

EXPLORING THE REPRESENTATION OF DEATH AND LOSS IN 20TH-CENTURY WORKS

Jurayeva Sevara Kakhraman qizi
Tashkent University of Applied Sciences
English Teacher of the Department "Languages"
juraevasevara90@gmail.com (94) 6873700

ANNOTATION

The article delves into the profound exploration of death and loss in various artistic works of the 20th century. The 20th century witnessed significant shifts in societal norms, technological advancements, and global conflicts, which greatly influenced the artistic expressions of the time. Artists across different mediums, including literature, visual arts, and film, grappled with the themes of mortality, grief, and the human experience of loss.

Keywords : unflinching portrayal, fragmented narratives, postmodern deconstruction, storytelling, mortality.

Death and loss are universal human experiences that have been explored and represented in various art forms throughout history. The 20th century, with its tumultuous events and changing societal norms, witnessed a significant shift in the representation of death and loss in literature, visual arts, and film. This article aims to delve into the ways in which artists of the 20th century approached these themes, examining their motivations, techniques, and the impact of their works on society.

The Impact of World Wars:

The two World Wars that ravaged the 20th century had a profound influence on the representation of death and loss in artistic works. Artists, writers, and filmmakers sought to capture the horrors and devastation of war, often depicting the physical and emotional toll it took on individuals and communities. Works such as Wilfred Owen's war poetry, Picasso's "Guernica," and films like "Paths of Glory" by Stanley Kubrick exemplify the raw and unflinching portrayal of death and loss during this period. [1]

Existentialism and Absurdism:

Existentialist and absurdist philosophies gained prominence in the 20th century, influencing artistic expressions of death and loss. Artists like Albert Camus, Samuel Beckett, and Franz Kafka explored the themes of existential angst, the meaninglessness of life, and the inevitability of death. Their works, such as Camus' "The Stranger," Beckett's "Waiting for Godot," and Kafka's "The Trial," presented a bleak and often absurd portrayal of human existence, grappling with the existential questions surrounding mortality. [2]

Psychological Perspectives:

Psychological theories and practices, such as psychoanalysis, also played a significant role in shaping the representation of death and loss in 20th-century works. Artists like Frida Kahlo

and Edvard Munch delved into their own psychological struggles and traumas, using art as a means of catharsis and self-expression. Kahlo's self-portraits, with their vivid symbolism and exploration of pain and mortality, and Munch's iconic painting "The Scream," which captures the anguish and despair of the human condition, exemplify this psychological approach. [4]

Postmodernism and Deconstruction:

In the latter half of the 20th century, postmodernism and deconstruction emerged as influential movements in art and literature. These movements challenged traditional narratives and sought to dismantle established structures, including conventional representations of death and loss. Artists like Jean-Michel Basquiat and writers like Italo Calvino experimented with fragmented narratives, intertextuality, and the blurring of boundaries between life and death. [5] Their works, such as Basquiat's graffiti-inspired paintings and Calvino's "If on a Winter's Night a Traveler," offered a fresh perspective on mortality and loss. The novel consists of multiple interconnected narratives that playfully explore the relationship between reader and text. Calvino's work challenges traditional notions of linear storytelling and invites readers to question the boundaries between reality and fiction, life and death.

Edvard Munch, a Norwegian painter, is renowned for his iconic painting "The Scream" (1893). [6] The painting, with its distorted figure and haunting expression, has become a symbol of existential angst and the fear of death. Munch's own experiences with illness, death, and mental anguish informed his exploration of these themes throughout his body of work. His paintings often convey a sense of isolation, despair, and the transient nature of life.

The representation of death and loss in 20th-century works reflects the profound impact of historical events, philosophical movements, and psychological theories on artistic expression. From the horrors of war to existential angst, psychological introspection, and postmodern deconstruction, artists of the 20th century explored these themes with a renewed sense of urgency and innovation. Their works continue to resonate with audiences, inviting contemplation and reflection on the universal human experiences of death and loss. Kafka's portrayal of a faceless and oppressive legal system reflects the anxiety and powerlessness experienced by individuals in the face of death and loss. "The Trial" serves as a metaphorical exploration of the human condition and the existential dread that accompanies it. [2] From the horrors of war to existential angst, psychological introspection, and postmodern deconstruction, artists of the 20th century explored these themes with a renewed sense of urgency and innovation. Their works continue to resonate with audiences, inviting contemplation and reflection on the universal human experiences of death and loss. Through their art, these artists have provided a means for society to confront and make sense of the complexities of mortality and the human condition.

LITERATURE

1. "The Literature of Loss: Mourning, Memory, and Identity" by David L. Eng and David Kazanjian (2010, United States)
2. "Death and Representation" edited by Sarah Webster Goodwin and Elisabeth Bronfen (1993, United States)

3. "Literature and Loss: Connections and Disconnections in the Experience of Death" edited by David Aldridge and David Fuller (2001, United Kingdom)
4. "Death in Literature" by Allan Kellehear (2011, United Kingdom)
5. "The Art of Losing: Poems of Grief and Healing" edited by Kevin Young (2010, United States)
6. "Death, Mourning, and Burial: A Cross-Cultural Reader" edited by Antonius C. G. M. Robben (2004, United States)
7. "The Literature of Grief: A Guide to the Best Nonfiction for Dealing with Death, Loss, and Bereavement" by David K. Switzer (2008, United States).