



## THE ROLE OF MODERN PAINTING IN THE VISUAL ARTS OF UZBEKISTAN

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**Annotation:** This article explores the role of modern painting within the visual arts of Uzbekistan, its complex relationship with traditional cultural heritage and contemporary global influences, how vibrant color schemes and symbolic imagery rooted in Uzbekistan's natural landscape play a central role in shaping the visual language of contemporary painting.

**Key words:** modern painting, national identity, Islamic art, Socialist Realism, contemporary art, traditional motifs, cultural heritage, global influences.

### Introduction:

Modern painting in Uzbekistan occupies a pivotal position within the broader spectrum of visual arts, serving as a dynamic site where traditional cultural motifs intersect with contemporary global influences. Modern painting in particular reflects the nation's unique historical trajectory, drawing from centuries of Islamic artistic traditions while also engaging with contemporary socio-political themes. Uzbek artists often fuse ancient forms of artistic expression, such as miniature painting and intricate geometric designs rooted in Islamic art, with modern techniques that reflect the rapidly changing society.

### Literature analysis and methodology:

One of the most enduring influences on modern Uzbek painting is its historical association with Soviet-era art, particularly the aesthetics of Socialist Realism. Under Soviet rule, artists were encouraged, and often mandated, to adhere to a style that glorified labor, industry, and the collective spirit. This legacy continues to shape Uzbek visual culture in complex ways. While some artists remain loyal to the figurative and narrative forms championed during the Soviet era, others deliberately challenge these conventions, opting for more abstract, expressionist approaches. The tension between these two impulses — preserving tradition and pushing artistic boundaries — is a defining feature of modern Uzbek painting. This blending of the familiar with the avant-garde allows Uzbek painting to occupy a unique position within the global art world.

The use of color and symbolism in modern Uzbek painting is particularly noteworthy, often serving as a key to unlocking the deeper meanings embedded in the works. Uzbekistan's rich natural environment, from its desert landscapes to its verdant oases, provides artists with a vast palette of colors and forms that symbolize both the beauty and harshness of the land. In many modern paintings, the sun, mountains, rivers, and traditional patterns are not merely decorative elements, but carry significant symbolic weight, representing themes such as resilience, continuity, and transformation. These motifs are often rendered in vibrant hues—deep blues, bright greens, and rich golds—that not only reflect the natural beauty of Uzbekistan but also the spiritual and emotional depths of the culture.

### Results:

As Uzbekistan continues to engage with the broader currents of global modernity, its painting tradition is increasingly incorporating contemporary themes that address the challenges of the modern world. Issues such as urbanization, migration, environmental degradation, and the complex interplay of tradition and modernity are becoming prominent in the works of younger generations of artists. The rapid modernization of Uzbek society, particularly in its cities, has created a fertile ground for artists to explore the tension between preserving cultural heritage and embracing change. In this context, modern Uzbek painting serves as both a mirror and a critique of the social transformations occurring within the country. Exhibitions and biennales held in Uzbekistan, as well as the increasing international visibility of its artists, are testament to the country's growing importance as a cultural hub in Central Asia.

#### **Discussion:**

Furthermore, modern painting in Uzbekistan has also become a powerful tool of cultural diplomacy. As Uzbek artists gain international recognition, their works are increasingly being exhibited in prestigious galleries and museums around the world. These exhibitions not only introduce international audiences to the rich artistic heritage of Uzbekistan but also facilitate cultural exchange, positioning Uzbekistan as a key player in the global art world. Through their engagement with both local traditions and global trends, Uzbek artists are forging new paths in contemporary painting, challenging stereotypes of Central Asian art as being purely historical or ornamental. Instead, they present a vision of Uzbek art that is forward-looking, innovative, and deeply connected to the complex realities of life in the 21st century.

#### **Conclusion:**

In conclusion, modern painting in Uzbekistan plays a vital role in shaping the visual identity of the nation, offering a unique lens through which to view both its rich cultural heritage and its engagement with contemporary global issues. Through a combination of traditional forms, Soviet-era influences, and modern artistic techniques, Uzbek artists are creating a dynamic and evolving art scene that speaks to both local and international audiences. Their work reflects the complexities of Uzbekistan's post-Soviet identity, blending the old and the new in ways that resonate far beyond the country's borders. As Uzbekistan continues to emerge on the global cultural stage, its modern painters will undoubtedly play a crucial role in defining its artistic legacy for future generations.

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