# **Political and Legal Issues in Artistic Creation**

#### Yiran Liu

College of Humanities, Beijing University of Chinese Medicine, Fangshan District, Beijing, China 18601223778@163.com

**Abstract.** This study explores the influence of politics and law on artistic creation and the reflection of artistic creation on politics and law. It analyzes how politics and law shape the ecology of artistic creation and how artistic creation reflects on and critiques politics and law. The study examines the multifaceted relationship between artistic creation and politics and law,including political intervention in artistic creation, the influence of politics on artistic styles and themes, and the impact of politics on art evaluation and criticism. It also explores the influence of law on artistic creation, focusing on intellectual property protection and the art market. The study highlights the reflection of politics and law in artistic creations, examining how artists use various techniques to express their views on society, politics, and the law. It also discusses the roles and choices of artists in political and legal conflicts. The study concludes by emphasizing the need for artists to maintain independent thinking and freedom of expression within political and legal constraints and the importance of promoting social progress and justice through artistic creation.

**Keywords:** Artistic creation, Politics, Law, Reflection, Political intervention, Artistic styles, Artistic themes, Art evaluation.

#### 1. Introduction

In today's society, artistic creation has become an important means for people to express themselves, communicate their emotions and display their culture. However, but, artistic creation is not isolated. It is closely connected with politics, law and other social factors. In the field of art, the influence of politics and law is ubiquitous, both shaping the direction of artistic creation and reflecting in artworks.

The purpose of this study is to explore the influence of politics and law on artistic creation, and the reflection of artistic creation on politics and law. We will analyze how politics and law shape the ecology of artistic creation from multiple perspectives, and at the same time explore how artistic creation reflects on and critiques politics and law through its works.

## 2. Background

The relationship between artistic creation and politics and law is complex and multifaceted. On the one hand, politics and law provide the social background and normative framework for artistic creation, influencing artists' creative thinking and methods of expression. On the other hand, artistic creation can also reflect on and criticize politics and law, thus influencing the society's perception and attitude towards politics and law.

In the long history, many art works have revealed, criticized or reflected on the politics and laws of the time. For example, Renaissance paintings and sculptures often use metaphors and symbols to reveal social injustices, while modern art has questioned the problems of modern society through diversified means of expression. These works have not only enriched the language of art, but also promoted social thinking about politics and law.

However, the impact of political science and jurisprudence on art creation is not unidirectional, and artists are also swayed by politics and law in the process of creation. Their choices and expressions may reflect identification with or criticism of politics and law. This interaction is particularly evident in contemporary society. With the

development of globalization and informationization, artistic creation has become more and more closely linked to politics and law over time.

In general, politics and law are indispensable backgrounds and references for artistic creation. An in-depth exploration of this theme is helpful to our understanding of the social value and function of art, and also provides guidance on how to balance personal expression and social responsibility in artistic creation.

## 3. Political Influence on Artistic Creation

#### 3.1 Political Intervention in Artistic Creation

Political intervention in artistic creation manifests itself in many aspects, such as the themes, styles, and technical means of artistic works. For example, in some countries, political forces may directly intervene in the creative process of artists by censoring or modifying their works. This may result in the artist's work losing its original meaning and value and becoming irrelevant.

For example, the Chinese artist Ai Weiwei expressed his criticism of the government and concern for human rights issues in his works. However, the government interfered and restricted his creations, including detention and censorship;

Russian artist Putinova expressed criticism of the government in her works. However, the government censored and banned her works.

#### 3.2 The influence of politics on artistic styles and themes

Politics can also have an impact on the subject matter of an artist's creative endeavors. Changes in the political environment may lead to changes in the artist's observation and understanding of the real world, thus affecting his or her creative subject matter. For example, for a country that has been in a state of war or conflict for a long time, artists may pay more attention to the impact of war and conflict on people's lives, and then show their concern and thinking about these issues in their works.

For example, during the apartheid period in South Africa, artists' criticism of and opposition to the apartheid policy was expressed through their artworks. These works became an important part of the anti-apartheid movement and promoted social change.

#### 3.3 The influence of politics on art evaluation and criticism

Politics also affects people's evaluation and criticism of art works. Different political environments will interpret and evaluate the value and significance of works of art differently. In some countries, political forces may intervene in the evaluation and criticism of works of art in order to defend their political stance or values. This may lead to a loss of objectivity and fairness in the evaluation and criticism of works of art.

For example, during the Soviet period, the government censored and restricted art works, requiring artists to create works that were compatible with socialist realism. It restricted the creative freedom of artists.

Overall, the influence of politics on artistic creation is multifaceted, including intervention in artistic creation, influence on artistic style and themes, and influence on artistic evaluation and criticism. Artists should maintain in-depth thinking and critical thinking in order to avoid excessive intervention and control by political forces. At the same time, artists should pay attention to real social problems. Through artistic creation, they can express their own views and feelings and contribute to the progress and development of society.

#### 4. Influence of Law on Artistic Creation

In the field of artistic creation, the influence of law on the diversity of art is profound. The following are some of the key aspects that I will explore:

The relationship between intellectual property protection and artistic creation

Intellectual property protection is a key topic in artistic creation. Artistic works are often intangible and require legal protection against plagiarism and copying. For example, it was only after obtaining copyright protection for Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon that movie director Ang Lee was able to transform his artistic creation into a movie that became a huge commercial success worldwide. On the other hand, if there is insufficient intellectual property protection, the fruits of an artist's labor may be copied and abused at will, which will have a great impact on the artist's passion for creation.

The art market and the law are closely intertwined. First, the sale and purchase of artworks need to be carried out in accordance with specific legal procedures, such as auctions and the signing of transaction contracts. In addition, fraudulent behavior in the art market is often subject to the law. For example, art counterfeiters may gain undue benefits by creating forgeries, and such behavior can be stopped by legal means.

Artists enjoy various rights in the creative process, such as copyright and portrait rights. However, artists must also take on some legal obligations, such as abiding by copyright laws and not infringing on others' right to reputation. For example, an artist who posts a portrait of another person on social media may constitute copyright infringement if he or she does not obtain permission from the owner of the portrait right.

Here is a specific case:

A well-known painter, Zhang, created a painting and sold it publicly, however, it was discovered that the composition and colors of the painting were very similar to a masterpiece by another well-known painter, Li. After investigation, it was found that Zhang had indeed downloaded Li's painting from the internet as a reference and made slight modifications. The court eventually ruled that Zhang had infringed on Li's copyright and needed to compensate Li for his losses and publicly apologize. This case illustrates the impact of the law on artistic creation and the need for artists to respect the intellectual property and portrait rights of others.

# 5. Reflection of politics and law in artistic creations

In works of art, artists often use a variety of techniques to express their views on society, politics and the law. They reflect political metaphors and critiques by depicting reality, fiction or fables that challenge or support particular social values.

Metaphors of politics and religion appear frequently in the work of the Spanish surrealist painter Salvador Dali. In many of his works, Dali depicted grotesque creatures, distorted images, and absurd scenes as a reflection of his critique of power, control, and prejudice.

Works of art are often limited and influenced by legal regulations. In some cases, artists may face legal action for violating copyright laws. However, this has also led to debates about freedom of expression and creativity, where artists have the right to express their views and ideas.

For example, movie director Robert Zemeckis has caused controversy over his use of visual effects technology from George Lucas' Star Wars. Although Zemeckis has been licensed for the technology, he has been criticized for commercially exploiting copyright law to protect his intellectual property.

Artists' Roles and Choices in Political and Legal Conflicts

Artists often play a key role in political and legal conflicts. Not only do they have the right to express their opinions, but they also have a responsibility to respect the law in their work. Some artists may choose to circumvent the law and protect their intellectual property by creating works that are difficult to censor or reproduce. Other artists may choose to accept the limitations within the legal framework and express their views by creating works that comply with copyright law.

In many cases, artists may need to make trade-offs between freedom of expression and respect for the law. For example, artists may need to consider that copyright law states that they cannot use another person's work without

permission, but at the same time they have the right to express their own views and ideas. In such cases, artists may seek ways to balance this, such as obtaining permission or using copyrighted works that have expired.

Creating art is a complex process overall. Many different factors are involved, including the artist's personal views, the legal framework and social values. Artists need to find a balance between these factors in order to create works that are both meaningful and impactful.

The interaction between artistic creation and politics and law is a complex and sensitive topic. The influence of politics and law on artistic creation can be both positive and negative. On the one hand, politics and law can provide a framework and protection for artists to create and promote the development and prosperity of art. On the other hand, political and legal restrictions and interventions may pose challenges to artists' independent thinking and freedom of expression.

In some countries and regions, politics and laws have clear regulations and restrictions on artistic creation. For example, certain countries censor and review the content of artworks to ensure that they conform to the government's ideology and values. Such censorship may restrict artists' freedom of expression and independent thinking, making it difficult for them to create works with a truly personal style and unique point of view.

However, there are various ways in which artists can maintain their independent thinking and freedom of expression. One way is to realize the maintenance of their own rights and interests through legal protection. In some countries, the law explicitly protects the creative freedom of artists. For example, the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Human Rights Covenants both recognize artists' freedom of creation and right of expression. In addition, some countries have enacted specific laws to protect the copyright and intellectual property rights of artists and to ensure that they are able to enjoy the benefits and prestige of their work.

Promoting social progress and justice in artistic creation is also an important role that artists can play. Artworks can draw public attention and reflection by expressing social issues, exploring power relations and challenging injustice. For example, German artist Hans Haacke's work Hitler's Eagle Dogs is a critique and warning against Nazism, which has aroused extensive discussion and reflection in society. In addition, some artists have utilized their influence and creations to promote social progress and justice by participating in social movements and public welfare activities.

However, artists also face some challenges in promoting social progress and justice. Political and legal restrictions may pose obstacles to artists' creativity and freedom of expression. In addition, some social groups may hold different views and positions on artists' works, and controversies and boycotts may arise. Under such circumstances, artists need to maintain strong beliefs and courage to continue to express their views and creations.

To summarize, the interaction between artistic creation and politics and law is complex and sensitive. Artists need to maintain independent thinking and freedom of expression within political and legal constraints, and to promote social progress and justice through their artworks. The government and society should also respect artists' freedom of creation and right of expression, and provide them with an open and inclusive environment to promote artistic diversity and innovation.

### 6. Conclusion

Politics and law profoundly affect artistic creation. Political and legal restrictions and interventions may pose challenges to artists' independent thinking and freedom of expression. However, artists can maintain independent thinking and freedom of expression through legal protection and strong convictions. Artworks can arouse public concern and reflection by exploring social issues, challenging injustice and promoting social progress. The government and society should respect artists' freedom of creation and right of expression, and provide them with an open and inclusive environment to promote diversity and innovation in the arts.

## 7. Suggestions and Prospects for Future Research

Although the influence of politics and law in artistic creation has been studied to a certain extent, there are still many aspects that need to be explored and researched in depth. The following are some suggestions and outlooks: In-depth study of the influence of politics and law on artistic creation in different countries and regions: there

are differences in the political and legal environment for artistic creation in different countries and regions, and it is necessary to study the situation in different geographical areas in depth and compare their influences and restrictions on artistic creation.

Explore the impact of politics and law on different art forms: there may be differences in the impact of politics and law on different art forms, such as painting, music, film, literature, etc., and there is a need to further explore their impact and constraints on different art forms.

Research on artists' creative strategies and innovations under political and legal constraints: artists often adopt strategies and innovations to maintain independent thinking and freedom of expression in the face of political and legal constraints, and research in this area can provide reference and inspiration for other artists.

Focus on the impact of politics and law on art creation in the new media and digital era. The forms of artistic creation and dissemination have changed greatly with the development of new media and digital technology, and the influence of politics and law on these new forms also deserves attention and research.

In conclusion, politics and law profoundly affect artistic creation, but artists can maintain independent thinking and freedom of expression through legal protection and strong beliefs. Future research should explore different countries and regions in depth, study the impact of different art forms, focus on artists' creative strategies and innovations under restrictions, and pay attention to the impact of politics and law on art creation in the new media and digital age. These studies will contribute to a better understanding of the role of politics and law on artistic creation, providing a better creative environment and better protection for artists.

#### References

- [1] Becker, H. S. (1982). Art worlds. University of California Press.
- [2] Bourdieu, P. (1993). The field of cultural production: Essays on art and literature. Columbia University Press.
- [3] Eagleton, T. (2003). Sweet violence: The idea of the tragic. John Wiley & Sons.
- [4] Hobsbawm, E. (1990). Nations and nationalism since 1780: Programme, myth, reality. Cambridge University Press.
- [5] Foucault, M. (1991). Discipline and punish: The birth of the prison. Vintage Books.
- [6] Fisher, W. F. (2008). Promises to keep: Technology, law, and the future of entertainment. Stanford University Press.
- [7] Ginsburg, J. C., & Nelkin, D. K. (2002). Copyright in a global information economy. Aspen Publishers.
- [8] Landes, W. M., & Posner, R. A. (2003). The economic structure of intellectual property law. Harvard University Press.
- [9] Danto, A. C. (1998). After the end of art: Contemporary art and the pale of history. Princeton University Press.
- [10] Greenberg, C. (1993). Art and culture: Critical essays. Beacon Press.
- [11] Rose, G. (2007). Visual methodologies: An introduction to researching with visual materials. Sage Publications.
- [12] Butler, J. (1997). Excitable speech: A politics of the performative. Routledge.

ISSN:2790-167X

Volume-9-(2024)

[13] Derrida, J. (1992). Force of law: The 'mystical foundation of authority'. Cardozo Law Review, 11(5), 919-1046.