

The effect of economical and cultural diversities on the mural art in universal train stations (America –Europe-Asia)

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Abstract:

The research discusses the artistic development that emerged upon the mural art work in train stations which have become one of the main transportation communal conveyance since the second half of the twentieth century ,therefore due to its highly importance, grand cities paid attention to the important role of using visual arts to interact with their frequent train stations visitors through applying mural paintings, and to impose its vital effect to revive and flourish historical and artistic styles and also to direct social recommendations through it, that can express its specialty and fundamentals ,which allows it to develop the cultural and spiritual standards and affiliation of their goers, cities and countries varies in their mural paintings techniques ,methods and concept in their own train stations ,due to the diverse of economical and cultural heritage and properties differentiation, the research goal is to study that wide diversity of artistic values of the mural art work according to the cities embedded nature and its zones' atmosphere and to gain benefit of exposing and manifesting this universal experiences to enrich the Egyptian train stations, that can evolve in turning them to artistic galleries groomed by mural art works that suits with their cultural and heritage specifications and care for the diversity of the designs and applied techniques according to each region and city nature and atmosphere differentiation of their goers, to achieve the grand aim of recruiting art to serve society.

Keywords:

Mural painting -stations-designs-techniques.

Research Problems:

- How to gain benefit from mural painting due to its characterization as one of the main methods in interacting with subway and surface train stations goers by broadcasting social and artistic and cultural messages to them through murals?
- The ability of adjusting mural subjects and designs and the suitable material to evolve and enhance the beautification standards of the highly gathering locations as in subway and surface train stations?

Research Importance:

- Highlighting the worldwide unique experiences in the mural art field inside subway and surface train stations to gain benefit from its wide variety options in the Egyptian ones, especially with the high expansion rates of constructing and using subway and surface train stations in it.

- Following the diversity of the mural art subjects in subway and surface train stations that suits with each city and neighborhood specifications that the passengers step in, also following how artistic language and content can get along with the nature of habitant and goers of its region.

Research Target:

- Manifestation of the economic and wealth general standards and the role that it plays on the applied techniques of the mural art work that the country adopts to flourish and beautify its subway and surface train stations.
- Studying the effect of cultural diversities and historical heritage of different countries on the emerging of differentiation and wide variety of their mural art expressing methods and styles used in subway and surface train stations.

Research Assumptions:

- In grand touristic cities that their visitors can exceed the amount of their populations ,we found that those countries resort to globalizing, their mural subjects and to detach from the local specifications characterization to press global artistic messages and dialoguing general humanity conscience and sentiment ,so that it would be in touch with the universal nature of their visitors and diversity of their cultures and belonging roots from different earth spots ,as in Rome and Paris train stations which are considered one of the most important world touristic destinations .
- Economic and general wealth rates and standards play a vital role in the applied techniques of mural art work the countries adopt to flourish and beautify their train stations with.

Research Limits:

Europe - Asia –America

Research methodology:

Analytical study

-Here are some examples of the metro and the train stations murals that are included in the research.

The engagement between murals and citizens' life style in Asian train stations

Japan

Shibuya Station Building

The station complex is divided between aboveground and underground areas, and there are arcades and department stores in each ,one of its main features is the stunning 30-meter-long mural (Myth of tomorrow) completed in 1969 by renowned artist Taro Okamoto, adorns the passageway between JR Shibuya Station and its Keio Inokashira Line counterpart, Depicting the effects of the atomic bomb. (figure1)

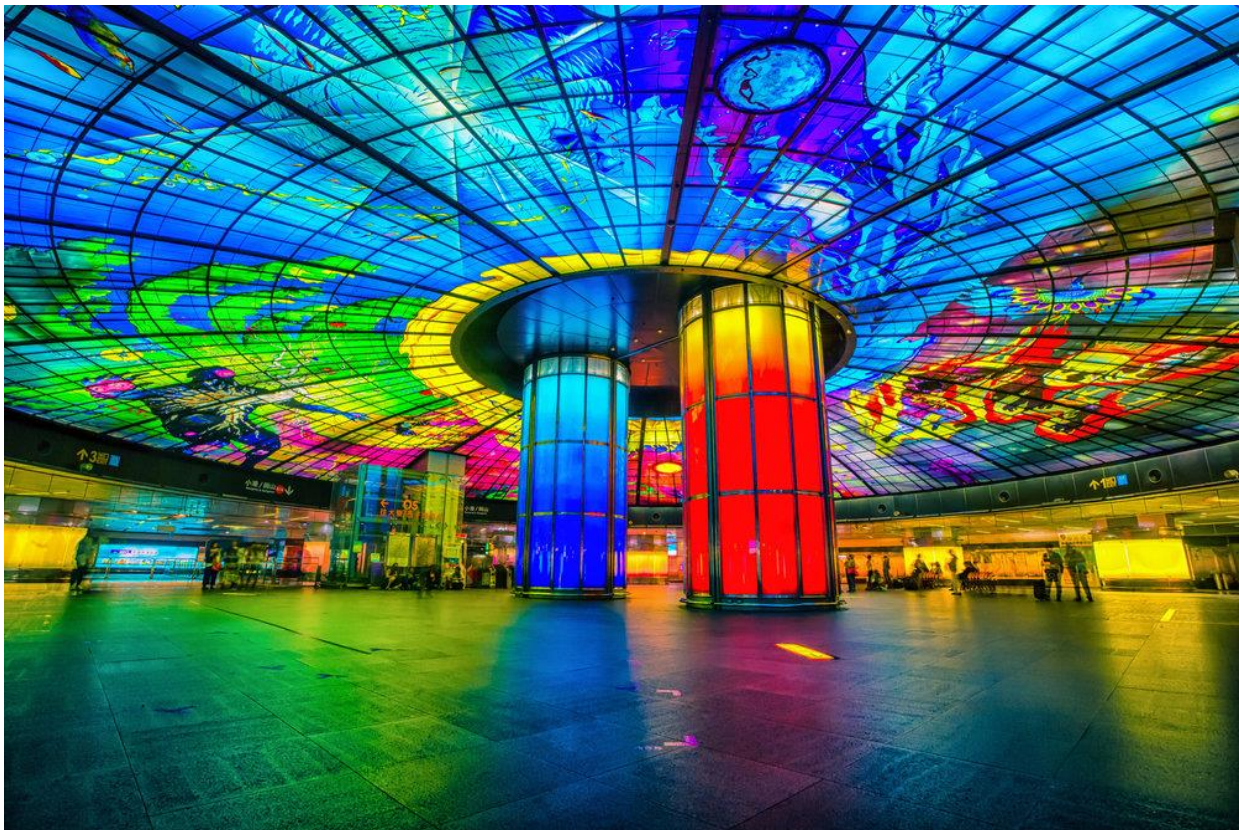


(fig 1) Myth of Tomorrow mural in Shibuya Station Building

Taiwan

Formosa Boulevard Station, [Kaohsiung](#)

In one of the world's most impressive public art installations, the "Dome of Light" crowns the upper part of the Formosa Boulevard Station in a riotous expanse of rainbow-hued stained glass. The artist Narcissus Quagliata's attempt to tell the story of human life, all within a 'scale' of 30 square meters (figure 2).



(figure 2) "the dome of light" Formosa Boulevard Station, [Kaohsiung](#)

Train stations in European countries and it's enovated murals Techniques

Portugal

(Olaias Metro station, Lisbon)

Like several metro systems around the world, there is a strong focus on artworks and architecture at many of the Lisbon Metro stations. Olaias is just the one that arguably makes the greatest impact on the traveler. Once inside the vast underground space occupied by the station. The huge, multi-level concourse is instead decorated with an abundance of glass panels, of many different colors. They are lit from behind so that they glow, bathing passengers in different colored light. Most are on the ceiling, but there are also weird fish-shaped lamps hanging down into the concourse, and a lift shaft, all of them faced with colored glass panels and illuminated from within. As you move through the concourse, the kaleidoscope turns, colors and patterns shift around you, and the whole experience borders on the unreal, the ultimate polychromatic riposte to the muted colors and raw concrete finishes of most modern metro stations (figure 3).



(figure 3) mural art works in (Olaias Metro station, Lisbon).

Russia

Mural painting in Moscow metro stations

The Moscow Metro was one of the Soviet's most extravagant architectural projects, with stations constructed as luxurious "palaces for the people". Built under the command of Stalin, who ordered the metro's artists and architects to design structures which would encourage citizens to look up, admiring the station's art, as if they were looking up to admire the sun, with their reflective marble walls, high ceilings and grandiose chandeliers, many Moscow Metro

stations have been likened for an “artificial underground sun”. The art includes bas-reliefs, friezes, marble and bronze statues, stained glass windows and countless mosaics made with glass, marble and granite in good Byzantine fashion. We can find the images of the former revolutionary and historical characters, their victories, sports, industry, agricultural, and warfare, as well as of common soviet people such as workers, soldiers, farmers, and students (figure 4).



(fig 4) mural painting depicting soviet leader Kutuzov, victory train station, Moscow.

- Results

-Train stations walls can be transformed by using three dimensions' magnitudes into sculpture forms, where artists can work on its surfaces with mural materials giving it the effect of caves like shapes, thrilled with reach artistic forms and values, as that can be seen in Sweden metro station, to achieve a high standards of visual entertainment that can be applied and copied into other metro train stations as a new innovation in train stations mural techniques.

-Asian countries applied experiences are more related to their historical and social cultures in most of their public metro and train stations murals subjects, opposite to those in north America and Canada which swings to use modern techniques in formulating its mural art works in their metro and train stations.

- Ground and underground train stations provide the opportunities for their goers, due to the long periods of waiting, to look attentively towards the mural art works applied on their facades, which help in directing social, historical and patriotic messages to them through its chosen subjects.

Recommendations

- The importance of paying attention of spreading mural art works in metro and train stations in Egypt, to help in giving visitors and tourists a good chance to acknowledge its history, culture and distinct landmarks through the mural art works depicted and manifested on its wall, which can contribute in promoting and publicising Egyptian arts and tourism.
- Gaining benefits from some of the grand cities experiences that have succeeded in transforming some of their subway train stations lines into internal public museums ,through the use of mural art works and its unique applied techniques ,that helped in transforming them into an attractive spots for visitors to watch and enjoy as in Moscow metro stations lines ,which is considered one of its best examples.

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