

PSEUDOREALISM: INSEAERCH OF REALISM THROUGH ABSTRATION

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Abstract

Indian paintings have experienced vast transformation time to time. A new style of art developed according to development in the society. A certain way of practicing becomes style. In other words characteristics or elements combined and expressed in a unique and consistent manner are called style. Realism is also a style which has a very long history. Realism has always been an important identity of art since its evolution. It has been a way to understand and perceive thing from the nature and worked as a bridge between the understanding of eye and brain. In general the word “realistic” terms is used to signify *truthfulness* and *objectivity*. The development which has taken in 21st century changed the way of looking at realism. Now realism has also been divided in many segments. Pseudo realism is one such style which developed after the development in information and technology. During the 90,s Indian art noticed a sudden change in all format of arts. New styles developed in the field of painting as well. Pseudo realism was one such movement which spread like fire. Several artists adopted this new trend and started following the pseudo aspect through conceptual and representational form both. Abstract is an important part in expressing and creating this style. Sometimes there is no identity of space filled with splashes of colours, yet it looks real all together.

This paper focuses on the various aspect of pseudo realism. The abstract use of images and the conceptual approach of this style has been discussed in reference to two artists working in two different working style following pseudorealism in Contemporary Indian art.

Key words – pseudo realism, identity, images.

INTRODUCTION

Realism has always been an important identity of art since its evolution. It has been a way to understand and perceive thing from the nature and worked as a bridge between the understanding of eye and brain. In general the word “realistic” terms is used to signify *truthfulness* and *objectivity*. The word mimetic, which means to represent the world as it is, has been a general concept of the realistic art. It can also be co related to Aristotle’s theory of mimesis to describe - imitation. Imitation is often

defined in terms of representing the world rather than copying it. In his work Poetics (c. 335 BC), Aristotle defines that imitation is the basic nature of human being which has given birth to art. It lies in a human being since childhood. Humans are the most imitative of living creatures and through imitations they learn their earliest lesson which is the biggest difference between human and animal.

Realism has been accepted without any controversies for many centuries. However, the emergence of the new genre of different realism has created the chaos and serious discussions about the ability of art to represent reality objectively. Science plays a vital role in acceptance of the other realism. The world is a big experimental laboratory in which everything is being observed with scientific accuracy and proof. So, science made us to see through its facts with the results. So development in science brought revolution in all the fields. The perception of seeing changed due to scientific laws. This new vision gave a new dimension to realism in art. The Pseudo realism is one such realism which has suddenly emerged into 90's in Indian art and played a vital role as replacement of the ideal realism.

Pseudo realism is one of the new trends which started in the 90's and spread around Indian art as fire. Many artists admired it as a new medium of expression of emotion. This new genre of art started changing the concept behind representation on real through the manipulated virtual presentation. Pseudo stands for fake and realism defines reality. So, this new style provoked artists to see reality through science, sometimes shown as unreal or abstract. This style presents a form without any individual identity whereas the whole composition in real. Now the representation of real has shifted from imitation of an object or individual to the overall subject matter.

Pseudo realism was first utilized as a term to depict the movies of 21st century which utilize excessive exceptional effect so much with the goal that they look real. During 90s, American moviemakers filled the market with computerized graphics for their films which were called Pseudo-realistic scenes by the critics ...a term used to define something not real yet that create the fully realistic impact. Pseudoreal representation has become the need of the day in 21st century to put intense effect on the brain of the audience or viewers. In this mediatic globalized scenario, the boundaries between real and pseudo-real is vanishing slowly and facts are camouflaged as fiction.

Artists also play with the mind of viewers. It's the art works which makes the viewers realize about the idea of the artist. So, in that aspect pseudo realism became a vital tool to play with the virtual reality and its presentation. A remarkable aspect of pseudo realism is representation of real through abstraction.

Devajyoti Ray is one such artist who is known as the pioneer of this new trend. He works with unconventional use of colours and shapes, which brings them with an aura of pseudo-realism. His paintings are mainly figurative based on realistic drawings. Though realistic in terms of theme and proportion, the paintings presents different dimension from the perspective of colour-scheme and symbolic presentation. Ray's use of simple daily images is significant in the sense that a single image assumes different meanings in various contexts. He tends to approach reality through abstraction. The use of bizarre colours, modified



Devajyoti Ray, Good Bye, 40in. X 30in., Acrylic on canvas, 2006

shapes and often abstract splashes of colours which all together brings out a new reality makes his works significant and distinctive from other artists. His works are very abstract in terms of individual representation which is the main character of pseudo realism. He has stylized everything into a new formative style where dialogue is very loud despite losing the individual identity. The painted faces in green and red reminds the use of colours in Fauvism, where the main intention was to break the monotony of colours in ideal realistic representation. It takes a lot of courage to work with the bold form of colours without losing the harmony and balance in the whole paintings. Audience can easily understand the images perfectly. His works are mostly in two dimensional forms with flat surface which gives it a look of computer generated image. As we know that computer generated images tends to be real but as it goes through several processing, it loses its essence of being real. There is no depth in the paintings and the drama seems to happen in one ground. The paintings never real with the identity of object in its real rather we understand image by overall form and comparison with surrounding. The paintings look like collage of colours which all together creates pseudo realistic images.

There are several artists who work with this pseudo realistic style. Some have developed their own style of representation whereas some are totally based on the manipulation through computer technology. Technology has dominated the world today and is very much developed which brings various opportunities in processing which are sometime beyond imagination. The used of various software bring out new techniques in representation of the images. Artists have started using this developed technology intelligently into their works. They have successfully implemented the hyper effect created by software into their paintings. Sometimes the paintings look more computerized and digitalized print rather than its painterly quality which once use to be the main aspect of painting. The excess use of technology has sometimes created identity crisis for some artists as well. But, still pseudo realism has established a strong ground in the field of art.

His creations capture the outer layers of urban spaces that reflect the postmodern sense of reality through an amalgamation of hyper-real figuration and abstraction. According to the artist, the enigmatic human drama unfolds where the

sense of reality is disowned or disconnected from its immediate realm. He explains, “To me, the invention of the new context is the invention of reality. Once an opposing view is invented, a piece of art no longer represents prevailing notions of reality but become reality in itself, as produced by it.” The artist believes no gesture is incidental and no word is unintentional. There’s context to every action, word or gesture, with a deeper meaning attached to them. His contemplative creations explore the cause and effect phenomenon as he ‘demands’ the lost linkages to be located and put in place. He quips, “In the contemporary context of life, ‘moments of truths’ are fleeting. The sporadic linkages among random visuals create a virtual notion of reality. As an artist, I look to go beyond them for the linkages that would eventually connect the artistic representation with the memories of the fleeting visuals. I strive to capture the subtle nuances of these linkages.”

Traversing through past and present (sequences of events), it becomes an artistic obsession to capture those moments of truth and passion in palpable motifs and forms.

George Martin’s work give an appeal of computer graphic images painted in luscious colour. His works are a magical representation of world around us, which appears very speedy and melting into each other. His works brings out the energy of this modern urbanized life into visual form. The unlimited use of colour, juxtaposed multiple images and over flow of colours in a single canvas is the basic identity of his canvas. His paintings are mainly based on pseudo realistic representation,



George Martin, Visible Scars, Acrylic on canvas, 48 X 84 in, 2015

sometimes in concept and sometimes in its representation. We are living in a world where there is a void space among the society and looking the work more carefully; Martin’s crowded compositions echo the temporariness and disunited nature of our world.

He loves to work in the realm of freedom where he owns all the infinite riches of the world. His works creates a drama between images and its representation. According to artist, viewers are integral part of his works. He tries to communicate with them by thought provoking subtle reality. The freedom of self description and interpretation lies with the viewer. There is a two way communication by giving a simple hint, where he wants to bring out interiors and invisible powers of the viewers. The development of this new style has given him a freedom to approach reality. He believes that art does not represent reality; instead they themselves are reality produced by them. The artist himself says –

“Through my works I seek the return of the real, perhaps confronting the question of denying the value of this reality in order to produce a picture of a better world (as perceived before).”

Martin redefines human life by decoding the hidden drama apparently in a very simple life scenario. His works dig deep into the mysteries of life through fascinating compositions which consists of contemplative imagery. His paintings encode and decode,

reveal and conceal the mysteries simultaneously. In his paintings, George Martin tries to create and bind the fleeting visuals of daily life. The subjective approach is manipulated from the urban scenario, despite being abstract in nature. Through the artistic processes, he reforms the breakage between the sign and the signified, and tries to reconnect the object with its lost meaning. It's not the object that we as society have lost, but a sense of it. He tries to give chance to the viewers to rethink about the society and reunite the bonding which is losing by time without coming to any conclusion.

The artist applies a 'deconstructive methodology' to crumble and reassemble the units of the original image. The feeling of solidarity, which ends up tangible from a separation, dissipates as one begins drawing nearer to his artistic creations. Physical nearness with the work wrecks the feeling of solidarity. The artist main intension is to involve the viewers as an integral part of his creations, and not stay away from them. He hopes to inspire an emotional response with them by empowering their recollections, and furnishing them with a mentally enhancing and aesthetically satisfying knowledge. Technology plays a vital role in the making of his paintings. The *liquefy* effect in his works seems to be influenced by the use of computer software. The fluid effect which all together bonds the painting in one runs all over with abstract formation of colours and forms. This again creates an identity through the abstract representation. This is the fact that advancement in technology in 21st century made the emergence of new mediums much easier. Artists started shifting from being painters who used painterly quality into digital and 3D artists who has now started using software and different materials to create works of art. Technology has expanded the horizon of creativity undoubtedly. It has increased the opportunity of accessibility by sharing images, ideas, words, performances, thoughts etc. on a global level been easier.

Conclusion

Art has noticed so many changes that it's tough to acknowledge the exact time period of a particular change. Changes never happen in a day; rather it's a time taking process. India's art legacy is an amazing document of society's changing face through the ages. The unlimited variety in style, technique, media and topics is a pointer to the richness of Indian art and its development. The procedure of globalization, which started in the mid 1990s, helped artists to proceed with more confidence and freedom. It was not just a sudden change, but a continuous consciousness to its global relevance. Indian artists have always been inspired from the philosophical thought that there is no way to create absolute and cannot be destroyed either but one can feel and understand it. After looking at the trends in Indian art over several years, we find that it has explored its own past and simultaneously explored deeply into symbols and expressions already available in our own tradition and it has also taken this journey ahead to put an impressive impact on the art world at global level. A number of artists are combining technology into their art practice. Artists are using sophisticated electronic devices and printing technology which has added wings to creation, and has been appreciated by art lovers all over. Technology has made unthinkable changes in Indian art scene. The easily accessible mediatic information and multiple ways of transforming it have given birth to Pseudo realism. Abstraction plays an important role to define this realism, where overall realism is achieved by the several abstract forms and techniques. Several

artists have adopted this new language of realism, leaving behind the ideal or classical aspect of realism which once represented the individual identity of Indian art.

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