

THE FORMATION AND DEVELOPMENT STAGES OF THE LANDSCAPE GENRE IN UZBEK VISUAL ART

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This article explores the role, formation, and stylistic directions of the landscape genre in visual art, with a particular focus on its place in Uzbek painting. The richness of the genre's stylistic features is analyzed through marine landscape imagery. Special attention is given to the works of Ural Tansikbaev, Nikolai Karakhan, and Pavel Benkov, examining their contributions to the development of Uzbek art. Additionally, the article discusses the contemporary evolution of the genre, the influence of modern technologies, and its aesthetic and educational significance. The article serves as both a theoretical and practical resource for young artists.

Introduction

The world is filled with infinite mysteries and wonders. Understanding them would require an endless human lifespan. Our ancestors endeavored to explore the hidden essence and causes behind all the blessings created by nature. They arrived at the conclusion that nothing in the universe comes into existence without a reason. For instance, although the word “color” consists of just five letters, a single lifetime is not enough to fully grasp its meaning and mysterious nature.

By nature, every human being is an artist. People inherently strive to bring beauty into their lives in one form or another. In enhancing the emotional and spiritual impact of a work of art, the role of natural landscapes is immense. The colors found in nature are among the key means through which we perceive and interpret the world. They do not merely reflect the physical attributes of objects, but often represent ideas and deeper meanings. Observing the world around us, we are struck by the incredible diversity of colors. One might wonder: “How much meaning is hidden in these colors?” This very mystery has fascinated our ancestors for centuries, inspiring them to study nature and its secrets.

Our Mother Nature is truly unique and beautiful. In depicting it, an artist must carefully observe every element of the environment trees, bodies of water, mountains, and other natural features with great attention and sensitivity. To make a landscape painting both

meaningful and aesthetically rich, compositional elements must be arranged with precision and balance.

An artist typically begins the work by sketching a preliminary drawing with a simple pencil on white paper. At this stage, the basic forms and composition of the image are determined. Based on the sketch, the full landscape is developed. Throughout this process, the artist's observation skills, imagination, and aesthetic sensibility play a crucial role..

In visual art, the landscape genre refers to the depiction of natural, urban, industrial, and interior scenes. Landscape artworks can generally be divided into two main approaches: some represent a realistic view of nature, while others are created based on the artist's imagination. In certain cases, these two approaches can be harmoniously combined within a single work.

The origins of the landscape genre trace back to ancient times, with early examples found in wall paintings from Eastern civilizations and the island of Crete. Over time, this genre evolved and eventually emerged as an independent form of artistic expression.

Landscape works are typically categorized into two main types. The first is the independent landscape, which depicts nature or cityscapes as the central subject. The second is the background landscape, used as a compositional backdrop in other artworks, such as a portrait that includes natural or architectural elements behind the main figure.

Among the prominent artists known for their work in the landscape genre are Isaac Levitan, Ivan Shishkin, Ural Tansikbaev, Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky, and Nikolay Karakhan. Their paintings are distinguished not only by visual beauty but also by their profound emotional and psychological depth.

A major sub-genre within landscape painting is marine art, or the marina. This genre focuses on seascapes, waves, ships, and maritime phenomena. Marine paintings convey the beauty, power, and dynamic nature of the sea. Russian painter Ivan Konstantinovich Aivazovsky played a pivotal role in the development of this genre. He dedicated his entire life to depicting the sea, producing world-renowned masterpieces such as *The Ninth Wave*, *The Battle of Chesme*, *The Black Sea*, and *Among the Waves*, which are considered treasures of world art.

The marine genre is often created in harmony with other genres. For example, in artworks depicting historical events, a seascape may be used as a background, or a marine view may be depicted behind a portrait.

Overall, the landscape genre is most commonly employed in painting, particularly in color-based landscape (plein air) art. However, it also appears in graphic arts and, occasionally, in sculpture. In sculpture, landscapes typically manifest in relief forms, serving as backgrounds or decorative, supporting elements.

In Uzbek landscape art, Ural Tansikbaev holds a special place. His painting “Angren – The Kokand Mountain Road” is well-known to many. Through each of his works,

Tansikbaev aimed to express the spirit of Uzbek nature and people. Over time, his paintings have gained increasing recognition and have become classic examples of art.

The formation and development of landscape art in Uzbekistan owes an immense debt to artists working in this field. In particular, Tansikbaev's landscapes continue to serve as an inspiration and a model for the younger generation today.

Nikolay Grigoryevich Karakhan is known for his decorative style, with a distinctive oriental flair and vivid, bright landscapes. His works depict nature not only visually but also convey a particular emotional state. Artists like Ural Tansikbaev and Nikolay Karakhan praised the beauty of life and the uniqueness of nature in their creations.

Furthermore, the contributions of Pavel Petrovich Benkov, a distinguished Uzbek artist, skilled educator, and honored cultural figure, are also noteworthy. Benkov depicted the nature of Uzbekistan, as well as the hardworking life and lifestyle of its people, with great affection. He expressed the vibrant and fertile landscapes of our homeland with profound love. His painting "The Courtyard" is a vivid example of this.

National Spirit and Distinctiveness in Landscape Art. Uzbek painters in the landscape genre strive to preserve national identity while expressing it through the language of contemporary art. Artists aim to portray not only the geographical space but also the unique national spirit, historical layers, and cultural environment associated with a place.

For instance, landscapes of Bukhara or Khiva often feature the calm rhythm of life against the backdrop of historical monuments, domes, and minarets. In contrast, the landscapes of the Fergana Valley emphasize nature's abundance, with gardens and fruit trees symbolizing vitality and diligence.

In the regions of Karakalpakstan, expansive steppes, scenes along the Amu Darya River, and sun-heated soil landscapes are depicted in expressive and distinctive colors. Each region reflects its natural environment within the context of Uzbek art, creating landscapes that embody national consciousness.

Educational and Aesthetic Significance of Landscape Art. The landscape genre is not only a form of artistic expression but also an educational tool. Through studying nature, individuals learn to appreciate and love it. Artists, while drawing nature, experience it more deeply, and viewers develop feelings of respect, affection, and care toward the natural world through these depictions.

Moreover, landscape artworks play an important role in aesthetic education. By seeing, valuing, and understanding beauty, a person enriches their soul. Particularly for school and college students, teaching through landscape art and encouraging them to draw helps foster a love of art while instilling the idea of nature conservation.

Landscape art of Uzbekistan has gained recognition on the international stage. Many works by our artists have been exhibited abroad, attracting the attention of art enthusiasts and critics alike. This reflects the emergence of our national art onto the global scene.

Moreover, through international plein airs (artists' gatherings), symposiums, and cultural exchange programs, Uzbek artists share experiences with their counterparts from other countries. This process enriches the landscape genre, bringing in new ideas and perspectives.

Landscape art is not merely about depicting nature but about feeling it and expressing it from the heart. Through this genre, artists reveal the connections between nature and humanity, history and time, spirit and representation. The landscape genre has always held a significant place in Uzbek art, and there is confidence that it will continue to do so in the future.

The landscape genre is not simply a depiction of natural scenery; it is a vivid expression of the human soul, spirit, national consciousness, and aesthetic thinking. Through this genre, an artist conveys not only external views but also their inner experiences, observational skills, and their relationship with nature and society.

The landscape genre in Uzbek visual art has deep historical roots, having developed under the influence of ancient Eastern miniature painting, traditional folk decorative arts, and later, the Russian realist school. Artists such as Ural Tansikbaev, N.G. Karakhan, Pavel Petrovich Benkov, and others elevated this genre not only to an aesthetic level but also to one of profound spiritual richness.

Contemporary Uzbek artists are exploring new directions within the landscape genre, experimenting not only with realism but also with impressionism, expressionism, and abstract approaches. This broadening of styles enhances the international significance of our art and harmonizes it with modern visual culture.

The educational, developmental, and aesthetic importance of landscape artworks is immense. Through this genre, the younger generation can cultivate not only a love for art but also appreciation for nature, observation skills, imagination, and expressive abilities. Landscape drawing exercises in art education institutions enrich students' technical skills as well as their emotional world.

It is particularly important to emphasize that the landscape genre plays a vital role in preserving cultural heritage, maintaining the historical memory of the people, and fostering national pride. Each landscape artwork is a unique artistic reflection of a particular era, region, and sentiment.

Looking ahead, there is confidence that this genre will continue to develop, enriched by fresh spirit, modern approaches, and technological possibilities in the work of young artists. After all, landscape is an art mirror that unites time, spirit, and beauty.

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