

An Analysis of the Cultivating and Development Environment of Chinese and Foreign Female Painters

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Abstract: *In the field of art, whether in China or western countries, most outstanding figures are males, while few females. In order to explore the root causes of this phenomenon, starting from the life of well-known Chinese and foreign female painters, and from their growth environment, education level, social and cultural background, this paper discusses the reasons why Chinese and foreign female painters are less than male painters, and analyzes the training environment and influencing factors of Chinese and foreign female painters in detail. The author hopes to analyze the key factors of cultivating female artists, and then put forward effective ways to cultivate female artists.*

Keywords: *Female artists; Female painters; Influencing factors; Development environment*

1. Introduction

At present, in the context of economic and social development, both China and foreign countries pay special attention to building a good artistic and cultural environment and promoting the cultivation of artistic and cultural talents. At the same time, in order to cultivate more high-quality artistic talents, China has launched a series of policies and measures to cultivate artistic and cultural talents.

However, whether in ancient or modern times, whether in China or western countries, we can find a law that the number of female artists is far lower than that of male artists. Since ancient times, in many cultural movements and ideological waves, countless outstanding artists have emerged, but the number of female artists is very small, which can be called rare. Moreover, most of these female artists are attached to male artists, that is to say, most of these female artists are the children or wives of male artists.

In this case, the author wants to analyze the reasons why the number of female artists is far lower than that of male artists in the social background at home and abroad, and explore the growth environment and education level of outstanding female artists in history, as well as the impact of their social and cultural background on their creation.

2. Overview of Well-known Female Painters at Home and Abroad

Whether in China or abroad, the number of well-known female painters is far less than that of male painters. Moreover, in the past, the gender inequality in the feudal era and modern times also led to many women not having the opportunity to enter schools, which also makes most female painters either the wife or daughter of male painters or the lover of male painters. It can also be seen that most female painters in history are attached to men [1]. However, by querying the relevant literature, the author selects several representative well-known female artists for analysis and research.

2.1 Overview of Famous Chinese Female Painters

In Chinese history, especially in modern times, several well-known female artists have emerged, such as He Xiangning and Lu Xiaoman. In the art world, He Xiangning (as demonstrated in Fig. 1) has made great contributions to the Chinese art world. In the revolutionary era, as a pioneer of the feminist movement, He Xiangning always had a lofty love for art and never put down her brush.

In addition, Lu Xiaoman (Fig. 2) is one of the famous female painters in modern China. In her later years, she became a professional painter of Shanghai Chinese Painting Academy. She is good at not only painting, but also drama and Kunqu Opera. Therefore, Lu Xiaoman was also rated as the "March 8th red flag bearer" by the National Artists Association. Lu Xiaoman's achievements in the art world are

inseparable from her personal acquired efforts and the strong support of her family.



Fig. 1 He Xiangning



Fig. 2 Lu Xiaoman

2.2 Overview of Famous Foreign Female Painters

Most of the well-known foreign female painters appeared in the last century. They constantly have extraordinary painting talent, and their works have an easy to ordinary style. Even many of their paintings have become the epitome of the times [2].

Georgia tutto O'Keeffe is a famous American artist and one of the "greatest art masters of the last century". Her paintings have become a typical representative of American Art in the 1920s. Her painting techniques are quite distinctive and full of various subtle changes (as illustrated in Fig. 3).



Fig. 3 Jimson Weed/White Flower No. 1, 1932 drawn by Georgia Tutto O'Keeffe



Fig. 4 Mary Cassatt

Mary Cassatt (as demonstrated in Fig. 4) is a well-known American artist from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. She is also one of the few American artists who can be warmly welcomed by the French art community.

Frida Kahlo is a well-known Mexican female painter. Her father is a German Jewish painter and photographer. Therefore, she has been influenced by art since childhood, which has also laid a solid foundation for her love of art.

Artemisia Gentileschi is an Italian Baroque painter. In her time, female painters were very rare, but she took the lead in creating historical and religious paintings. Her father is a famous stylist painter orazio Di Domenico. Therefore, she has been influenced by art since childhood, which has also laid an indispensable foundation for her later painting creation.

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3. Affecting Factors of the Cultivation and Development of Chinese and Foreign Female Painters

3.1 Growth Environment

There is no doubt that the growth environment is very important for individual development. Looking at the outstanding female painters at home and abroad, most of them grew up in a superior environment [3]. Moreover, many female painters were influenced by art since childhood, and then began to have a great love for painting.

For example, Lu Xiaoman was born into a high-class family since childhood. Her father specially invited British female teachers to teach her English. At the same time, she also studied with outstanding painters such as Liu Haisu, Chen banding and he Tianjian, which laid a solid educational foundation for her to become an outstanding female painter in her later period. Mary Cassatt was born into an upper class family in Philadelphia, USA. she was determined to be a painter when she was 20 years old. Her father let her study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which also became the key point for her to embark on the road of painting. Frida Kahlo has been influenced by her father, a painter and photographer since childhood, which makes her have a strong interest in painting since childhood. In addition, her father had an enlightened educational concept and sent her to the best local preparatory school, which was also an important factor for her to become an outstanding painter in her later stage. In an era when female painters were very rare, Artemisia Gentileschi took the lead in creating historical and religious paintings, which is inseparable from her father's famous stylist painter Olazio.

3.2 Education Level

Painters belong to the art world, but to become contact painters must need a certain cultural foundation as support [4]. Therefore, to cultivate excellent female painters, education is indispensable. No matter He Xiangning or Lu Xiaoman, they were all born in a high-class family. Their family economic conditions are good, and their parents do not have the idea of son preference, and even have the idea of "expecting women to become phoenix", which is also an indispensable reason why they can get a good education from childhood.

At the same time, Georgia totto O'Keeffe attended the city hall school since childhood and studied painting with the local watercolor painter Sarah Mann, which laid a solid foundation for her later creation of her own paintings. Mary Cassatt was born in a family in Philadelphia, USA. although she had conflicts with her father in her future career choices, she still insisted on becoming an outstanding painter. Finally, her father agreed and let her study at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, which is also an indispensable factor for her to become a famous figure in the painting industry in the future.

In addition, Frida Kahlo's father had an enlightened educational concept and sent her to the best preparatory school in the local area, which was also an indispensable reason why she later became an outstanding female painter. Artemisia Gentileschi's father painted with his daughter since childhood, and

hired Italian painter Agostino Tassi to teach her painting. There is no doubt that Artemisia Gentileschi has been influenced by a strong artistic atmosphere since childhood.

He Xiangning graduated from Joshibi University of Art And Design; Lu Xiaoman graduated from Beijing Shengxin School; Georgia Totto O'Keeffe graduated from School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Later, she transferred to New York and joined the Art Student Union; Mary Cassatt graduated from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts; Frida Kahlo studied in preparatoria, the best preparatory school in Mexico since childhood. Therefore, there is no doubt that they all had an excellent educational background under the background of the times at that time.

3.3 Social Factors

Individuals are in society, so social factors will greatly affect the birth of outstanding figures in a period [5]. In the last century, China was in a semi colonial and semi feudal society. At that time, compared with the Qing Dynasty, the status of women in China gradually improved, and then a number of excellent female painters emerged. Among them, He Xiangning and Lu Xiaoman are the representatives of the foundation.

Under the background of that era, He Xiangning began to envy the front-line female soldiers, which made her develop an unyielding character and rebellious spirit, and then she began to want to get the right to education like men. Lu Xiaoman was born in an upper class family. She has studied in the primary school affiliated to Beijing Women's normal university since childhood. Her father has an enlightened concept of education. Under the background of that era, her father Lu Ding received a good education and had a good educational concept, which provided a good educational environment for her daughter and cultivated her interest in art.

3.4 Cultural Background

Compared with China's social and cultural background, foreign cultural background is more enlightened, which makes the number of foreign female painters more than that of China. Fundamentally, the foreign cultural background pays more attention to gender equality, which enables more foreign women to enter school from an early age, which has also become an indispensable factor in their later pursuit of their favorite painting career [6]. For example, Artemisia Gentileschi's father took his daughter to paint together since childhood and hired a famous Italian painter as her private teacher. The father of Frida Kahlo had an enlightened educational concept and sent her to the best preparatory school in the local area since childhood. It was in this school that Frida Kahlo met her future husband, and her husband Diego Rivera was one of the three heroes of the Mexican mural movement, which also became an indispensable reason for her continuous painting creation in the later period.

4. Enlightenment and Conclusion

4.1 Enlightenment

Both Chinese famous female painters and foreign famous female painters were born in a better family, and their parents have an enlightened educational concept, which has created a good artistic atmosphere and educational environment for them since childhood. Therefore, the most indispensable thing to cultivate female artists is to have a good family environment, which will make it easier for them to find the career they love all their life than their peers.

At the same time, social factors are also extremely indispensable. Only on the basis of advocating equality between men and women, can women have the opportunity to have equal rights with men, can they enter schools to learn basic knowledge, and then let them improve their cultural quality, so as to find their own life goals.

At the same time, several famous female artists mentioned in this paper have a high level of education, which is also an indispensable factor for them to break through the shackles of the inherent impression of women in the society at that time and strive for opportunities for the cause they love. Social factors and growth environment are equally indispensable. Social background directly affects the educational concept of children in most families. More specifically, a good social and cultural background helps parents establish a correct and positive educational concept, and then create a better educational environment for their children.

4.2 Conclusion

To sum up, to cultivate more outstanding female artists, we need not only a good social environment and cultural background, but also parents' support and help to their children, which can be spiritual or material. At the same time, the society should also pay more attention to the importance of education, and promote social equality and gender equality as much as possible, so that more women can have the same rights as men.

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