

The Magic Flower in the Flowing Mood— Audiovisual Analysis of "the Girl without Hands"

Analysis of experimental film creation course examples

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Abstract: The long animated film "The Girl without Hands" directed by french director Sebastian Lodenbach. The story is simple and clear, and the style is strong, which is similar to the Chinese ink painting. The director interspersed a large number of metaphors and symbols in his work. The whole film uses a new animation method, it is an experimental film. This thesis analyzes the film from the perspectives of theme, script, and style, and summarizes the creative experience to enrich the author's "Experimental Film Creation" course.

Keywords: The Girl without hands; Metaphor; Stylization; Experimental

1. Introduction

2016 is a good year for the french animation industry, and several excellent animated long articles have been launched. The 72-minute "The Girl without hands" (also translated as "Venus of Milos") by director Sebastian Lodenbach was distinguished by its extremely strong stylization and rhythm. In 2017, "The Girl Without Hands" won the special award for the 26th Ann International Animation Festival, the special awards unit of the French Anxi International Animation Festival, and also the nomination of the 42nd French Caesar Award for Best Animators. The work is adapted from Grimm's fairy tale. The picture is not in Gothic and Diablo styles, but is similar to the style of Chinese ink painting. The story of a dark fairy tale is told by the freehand watercolor style. The whole film is like a sly magic flower in the flowing mood.

The main thread of the film is extended in chronological order. The content of the film is clear and not complicated. The theme of the play is the process of a young, pure and beautiful girl who has struggled to find independence and self. The film is divided into three segments according to the clues of time. First part (21 minutes, beginning): The devil (an unpredictable bisexual image) admires the young, pure and beautiful daughter of the miller who is in trouble. The devil uses wealth gold to lure the miller to exchange daughters for what he wants. The weak father is defeated in front of wealth, but the power of the pure girl makes the devil inaccessible, because purity itself is energetic. The mother (a female image) is swallowed by the evil dog to protect her daughter from. Under the intimidation of the devil, the father cuts

off the daughter's hand with an axe and also separated the love and relationship of father and daughter. The girl who lost her hands was forced to leave the native family and travel far away. The second part (23 minutes, development): The girl sinks into the bottom of the river in a state of exhaustion and hunger, and the river god (a female image) saves her and causes her to meet the prince. The girl and the prince love each other, and the prince puts a golden hand for the beloved girl. They held a grand wedding, the girl was pregnant, and the prince had to go out for the national war. The loved ones are separated, and a few months later, the girl gave birth to her kid with the help of gardener. The devil extended his claws again. He maliciously exchanged the letters of both sides, tampered the contents of the prince's letter, and asked the gardener to kill the kid and left the mother. The love between husband and wife has been split, and the girl had to take the child to escape to the mountains for living. Third part (11 minutes, climax): The girl without hands abandoned the heavy and useless gold hand on the way of the hard escape which freed her from the gold bondage, and used her own way to feel and get cloese to the kid. She settled down with her children to the residence of the recluse who has died. Although lacking hands, she can use her tongue and arms to grow crops and gain the right to survive. The child and her live in the mountains without desires, the material is not rich, but the spirit is free. Fourth part(17 minutes, ending), after the failure, the prince returned to the castle to find his wife and children. After learning the truth, he went around and finally met his loved ones. The family of three defeated the devil with their own strength, and the girl in the film miraculously grew new hands. After the

reunion, the prince asked for a return to the castle. The girl refused. She hoped to leave far away and find a new home.

The theme of the film is that women's independence, freedom and happiness can only depend on the independence and power of the ontology, so this is a female self-redemptive animation work. In the first paragraph of the film, the girl allowed her father to get rid of her hands to protect the family's wealth that reminds the author of the fragmentation that Na cha cut meat for his parents in the Chinese animated cartoon "Where is the sea". The poor father of The Girl Without Hands sacrifices her daughter for gold. In this type of animation work, the father's role mostly shows reality and coldness, and the failure of this utilitarian approach also means the decline of patriarchy. The second paragraph is similar to the plot setting of the prince and the fallen princess in Disney animation. The prince falls in love with the fallen princess and gives a helping hand. The princess and the prince fall in love, get married, and live a happy life. The happiness at this time is not the end, but a fragment of life. The girl after marriage, under the impact of the outside world, quickly lost the protection of her husband, who is in a male image. There is no way to let a girl survive in this cruel world simply by virtue of beauty and purity. In the third paragraph, the simple fairy tale setting is broken, the prince and the girl face the test of distinction and misunderstanding. The girl found that she can find herself and true salvation only relying on herself and relying on hard work. The setting of the end in the fourth paragraph is very meaningful. The awakened girl refused the invitation to return to the patriarchal paradise and chose the independent and equal distance. The animation is long, clear and straightforward: the girl was cut off by her father and was driven out of the castle by her husband, she was abandoned by men in the patriarchal society. In front of the cruel life, the consciousness of female independence finally awakened and grew into a truly independent mother, a free woman who ended her bad luck in life.

Although "The Girl Without Hands" was adapted from Grimm's fairy tale in the early 19th century, its theme and character setting are the reflection of the mainstream consciousness of the 21st century. Today, women economic independence is getting stronger and stronger, and their social status is getting higher and higher. Therefore, this kind of work has certain social foundations in terms of social consciousness. The setting of the princess in animated feature "Shrek" of DreamWorks Studios is similar to this theme. From the perspective of women's awakening and independence, there will be more and more markets for films with this theme in the future.

From the experimental film style, the director Sebastian Laudenbach is an artist with a poet's free and romantic soul. The film is 72 minutes, and the director hand-

painted by himself. It is said that he was listening to various styles of music while painting. This type of production is extremely rare in commercial animated film creation. Almost all of the cinema long animations have a large, well-defined production team. Scripts, production cycles, and plans are carefully arranged. Pixar Studios in the United States launched the animated feature "Coco" in 2017. Its director, Lee Edward Unkrich said that during the creative cycle of several years, the film was revised and improved every day, and it was changed to the final screening. Therefore, compared to the rationally designed, arranged and created Hollywood blockbusters, "The Girl Without Hands" is a entirelyly experimental and creative work under the inspiration and impulse. The author carefully analyzes this cartoon and summarizes three highlights of the film:

1.1. From the style of the picture

The combination of splashing large tones and simple lines, the minimalism of ink painting, the dynamics of the character contours and the correspondence of breathing. The picture and color are the core of this animation. In the opinion of director Sebastian, in his animation, the lines, skin and eyes set by the characters should not be specific and fixed, and the picture is his pursuit. So, his entire animated line flickers and no start and end points can be found. Because the characters in the director's work is not specifically drawn the chest, the characters in the play that the audience see seems to breathe with lines and colors instead of the lungs. The color of a single lens is very rich, and the block area of color is large. In addition to the bold use of color, the picture of "The Girl without Hands" is similar to traditional Chinese painting, with a lot of blank space, leaving a free imagination for the audience. The ink-like style of painting leaves a large blank and space in each lens, that makes the whole story lively and full of charm. The painting style is independent and imaginative. The oil painting, ink painting and impressionist style are mixed, which is unique and eye-catching.

1.2. From the way of production

A new way of animation. In the creative process, the director does not follow the normal process of animation, but used a new way and animations to create animations. The film has complete and full of key frames, but many of the intermediate frames are blank, and even some are empty with no handwriting. The director used a new way to create animations that simulate the motion of an animation, but the actual form is not visible in each frame. The director is concerned with the nature of sports.

1.3. The work is rich in imagination and with a lot of metaphors and symbolism.

Expressing images through metaphors, making intentions more enriched in aesthetics. The whole film showed three trees at different stages, which are the apple tree in the girl's house, the pear tree in the prince garden, and the unknown fruit trees in the hermitage garden. From the picture, the image of the tree enriches the composition of the picture and increases the artistic conception of the picture. From a metaphorical point of view, a tree full of vitality is the object of emotional attachment at different stages of adolescent girls. The rooted, green fruit trees symbolize the endless vitality. The fruit filled with juice symbolizes the fertile fertility. In addition, the spring water in the girl's house and the stream near the prince's house also symbolize the new life. The whole animation of "The Girl Without Hands" is full of metaphorical symbols: broken hands (symbols of women's lack of self and recognition of others), axe, golden spring, apple, shelves with breasts in the castle, sowing seeds with mouth, the legs that happily stretch into the air, the seeds that dance in the green, the gold of nothing, the pears of sexual enlightenment, the rivers that awaken women, all of these have metaphorical effects. The use of metaphors has put a magical cloak on this cartoon, adding the charm of the work.

2. Conclusion

The experimental film creation course is a compulsory course for undergraduate animation majors in our school. The author carefully analyzes the excellent experimental animation work "The Girl without Hands" and summarizes its outstanding creative experience, which are theme setting in line with the mainstream consciousness of the society, pictures with minimalist style, new animation production techniques, and creative techniques for enriching image images with metaphors, etc. In the course of the future course, I will enrich these experiences in teaching students.

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