

The Impact of Light in Oil Paintings of Modern Age^{*}

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Abstract

Color is a natural phenomenon originated from light – this is the scientific fact which interested "Isaac Newton" in 1666 when he discovered that colors are the components of light through the analysis of a light beam passing through a glass prism in a darkened room to reveal how light breaks into several colors. This finding, led scientists to understand the connection between colors and light and vision (of the eye) on one side, and between colors themselves on another, via the color circle which consists of twelve colors. Color is the apparent shape of objects around us. Each color has its own unique expressional value that sets it apart from other colors; and each shape has an impression that distinguishes it from other shapes. Expressional value is recipients or viewers' reaction to the effect caused by shape or color. Color and shape are two symbols for multiple traits, they both (especially colors) define the emotional situation and mental reception of recipients. Throughout the ages, such association was the main factor for stimulating the psychological sense which in turn shapes the physical effect. However, psychological meanings of colors are not absolute because they are not objective, and this variance reveals the value and importance of colors in our life.

Keywords: Color, impact of light, vision, shape, objects, Newton, prism, colors circle, shades, hues.

^{*} For the paper in Arabic see pages (345-359)

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