

Research of Animals' Subconscious Art Creation

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Abstract: Animal is the theme that humans are mostly familiar with, the art talents of animals have not be emphasized by humans all the time. Through the observation and interviews in the past few years, the author studies and demonstrates the art gifts of animals on dancing, colors, lines, compositions, architecture, fresco and other aspects. Animals create numerous art forms at the unconscious and automatic status, providing the models worth referencing for dancing, painting, architecture, aerospace, etc. These creations by animals undoubtedly add endless vitality for the human life, lay the solid foundation for the development of material civilization and inject the fresh blood for spiritual civilization. Meanwhile, it puts forward a new agenda for the art circle and scientific circle, could art only be the peculiar activity of humans?

Introduction

Art is a kind of special social awareness form produced in the production labor, as well as inborn creative thinking activity of humans. Since the beginning of old stone age, people have been the leading role of transforming the world. And among animals, there are also numerous gifted artists, they use their separate behaviors and even their life to describe one after another vivid and moving stories, creating the unique and tasteful art works unconsciously.

Animals Are Highly Talented in Dancing

Many animals are extremely talented in dancing, for example, birds can convey their thoughts via dancing handily, especially in mating season during which the birds dance wonderfully. Male birds often present their charm with graceful dancing postures, they pace lightly and unfold their beautiful wings, even accompanied with melodious tunes sometimes. Red-crowned cranes are the dancers among birds for their graceful posture and vigorous body, they sometimes dance alone or with a partner or in a group. Dancing has already become an inseparable part of their lives. In the beginning of summer, we can always discover coupled red-crowned cranes dancing in wetland during mornings or nightfalls. This is how male cranes express the signal of love to female cranes. When males gently extend their wings and dancing in circles, females will walk on tiny steps and brandish their feathered wings, posing a soft and delicate posture. They sometimes move forward and backward politely, sometimes as if they were walking upon air, and sometimes they extend their necks and shriek, as if they were asserting their unswerving loyalty and persistence for love.

Dogs dance in various ways when fighting for food or playing around. They are born to dance because they have this instinct of dancing. Take out a food and hold it above the dog and swing it, the dog will stand out and swing along. In cases of being enthusiastic when meeting the owner, tempted by food, or when they are wooing a female dog, they will dance frantically. Based on the Tao-Yin exercises, the great doctor Hua Tuo back in the late Eastern Han Dynasty created a body-building exercise called "Five-Animal Exercises" through observing and imitating the postures of tigers, deer, apes, bears and cranes. In our world, animals like squirrels, cobras,

elephants and penguins are all highly talented in dancing.

Animals Are Inborn Color Masters

Animals are not only genius dancers, but also inborn color masters. Instead of spoken languages, they use a complicated color language to express their mood and health conditions. ^[1]Even though most mammals only have two types of visual cells such as mice, rabbits, cats and dogs, which render them unable to perceive more colors, some animals have better visibility in nighttime or dimly-lit places, such as foxes, owls and raccoons. Birds are born with four-color vision, for example, cyanistes caeruleus perceives more colors than humans do, and mantis shrimp can not only perceive colors which humans see, but also UV light and infrared light. It is thusly seen that animals have stronger color observation ability.

Color also matters when choosing mates, sounding warnings and disguising. In the recent 20 years, scientists have discovered that colors are used as a unique signal of identification in the sea world. ^[2]Jellyfish is actually one of the animals that can emit different gorgeous colors, and the color variety is astonishing. Mastigias papua, for example, has various body colors such as white, deep blue, yellow and purple etc. While bathycyroe fosteri emits blue and green cold light, which is extremely beautiful. Some divers have discovered several marine animals of gorgeous colors in the sea area of Norfolk, UK. There are lionfish, alligator pipefish, aeoliscus strigatus, sea hares, sea anemones and hermit crabs etc., among which lionfish is an animal which disguises itself by changing colors to escape from predators, sort of like chameleons in Africa. The skin colors of chameleons also change along with the environment, temperature and the change of mood.

Animals Create Various Kinds of Stunning Lines

Lines here refer to those lines for the contour-sketching when painting, there are curve lines, straight lines, broken lines, bold lines and fine lines etc. In 1926, Kandinsky discussed the origin of “line” and its inherent value in his book Point and Line to Plane – The Foundation of Abstract Art. As one of the artistic elements, lines are the abstraction and depiction used by artists for objective contours. Lines also exist in people’s vision. If we pay a little attention on animals around us we will discover their beautiful lines. The curve lines of snakes and earthworms are vigorous when they squirm. Even though pine wood nematodes are the nemesis of nursery plants, pine trees and pine needles, those pine trees and pine needles sabotaged by nematodes are all pieces of art works.

Worm-eaten leaves have a number of differently-sized and shaped holes, which are all vivid open works. The mottled shapes on worm-eaten leaves are like a fabulous silk screen prints. These artists in the great nature are better than human and worth of our respect. Crawling traces of some animals are very beautiful as well, for example, the traces left by slugs after they crawl over a gray ground are more like a piece of art work created by an oil-painting master with smooth lines on a gray plate, or an astonishing work created by an avant-garde artist. It is seen that animals are highly talented in art, except that the fact has not attract much attention from people.

Animals Can Compose Ingenious Pictures

Picture composition refers to a complete and harmonious picture which is artistically composed according to certain topic and main idea. Picture composition mainly exists in painting, graphic design and photography, which is a deliberate re-creation of human thinking. While in daily life of animals there are ingenious picture composition as well, however, picture composition of animals is unintentional and involuntary. For example, it is an absolutely fabulous picture when a little hamster

hangs itself upside down on a string.

The intimate and harmonious social life of wolves cuddling on snowfield composes a beautiful picture. The National Museum of Art in London has been holding contests of wildlife photography since 1964, which attract a lot of wildlife photographers every year. They are good at seizing beautiful pictures of animals around them by taking photos of squirrels, birds and insects. The nine-year-old Spanish photographer, Carlos Perez Naval is highly talented in picture composition and he is especially good at seizing various kinds of creative animal pictures in the great nature. Wildlife is the prettiest spirit of nature who use graceful postures to closely integrate itself with natural environment, offering admirable ideas for photographers and artists. British ecological photographer Ben Hall is good at taking dreamlike animal photos by integrating wildlife with natural elements such as light and fog.

Animals Are Excellent Architects

Animals build nests, knit meshes and dig holes to live. Bees build sophisticated beehives to live and reproduce. These elaborately structured, practical and solid honeycombs are made of multiple hexagonal bee-holes, and every two bee-holes are separated by a wax wall. The end of a bee-hole is made of three identical rhombuses, whose included angles are so precise that every obtuse angle is 109° and every acute angle is 70° . Even more amazingly, bees around the world are all building their beehives with this standard and mode. These beehives are light in weight, heat-proof and sound-proof, which offer great reference for the development of aerospace technology. In addition, mail tailor birds build nests for their spouses with leaves, spiders knit fascinating meshes, beavers build their own dams in rivers and sparrows build nests under eaves with spring mud. Animals build their nests mainly for life, reproduce, defense and attracting partners. They are indeed craftsmen in nature for creating so many natural wonders.

Animal Fossil Is Just Like a Perpetual Wall Painting

After the death, animals are buried by sediment water rapidly. With the addition of minerals, the organism is expelled and the animal impression is left on the sedimentary rock. As a result, animal fossils are formed. Through animal fossils, scientists can not only know the animal's way of life, but also provide them with the basis to determine the species category and the living environment. In the shrimp dung fossil, scientists have discovered residues of the small shell animals, which suggests that it was the predator in the Cambrian Marine and the ruler of the sea world at that time. In 1994, Chinese scientists found a complete shrimp fossil in Maotian Mount of Yuxi City in Yunnan Province. The study shows that there existed relatively complete food chain in the sea then. The shrimp body was able to bend freely and easy to walk and prey in the bottom of the sea. This way of life and living environment are remained in the form of fossil. The lithe body and stretching limbs of the shrimp had been deeply imprinted on the rocks, just like an eternal mural, leading a person to boundless aftertastes. In 2009, through the USA National Geographic Internet, the author learned that Germany Frankfurt Ken's Institute conducted annual new investigations for Maisel Fossil Site. They found a lot of fossils of original rodents, mammals, reptiles, and insects. These fossils had tens of millions of years of history. In Maisel Fossil Site, there were many animals of 47 million years ago, such as lizards, graceful weasels, ancient leaf-cutting bees, weaver ants, etc. All these animal fossils preserved exquisite dynamics, dense lines, clear surfaces, and even special texture, not second to a mural with exquisite techniques and profound thoughts.

In summary, art creation by animals is not simply to cope with life, but to live more beautifully.

When they are defending natural enemies, confronting natural disasters, hunting, or pursuing the opposite sex and feeling excited under the excitement, their art talents are stimulated so as to create shocking art works.

Reference:

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