A Study on Characteristics of the Art Nouveau Style in Textile Designs of European Countries

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Abstract

Starting with crafts and architecture in the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the art nouveau style has been applied in all of art sectors including sculpture, interior design, decorative art and furniture. With the Pan-European movement to resist the mass production and the culture lacking in elaboration, it has inspired designers thus far, seeking for ideal and value of beauty. Due to the diversified and complicated scope of textile design, works of art are being demanded to establish their own unique properties. For this reason, a lot of designers are launching new works, today, using patterns representing each period or each country and design characteristics.

Thus, this study aims to make a contribution to design development, by developing creative materials and new inspiration elements for future textile design, based on motives, methods of arrangement and colors of the art nouveau style in textile designs of each country. For this purpose, textile designers representing the art nouveau style in each country and their works were analyzed, and design styles and various decorative features from them were considered, on the basis of general concepts and backgrounds of art nouveau in each country described in domestic and foreign scholarly materials and books.

Research purpose, method and scope were described. For a theoretical background, a simple consideration of art nouveau, its formation and major properties were analyzed. Based on this theoretical background, then, characteristics of the art nouveau style in textile designs of each country were suggested and analyzed through intentions of designers and pictures. Lastly, the effect of the art nouveau style on contemporary textile designs was investigated, based on the research. The results of this study are as follows.

Belgian art nouveau style has modern characteristics, as an abstract and symbolic form to create new beauty. French art nouveau style shows realistic descriptions with motifs of plants. In general, it pursues peacefulness and beauty through rhythmical arrangements, and expresses positive emotions and aestheticism. English art nouveau style expresses a rhythmical sense and tension using simple and abstract curves, organic forms and asymmetric layouts. German and Austrian art nouveau style expresses geometric designs using transformed figures such as a triangle and a quadrangle, and uses stylized plants as motifs. Not being far off from its own characteristics, the art nouveau style which has a variety of techniques of expression and gives inspiration for designs, is being used for different textile designs including apparel, home interior and accessories, based on the background of the time.

In other words, this study demonstrated that art nouveau can be expressed variously in textile designs and is a promising style. For developing creative textile designs, there should be continuing researches on art nouveau style. In conclusion, this research would help to develop textile designs using the art nouveau style, from more creative and different point of view.

국문초록

아르누보 양식은 19세기 말에서 20세기 초 공예와