



Study of the Realism Era and life of two of the Greatest Artists

Art is full of confusing variety of Movements and Mannerisms, Realism Art being one of them. Realistic Philosophy has given the Doctrine of Realism. According to Butler's View, "Realism is Common acceptance of the World as being what it happens to be....." According to Ross, "The Doctrine of Realism asserts that there is real world of things behind and corresponding in objects of our perception...." Principles of Realism : (1) Emphasis on physical aspects of Universe. (2) Universe is independent of Mind. (3) Reality is Real. (4) Soul and God are figments of Imitation. (5) Emphasis on present Life. (6) Affiliation of Magical Elements of Life. The Movement of Realism gave Blood to physical aspects of Life and Enlightened the World of 'Human Experiences' viz. 'Material' and 'Rational'.

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Introuction :

Between the 'Idealism of Renaissance' and 'Intellectualism of Today', there can be seen various Phases of 'Fantasy' and 'Realism'. The word 'Realism' is perhaps the most exactitude in Philosophy, where historically, as opposed to 'Nominalism', or generally A Theory of Knowledge which indicates a belief in objective reality of 'External World'. Say for instance, a Realistic Writer is one who professes to avoid any selective biases in his Transcription of Life, giving us the scene or the character as the eye sees it. But actually, Realist Artist is the one who emphasizes a certain aspect of life at least flattering to human divinity.

A Realist would be the one who tired by every means to present the exact appearance of Objects and such an Art, according to Realistic Philosophy is based upon simple faith in objective existence of things. Few vague Phrases that are coordinated with Realism Theories are Reaction- Action, Maximum of Fact and Minimum of Content, Nature without correction and, Scientific observation and rational presentation of nature.

Important Artists :

(1) Camille Corot (1796-1875) :

Camille Corot was formally known as 'The Arcadian'. The name of Corot is Apt to evoke in mind's eye of the reader, a series of visual images which slowly form pictures of Tranquil Landscapes, where the Cattle gaze or Nymph's Dance in slow Rhythm through Forest Glades. Like other French Artists, he was born of Working People. His Mother was a Paris based Millionaire and Father was a Civil Servant.



Their business did so well that by the time their son turned 26, they were able to buy a little house with several Acres around it on the edge of the pond outside Paris. The Rustic Atmosphere made a Powerful impression on young Corot. His parents were training him for business, but his interest in Art was so

Strong, that finally, when he was 26, his parents gave him allowance of \$300 a year so that he could do what he longed to do. At the age of 50, he was decorated with the Lien of Honour, and his father remarked, "Now that you wear the Red Ribbon in your Button-Hole, you must wear a better looking Coat." Corot had a hobby; he always liked to paint Beautiful Women who possessed Natural Beauties. He painted around 280 of them. Some critics of Today consider them as 'Fine Jewels of Art'. Corot remained a Bachelor through his life and when his father argued to this, he replied, "I am not alone, a woman is often here in my room-my Muse (an inspiring Goddess)". From Paris, he was awarded Gold Medal on which he responded in his speech, "It is wonderful to be loved like this". Corot was Unspoiled by Wealth and Indifferent to Fame. Corot died in 1879 at

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the age of 79, at Peace with himself and the World. He was an Artist who worked till the end of his life. One Morning, he arose to discover that he did not have appetite for Breakfast and exclaimed- Today is of No Use (as he thought he couldn't work anymore). He said, "Papa! Corot Breakfasts above".

Some of his Famous Paintings are: Harbor Of La' Rochelle, 1852; Agostina, 1866; the Girl Combing her Hair, and; The Bridge at Mantes

(2) Gustave Courbet (1819-1877) :

Gustave Courbet was formally known as the 'The Defiant Showman'. Year after year, this contemporary Artisan was rejected by the Juries, except until 1844 when he got his first acceptance. But he talked and blew his own horn. He is seen as a Pioneer and a Path Maker, a man who rejected the conventional traditions and formulas of his own day his dictum simply stated in his own words: 'To know in order to do: Such has been my thought. To be able to translate the



customs, ideas and appearance of my own time as I see them- in a word to create Living Art, This has been my Aim.....' He was born in a village of Ornance near French Swiss Border. He was the son of a Prosperous Farmer. The boy had enough education to aim at a career in Law, but decided upon Art instead. However in so far as subject matter of Painting was concerned for Courbet was circumscribed one. He was surrounded by peasants and townfolk, whom he liked and therefore understood. In most parts of his Paintings, he depicted everyday activities of road menders, mourners at Country Funerals and Local girls on an outing on his canvas. Courbet was a skilled Hunter and scenes of chase are frequent in his repertory. In the later part of his life, he became enchanted with the wonders of the Sea, its enchanting aspects, its moods of Range and Calm. Some of his greatest Canvases represent water of Coast of Normandy and then at the end of the life, when he was imprisoned briefly for a Political Offence, thus deprived of a chance to Paint Outdoors. He had flowers and fruits brought to him, there he painted most realistic Still-Lives. To understand Courbet, his paintings for him, there are more of Humanity and Integrity than in his Prose or Passionate correspondence. There was integrity and directness which had been absent from Art from some time. Courbet's craftsmanship was beyond reproach. According to him, 'I have no more wanted to imitate

the Former than to copy the Latter, nor have I thought of achieving ideal Aim of achieving Art for Art's Sake. No I have simply wanted to draw from a thorough knowledge of tradition, the reasoned and free sense of my own individuality....'

Some of his Famous Paintings are: The Artist's Studio; Funeral at Ornance; Preperation for Wedding

References :

- (1) *Camille Corot: Natur Und Traum* by Camille Corot.
- (2) *Corot by Professor Michael Pantazzi; Gary Tinterow; Vincent Pomarede; and Michael Pantazzi.*
- (3) *Corot (Masters of Art)* by Madeleine Hours.
- (4) *Letters of Gustave Courbet* by Gustave Courbet and Petra ten-Doesschate Chu.
- (5) *Gustave Courbet: 1819-1877 (Taschen Basic Art)* by Fabrice Masanes.

