# An Analysis of Artist's Abnormal Psychology

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#### Abstract

Abnormal psychology is usually considered as a pathological psychological phenomenon. Patients often feel like they are in an imaginary world. Here are five arguments I have discussed. Geniuses and lunatics, Psychological analysis in the creative process: Take Van Gogh as an example, The abnormal psychology of the artist in the creative process Regarding, Abnormal psychology in artists' emotional personality and Illusion of artists in artistic creation. I think the abnormal psychological phenomena that appear in artists are not a bad thing sometimes, because these phenomena are likely to enable artists to create more profound and meaningful works.

#### **Keywords**

Artist; Abnormal psychology; Vincent van Gogh; Mental health.

#### 1. Introduction

In real life, when it comes to abnormal psychology, our immediate reaction is to regard it as a manifestation of mental illness. This spirit is one of the most obvious characteristics of abnormal performance is mixed the boundaries between reality and fantasy, not distinguishes between true and false, regardless of the actual situation, your psychology as a physical thing, the patients are often built in the heart in a world of their own reality, cry when they laugh, and sometimes dancing, d, sometimes talk to oneself, even can do whatever you want, so that the whole body and mind function in a state of chaos. Patients' psychology and behavior make them completely lose the real connection with the objective world and live a dream life. Without medical or psychological treatment, it is difficult for these patients to recover to a normal state, and even severe abnormal psychology from the medical point of view. In medicine, abnormal psychology is also known as pathological or abnormal psychology. But for artists, abnormal psychology is, to some extent, an inevitable performance of artists in artistic creation.

Art works are the artist's reflection of real life, but not the simple writing of real life. In addition to the epitome of real life, artistic works are also permeated with the artist's personality, aesthetic concept, emotion, knowledge, world outlook and outlook on life are the sublimation of the artist to the natural society. The process of artistic creation is a process in which artists constantly release their emotional desires. Their weird ways of expression, in the eyes of ordinary people, are somewhat "abnormal", or close to "pathological". From the medical point of view, "pathological" is a kind of virtual reality is not divided, confusion reality and imagination of a kind of psychological or physical disease. Patients tend to build a world of their own in their heart, they interpret things according to their own feelings, in their eyes, there is no real world, their behavior can be said to be pathology" in medicine, but a necessary and normal expression in artistic creation. Here we will analyze the abnormal psychological expression of artists in artistic creation from different aspects.

In the sense of psychology, metamorphosis refers to "abnormal human mental activity and behavior." Metamorphosis happens to almost everyone, and there is no absolute normal person in the world. Starting from the consciousness of human life tragedy, Unamuno believes that people are suffering from diseases in essence and substance. Based on the wide range of abnormalities, the "Webster's Dictionary" believes that abnormalities are "abnormal" and "compared with standards." Or abnormal, exceptional, or abnormal behavior that deviates from the general situation"; Wang Ling's "Abnormal Psychology", edited by Wang Ling, believes that abnormal psychology is a statistical concept and has no derogatory meaning. The text is based on the core of abnormal psychology, starting from the benchmark that is different from healthy, uncoordinated, and abnormal mental states and behaviors. It believes that all mental activities and behaviors that deviate from healthy knowledge, emotions, and intentions are abnormal. psychology.

### 2. Geniuses and Lunatics

At this stage, people are gradually beginning to discover that extreme emotions are necessary for the emergence of art. Some people have begun to pursue abnormal art, but while we are pursuing abnormal art, we must also clearly realize that although most artists have abnormalities in them Part, but we must not equate artists with metamorphosis, and artworks are not as indulgent and uncut as metamorphosis.

The words "genius" and "lunatic" are labels and symbols given by human beings to explain phenomena that they cannot explain. In fact, the boundary between genius and madman is fuzzy. When a person is talented, but no one can explain why, then he is that people will be called lunatics.

The boundary line between the genius and the lunatic is to look at the consciousness of human existence. Genius is the gift of the age to this person. When this age does not need this person, he is a lunatic, and when the age needs him, he is a genius. Therefore, there are many geniuses in this world who have not been unearthed. They are just treated as lunatics. However, true lunatics cannot create art. In summary, the abnormal psychology of an artist is closely related to his creation. It is quite common for artists to enter the creation under abnormal psychology or to have abnormal psychology during the creation process. Although the abnormal psychology of the artist varies from person to person and has a strong individual color and shadow, the consistency shown from it is also obvious. These are the three basic characteristics of the artist's abnormal psychology: non-consciousness, originality, and abnormality. Features mixed with morbidity. These three basic characteristics constitute an integrated system that acts together in artistic creation to produce artistic characteristics that are different from the normal psychology, which profoundly affects the creative activities of artists, and is an important reason for the formation of the unique style of artistic works.

# 3. Psychological Analysis In The Creative Process: Take Van Gogh as An Example

Diderot once said: "Where there is emotion, there is beauty." This sentence illustrates the true relationship between emotion and art. An artist cannot create unique works without any emotional fluctuations. Yes, even the dissatisfaction with the government or the pain experienced by oneself will have a significant impact on the overall style of the artist. When we appreciate art works, we often start with the analysis of the background of the time or the personal background of the artist in a certain period, and then proceed to observe the artistic techniques of this work. So from this point of view, the misfortunes that happen to artists are sometimes not a bad thing.

Van Gogh was born on March 30, 1853, in a Protestant pastor's family in the Dutch village of zindert. In his early years, he worked as a clerk and business broker, and as a missionary in the mining area. Finally, he devoted himself to painting. His early style of painting was realistic, which was influenced by Dutch traditional painting and French realism. In 1886, he came to Paris to meet Impressionist and Neo Impressionist painters, and came into contact with Japanese ukiyo paintings. The expansion of his vision changed his painting style dramatically. In 1888, he came to Al, a small town in the south of France, and created the suspension bridge of Al; In the same year, he interacted with painter Paul Gauguin, but the cooperation soon failed due to the conflict of their personalities and differences of ideas. Since then, Van Gogh's Madness (recorded as "epilepsy") often broke out, but he still insisted on painting when he was conscious. In 1889, he created starry night. In July 1890, Van Gogh shot himself in insanity at the age of 37.

What is Post Impressionism? Post Impressionism, namely Post Impressionism, is an art phenomenon after Impressionism in the history of French art, also known as "after impressionism" or "Post Impressionism".

The so-called Post Impressionism is not an art group. They have no declaration and have not held joint exhibitions of works, but they are closely related to Impressionism, but their creative tendency is different from Impressionism. Later artists crowned them with "Post Impressionism" in order to distinguish them from Impressionism. Representatives include Paul Cezanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent Van Gogh, etc. Post Impressionist painters gave up the narrow goal of just pursuing color and pursued more passionate subjective performance. His theory and practice led to the break between European painting and the tradition since the Renaissance. A new artistic concept appeared, and Western modernist art in the 20th century sprouted.

Van Gogh's career as a painter was less than ten years, and all the works that won his reputation after Van Gogh's death were completed within three years after his heart was constantly struck by despair and death. For example, Van Gogh's "Self-Portrait with Bandages in Ears" and "Starry Night", of course, the most shocking part is the vitality and vividness of Van Gogh's works, which intuitively shows the audience his thoughts and spirit in creation. State, such paintings can't express casual emotions. It can be said that Van Gogh's life is full of extreme pain, but it is this pain that can explode the artistic potential of Van Gogh infinitely, but it is also this extreme pain that makes him more and more statistically. Among the perverts.

### 4. The Abnormal Psychology of The Artist in The Creative Process Regarding

The abnormal psychology of the artist, this is a special creative state. At this time, the artist's aesthetic and psychological form will change to a certain extent. Of course, the artist's ability of rational analysis and self-control will decline to a certain extent, and the perceptual impulse It will suddenly strengthen. At this time, the artist will feel dominated by a kind of alien power, falling into a state of drunkenness, forgetting the things, the reality is difficult to distinguish, and the truth is indistinguishable. This also proves that the artist is unable to control himself and fell into an unconscious psychology in the creative process. In this state, the artist will involuntarily break the connection between the objective world and the subjective world, and externalize the subjective imagination into an objective existence. They live a dream-like life in their hearts. Then this special psychological phenomenon of artists is often called abnormal psychology, and the strong emotion and rich imagination shown by it, as well as the unique creativity resulting from it, are consistent with the fundamental requirements of artistic creation. Art creation is a kind of high-level emotional activity. It takes the artist's emotion as the leading factor and uses imagination as a way. Based on the experience of reality, the

impression of reality is creatively processed and transformed into a vivid artistic image. Some artists are even described as crazy, weird, crazy, crazy, etc. It means that in the eyes of normal people, it does not conform to the behaviors and thoughts of most people, and if they do not follow the rules, they will be named "abnormal".

These so-called "abnormal" artists are often caused by their own or social reasons, such as the original family reasons, and suffered a big blow during their growth. They tend to accumulate a lot of loneliness, anxiety, pain, and depression in their hearts. The same thing is that these artists often feel the world keenly, continue to accumulate these emotions in their hearts, and release them in the form of art. Therefore, in the eyes of ordinary people, the abnormal psychology in the creative process is normal in the eyes of artists.

### 5. Abnormal Psychology in Artists' Emotional Personality

Every artist has the marks of different times, and every artist also has different experiences from others, resulting in intolerable outlooks on life and values and different emotional expressions, including the East and the west, and many artistic factions have been formed due to different historical and cultural backgrounds. Even in the same country, different artists will show different emotional colors in their artistic creation. The writer turns his life course, his observation and feeling of life into the artistic world under his pen, so "what we feel in art is not a simple or single emotional nature, It is the dynamic process of life itself, a process that constantly swings between the opposite poles - happiness and sadness, hope and fear, ecstasy and despair.

Psychologists have proved that an artist's paranoia and enthusiasm can arouse psychological "accumulation of energy", which is absolutely necessary for artistic creation. In fact, if you stay at the general psychological level, you can't create. There will always be some degree of abnormality or abnormality to create. Moreover, the depth of abnormality is directly proportional to the intensity of emotion. In fact, the more affectionate people are, the more human nature they are, and the more creative they are. In emotional works of art, we can even find the essence of the artist's heart through works. Take the painful emotional experience for example, it is not completely unfortunate for an artist, because great art always comes from great pain. The formation of this pain is not only the suffering of life or physical damage, but also the pursuit of the meaning of life, that is, a kind of soul pain. Van Gogh's career as a painter was less than ten years, and the works that won him a high reputation were all painted in the last three years when he was constantly attacked by death and despair. What is unforgettable is the vivid and jumping almost lifelike strokes in his works, which can best reveal the state of mind when he painted. It should be said that he spent his life in pain. However, it is the powerful force of pain that inspired his great creative potential. French writer Madame Starr said, "for happy people, life can be said to pass unconsciously. But when their hearts are in pain, their thoughts become active, to find hope, or to find the causes of regret, to think deeply about the past, and to foresee the future. When people are quiet and happy, this ability of observation is almost completely oriented to external things, and it only works on our own impression when people are unlucky. The tireless effect of pain makes these concepts and emotions constantly flash in our hearts, as if great things will happen every moment when we are bound. Examples of this kind can be found everywhere in the history of Cheng Yixue. Chinese Dufu, Hanging Guan, Xueqin Cao, Songling Pu... All achieved their literary creation through life adversity. Another example is the Austrian writer Kafka, who lived in the shadow of his father all his life. He was suppressed by his father since childhood. His weak, melancholy and introverted personality made him always in a humble position in front of his strong and rough father. He said, "I am a slave living in one of these worlds, and I am bound by various laws, which were invented solely for me." From this, he formed a strong sense of inferiority and loneliness of light Dharma liberation. It is under various mental depression that he created a series of famous novels, such as metamorphosis, judgment, country doctor, Castle, etc. In his works, there are many absurd and strange images and stories, but they are reminiscent of loneliness, fear, pain and despair, which fully shows the author's inner pain. For artists, smooth sailing is often shallow, because there is too little opportunity to think. In Western art history, Botticelli and Modigliani are rare and extremely sensitive painters who show sadness as the theme. Egon Schiller is also a painter who is good at showing emotional distortion. Pain and sorrow are not only necessary, but also necessary. They are the source of the artist's precious spiritual wealth and creation, or misfortune is inextricably linked with art. When we look at all the ancient poems, how many are not full of great and heavy melancholy and sorrow? Three hundred poems, the vast majority is the work of grief and anger, the voice of joy is very few, even in the time of joy sung songs, such as the return of a wanderer, or lovers meet, still with the color of sadness, we know that the nature of art is aesthetic, and beautiful things themselves contain the composition of sadness.

## 6. Illusion of Artists in Artistic Creation

Illusion also a manifestation of abnormal psychology in artistic creation. The so-called illusion is a false perception of the objective object. In the illusion there is an actual sensory stimulus, but it is misperceived or misrepresented in experience; For example, a chopstick partially submerged in water appears to be broken, which is called an optical illusion. Illusion is a false perception without external stimulus, that is, the perception of something as if it existed without actually feeling where the stimulus came from, but it is just as real as the real perception produced by the stimulus of the real object. Generally speaking, the relatively clear sensory impression is called illusion, and the vague impression is called illusion. Hallucination is an abnormal state of perception, that is, metamorphosis. In fact, hallucinations and perception are hard to separate. Illusion are very common psychological manifestations in artistic creation. Delusion is a common disorder in mental illness. It also produces hallucinations, but unlike what we call hallucinations in artistic creation, delusion is a false belief that turns the facts on their head, and the patient completely believes in objects that do not actually exist, or that they do to be in such a state of self-belief that they think they are the masters of the world shows a complete psychological illness. The illusion that artists show in their creation can not only make them fall into a state of ecstasy, enter the artistic creation ecstatically, reach the realm of objects and Gods, but also make them return to the reality, so the artists' psychology is often in the alternating change of reality and illusion. What role, then, does illusion play in an artist's creation?

First of all, illusion is conducive to shaping a unique living artistic image. Hallucinations and illusions are rarely under conscious control and seem to make the artist live directly in the artistic image. Hallucinations, freed from the constraints of everyday experience, create more unique images. "Journey to the West" in the wonderland of wonders and strange people emerged in endlessly, really make people appreciate the "literature is not magic" of the wonderful. From the psychological point of view, the image produced by illusion is inconsistent with the actual image produced, that is to say, scientifically unequal; Yet there are often similarities in art. Artists can not only produce illusion, but also immerse themselves in the realm of illusion for a long time, which is a rare creative process. Secondly, the illusion in artistic creation can organize the artist in ordinary times is hidden in his unconscious, and he may not be aware of it in ordinary times. The artist unconsciously organizes the material by means of illusion. For example, a writer's creation of a character image may come from the character, characteristics of dozens of people in life, sometimes, even the writer himself is unaware. One

of the characteristics of the artist's illusion is that the artist and the object described have some kind of coincidence. Sometimes, this phenomenon is caused by a focus on creation; Sometimes it's triggered by an accident. Inspiration is often accompanied by hallucinations.

Hallucinations are always active, changeable, and constantly changing with the artist's mood, and the things hallucinated are often new and strange. Freud is more figurative and compares hallucinations to daydreams. Goethe said: "The highest task of every art is to achieve a higher and more real illusion through illusion." "Journey to the West" inscription wrote: the text is not magic, magic is not very magic, is to know the world of magic, is a very true thing; The principle of extreme illusion is the principle of extreme truth, meaning that only through fantasy can one write the truth, not the reality of reality, but the reality of emotion. There are many writers who are extremely sensitive to hallucinations, which seems to be to a pathological degree. Dickens can hardly get rid of the entanglement of his characters in the process of writing novels, and can always see these characters appear in front of him when he eats and walks. In Chapter 55 of David Copperfield, he recounts a storm he experienced: "Years later, I often dream of this storm, so vivid that I wake up from my dream, as if the waves were still rattling in my quiet room... I will write down on paper what I have witnessed. I'm not remembering it. I'm seeing it. Because of that it came back to me." Balzac, in his dying moments, is still constantly calling his characters: "Come to me, my children, come to me! Collio! Grandet! Piroto..." . Many dancers and musicians also attach great importance to their illusions, which they regard as the source of artistic creation. The artist needs the help of illusion, without illusion, the painting cannot be vivid. For painters, "the environment is created by the heart" is very necessary. Chinese painting pays attention to artistic conception, which is often like a dreamland. In ancient China, when painters were too old to go out and see the natural scenery, they would hang their paintings on the wall and "lie in bed" to experience the real nature by relying on illusion.

### 7. Conclusion

All in all, we can make a correct evaluation of the abnormal psychology shown by artists in artistic creation. Such anti-normal psychology and subconscious expression of artists are not pathological behaviors, and the world they depict is not ugly, but a world of truth, goodness and beauty higher than life. From the content and form, has been completely different from the traditional sense of abnormal psychology and subconscious. This abnormal psychological expression of artists is just a normal need for expressing emotions in artistic creation, and also the need for self-discovery, self-expression and self-realization of artists. The expression of abnormal psychology is also the highest psychological state reached by artists in artistic creation. Only in this state can artists get rid of the habit of looking at things from the perspective of utility. Over the years, our artistic creation and psychological research has been more attention to reason and consciousness, and even the value of the research results are more attributed to reason, but often ignore some irrational subconscious behavior research. Further research on abnormal psychology in artistic creation should not only start from a new perspective of breaking tradition, capture the fresh and vivid elements behind consciousness, but also dare to face many practical difficulties in the process of research. As I mentioned in the second chapter about the thinking of primitive people and children, their thinking belongs to a very flexible way of thinking, so it can produce the creativity that ordinary people can't imagine. What we used to call reason is not a scientific generalization abstracted from real life, but some fixed modes of thinking obtained by subjective assumption. If we only rely on rational analysis to judge and study the value of artistic creation, then we can never imagine how much creative space the subconscious mind brings to artistic creation. Not only that, but we also lose a huge number of artistic resources.

The change of The Times, the progress of human beings, all need new blood, of course, the artist's abnormal in the field of psychology and subconscious for society in general, also need a long process, but I believe, with the diversity of the global political and economic and cultural development, will further broaden the scope of art in the field of psychological research, set up a for art of abnormal psychology study A wider world.

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