On Hayao Miyazaki’s Animation Art and Humanistic Emotion

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Abstract. Miyazaki Hayao, a famous animation director and animator in Japan, is also a famous master of animation. He is a thinker in animation discipline and fine arts, and his animation is also a kind of art. Miyazaki Hayao combines animation aesthetics with human art [1]. From the 1980s, Miyazaki Hayao began to make a breakthrough in the form of animated films, thus establishing an unshakable identity of an animated film artist. His exploration of human nature, life and society is presented in a very childlike way. He takes a subtle and secret means to give the connotation to this work, integrating them into beautiful and fantasy worlds. With the way of paintbrush, it brings the audience endless imagination and aesthetic pleasure, and let the audience and readers stimulate their emotion and reflection on the humanities while appreciating the beauty.

Keywords: animation art · Miyazaki Hayao · humanistic emotion · color language

1 Introduction

1.1 Emotional Source and Life

Miyazaki Hayao has an irreplaceable influence in the world’s animation production. In a sense, Miyazaki Hayao’s achievements are largely due to his maintaining himself and his pure fantasy about the animation world. However, as he gets older, his grip strength has decreased by 1.5% compared with the previous time, and his brush has also decreased from hard Hb to soft 5B. However, he still keeps completing the hand drawing by himself, Miyazaki Hayao once said, “for me, it’s not work. Painting on the desktop is work”. Disney once called him “Akira Kurosawa in the animation industry” [5] his works not only have a wide range of themes, not rigidly adhere to simple artistic forms, but also have a very detailed means of expression. At the same time, they give each creation different philosophical connotations. Each creation does not simply stay on the concept construction of the story itself, but also focuses on family affection, love, friendship, money, ideals, life, freedom, etc., These important propositions have penetrated into the animation, raised the aesthetics of animation to the humanistic level, and enabled people to experience his story emotion, thinking about the world problems, anxiety about the social status quo, etc. from the spiritual level, which makes his creation have the thinking depth and philosophical connotation that other animation films do not have.

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1.2 Redefine and Give Hope

Miyazaki Hayao is not only a deep thinking animator, but also a strong willed anti war fighter and peace lover. Miyazaki Hayao’s growth environment has also had an important impact on his animation creation. Miyazaki Hayao’s family used to be an aircraft manufacturer in charge of a military enterprise. Even at that time, Japan was in the late stage of war, with social unrest and a lack of living materials. However, it was precisely because of Miyazaki Hayao’s inherent problems that Miyazaki Hayao did not love activities in his youth, but only his own quiet creation. In this era, most of Miyazaki Hayao’s life was centered around the aircraft factory, but gradually he began to like aviation art and attracted great interest in the production of aircraft. This is why most of Miyazaki Hayao’s paintings include the theme of “aircraft” and the element of “flying”, such as the mobile Castle of Hal, the city of the sky, Chihiro and so on. There are more or less flying elements in it.

In his most iconic painting, the Wind Rises, the main object is the fighter. During the war, the fighter is not only the means of transportation, but also the key weapon of the battle. In Miyazaki Hayao’s idea, the fighter is the ideal tool, not the tool of killing, so most of the fighters appear in his paintings with leisurely and quiet flying scenes, but in real life. The chaos of war is the factor that promotes the vigorous development of fighter planes, from which we can see that Miyazaki Hayao’s love of fighter planes is contradictory. In the painting “the Wind rises,” fighter planes are only about the source of fantasy, and what fighter planes give is only to explore the direction of freedom, which has nothing to do with the cruelty of war [4] (Fig. 1).

![Fig. 1. The Wind Rises](image-url)
Similarly, in Hal’s mobile castle, the castle contains the element of “aircraft”, and the flying castle is the home of the hero and heroine. From this, it can be seen that the element of “aircraft” has a warm color in Miyazaki’s heart. In the film, the heroine “Sophie” carefully drives the aircraft to the direction of home. In the play, the gunfire rumbles in the night sky, and an aircraft boat is burned to pieces, turning into a sea of fire in the air [5]. Hall turned into a big gray bird and spread his wings in a lonely and angry manner in the night sky flooded with gunpowder smoke, which made a deep impression. The lines of the anti war hero Hal were also very beautiful: Although the ability of magic could ensure that the city where the king lived would not be destroyed, it also led to the bombs being thrown into the surrounding towns. The scene of Hal blowing up the aircraft also represented Miyazaki Hayao’s hatred of war, And the longing for peace (Fig. 2).

1.3 Oppose War and Yearn for Peace

Animation itself is also an art, it can show the humanism and feelings of the world at that time, animation can also be realized, just as some media have evaluated: the charm of film and television lies in touching, and the charm of cartoons lies in sincerity. MiyazakiHayao believes that animation is a community with the responsibility of the times and historical mission. It is precisely because in the reality of that era and the Japanese people at that time were in dire straits, Miyazaki Hayao wanted to convey the strongest humanistic care and the most authentic thoughts and feelings to the audience through his own creation.
in order to show their own unique aesthetic value. The introspection on the nature of war in MiyazakiHayao’s works first comes from the profound sense of history. In the course of studying and exploring the times, he criticizes people’s own character and desire, and points out that struggle also has a more profound origin attribute, calling on us to love peace and refuse war. Just like what was said in “the Wind is up”: when the wind blows, we must live well. But after the wind stops, people who live down have to do something for the next heavy rain [2].

2 Harmonious Symbiosis Between Man and Nature

2.1 Reverence for Nature and Self-reflection

The relationship between man and nature has always been the theme of Miyazaki. Basically, every story of Miyazaki Hayao starts with the magnificent nature. Each story will show the customs and characteristics of different fields through the depiction of the environment. Both the use of color and the composition of the environment are very exquisite, with the view of nature expressed in Miyazaki Hayao’s films. Not only in his own works, but also in reality, he often practiced it and led us to clean the streets nearby. He often works with local people to maintain the forest near his home. He said: “if the trees in this place become thinner and thinner, the forest will disappear! We should strive to maintain it so that the next generation can enjoy the benefits of nature.”. Miyazaki Hayao’s animation creation has gone through a long process from being valuable in life to being equal in life, pursuing the development of symbiosis between man and nature. Each work shows the awe and protection of nature. Influenced by Japanese traditional literature, Miyazaki Hayao’s works have a unique romantic atmosphere, either pursuing innocence or pursuing self, but behind them are often hidden the sense of social oppression, life crisis and other sense of hardship and heaviness. The use of harmonious and bright colors makes the viewer forget the unhappiness of life, relax and calm in his dreamy transition, from the fast-paced reality to the virtual world of slow life.

2.2 Return to Nature and Live in Harmony with Nature

One of the works with the most characteristics of scientific view of nature is Miyazaki-Hayao’s first film and television novel, the Valley of the Wind, which is also his famous work. The emergence of this work left a deep impression on people who saw it at that time. Because it is an independent and complete world outlook, in this work, the theme is about the contradiction between man and nature, is a story about redemption and communication, in the film. As the representative of nature, the king worm and rotten sea seem to be deadly and dangerous, but people find that they happen to be the last pure land of this dilapidated world. On the contrary, human beings are the destroyers of the world, which does not make us reflect on whether we should re-examine the relationship between man and nature. Natural resources are the gifts of nature to human beings. In the Valley of the Wind, the contradiction between man and the insect king reflects the contradiction between man and nature in reality. In the film, MiyazakiHayao constantly warns people that they are not proud of the credit, let alone ignore the existence of other
creatures in order to stand on the top of the biological chain, because people must learn to rein in their words and deeds. And people are neither masters nor slaves of nature, and our way to get along with nature should be to know how to respect and endure [3] (Fig. 3).

Similarly, in another work, the ghost princess, the topic of human society has once again become the theme. In this novel, Miyazaki Hayao pursues a balance like social balance, whether it is about the confrontation between the unicorn beast who controls human life and death and the man who holds a long gun, bow and arrow, gunpowder, or about the contradictory relationship between the hero and the ghost princess, although a sense of balance is maintained in every contradictory event, However, in the end, people wanted to destroy the peace. People shot down the “head” of the unicorn beast with guns, thus killing the whole earth. At the end, humans returned the “head” to the unicorn beast, calming the anger of the unicorn beast. It means that nature has forgiven mankind and everything is back to its original shape (Fig. 4).

The unicorn in Princess Ghost is the representative of the laws of nature, while other gods have become the visualization of nature. In this film, they all vividly express the basic characteristics of nature-absolute political neutrality. And the terrorist counterattack after being destroyed by nature. In MiyazakiHayao’s works, flowers, trees and even animals in the forest are more lively, energetic and full of soul. He made use of the common forests, seas and grasslands around him to show us one classic and touching story after another, reflecting the depression of life through mapping. The beauty and
strength of nature constantly alerted people to take care of the environment and constantly hinted to people that we must learn to fear nature and that our way of life and nature are interdependent.

3 Love and Growth

Love, children, puberty, friendship, maturity, dreams, bravery, innocence and so on are always the tone of MiyazakiHayao’s animation works. There are more or less stories about adults in his works, but they are also different for adults. “City of the Sky” tells us to work hard for our dreams, and “goldfish on the cliff” also tells people to have the courage to break the shackles and do what they like best. We can also see that in each work, MiyazakiHayao wants to convey completely different values and outlook on life. People are not completely aimless in life, because there are many truths in life that need to be understood by human beings, and human beings gradually grow up in the process of mastering and understanding those truths. He also believes that the process of human learning maturity is mainly the process of learning and making rational use of all kinds of interpersonal relationships (Fig. 5).

His most iconic work is MiyazakiHayao’s “Thousand and thousand fathom”. Ogino chihiro was just a very thin ten-year-old girl at the beginning of the film. In fact, she did not have a strong and brave child from the very beginning. She is lazy, tired of learning, cowardly and has no interest in anything. After her father became a pig, thousand fathom began her own redemption experience. [6] thousand fathom began to face himself again and began to realize the value and meaning of life. She learned to grow up, learn to be
strong, learn to work hard in the oil house, and learned how to communicate with others, completed the road of redemption with her own courage and faith, and finally saved her parents and returned to her parents. In this work, what Miyazaki Hayao wants to express is the definition of growth, growth is strong, growth can not be achieved without hard work, growth is a process of finding and realizing self-value.

4 Conclusion

In fact, Miyazaki Hayao is indispensable to Disney’s achievements today, but Disney animation is more like a product, and Miyazaki Hayao’s animation is a kind of art. Miyazaki Hayao carried out “poetic expression” and “philosophical meditation” in his animation works, and interpreted its meaning by exploring the living conditions of modern people. He let people in the noisy and impetuous world find a habitat for their souls [3]. Miyazaki Hayao’s works are just like a mirror, reflecting that they are a display of the nature of all things. We are in a fast-paced modern life facing the mirror. When we face the nature, we should look back at ourselves, find ourselves, and find out what we really “want”. At the same time, Miyazaki Hayao also uses the artistic method to open a window to the future for people, The use of animation brings us a visual feast from the “future”. From this perspective, Miyazaki Hayao is not only an excellent comic art
creator, but also a pioneer of new human thought. With his tenacious personality and uncompromising efforts, he has provided a model for future generations of animators.

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