of the artists, and use psychoanalytic theory and cultural research methods to explore the presentation and meanings of dream imagery. [1]

Results and Discussion. They share a common dreamy element. Both European and Chinese surrealist artists often employ distorted figures. For example, in the works of Salvador Dalí, such as "The Persistence of Memory," the melting clocks and distorted landscapes create a dream-like, illogical space. Similarly, Chinese surrealist artist Li Shan's "New Species" series features hybrid, distorted biological forms. These distorted figures disrupt the normal perception of reality, mimicking the way our minds distort images in dreams. [2]

Another common element is the use of unexpected juxtapositions. European surrealists like René Magritte frequently placed unrelated objects together, as seen in "The Treachery of Images" where a pipe is depicted with the text "This is not a pipe." In the Chinese context, artists like Zhang Huan also use unexpected combinations. His performance art sometimes combines traditional Chinese cultural elements with modern, often grotesque, materials, creating a jarring visual experience similar to the illogical combinations in dreams.

Fantasy image with cultural characteristics. European surrealist dream imagery is often influenced by Western mythology and Judeo-Christian traditions. In the works of Hieronymus Bosch, the Garden of Earthly Delights is filled with fantastical creatures and scenes that draw on religious and mythological themes. In contrast, Chinese surrealist dream imagery is deeply rooted in Chinese cultural heritage. Artists may use elements from traditional Chinese painting, such as ink-wash landscapes, or from Chinese mythology, like the stories of the Monkey King. For instance, some Chinese surrealist paintings may incorporate the concept of qi (life force) and depict floating, ethereal forms that are reminiscent of traditional Chinese spiritual concepts. [3]

In European surrealist art, the viewer is often encouraged to engage in a Freudian-inspired self-analysis. The strange and dream-like images are seen as a window into the subconscious, and the viewer is expected to interpret the symbols in relation to their own

psychological state. In Chinese surrealist art, while there is also room for personal interpretation, there is a stronger emphasis on the cultural and collective understanding. The use of traditional Chinese cultural symbols means that the viewer's cultural background plays a more significant role in understanding the work, and the art may be seen as a commentary on Chinese cultural identity and its evolution.

The presence of common dream - like elements between European and Chinese surrealist artists suggests that the human subconscious has certain universal characteristics. Dreams seem to follow some basic principles of illogic, distortion, and unexpected combinations across different cultures. This universality may be due to the fundamental nature of the human mind, which processes information and experiences in similar ways regardless of cultural background.

The Influence of Culture on Dream Imagery. The cultural - specific dream imagery highlights the role of culture in shaping our subconscious expressions. European and Chinese cultures have distinct histories, religions, and philosophical traditions, which are reflected in the artists' works. These cultural differences provide rich sources of inspiration for surrealist artists, and they also challenge the idea of a one - size - fits - all interpretation of surrealist art. Understanding the cultural context is essential for a more comprehensive appreciation of the dream imagery in surrealist works.

The Significance of Dream Imagery in Art. Dream imagery in surrealist art serves multiple purposes. It allows artists to explore the subconscious, which is often hidden from our daily, rational awareness. By bringing these subconscious thoughts and emotions to the surface, artists can offer new perspectives on the human condition. In both European and Chinese surrealist art, dream imagery also functions as a form of social and cultural commentary. It can critique modern society, question traditional values, and explore new ways of seeing the world. For example, the distorted figures and unexpected juxtapositions can be seen as a response to the rapid changes and uncertainties of the modern.

Conclusion. The dream imagery in the works of Surrealist artists from Europe and China from the 20th century to the early 21st century is rich and diverse, reflecting the cultural characteristics of each region while also embodying the commonalities of Surrealist art. This study helps to expand the research dimensions of Surrealist art and provides theoretical support for cross-cultural art exchanges. In the future, in-depth exploration can be carried out from more diverse perspectives and a wider range of works.

Reference list

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RESEARCH ON CHINESE OIL PAINTING IN THE URBAN CONTEXT OF THE 20th AND 21st CENTURIES

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This research aims to explore the evolution and characteristics of Chinese oil painting within the urban contexts of the 20th and 21st centuries. The study seeks to understand how urbanization has influenced the themes, techniques, and cultural significance of oil painting in China, and how these artworks reflect the socio-political and economic changes of the period.