

A Discussion on the Intuitiveness of Photographic Art

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Abstract

Through a brief analysis of the “sixth sense” of the human beings, that is, intuition, this article discusses the intuitive experience of the artists in the process of photographic art and the inseparable relationship between photographic art and intuition, thus striving to explain the importance of the intuition of artists in the process of creating photographic art works, as well as the perfect fusion of intuition and rationality reflected in photographic works.

Keywords

photography; intuition; art; formal beauty; rational analysis.

1. Introduction

We usually regard intuition as a special way of thinking that is not controlled by human will. It is a form of thinking based on human occupation, experience, knowledge and instinct. Intuition itself has the characteristics of quickness, directness, and instinctive consciousness. Intuition is like the air in nature. When you want to catch it, it will disappear without a trace. When you don't care, it will give you unexpected surprises and amazes like a stroke of god. For the understanding of intuition, we can regard it as a sixth sense of human beings. In other words, intuition is a kind of human instinct perception.

2. Properties

2.1. Intuition of Art

Each of us has intuition. However, compared with ordinary people, people engaged in art are different in both quality and quantity. The function of intuition in artistic creation is to give form to intangible emotions, so that this emotional image develops towards objectification. When someone views a successful artwork, he will have roughly the same experience and feelings as the author. This emotion is often eternal, and it is also a natural expression of the artist in his artistic creation. The creation of photographic art is always full of the personal intuitive experience of the artist, and the creative process is also full of fun and joy. The lyrical expression in this kind of photographic creation is the emotional expression of the author himself. The reason why many photographic art works can make viewers enjoy endless aftertaste, it is because the author has planted his intuitive seeds into the hearts of the viewers through their eyes very well. In this way, the work can move the heartstrings of the viewers and thus reflect the artistic value of the work.

Croce once pointed out that “art is exactly intuition or lyrical expression”. Susan Lange once said, “The artist finally becomes an artist by means of the intuition of the form of emotional symbols and the ability to shape the perception of emotion into this form.” Through Croce's discussion of intuition and my personal practice, the characteristics of intuition are expressed as follows:

2.1.1. Directness

It means that the subject of intuition often does not go through a step-by-step analysis process but directly engages in objects to gain overall knowledge. This is the most typical and basic feature of intuition;

2.1.2. Fastness

It means that the process of intuitive thinking results is instantaneous, and this instantaneity makes the thinking subject unable to make logical judgments about the process carried out;

2.1.3. Leap

In the cognitive process, the formal way of thinking is presented step by step in a conventional way. Once intuitive thinking appears, it will get rid of the original conventional constraints, which will cause rapid leaps and gradual interruptions in the cognitive process.

2.1.4. Particularity

The production of intuition is related to the life experience and thinking quality of the subject to a certain extent, showing the particularity of intuition.

2.1.5. Firmness

The thinkers always draw conclusions intuitively. They are conscious and sensible, which distinguishes intuition from impulsive behavior. Thinkers have their own belief in the correctness of the results of intuition. (However, this does not mean that this result must cancel the need for further analysis, processing and experimental verification);

2.1.6. Occasionality

The production of intuition is often not inevitable, and there is a possibility of right or wrong. This also reflects the limitations of intuition.

2.2. Intuition of Photographic Art

Whichever art has its own unique language. The art of photography depends on vision. It is an image that the artist captures the objective world instantly, expressing the feelings, emotions, and thoughts of the artists. This art form is also the refinement and processing of the artist to the objective world. It is an aesthetic activity that reflects the natural world and human life. Since its birth, the art of photography has distinguished itself from other art categories with a unique artistic language, and it has shown a more novel creative vitality. This also requires photographers to have more novel thinking and visual concepts to observe and perceive the world, to create artistic works full of the unique beauty of photography. Photography has the comprehensive characteristics of on-site, documentary and instant completion, while the intuitive, direct and fast automatic thinking characteristics can be combined with photography. The two have a natural affinity, as if the positive and negative magnets meet and are closely inseparable, thus melting into a photographic intuition and subtly directing the completion of photographic creation. Photographic art relies on light, shades, lines and tones to form its own modeling language, thereby constructing the beauty of photographic art. For a photographer, the sight of nature is fleeting. Even an eternal building will show different visual effects due to changes in time, light, and atmosphere. What's more, their lenses sometimes need to be aimed at people or animals that change postures anytime and anywhere. As a spiritual product, photographic art uses its own unique artistic methods to reflect social life and turn the real beauty of life into artistic beauty through a special way of practice. Photographers should discover and create beauty in accordance with its laws, and reveal particularity in general. Their artistic intuition plays an important role.

However, I found that there are not many analysts on the role of intuition in photographic art creation, and even fewer people know it. Therefore, the majority of Chinese photographers still ignore the analysis of intuition, and they do not actively understand the formation mechanism

of intuition and analyze the role of intuition in photography learning and creation, which also hinders their own ability to improve photography creation. As a result, photographers can't find the beauty of the object in front of them, and the film produced has no composition and aesthetic meaning. Everyone knows that this is a lack of photographic, keen, and on-the-spot ability, as well as a lack of intuition.

Then, the artistic intuition of a photographic artist requires the photographer to accumulate a large amount of direct life experience and image elements through long-term life practical experience. In artistic creation, if a certain image is immediately enlightened, or a certain image conforms to the aesthetic taste of the author, it will produce aesthetic identification and stimulate the creation desire. The momentary gains in photographic works seem to be accidental, but in fact they reflect a certain kind of intuition in artistic creation. For example, the photography art we are talking about belongs to plastic art, in which formal beauty is a very important component. It includes elements such as lines, light and shadow, color and texture, as well as formal elements such as contrast, balance, and diversity. After thousands of years of contact, experience and genetic accumulation, these elements of formal beauty have become normal psychological and physiological factors for modern humans. Therefore, when creating photographic art, facing different forms of images, due to the difference in visual perception of each person, their psychological perception is also different. This choice of formal composition is often irrational and subconscious—that is, an intuitive process. As long as the elements of formal beauty stimulate human receptors, the corresponding intuitive feelings will explode without any restriction, helping us to discover formal beauty quickly.

2.3. Sensibility and Rationality of Photographic Art

In the process of artistic creation, our artistic intuition is displayed in perceptual form. In fact, it is a combination of perceptuality and rationality. The two present a relationship of opposition and unity, and they are two different trends in understanding things. Intuition is a kind of perceptual knowledge; it is a rationality preparing for rational thinking and not getting rid of intuition. Rational thinking will be based on intuition. For everything, the process of our understanding is developing from intuition to rationality, and then moving from rationality back to intuition, re-understanding, cyclically and mutually transforming each other.

What is often encountered in the process of photography creation is the author does not feel the beauty of some photographed objects through rational cognition after viewing them, but most of them are deeply attracted by the momentary glance of the image. As for its specific beauty, most of it was explained later by rational analysis. It includes insights into many different forms, or insights into and understanding of various formal characteristics, relationships, meanings, abstract forms and concrete things. Intuition is by no means a simple perception, but a complex of multiple psychological functions blended with emotional imagination and perception. As Arnheim described in the book *Art and Visual Perception*, "All perception contains thinking, all reasoning contains intuition, and all observation contains creation." The thinking and reasoning described here are just the later rational analysis we talked about. This combination of intuition and reason enables the continuous development and sublimation of artistic beauty. It can be seen that intuition and rationality are not only complementary to each other, but they also merge with each other without a trace, until finally they reach the unity of intuition and rationality.

Photography is an art and a lifestyle. However, intuition has always been an ability that photography artists persist in exercising and training. Intuition is to a photographer what eyesight is to a shooter. A good photographer should and must have good intuition. The "eyes of a photographer" frequently mentioned refer to a pair of eyes that can quickly discover things, or it can be said as the intuitive ability of the photographer. In modern times, a considerable number of photographers use their lenses as paintbrushes for creation. When we have seen

excellent photographic art works, it really makes people feel that all the boundaries and theoretical issues are not the main ones. At the moment when the shutter is pressed, the endless creativity of intuition and the ability to capture beauty are the things we value most.

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