

## Abstract

It is argued that art studies should offer students prior knowledge in order to develop their visual literacy. This study focuses on the formation of a stronger knowledge-base of historical understandings and interpretive skills of spiritual symbolism in modern art. Accordingly, the study explores various notions of symbolism, Man's old relationship with the Divine, Man's new relationship with the Divine, the development of abstraction in modern art, modern prophets for a modern art, and spiritual influences on modern artists. The research results reveal that many modern artists were highly influenced by Theosophy and alchemical symbols and they also employed a proliferation of multivocality symbols in their symbolic interpretations of the Divine. The research results also reveal that modern artists were radical innovators and were driven by an unquenchable urge for spiritual transformation. Additionally, despite their different techniques and philosophies, such artists shared one objective: to break a path to a new, ultimate pictorial truth in their quest for the Divine.

**Keywords:** art education, modern art, prima material, spirituality, visual literacy

## 摘要

在藝術研究上，已有許多主張認為若欲培養藝術系學生之視覺素養，必須提供他們先備知識，本研究著重在加強學生對現代藝術中精神象徵史學理解力與詮釋能力基本知識之形成。本研究探討各類象徵概念、人類與神之舊式／新式關係、現代藝術抽象概念之發展、對現代藝術之現代預言，以及對現代藝術家之精神性影響。研究結果顯示許多現代藝術家深受神智學及煉金術象徵影響並且對神之象徵詮釋上大量使用多意喻之象徵。研究結果也顯示現代藝術家是激進之改革者，並且對精神性轉變有不可遏制之欲求。雖然具不同技法與哲理，但是他們卻共同擁有一個目標：闖出一條對探索神靈的新終極性繪畫真理之路。

**關鍵詞：**藝術教育、現代藝術、原質、精神性、視覺素養