

THE HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONTEMPORARY TRENDS OF THE MORENA GENRE IN VISUAL ARTS

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Annotation: This article analyzes the formation and development stages of the morena genre in art history, as well as its place in contemporary visual art. Using examples from Dutch, English, and other artists, the aesthetic and technical features of the morena genre are examined, highlighting its new dimension enriched with ecological and social meanings.

Keywords: visual art, seascape, art history, Dutch painting, ecological art, digital art.

Introduction.

Art, as one of the highest forms of human thought, aesthetic perception, and spiritual expression, has been intricately connected with societal development since ancient times. Each historical era's art reflects the cultural, social, and moral conditions of its time, a fact that becomes especially evident through the various genres of visual art. Among these genres, the morena (marina) genre holds a special artistic significance, focusing on the depiction of water bodies such as seas, rivers, lakes, canals, coastlines, and ports.

Derived from the Latin word mare meaning "sea," this term first emerged in Western European art and later established itself as a distinctive artistic direction within painting schools worldwide. Essentially, the morena genre serves to artistically convey natural landscapes, particularly the unique beauty, movement, changes in lighting, and the smooth or wave-like states of aquatic environments. Artists working in this genre use water scenes not only to portray the external environment but also to aesthetically express human emotional experiences and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Therefore, although the morena genre is closely related to the landscape genre, it distinguishes itself through unique subject matter, artistic-aesthetic potential, and expressive techniques. The scholarly investigation of this genre's position in art history, its formation process, and its significance in contemporary art education emerges as a pressing issue in art studies today.

Historical sources indicate that the formation and development of the morena genre occurred predominantly during the 16th and 17th centuries in Western European maritime nations such as the Netherlands, Italy, and England. During this period, the expansion of maritime trade, the development of naval infrastructure, and the transformation of port cities into economic and cultural centers, along with the population's close relationship with the sea, had a direct impact on artists' creativity. Consequently, the depiction of water landscapes became a vital artistic theme.

Specifically, works created by representatives of the Dutch art school extensively portrayed ships, port scenes, sea storms, and dawn and dusk landscapes. Through these depictions, artists effectively conveyed the people's way of life and their aesthetic and economic attitudes toward

the sea. Thus, the morena genre evolved not only as a form of natural landscape representation but also as a significant artistic medium within its socio-cultural context.

The artistic and aesthetic potential of this genre demands from artists a high level of technical skill, precise observation, and a profound understanding of light and motion phenomena. In particular, complex visual elements such as the transparency and movement of water, the dynamic reflection of light rays on the water surface, the formation of waves, and the reflection of the sky and environment in the water constitute the core artistic components of morena works. This renders the genre a vivid example of the harmony between technical mastery and aesthetics in visual art.

Today, the morena genre has expanded beyond the traditional boundaries of visual arts and is increasingly utilized in modern digital technologies, animation, cinema, and visual effects. Computer graphics, 3D visualization, and digitally created water landscapes are unveiling new aesthetic dimensions of this genre. In particular, as artists increasingly address global ecological issues, climate change, and water resource conservation, the morena genre stands out as a profound and relevant medium of expression in contemporary visual communication.

Research Methodology.

In the preparation of this article, historical-cultural and analytical approaches were selected as the primary methodological criteria. The formation of the morena genre, its stages of historical development, and its place within visual arts were examined in depth. The emergence and evolution of the genre within Western European art schools, as well as the works of prominent artists active in this field, were studied to reveal their aesthetic and technical characteristics.

The research utilized published scholarly literature on art history, catalogs, and collections from art galleries and museums. Additionally, the modern manifestations of the morena genre – specifically its application in digital art, animation, and visual effects – were analyzed to highlight the evolutionary features of the genre.

Within the framework of an empirical approach, selected morena artworks were subjected to detailed analysis regarding their compositional structure, color techniques, light and movement expression, as well as technical execution. This contributed to the scientific assessment of the genre from an art historical perspective and provided a deeper understanding of the morena genre's artistic and aesthetic significance.

Analysis and Results.

In visual art, the morena genre stands out due to its technical complexity and profound expressive capabilities. Its formation and developmental stages occupy an important place in art history. Morena initially developed in Western Europe, particularly within the art schools of the Netherlands, England, and Italy. The existence of maritime trade, naval fleets, and port activities in these regions created a demand among artists to depict water scenes.

Notably, in the 17th century, Dutch morenists refined the genre within the realism movement. By meticulously portraying changes in light reflections on water, the movement of waves, and the detailed structure of ships, they expanded the technical possibilities of the genre. The work

of Willem van de Velde serves as a prime example, as he carefully captured port life, naval battles, and natural phenomena in his paintings.

During the Romantic era, morena acquired new emotional and philosophical meanings. Artists began to use water scenes to express human psychology and contrasting states – life and death, danger and tranquility, strength and vulnerability. The English painter J.M.W. Turner's work *The Fighting Temeraire* exemplifies the emotional and dramatic power of morena from this period. For Turner, water was not only a natural element but also a symbol of human inner experience and fate.

From the latter half of the 19th century, Impressionist painters introduced innovative technical approaches to the morena genre. Artists such as Claude Monet interpreted water surfaces as a source of aesthetic pleasure by depicting the reflection of light and the changing harmony of colors. Monet's *Impression, Sunrise* reveals the genre's ability to evoke subjective emotion and visual delight.

In the 20th century, particularly within Soviet art, the morena genre served realistic and educational purposes. Ivan Aivazovsky became one of its most prominent representatives, and in works like *The Ninth Wave*, he depicted the dramatic relationship between humanity and nature, simultaneously conveying human fragility and hope.

Today, the morena genre continues to evolve in harmony with modern technologies. Digital graphics, 3D animation, video art, and artificial intelligence–created water scenes introduce new conceptual and social content to the genre. Contemporary artists use morena to highlight global ecological issues such as polluted rivers, tsunami disasters, melting glaciers, and rising water levels. This development demonstrates morena's growing significance not only as an aesthetic form but also as a medium for ecological and social commentary.

Modern artists interpret water imagery either as an aesthetic symbol or, conversely, as an emblem of environmental danger. Technically, morena is no longer confined to oil or watercolor painting but is increasingly created through collage, multimedia, digital effects, and even generative algorithms. These innovations expand the genre's artistic expressive potential and ensure its relevance among younger generations of art enthusiasts.

Conclusion.

The marina genre, as one of the most complex yet expressive means of visual art, has continuously developed throughout history. Originating and shaped by the art schools of the Netherlands, England, and Italy, this genre was enriched through artistic movements such as realism, romanticism, and impressionism. In the modern era, it has deepened further through technological approaches as well as ecological and social issues.

The analysis shows that the marina genre serves not only as an aesthetic tool for depicting water landscapes but also as an effective artistic means to reflect human emotions, the relationship with nature, and societal ecological problems. Today, artists employ digital technologies, multimedia tools, and artificial intelligence within this genre to create new artistic forms.

Therefore, the marina genre, with its multifaceted expressive capabilities, represents a unique artistic direction that harmonizes both aesthetic and conceptual approaches in visual art. It plays a significant role not only in artistic thinking but also in shaping social consciousness. Hence, the marina genre remains relevant in art history and visual creativity and continues to inspire new generations of artists.

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