

Faculty of fine arts – department of (Painting)

Ph.D. Summary in Murals Art

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**Mural painting and the psychological effect of colors
A comparison between the Byzantine murals in Syria
(from the 4th and 5th century) and the contemporary
mural art**

Wall paintings is one of the oldest forms of human expression known to man, for the walls of the caves were the first surfaces on which the old artist drew his paintings. Through the ages it was a reflexion of the cultures' intellectual concepts. Given the importance of mural painting in giving a special artistic pattern to peoples, this research concentrates on this special art and highlights it, starting from studying the Byzantine art and the Byzantine murals in Syria (from the 4th and 5th century) and the psychological effect of those murals on humans, benefiting from presenting an extended study about colors and its psychological inspirations and symbolic implications, and applying all that on the Byzantine murals.

This research also presents samples from the contemporary mural art from diverse regions from all around the world, and explains the reasons of the emergence of the contemporary mural art on the walls of buildings and (popular areas), and how mural art has become a universal visual language that touches daily life, just like the murals that decorated many buildings and neighborhoods around the world. Then the research explores the reasons for the retardement of the contemporary mural art in Syria.... Because the mural art in Syria didn't receive the needed attention yet, compared to the Byzantine art which

considered the mural art to be from the essentials of construction. There are almost no Byzantine structure –whether it’s a church or a house- that dose not include a mural or ground painting.

Next, the research presents a group of mural studies conducted by the student for suggested places in Damascus city.

The method followed in this research is the analitical and descriptive method along with comparision. This research includes an introduction and five chapters:

Chapter 1:

This chapter looks into the Byzantine art in general (how the icon appeared, subjects of the Byzantine drawings, symbols and colors in Byzantine art) then it compares the Byzantine arts and the other classical arts and mentions the the objective of the Byzantine art, after that it concentrates on the Byzantine murals in Syria (in the 4th and the 5th century) since Syria is the cradle of the Byzantine art, it has a large number of churches that are descended from the Byzantine era, it also features samples of the many mosaics found in those Byzantine chrchs which are dispersed between the Syrian museumes, next it talks about the techniques used in that era and explains it, like the techniques of mosaic, the frisk, and the icons.

Chapter 2:

This chapter is about the contemporary murals in different regions from around the world and how it was the beginning of the murals (samples of random paintings) which expressed the ideas of groups of youth like wall paintings which descend from an African origin, and how the folk art (pop art) appeared, then how murals became a universal language and an art that enters viewers lives everywhere (in the tunnels and on buildings and bridges) and how some murals used illusion to avoid the solidness of the cement buildings and to drew a smile on

viewers' faces, and the research explores several samples of this fine art.

Chapter 3:

This chapter is a study of colors, colors' values, and colors' properties. Then it moves to the colors and sensory implications and their effect on humans and their behavior, and how colors have had symbols and implications through the ages that differs according to the cultures. And how colors affect the viewer and how it relates with experiences and former memories which vary its effect from a person to another. Also, how certain colors have the ability to motivate and produce like the color blue, so colors have a high role in creating a productive person that has a positive outlook to life..

Then the research explores the color effect and the psychological dimension of the Byzantine murals, and how the Byzantine artist used colors in its symbolic concepts, and studied the location of his murals so that they will have the biggest effect on viewers, and he used the color of gold excessively to show the greatness of the Byzantine state.

Then it talks about the color effect and the psychological dimension of contemporary murals, and how mural art has entered everywhere, and colors helped beautify lots of sites and boring cement spaces.

Chapter 4:

This chapter is about the techniques used in executing contemporary murals like the mosaic technique which has long developed from its usage at the Byzantine era, so mosaic has many different forms that are easy to construct and execute.

Chapter 5:

This chapter explores the contemporary mural art in Syria and features some samples which decorated some special buildings, and its subjects were historical in general, it tells stories about heroisms and contemporary achievements, then the section explains the color's effect and the psychological dimension of those samples, then it sites the reasons of the tardiness of contemporary murals in Syria... and how this art couldn't engage in the general culture of the viewers, that's why it only exists in special places and art lovers and possessors.

Several art studies are presented (as a suggested experiment) of different sizes of murals that suites different places of the city streets to add a beautiful artistic impression to some regions of the city, it also includes the materials that can be used in executing the suggested murals.

Also, it includes the research results like spreading an artistic culture and artistic awareness beginning from schools, and caring about the role of colors in mural art in creating a distinctive Syrian art that gives Damascus city a unique impression.