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Neoclassical style by Jacques Louis David

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Painting is a work masked by implicit messages. For centuries, paintings have influenced human civilization. Humans use skills, imaginations and experiences to express and share their ideas and feeling to others. Paintings can be classified into many styles, depending on the era, detail of edges and lines, colors and so on. Jacques Louis David is one of the well-known neoclassical painter. His paintings, which are the factors causing the French revolution, are the most interesting things that Jacques Louis David had done.

Jacques Louis David was considered to be the most influential French painter in the neoclassical¹ style. In fact, he was also thought of as the most skilled neoclassical painter. His works had shown the process of change from the frivolity of late the Baroque, Rococo², into a more severe style of the Classical era. Mostly, neoclassical paintings emphasize small detail; such as, line, shade of color, backgrounds, space, texture, and so on, of that complicated picture. His paintings about the Roman and Greek epics show and reflect human's beliefs and his attitudes. In his early years, he believed in a republic sentiment. He supported the revolution. His personalities are the key to the artist's revolutionary. Artistic sensibility, sedation, enthusiastic ardor, and

¹ Wikipedia contributors. "Neoclassic." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. <
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neoclassicism>>

² Wikipedia contributors. "Rococo." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. <
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rococo>

extremely independence might have been anticipated to help him solve the previous order. Although, he was known as a tolerant enthusiast, ardor rather than small-mindedness and envy, stimulated his activities during this period.

In his real life, Jacques Louis David had negative thought about the French monarchy and decided to express and share his attribute to others through his paintings. During the of French revolution, Jean-Paul Marat³, the leader of French revolution, was supported. David was his supporter. He helped Marat by creating portraits that implied a lot of meaningful action. Most of his works reflected the political situations. For the most famous instance, Death of Marat⁴ was painted after the day that Marat was murdered by Charlotte Corday. She fooled him by saying that she had got news about their enemies. She fatally stabbed him at his chest. His body was too violent so David drew in his way. He drew Marat's face and his body in a peaceful way, though; it contrasted to the fact of his death. His face, body, and other objects are enlightened, while the background remains as dark as a shadow. This portrait represents David's admiration and pettishness to Jean-Paul Marat. David also created another a famous painting, The Death of Socrates⁵. Socrates was Athenian philosopher. He interested in studying about natures and human's minds. He has many apprentices. While he had many pupils and became an important person in Athens, the government felt that he challenge them and also disparaged the god, Athena. He was offered two punishments. He must drink the poisonous beverage made by hemlock or faced exile. He decided to

³ Wikipedia contributors. "Marat." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean_Paul_Marat/>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "*Death of Marat*" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_Of_Marat/>

⁵ Wikipedia contributors. "*The Death of Socrates*" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. < http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Socrates

drink the hemlock and passed away calmly. David wanted to show that Socrates believed in his ideal and preserved his faith even though it caused his life.

Moreover, there are still a lot more of famous paintings. Oath of the Horatii⁶ shows the agreement between two families, Rome and Curiatii⁷, to stop the war. The three brothers of Rome, who all sacrificed their lives for the good of their hometown, are paying respect to their father who holds the swords for them to kill the opponents, the Curiatii. One of the women behind the scene is the Curiatii's sister and another one is fiancée. This information depicts that, for the Roman, country comes first, then family, lover, and friendship come after respectively. Lictors Returning to Brutus⁸ the Bodies of his Sons, is the painting that was not allowed to be shown in any exhibition at that time. In the painting, Brutus was lamenting without turning back to see his headless sons' bodies. He killed his sons himself. After he knew that his sons tried to abolish the monarchy system, he decided to sacrifice his life for maintaining the republic. He thought this is the best way for his country. Therefore, he became a heroic defender of the republic, but the cost was quite high, their family. This portrait becomes the symbol of French revolution that evokes people to end the monarchy.

In the present, France doesn't use monarchy anymore; it changes into republic with strong democracy. David's portraits are the factors to cause this

⁶ Wikipedia contributors. "Oath of the Horatii

" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oath_of_the_Horatii/>

⁷ Wikipedia contributors. "Curiatii

" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. < <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curiatii/>>

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. "The Lictors Bring to Brutus the Bodies of His sons

" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 1 Feb 2013. <

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Lictors_Bring_to_Brutus_the_Bodies_of_His_Sons/>

revolution. His works not only focus on the beauty of art; symmetric and realistic, but they are also hidden with the meaningful implication. He wants to hearten French people to come up against the monarchy and implants the people to love their country, to know the true bravery, and to sacrifice their own benefit to the society and country. The French did not like their king. It is **unsuspected** that his work of art motivated the French citizens to stand up against the monarchy, which led to the French revolution and the execution of King, Louis XVI.

In conclusion, Jacques Louis David, neoclassical style painter, has created many paintings that influenced to the French revolution. David's paintings are the factors that led to the French revolution. This is the greatest change in the French regime. It leads the older order to be abolished and change into the new one, republic with the strong democracy. Every detail in the portraits reflects the painter's attitude and shows the histories, which are passed onward to next generations. Considering his portraits, They make him look interesting in people's sight because of the details.

Up the present, David has an great influence to our world. His paintings are the factor of changing the French regime, from monarchy to republic. People also have to study and try to understand the meaningful implications in the portraits. They can reflect each situations in the past. It also shows the spirit of the painter since the time that he has painted until now.