

VISUAL ARTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Bobrik V. A.

Scientific supervisor – Martyanova E. N.

Siberian Federal University

The Netherlands... Visual arts of this country are amazing. Ordinary people and ordinary landscapes are filled with precise details. This is the main characteristic of visual arts in the Netherlands.

This article shows some of the most famous and outstanding painters, facts of their lives and genius works.

The greatest contribution to painting of the Netherlands was made by the brothers Van Eyck: Hubert and Jan. They raised an oil technique to a new level. All their works have been staying clean and shiny for years. But van Eyck brothers were not the only painters in XV-XVII centuries in the Netherlands. Jan Steen, Johann Vermeer, Peter de Hoch, Hieronymus Bosch, Peter Breughel, France Hals and hundreds of masters painted beautiful, simple and detailed pictures.

In XVII century only people were in the landscape paintings. After XVII century people were painted, but the focus was switched to the nature. That was Jan van Goye's feature. Jan van Racedal was an opposite side of van Goye. His paintings were precise, partial, with strict adherence to details.

One of the most resilient painters to be noticed – Jan Steen. He preferred certain themes: learning, public having fun, hospitals. But mainly he portrayed loud episodes in his paintings. Also he used folk sayings and Bible stories.

The greatest painter of that time was Harmenz van Rijn Rembrandt. He was born in 1606 in the family of a miller and was the sixth child. His parents wanted him to become a bureaucrat or a scientist, but he left the University and got to the studio of a painter Jacob van Svanenburg, who taught him the basics of Rembrandt's drawing and paintings, introduced the history of art. After wandering around various teachers, he opened an art studio together with his friend Jan Leavens.

When Rembrandt moved to Amsterdam, he painted a picture "Anatomy Lesson of Dr. Tulpe". That picture made him one of the most fashionable young portrait painters in Amsterdam. In his paintings, he presented himself as a funny gentleman with a glass of wine, which embraces half turning his wife Saskia, sitting on his lap with his back to the viewer. The plot was full of vitality, energy, and it was permeated with love for his wife. During the same period of time, some famous paintings, devoted to the Biblical themes were made. That was the time when Rembrandt perfected his technique of painting and graphics, giving expressiveness and depth to his creations. While he was studying traditional methods of writing and the approach to a disclosure order, he was increasingly departing from those traditions in his work. Instead of smoothing, he painted with help of glazing smears. Which were applied in thin layers of transparent and translucent colors over a dense layer of paint and created a unified pictorial surface of the canvas. He paints pictures sharply, using pasty strokes and gradually abandoning every detail.

Some time later his three children died in a few months after the birth of the last son, Titus. His beloved wife Saskia died, soon he lost his mother and sisters. Rembrandt was almost completely deprived of orders and became a bankrupt. The court sold all his property three times cheaper than the real cost. Despite that, he continued to paint portraits.

In February 1668 his son, Titus married Magdalena van Loo, but thereafter he died shortly. It was a crushing blow to Rembrandt, and October 8th, 1669 he died in the hands of his daughter Cornelia.

Rembrandt's creative legacy was immense. It affected the work of his students. He assigned a human being as a central focus of his work, his inner world, his experience, his spiritual wealth disclosure.

Another outstanding painter – Vincent Willem van Gogh, who painted much later, after the peak of painting in Holland. In spite of that it did not prevent him from becoming one of the most famous painters. He was a son of a pastor. He served as a commissioner of Art in a trading firm in the Hague, Brussels, London and Paris, then - as a teacher in England. He began studying theology in 1878-79. He was a preacher in Borinage (Belgium), where he learned hard life of miners. Van Gogh painted with passion the disadvantaged – miners of Borinage, and later – peasants, artisans, fishermen, whose lives he could learn in Holland.

At the age of 30 van Gogh began to paint and create extensive series of paintings and sketches, executed in dark, somber tones and permeated with ardent sympathy for ordinary people. Living in Paris, van Gogh attended a private studio, where he studied the plain air painting of the Impressionists and Japanese prints. During that period, dark palette gradually gave a way to glittering clear blue, golden yellow and red tones.

Van Gogh's moving to Arles in 1888, opened a period of his maturity as a master. There he became a determined, peculiar painting style artist. He expressed his attitude to the world and emotional state of others, using contrasting color combinations and free pasty smear.

In the last years of his life, Van Gogh's hard work was complicated by bouts of mental illness, which led the artist to the tragic conflict with Gauguin. When he arrived in Arles, Van Gogh went to hospital, and then he went through Saint-Remy and Auvers-sur-Oise, where in 1890 he committed a suicide.

Van Gogh is the crucial moment in the history of European culture. His works imbue with ardent love for life of a simple working man.

Less known, but not a less great painter of the Netherlands was Hieronymus Bosch. Jerome was born around 1460 in a large family of hereditary artists. Grandfather Bosch, Jan van Aken and his brother were fond of painting. He had two uncles, a father – Anthony van Aken and a brother Goossen. In 1478 they inherited his father's shop. His mother came from a family of a woodcarver. Jerome's childhood was surrounded by artistic medium, the family art and craft traditions.

In 1480 he returned to Hertogenbosch as a master painter. The following years he married Aleid Goyarts van der Merwe. They did not have any children, but Aleid allowed Bosch to dispose the dowry of his discretion.

In 1475-1480 he created such paintings as "Seven Deadly Sins", "Marriage in Cana", "The Magician" and "Removing Stones Stupidity". The paintings pronounce moral character with elements of irony and satire. After, the Spanish King Philip II ordered to hang the "Seven Deadly Sins" in the bedroom of his residence. During the last years of his life he drew exclusively stories about Jesus. In his last work – the picture "Jesus carrying the cross", Jesus was depicted with eyes closed because he was unable to look at raging orgy of evil around him and that was very impressive. He died in 1516 and was buried with military honors in August 9th in Hertogenbosch, his native place. Having examined several outstanding artists of the Netherlands in XVII-XX centuries, we may confidently say that it was the period of painting flowering period there. In paintings of that time domination of solid colors, clear lines and stories related to ordinary people, ordinary landscapes and situations of daily life can be noticed. The paint of the works mentioned above does not fade even in our days, indicating the impeccable mastery of those who executed them.