

# The Influence of Different Arts on Matisse's Creation

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**Abstract:** *Matisse is a famous French painter in the 20th century, the founder and main representative of Fauvism, and his creative style is unique. Matisse's creation is inspired by different styles of art, from which he constantly absorbs experience and nutrients, so that his paintings form a unique style and enrich the deep connotation of Matisse's painting art. This article attempts to analyze Matisse's paintings from the relationship between Matisse and African art, Islamic art, Chinese art and Japanese ukiyo-e art, so as to understand Matisse's unique painting style in different periods.*

**Keywords:** *Matisse; painting; art; creation*

## I. Introduction

Matisse was a famous French painter in the 20th century, the founder and main representative of Fauvism. Matisse was born in Le Cateau in the Picardy region of northern France in 1869 to a family of ordinary merchants. In 1890, Matisse was sick and hospitalized. In order to appease him, his mother bought him brushes and paper. He tried to paint and found the joy of painting, so he decided to become an artist. In 1892, Matisse was admitted to the Academy of Fine Arts and studied in the studio of the painter Moreau, which opened his artistic path. In the study and exploration of art, he looks at the works of Impressionism, Neo-Impressionism and Post-Impressionism, and wants to draw nourishment from various styles. Matisse was constantly looking for new directions for artistic creation, especially after 1906, his solo exhibitions were exhibited in Paris, New York, Moscow, London, Stockholm, Berlin and other cities. He also took the opportunity to travel to Europe and North Africa, touring around the arts in search of new sources of inspiration. Matisse's artistic creation entered a prolific period, and he became one of the most active painters in the international painting circle at that time.

Matisse is a great artist who is positive and creative. He is good at absorbing nutrients from different cultures and arts, so that his artistic creation in his life can always be kept alive. Matisse opposes imitating nature like a slave, and advocates explaining nature and following the spirit of painting, so that his creation can reach a state of ecstasy. Matisse not only made great achievements in oil painting and frescoes, but also made remarkable achievements in sculpture, paper cutting, plate making and so on. Throughout his long life he devoted himself to a series of artistic experiments that developed a simple and pleasing style for his work.

## 2. Matisse and African Art

In 1906, Matisse and Derain and Vlamanck began to collect African art that they had first seen in the Ethnographic Museum, and incorporated African art forms into their respective artistic creations. Modern artists borrow forms from African art in the hope of infusing their works with some raw exoticism and an original authenticity and expressive power. The figures in African art are relatively large, with mask-like heads, bulging torsos, prominent sexual organs, squatting, simplified or elongated limbs. The incomparably strong plasticity of form, the expressive sculpture, and the power of iconification left an impression on Matisse and his companions.

"Blue Nude: Memories of Biskra" was created after Matisse visited Biskra, a lush oasis in the North African desert in Africa. The subject of the picture is a reclining female nude, which is close to the classic Venus poses such as Titian's "Venus of Urbino" and Giorgione's "Sleeping Venus". One arm of the character is bent over the head, and both legs are bent forward. This painting was created by Matisse based on memory and clay models. The figure's chest and hips show a spherical exaggeration, an extreme dislocation, which makes the figure deform, as if the figure's torso and thighs are seen from different angles or combined. The faces of the figures are outlined by bright blue lines, giving them

mask-like features. Obviously this work is Matisse influenced by African sculpture, further abstracting the figure.

Inspired by what he called "invented facets and proportions"[1] in African sculpture, Matisse uses these sources of inspiration in his own subtle and reflective way, and integrates them. in their own creations until they are hard to tell apart.

### **3. Matisse and Islamic Art**

In 1908 the Fauvist painters parted ways and went their separate ways, and Matisse is still constantly exploring. He further broke the traditional perspective method and used the relationship of colors and arabesques to shape the space of the picture, gradually moving towards calm, creating a new realm full of exotic and mysterious. Matisse absorbed the abstract ornamentation in Islamic art, and his exploration of art was further developed. He used a large number of abstract patterns in Islamic art in his own creations to achieve the decorative effect of paintings, which is more abstract. For example, in his work "Dialogue" created in the winter solstice of 1908 and 1909, a man standing in pajamas and a woman in a black robe sitting in a chair face each other against a large blue background. The blue background wall is malleable, and the white stripes on the man's blue pajamas seem to be painted on the wall. The woman's blue seat is submerged in a space with strong tones. Men and women face each other in front of the garden, which is decorated with swirling grass, red dots and black arabesques, creating an illusion of space.

In Matisse's "Red Harmony", a large interior space is divided by a pure red area, which is obviously influenced by Islamic miniature painting, which mostly uses primary colors to express the picture. [2] The plant forms on the entire wall and table top are Arabic curves, and the pattern above is actually derived from a piece of decorative fabric that Matisse owns. The ambiguity of the picture extends to the scene outside the window, with abstract tree and plant forms against the green grass and blue sky outside. The red building in the upper left corner of the outdoor picture repeatedly emphasizes the color of the interior, and the illusion of depth of field of the scenery seems to be shaped. Matisse said, "My choice of colors is not based on any scientific theory, but based on observation, feeling and my own experience." [3] The thing in the frame of a window in the picture frames the whole scenery outside the window, but it is cut off by the edge of the picture. The cut is incomplete, maybe this area represents a painting on the wall. Matisse used line and color to create a new, real and visible world of pictorial space.

### **4. Matisse and Chinese Art**

Many of Matisse's paintings contain strong Chinese elements, such as the uniqueness of Chinese painting forms and the use of flat technology to express things, which is what Matisse pursued. Leave space for the audience, and use the painting creation to connect the artist and the viewer, and the painting works as a potential communication link between the artist and the audience. Western art works are often well-painted. The pictures of Western works are generally full and full, without leaving blank spaces, while Eastern art is beautiful with blank spaces. Matisse applied the white space of oriental painting to his own paintings, It makes the picture achieve different visual effects and highlights the deep visual impact of the picture, such as "Dance" and "Music" created by him. As can be seen in Matisse's paintings, his paintings have an ability to purify colors, and compared with classicist works, his paintings reach a clear and far-reaching artistic realm.

The lines used by Matisse in "Red Harmony" are elegant and rhythmic, and the flat painted color blocks like musical symbols complement each other, creating a peaceful, quiet and elegant rhythm, reflecting a kind of paradise-like atmosphere. As he himself said: "The art I dream of is full of balance, purity, quietness, without disturbing or compelling subject matter. An art, as for every spiritual worker as for an artist, is an art. A means of appeasement, a means of spiritual solace, ironed his soul. For him, it meant the serenity of daily toil and work." [4] His life's work, including later in the interwar period, The works all carry out this spirit. For example, "Red Harmony, on the Dining Table", "Girl Playing Guitar" and so on. This artistic pursuit of Matisse is similar to the artistic conception of Chinese literati paintings, which may be the expression of Matisse's influence by Chinese art. In "Red Harmony", warm red is used to create a warm picture of life, so as to convey people's yearning for a quiet and peaceful life. Matisse suffered from physical illness in his later years, and Matisse yearned for a better life even more.

"Floral Ornament" is a work created by Matisse in his later years. He used gouache, paper and cut-and-paste methods. Because of his physical illness, he could not continue to paint on easel, so he devoted his time and energy to the exploration and creation of paper-cuts. He created in the form of paper-cuts, maximizing the expressive power of colored paper sheets. These works may be inspired by the understanding of Chinese paper-cut art. Matisse said: "Paper-cut is the simplest and most direct way to express oneself that has been found so far." [5] Matisse found paper-cut to continue his artistic creation, relieve the disease and pain in life, and be regarded as a Chinese literati painting a boundary.

"Knowing that painting is a thing. It is a spiritual person, a thinker, an active person, not a device, and not a simple person." [6] Chinese literati painting replaces the depiction of objects with lyrical expressions, pursues artistic styles such as simplicity, clumsiness, lightness, elegance, chance, and arbitrariness, and pays attention to the creation of artistic conception. Matisse mentioned more than once that "my painting inspiration comes from China", it can be seen that Matisse himself has a strong interest in traditional Chinese literati painting, and has carried out exploration and research on it, which is reflected in Matisse's works came out.

## 5. Matisse and Japanese Ukiyo-e Art

Japanese ukiyo-e art depicts people's daily life, landscapes, and dramas with brush and ink, and has a profound influence on Asian and world art, especially in the 19th century in Europe, many artists from neoclassicism, romanticism, realism and impressionism All have been influenced by this style of painting. Therefore, Japanese ukiyo-e art has high artistic value.

Matisse first came into contact with Japanese ukiyo-e prints at the World Expo in 1903, when he was impressed by Japanese ukiyo-e prints. Many excellent exhibits with oriental flavor appeared at the World Expo, which deeply attracted Matisse. Ukiyo-e prints were one of Matisse's favorite works. The colors of Ukiyo-e prints are bright, simple and intense, and it is the color combination of these forms that deeply attracts Matisse because it fits his aesthetic very well. Just as Matisse in painting often expresses his inner world through subjective emotions, and uses his own psychological emotions to create creations, rather than objectively depicting things and creating them, so there will be excellent works that have been passed down to this day.

Matisse's 1953 oil on canvas "Pink Nude" was clearly inspired by Japanese Ukiyo-e paintings. In the picture of "Pink Nude", the huge pink body and the orderly extending squares under it form an organic and orderly overlap and complement each other. The whole body is elongated to fill the entire picture, the posture is simple, the waist and thighs are exaggerated and deformed, and other parts are reduced. The naked woman's torso is outlined in black lines, and her body has been flat-painted in a dull pink. The color and composition are unprecedentedly pure and simple, like the real color Matisse's eyes see after the dirt has been removed by Japanese Ukiyo-e.

## 6. Conclusion

Matisse is undoubtedly one of the great artists of the 20th century. He devoted his life to the pursuit of art, researched and explored the art of different regions of the world and blended them into his own creations, creating a lot of masterpieces. The characters created by Matisse in his works reflect the perfect combination of the decorative beauty of oriental art and the traditional beauty of Europe, and use a simplified method to exclude more rational factors. His artistic simplicity, happiness and paintings satisfy people's psychological requirements for artistic intuition. In Matisse's many years of artistic career, the joy of life was probably the most important work. He pursued to create a quiet and peaceful atmosphere through pure graphic elements, such as simple shapes, curves and flat colors, to make people feel comfortable, relaxed, happy and enjoy. Matisse combined a variety of arts with Western painting to achieve a state of perfection and perfection. At the same time, his unique artistic style also had a major influence on later generations.

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