

THE ROLE OF MODERN SCULPTURE IN UZBEKISTAN: A FUSION OF TRADITION AND CONTEMPORARY EXPRESSION

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ABSTRACT

This scientific article explores the role of modern sculpture in Uzbekistan, focusing on its contribution to the artistic landscape and the synthesis of traditional Uzbek culture with contemporary artistic expression. Uzbekistan, with its rich cultural heritage and ancient history, has witnessed the evolution of sculpture from traditional forms to the advent of modern and innovative artistic approaches. This article analyzes the factors influencing the development of modern sculpture, highlights significant sculptors and artworks, and elucidates how modern sculpture bridges the gap between heritage and innovation.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, a cradle of civilization, embracing innovative techniques, Historical Context, Khorezm, Bactria, Sogdiana, and others.

1. INTRODUCTION:

Uzbekistan, a cradle of civilization, boasts a diverse cultural heritage infused with influences from ancient Silk Road trade routes, Islamic art, and historical empires. Modern sculpture plays a vital role in preserving historical narratives while promoting contemporary artistic expression. By embracing innovative techniques, materials, and themes, modern Uzbek sculptors bridge the gap between past and present, contributing to the global art scene.

2. Historical Context of Uzbek Sculpture:

Uzbek sculpture has a long history dating back to the ancient civilizations of Khorezm, Bactria, Sogdiana, and others. Traditional sculpture predominantly focused on religious and architectural elements, with materials such as stone, wood, and metal. Post-independence, Uzbekistan witnessed a cultural revival, prompting the exploration of art forms beyond historical constraints.

3. Factors Influencing the Development of Modern Sculpture in Uzbekistan:

- a. Cultural Revival and Independence: The independence of Uzbekistan in 1991 allowed artists to explore their own cultural heritage, unleashing a wave of experimentation in topics, materials, and techniques.
- b. Globalization and Connectivity: Increased exposure to international art movements and artistic exchanges broadened the horizons for Uzbek sculptors, enabling the infusion of global perspectives into their work.
- c. Arts Education and Institutions: The establishment of art schools and institutions fostered artistic education, practice, and critical discourse, creating an environment conducive to the growth of modern sculpture.

4. Contemporary Sculptors and Notable Artworks:

- a. Ilkhom Jabbarov: Known for his innovative use of materials and themes, Jabbarov's "The Dancer" synthesizes traditional Uzbek dance with modern aesthetics, representing the dynamic fusion of cultures over time.
- b. Mamaraim Mutalova: Mutalova's "The Call of the Past" is a powerful testament to the connection between modern Uzbek society and its historical roots, featuring a blended sculpture of ancient artifacts and a contemporary figure.
- c. Farrukh Ahmadi: Ahmadi's large-scale installation, "The Silk Road Journey," celebrates the ancient trade routes and their cultural significance, using metal and glass to create a visual narrative connecting past and present.

5. Synthesis of Tradition and Contemporary Expression:

Modern sculpture in Uzbekistan embodies the synthesis of traditional artistic practices and contemporary expression. Uzbek sculptors pay homage to their cultural heritage through visually stunning narratives, while simultaneously incorporating novel techniques, materials, and concepts inspired by modernity. This unification showcases the resilience and adaptability of Uzbek culture to the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

CONCLUSION

The role of modern sculpture in Uzbekistan is paramount in preserving historical narratives, promoting cultural identity and heritage, and fostering contemporary artistic practices. Through the fusion of tradition and innovation, Uzbek sculptors have crafted a unique niche within the international art world, contributing to the ongoing global dialogue on the evolution of sculpture. As Uzbekistan continues to embrace its artistic diversity, modern sculpture will undoubtedly serve as a creative force in shaping the cultural landscape for generations to come.

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