

The Expression of Female Artists in Intimate Relationships: Marina Abramović's Expression of Female Emotions in Performance Art

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Abstract:

Close relationships play an important role in meeting people's needs for emotional support, security and belonging. The theory of interdependence states that individuals unconsciously give in relationships to satisfy their partner's needs, and that this giving is in line with their inner self-awareness, which in turn increases their satisfaction with the relationship. However, this interdependence may also lead people to unconsciously seek more attention and emotional value from their partners. This article discusses why female artists regard the intimate relationship of their partners as the core of their artistic creation, and think that the intimate relationship is an important part of their lives, reflecting their personal life experiences. Women artists explore these relationships to express their identity, emotions, and social roles. In addition, female artists tend to create through emotional and direct means, and intimate relationships provide them with rich emotional materials, such as love, pain and desire, and other emotional elements, allowing them to tap into the complexity of human emotions. Taking Roman Abramovich as an example, this performance artist, who works from a female perspective, breaks with traditional artistic perceptions by using the body as a medium and combining the experience of emotional life, the mother of performance art in the 20th century. Her work reflects the unique experience and energy of women and the profound influence of intimate relationships in the creation of art.

Keywords: Performance art; Marina Abramović; identity expression; female artists.

1. Introduction

Intimacy is an indispensable part of human life. It not only satisfies people's basic needs for emotional support, security, and belonging but also influences an individual's psychological state and creative expression. Interdependence theory emphasizes that in close relationships, individuals tend to unconsciously give to each other to meet each other's needs, which not only increases both partners' emotional satisfaction but also enhances one's positive emotions. However, because of this interdependence, people may also unconsciously seek more attention and emotional value from their partners in a relationship, forming a complex emotional dynamic. In the contemporary art world, female artists often regard intimacy as the core theme of their works. Their works not only reflect their own life experiences but also explore the multiple dimensions of personal identity, emotions, and social roles. By exploring intimate relationships, female artists can express their innermost feelings and capture the complex emotional elements of love, pain, and desire in their lives. These emotional materials for their artistic creation provide a wealth of inspiration, so that they, can more truly show the complexity of human emotions. In her 40-year career as Marina Abramović, she has challenged the boundaries of traditional art by using her body as a medium and connecting personal feelings with social issues. Her works not only break people's inherent understanding of art but also highlight women's unique perspective and power in artistic creation. As she puts it: "I think women have a lot of experience and energy in their hands, and it's genetic." This article explores how female artists reflect their own experiences through intimacy, and how this theme provides a profound emotional basis for their artistic practice.

2. Background

Close relationships satisfy people's needs for emotional support, security, and a sense of belonging. The theory of interdependence holds that people unconsciously give in relationships to meet their partner's needs and experience more positive emotions because the giving is in line with their internal self-awareness, therefore, it has a positive effect on relationship satisfaction [1]. Conversely, it is precisely because of interdependence that people unconsciously seek more attention and emotional value from their partners in their relationships. Why do female artists always focus on the intimate relationship between their partners? Female artists often reflect personal life experiences in their creations, and intimacy is an important part of their lives. They express their identity, emotions, and

social roles by exploring the relationship.

Second, female artists tend to create through emotion and directness, and intimacy provides them with emotional material from their own lives. The emotional elements of intimacy, such as love, pain, and desire, enable them to tap into the complexity of human emotions. Performance artist Marina Abramović as an artist who works from a female perspective, has broken through people's preconceived notions of art as a woman during her 40-year career. Using the body as the medium of material, and taking the dribs and drabs of emotional life as the inspiration, this 20th century "Mother of performance art", as she puts it: "I think women have a lot of energy in the hands of experience, it's genetic" [2].

3. Case Study

As an advanced artistic expression form, performance art has its particularity, and its expression way is unique [3]. Performance art started from the futuristic theatre movement, because of the need for publicity, performance has become an important means, that is mixed with various forms of performance. Dadaism officially opened the curtain for performance art, which took resistance as the first priority, and took physical action performance as a struggle against the traditional art noumenon [4].

Marina Abramović as a well-known contemporary female performance artist, when discussing her works, the way of artistic expression is not only embodied in her unique photography techniques and performance art expression, but also more deeply combined with emotional expression, formed the core of her artistic creation. Emotion, as a subjective cognition and evaluation of the relationship between oneself and the world around them, is closely related to the needs and ideals of human beings. Marina Abramović from an early age accepted the type of education, in the process of growing up to explore and tried to get rid of the influence of the original family on their own. The factors of her family background profoundly shaped her unique creative style, which enabled her to show a deep understanding and exploration of emotion in her artistic expression. Often inspired by her native land, the Balkans, the local culture shapes her desire for the preservation of human nature and the impenetrable power of the universe. In her works, there are often extreme representations of male-female relations and gender roles, which proves that in her native culture, "Woman is the wife of the Sun, man is the husband of the Moon." This not only reflects the thinking of gender but also reflects her feelings to add a lot of include the native land, emotional and unique understanding.

Marina's work focuses on sex as a way of expressing inti-

macy and emotion. Her exploration is not only limited to the power of desire and gender roles but also focuses on the understanding of sex. In the case of *Rhythm Zero*, she shows the nature of human desire in extreme circumstances by using her body as a medium. In this work, she puts herself under the viewer's scrutiny, allowing the viewer to interact with her body in various ways. When the tip of the knife cuts through her, when the whip splits on her skin, the interaction is not only an adventure for herself but also a challenge to the emotions and desires of the audience.

When a woman can construct a physical spectacle through violence, and explore human limits through spiritual attrition, she communicates her feelings and works. Marina not only shows the complexity and diversity of emotions but also makes us think about the freedom and limitation of individual emotional expression within the framework of society. Her artistic practice has made us realize how profound and important the relationship between emotion and desire is, prompting us to re-examine the relationship between ourselves and others, as well as the possibility and boundary of expressing emotion in art.

4. Analysis

The reason why Marina creates so many great works of intimate subjects cannot be separated from her 12-year-old man. Ulay was Marina's soul mate in life, and during her time with Ulay, *Great Art for Two* exploded. Marina's relationship with Ulay is not only a personal one, but also central to their artistic creation. Together, they explore the physical, emotional, and psychological boundaries of intimacy through performance art [5]. They beat *Rest-Energy*, one with a bow and one with a poisoned arrow that points to Marina's heart. They each tugged at their bows and arrows, keeping them ready to fire, and the sound of their hearts beating was recorded over the loudspeakers. The heartbeat is the best proof that they want to use a unique way to record the trust between lovers.

Their souls resonate, and sometimes they understand each other without an audience. Their love is a deep connection. Their work deals with emotional and physical limits and explores the fragile power of intimacy through shared experiences and challenges. At the same time, their relationship is not smooth, emotional conflict and separation are also an important theme of their work. In 1988, Marina and Ulay's "*The Lovers: The Great Wall Walk*." Marina heads west from Shanhai Pass, while Ulay heads East in the opposite direction. Finally, across the three months, more than 4000 kilometers of distance met in Shanxi. Without saying a word, they produced another work that shocked the world. But standing at the peak of their hearts

but understanding each other and their hearts, calmly chose to break up. They don't need to care what the world thinks. They are the work. That moment will be fixed forever. They explore the pain and release of love, revealing the contradictions and struggles of intimate relationships.

In intimate relationships, they are detached, and soul-mate relationships transcend the physical and emotional dimensions, not only in terms of spiritual connection but also in terms of deep insight into the emotional relationships between people. The collaboration between Marina and Ulay has undoubtedly had a profound impact, and their work has given audiences a new understanding of intimacy, love, art, and the body. In her follow-up work, Marina continues to reflect on her relationship with Ulay and explores loss and nostalgia. When a reporter asks what kind of art is successful for you in an interview, "It's a very simple question," Marina said in an interview. "Now I have a lot of audience, some shows even have nearly 11 billion views, I think this is a success. I also had incredible encounters and interactions with young audiences who came up to me with tears in their eyes and said that my work had changed their lives. I do think my work touches some people's hearts. In small ways, even if I changed a few people's lives, it's still a big achievement." The role of the audience is equally important, they are both the audience and part of the performance of the work.

In the artist's presence, Marina sits expressionless on the side, playing a role with no expression and no words. She invites the audience to sit down face-to-face with her, look at her, and connect emotionally. This interaction not only makes the audience part of the work but also makes them reflect on their emotional relationships in the experience. The audience's reaction and emotional resonance become an important part of the work. Through the participation of the audience, Marina can explore the complexity and universality of human emotions and stimulate self-reflection in the audience. Secondly, in the creation of an audience, the audience is not only an onlooker but also a direct participant in emotional and psychological experience. Let the audience have the experience while blurring the boundaries between the artist and the audience, and let the audience re-examine their own feelings and physical feelings in the experience. Whether in "*Rhythm 0*" or any other work, her art often explores the extreme experiences of intimacy, and the engagement of the audience connects art to life. As the audience reflects on their own life experiences, art is no longer just a performance, but also a reflection on life. Performance art itself is not an acceptable medium for the general public, and Marina is challenging the audience's comfort zone in her own way, as they think about themselves and relationships in a new way.

5. Discussion

The works of Marina Abramović through the profound exploration of the body, emotions, and audience, showing their value and inspiration in contemporary art cannot be ignored. As an avant-garde artist, Marina Abramović uses the body as the main creative medium, pushing the limits of the body and exploring pain, emotion, and interpersonal relationships through extreme physical expressions, it emphasizes the importance of the body in artistic expression. Her works not only convey the authenticity and directness of emotion, but also make the audience feel the fragility and strength of human emotion through the extreme expression of emotion and urge people to reflect on their own emotional experience. In addition, Marina Abramović views the audience's participation as an important part of the work, and the audience is not only a spectator but also a participant in the experience. This interaction deepens the social significance of art, and encourage the audience to find their own reflection in art. Through the in-depth exploration of intimate relationships, she reveals the complexity and challenges of interpersonal relationships in modern society and urges the audience to re-examine their emotional connections. At the same time, her works are often critical of society and culture, challenging traditional ideas and pushing the audience to think about important issues such as power, gender, and identity. Therefore, the art of Marina Abramović has not only broken through the tradition in form but also triggered a profound understanding and reflection on human emotions and social relations in content, thus becoming an indispensable part of contemporary art.

Marina Abramović's artistic creation is deeply influenced by her background, especially her experience of growing up in a repressed family environment, which not only shapes her identity, but also her life, in her work reflects the extreme way of expression. The Marina Abramović reveals the depth and complexity of human emotions through the use of cutting violence in the production of performance art. In contrast to the traditional expectations of women in many cultures, sex and desire have become important themes in her work, in particular, the Chinese culture emphasizes the "Women convergence implicit, not bohemian" concept. The artistic practice of the Marina Abramović challenged this traditional idea by confronting the limits of desire and the body, prompting the audience to think about the role of women in society and the dynamics of their power.

In different social contexts, the formation and understanding of identity may be different. In the 21st century, globalization and cultural exchange have accelerated the collision and fusion of different values, while the wave of

the male-oriented culture and the intuitive desire coexist at the same time, reflecting the diverse understanding of women's identity. In this context, the audience's interpretation of the Marina Abramović works also presents a rich range of levels, from identifying with its challenges to traditional gender roles to questioning its extreme forms of artistic expression. In some cultures, Marina Abramović work may be seen as a call for women's liberation, while in others it may lead to criticism or misunderstanding of women's behavior.

Therefore, the art of Marina Abramović is not only the result of personal expression, but also the embodiment of the complex interaction between cultural background and identity. Through her works, we can see the different understanding and thinking of sex, desire and female identity in different social environment. This contrast not only enriches the discussion of contemporary art, but also provides an important perspective for us to explore the relationship between culture, gender and identity.

6. Conclusion

The artistic creation of Marina Abramović has had a profound influence on the contemporary art world, but it also has some shortcomings and limitations. First of all, many of her works use extreme physical and emotional expression, although can cause a strong emotional reaction, but also may cause some audience feel uncomfortable or difficult to accept, thus affecting their understanding and appreciation of the works. Second, Marina Abramović works of art tend to be based on personal experience, and while this individualized perspective provides insight, it can also limit the universality of the work and make it difficult for the audience to fully understand or empathize with it. At the same time, her work may be interpreted very differently in different cultural contexts, which limits her art's global influence. Furthermore, despite her emphasis on audience participation and interaction, such forms of participation may sometimes be limited to specific circumstances and conditions, resulting in an impact on the depth and breadth of the audience's artistic experience. As Marina Abramović succeeds in the art market, her work may also be influenced by commercialisation, and the pricing and recognition of works in the art market may lead viewers to focus more on market value than on the meaning of the art itself. In the end, although her works discuss gender and power, they may not cover the diversity of feminism and limit the comprehensive understanding of feminism. To sum up, while Marina Abramović has made important contributions to the advancement of contemporary art and the exploration of human emotions, its shortcomings and limitations can not be ignored.

To sum up, Marina Abramović works of art deeply reflect the influence of personal experience, cultural background and social environment on identity. Growing up in a repressed family environment, she boldly explores extreme physical and emotional expressions in her works, challenging traditional gender roles and cultural expectations, especially on the theme of sex and desire, this is in sharp contrast to the traditional view of women in many cultures. Although her work has triggered a wide range of discussions in the contemporary art world, prompting in-depth reflection on human emotions and intimate relationships, there are also some shortcomings and limitations, such as audience acceptance, cultural interpretation of the diversity and commercial impact of the art market. The art of Marina Abramović is not only the result of personal expression, but also an exploration of the complex relationship between society, culture and identity, her works provide us with a new perspective to understand the identity of contemporary women and their position in the changing social environment. Through the analysis of her art, we can reflect on our own emotions, culture and social

relations, and stimulate a broader understanding of human experience and discussion.

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