

Section: Social Science

The Political Dimension in Arab Contemporary Art through the Marcuse Aesthetic Theory: A Descriptive Analytical Study

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Abstract:

This paper discusses the political dimension in Arab contemporary art based on the Marcuse aesthetic theory. The researchers believe there is a high correlation between Arab contemporary art and Marcuse aesthetic theory when the three main axes of this theory are tested and reflected on contemporary Arab artworks (study sample). This study attempts to describe and analyze the artworks (study sample) and link this analysis to Marcuse theory. The study sample contains three Arab contemporary artworks from 2010-2015 to clarify the political dimension in Arab contemporary art in accordance with the Marcuse aesthetic theory. The findings prove strong correlations between Arab contemporary art and Marcuse aesthetic theory.

Keywords: Political dimension, Marcuse aesthetic theory, Contemporary Art.

Introduction:

Danto (1997) confirms that there is a transformation of the form of contemporary art and its role in the presentation of contemporary political and social issues. He states, "The art found its significance through the philosophical and cognitive issues and out of the border and the framework, and it must express political and social issues." While Marcuse noted that art was essential in contemporary societies, and he confirmed the revolution of this art and the role it played in the contemporary issues in its community without matching the reality (Spens, 2013).

Contemporary Arab communities are living a transitional stage and experiencing unrest. Which make change the core issue for Arab people. Some characteristics of the Arab life are changing quickly and unexpectedly while other communities stay without change resisting undesirable changes. These days, the Arab world is living a state of partition in community and politics which led to

losing its control upon its recourses, life and faith. This state of chaos and instability create a class society that has a huge difference between poor and rich people. Therefore, most people in the country are poor. The Arab governments kept their authorities on the ruling system and put their permanence as the main concern by suppressing people and they didn't use convincing tools, so that people lost their liberty of self-determination (Barakat, 1986).

Danto (2005) states that contemporary artists have started to feel the need to respond to political crisis in the world. Many artists are currently within the politics because of the situation around them. They feel it is significant to interact with the issues surrounding them and achieve art works that discusses the situation resulted from the impact of politics. In Spens (2013), Marcuse, noted that art was essential in contemporary communities, and he confirmed the revolution of this art and the role it