

Between loyalty and breaking free: the transformations of the artistic style of Najla Mohammed Al-Saleem

Dr. Hanan Saud Al-Hazza

Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts, College of Art and Design, Princess Nourah bint Abdulrahman University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

hsalhaza@pnu.edu.sa

Abstract:

Visual artist in current times is influenced by many factors that contribute to his intellectual and stylistic orientations. These factors stem from the Artist's environment and society, this influence is most pronounced in academic studies and training, especially if there is an emotional connection that drives the artist to loyalty; as happened with Najla Al-Saleem, who was influenced by her father Muhammed Al-Saleem, the founder of "The Horizonism" in Saudi painting. She faced challenges to establish her own style as a contemporary artist. The research problem is tracking the transformations of the artistic style in Najla's paintings throughout her artistic career to establish her own artistic style. Analyzing the intellectual aspects and artistic style in her collections in the period 2008 -2020, the research investigates the transformations of Najla's artistic style being the daughter of an artist and her endeavors to establish her own style and revealing the role of such attempts in the creative process. This research participates to the scientific documentation supported by analysis of the career path of a contemporary Saudi artist, and sheds light on some of the local artistic methods in visual arts being an influential factor passing down to generations.

The research adopted the descriptive analytical approach, utilizing research tools, namely observation and unstructured interviews. The findings confirmed the existence of stylistic shifts in Najla's artworks ranging from loyalty to freedom, which was a creativity motive, reflecting interplay of the intellectual approaches and technical handlings. The research recommends further study of the models to reveal stylistic influences in the Saudi visual arts..

Key words:

Saudi visual arts, painting, artistic style, contemporary Saudi art.