

Typical characteristics of beast style and its place in kazakh graphic arts

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Значение типовых особенностей изображения стиля животных в казахском изобразительном искусстве

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Abstract: *the article considers illustration of animal style in Kazakh graphic arts, based on realistic and periodical development, its type characteristics, stylistic changes and depiction of nation's symbols.*

Аннотация: *в статье рассматриваются изображения стиля животных в казахском изобразительном искусстве, основанные на реалистичном и поэтапном развитии, а также типовые особенности, стилистические изменения и примерные изображения национальных символов.*

Keywords: *zoomorphic, realistic style, creative illustration, applied arts, subject compositions.*

Ключевые слова: *зооморфия, реалистический стиль, изображение творчества, прикладное искусство, сюжетные композиции.*

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For the last years foreign and kazakh art researchers began to pay much attention to the «Beast Style» of the Skythian and Saks, ancient Eurasian nomads who have left their deep traces in Kazakh culture from the old times. But due to some reasons there haven't been done discussions of their cultural and philosophical value. The reason of choosing this subject is to make some research work according to the state program «Madeni mura» which was adopted in our country.

National art, culture its past and revival need perfect investigation because the tradition and way of life of the nation having a long history is a valuable heritage which demonstrate the nature and spiritual culture of the native people.

Through the art we are possible to learn much about people's dream, their imagination of the world they live in, their creativity in painting and picturing of life and nature. Art is represented to us through eternal music of Korkyt, poet-improvisers' poems and songs, magnificent Kazakh ornaments made in the «Beast Style» of ancients Saks. All these examples of ancient culture we regard as a priceless heritage left for the future generation.

In the territory of Kazakhstan in the past time there lived nomadic tribes known as «Saks». These tribes were engaged in cattle – breeding and their culture is connected with the life of those nomadic people. We come across with many examples of their culture picturing wild animals and birds.

The culture of ancient nomads attracts art – researchers, for in every items of house holding we can see the scenes of beast style depicted so carefully and with great enthusiasm and mastering.

The ancient nomads were much interested in everything around them. They study animals and birds, come in contact with them, learned to train them and used for their creative work. That is why these nomads art was called as «Skythian – Siberia beast style», for they used to live in the vast territory from the North of Black sea to the East of Siberia.

«Beast Style» as an ancient kind of culture needs much investigation. In the VII-III centuries B.C. the union of Saks, Savromats and Skythians gave birth to the Skythian -Siberian «Beast Style». The triad of animals image pictured by ancient Sak painters were (birds – hoofed animals – beast) which demonstrated the idea of peaceful coexistence and construction through those images [1. p. 117].

Thus Saks culture and art began to develop and spread picturing the beauty of the world and nature. We can find realistic depicting of the world around us through the spirit of the Saks art heritage. The painters of that time were very much influenced by the inner world of the animals. Beauty of the nature in their mind develops from dreaming consciousness and wisdom was very appreciated.

«Beast Style» values the integrity of nature and human being. In every depiction we can find scenes of everyday life of the nomadic people, their heroic deeds.

The research works devoted to the ancient Turkic culture is related to the art of word or speech. It's obvious that «mother tongue is the base of art» (A. Baitursynov) [2. p 81]. Eurasian nomads were creators of not only epic poems but also of graphic arts. Before recent times «Beast Style» was the topic of research of Russian orient expeditions and historians. There are many items found in ancient Skyth and Sak settlements. They are known in many parts of the world and they may be truly called «Beast Style» of Skyth and Saks.

The main works devoted to the development of art in Saks period were made by A. Margulan, K. A. Akyshev, A. K. Akyshev, E. D. Tursynov, A. Amanzholov, A. Khassenov and others during the Soviet Union period. The Chinese historian Su Bikhai made his research in his book «History of Kazakh culture». Turkic

scientists Bahaedin Ogel, Emel Esin, Yashar Choruhly, Ahmed Tashagyl also gave information on the «Beast Style» on real examples [3. p. 81].

An important place is given to the Saks applied art as developed culture of tribes of that period. Its main components were formed in VII–VI centuries in Siberia, Kazakhstan, Asia and Europe where nomads settled. According to the places those paintings found were called as Skythian – Siberian «Beast Style». The theme the depicted were wild animals, birds described in epic poems. Methods of beast style was also used in decorating household dishes, swords, bowls, clothes and other every day used items. Masters of old times, their works were highly valued everywhere. Saks masters of art depicted animals and beasts as tigers, boars, deer, camels, steppe eagles, roes, wolves, rabbits, horses. There are many items made of gold, bones, horns, iron, wool and wood.

Exhibits of the VIII-VII centuries depict animals in different positions: in the state of rest, in the state of running, fighting whith each other, ready to jump with horns reaching their back (Tasmola).

Bronze statues found in Zhetysu (Taldykorgan) depict goats realistically. Another examples of bronze melting found in (Burabai), Shilikti (East Kazakhstan) depicting lying deer, small statues of boars, heads of beasts and other decorations.

For the first period of art it was common to depict animals and birds in still position, forex: golden eagle found in Shilikti, another examples found in tuva (Arzhan), in Kazakhstan (Maiamir, Shilikti, Uigarak). Cat family beasts, wolves, boars and roes [4. p. 102].

In the VI–IV centuries in Eurasia continent beast style have changed much stylistically. Animals, beasts were depicted in different positions: lying in rest, fighting scenes, attacking scenes and compositions.

In Central Kazakhstan found statues of tigers eating fallen roes. Such examples were in Peter 1 archives named Siberia collections. Numerous items of animals, beasts, birds in hunting or in the scenes of fighting transfer us to the time of ancient nomadic people, their relation to the animal world.

Exhibits found in Zhetysu, in Esik tombs depict different beasts, animals in gold and other metals made very skilfully.

In the III-II ceturies beast style art began to fall and it changed to ornaments. The items of that period were decorated with coloured stones and different ornaments. At that period Saks art was developed by polychrome ornaments, its method is decorating by colourful stones.

The examples of polychrome art found in Shilikti (East Kazakhstan), Zhulandy (Central Kazakhstan), Arasan (Zhetysu). Polychrome art in 5-4 centuries were found in Central Asia and Siberia and was greatly developed [5. p. 113]. But their realistic image were lost.

The secret of the world of nomads has not only historical significance but philosophical and culture study research. Scientific researchers as A. Akataev, Zh. Altaev, B. Baizhigitov, T. Burbayev, Garifolla Esim, T. Gabitov, A. Kasabek, A. Kasymzhanov, D. Kishibekov, Zh. Moldabekov, B. Nurzhanov, K. Nurlanova, A. Nysanbayev, M. Orynbekov, K. Shulembaev, and others, historians and art researchers K. Akyshev, H. Argynbaev, K. Baipakov, T. Basenov, O. Zhanibekov, S. Kaskabasov, S. Kasimanov, T. Konyratpaev, A. Margulan, M. Omirbekova, Z. Samashev, A. Seidimbek, A. Tazhimuratov and others devoted their scientific work in this field [5. p. 210].

In art compositions we can feel cognition of world, nature. Researchers of «Beast Style» try to understand the relation between people and nature, their interaction, historical periods and information about people creating and enjoying the art they made. All these gave rise to collecting knowledge about art and culture of the past.

We distinguish two sides of ancient Turkic's art, that is based on true facts and on conditions. Ancient painters portrayed the real life in its movement, they had a good knowledge of animals anatomy. They possessed abstract thinking in designing simple ornaments in connection with nature around them.

Modern Kazakhstan in the period of universe globalization have preserved its national archeological heritage and made it possible to develop according to new life demands.

«Beast Style» promotes the development of art history, cultural and philosophic researches for better understanding of modern graphic art and its importance for cultural education in our country.

The revival of national conscience, philosophy of Kazakh culture from the point of view of science research is the subject of further investigation, it's our priceless heritage.

Art is human's soul. Philosophical importance of cognition of art is its image in Saks worldview. Human soul seeks the mystery of nature, tries to illustrate it in picture or graphically. The best examples of art heritage are a new step of cognition of the world around us.

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