

Iconic places of Lake Baikal in painting

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ABSTRACT

This article is devoted to the consideration of the natural objects of Lake Baikal depicted in the landscape works of local artists. The beauty and uniqueness of the nature of Lake Baikal leaves no one indifferent, its mystery and spirituality inspire artists to create very poetic images of this place. The paper considers such famous places of Lake Baikal as Olkhon Island and the Shamanka rock located near it.

This study is based on the paintings of artists: G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», 1977, it is located in the state budgetary cultural institution «State Museum of Fine Arts of the Republic of Tatarstan»; S. G. Zhillina «Shamanka Rock», 2014, is located in the state budgetary cultural institution «Irkutsk Regional Art Museum named after V. P. Sukachev».

Keywords: natural landscape, Lake Baikal, Olkhon Island, Shamanka rock, Eastern Siberia, landscape artists.

Introduction:

The image of nature never loses its relevance, since reproducing nature, the artist, in fact, turns to himself, and explores his inner world. Immersing himself in the image of Lake Baikal, the artist learns himself from a new side. That is why Baikal landscapes are so animated and alive. Baikal as a mythical fairy-tale creature, a meeting with which changes a person forever. In a globally changing world, aimed more at transmitting and receiving information, the inner world of a person fades into the background. Modern society has no time to pay attention to one individual; all processes are subject to the principle of expediency, which dictates its own rules. However, nature, as the basis of all life on earth, can help a person find this support in the modern world through fine art, in particular the classical natural landscape.

The purpose of this article: to consider the paintings by artists G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», S. G. Zhillina «Shamanka Rock», made in the genre of natural landscape in the context of creating a common image of Lake Baikal.

In accordance with the set goal, it is necessary to solve the following tasks:

- to present a review of the scientific literature on the topic under consideration;
- to determine the methodology of this study;
- to present a brief historical and geographical sketch of the iconic places of Lake Baikal;
- to define the genre of the natural landscape, to consider its features;
- in the context of defining the genre of the natural landscape, consider the paintings of artists G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», S. G. Zhillina «Shamanka Rock», to present the image of Lake Baikal in painting.

Baikal landscapes are very recognizable due to the iconic nature and popularity of the places. Each artist, by virtue of his talent and abilities, paints Baikal in his own individual way, taking an author's approach to its image.

The presented work has a scientific novelty, as it examines paintings depicting specific natural places of Lake Baikal, made in the genre of natural landscape.

This research can be further used in practical activities as methodological material.

Research methods include scientific publications on these topics:

– the work of Bekisheva A. V. «Landscape in the painting of Trans-Baikal artists of the second half of the twentieth century» tells about specific artists, their works during the specified period of time, living in the Trans-Baikal Territory and painting Baikal [1];

– the scientific article by E. V. Kolegova «Features of the mountain landscape in Altai painting» is important for this study, since using this description and characterize the landscape painting of the Baikal region [2];

– the work of Paznikov O. I. «Fine art of Buryatia in the artists and educational process of primary school» tells about landscape painting in this region [3];

– the scientific publication of E. G. Sanzhieva «On the history of the popularization of the fine arts of Buryatia in the 60-70s of the XX century» is devoted to the fine arts of the Republic of Buryatia, its features and development trends [4];

– the article by Syromyatnikova E. V. «Methoda of transmission of the light-air environment in landscape painting» conveys the artistic techniques of depicting the natural landscape in fine art [5].

These scientific sources of literature fully help to reveal the topic of this study «Iconic places of Lake Baikal in painting».

In addition to the above-mentioned literature, empirical and general scientific research methods were used in the work, such as description, comparison, generalization, deduction and induction, comparative analysis.

The natural objects of Lake Baikal in this study are:

Olkhon Island is the largest island of Lake Baikal. The name of the island came from the Buryat Language and originally meant «forest». The nature of the island is very diverse.

There are: steppes, forests, sandy beaches, swamps, coniferous groves, rocks, hills. Like nature, the climate on the island is also ambiguous: rains, thunderstorms, a lot of snow, wind, sun.

Due to the presence of water space, winters on the island are much warmer, and summers are colder. The history of the development of people's lives on the island can be clearly seen in the local history museum, where various exhibits and artifacts are presented. According to ancient legends and Buryat legends is considered a haven for all kinds of spirits and otherworldly forces of the terrible Baikal. On the territory of the island, there are unique archaeological sites – sites of ancient people, sanctuaries, and places of sacrifice [5]. One of the largest settlements on the island of Olkhon is the village of Khuzhir.

Shamanka Rock is a rocky promontory on the west coast of Olkhon Island. The rock has two peaks, located near Khuzhir. The cape protrudes deep enough into the water surface of the lake. It was believed that the supreme deity of Lake Baikal lived in the rock. There is even an entrance to the cave on site; it is carried out from two sides. This place is also called the «rock temple». This is one of the most famous images of Lake Baikal. Shamanic rituals and cult sacrifices were performed on the rock in ancient times. This is one of the most revered sacred places on Lake Baikal. It was strictly forbidden for ordinary mortals to climb into the cave, as well as on the rock itself. Not far from the Shaman, shaman burial ceremonies were held by burning them and scattering the ashes with air spirits. The natural image on the rock, formed because of the mixing of rock, resembles a Dragon. This place is covered with many legends among Buryats and local residents [4].

Next, consider the natural landscape, which is one, the types of landscape painting that can be called a classic view of the landscapes. The main theme of his image is the views of nature and natural objects not created by man. This type of landscape is the main one and has several hundred years in its history.

Let us consider the work of the artist G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», 1977 (Fig. 1):

The composition of the painting is located horizontally. The island is shown as a separate independent part of the land, as an impregnable rock extending under a huge expanse of sky, which occupies a significant part of the entire work. The water's edge is depicted by a dark blue stripe, which blows cold. The surface of the island is also covered with snow. The winter landscape looks harsh, harsh and not accessible. The image is very realistic, as all the elements of the island are spelled out very carefully. The artist created an image of the pristine nature of Lake Baikal, untouched by man. The works are dominated by a cold color scheme from dark blue and white.



Fig. 1. G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», 1977. Source: goskatalog.ru

Let us consider the work of the artist S. G. Zhilin «Shamanka Rock», 2014 (fig. 2):

The composition of the work fits more into the geometric shape of a square. Unlike the work of the artist G. M. Manizer, the landscape of S. G. Zhilin is made in warm shades of color: light beige and sand. These colors depict the rock and the surface of the entire island in contrast to the blue surface of the water of Lake Baikal. Shamanka Rock occupies a central place in the composition of the landscape. The artist from the most successful angle depicts it, when all its sides, stones, stopes, cliffs and approaches are clearly visible. The image has decorative elements, since the surfaces of the elements are made flat and wide like a mosaic assembled into one overall picture [3].

The colors do not mix in the work, they are written directly. The effect of their relationship is revealed when looking at the whole work in one piece.



Fig. 2. S. G. Zhilin «Shamanka Rock», 2014. Source: goskatalog.ru

These were the landscapes of the artists who captured the iconic places of Lake Baikal [1].

If we consider in general the works of artists G. M. Manizer and S. G. Zhilin dedicated to the iconic places of Lake Baikal, we can state that:

- The presented works of the artists depict the iconic places of Lake Baikal;
- The presented works of the artists belong to the genre of natural landscape;
- The presented works of the artists have signs of the style of realism and decorative elements of the image;
- All the artists' works have a rectangular composition, which sets a certain dynamic associated with the plot of the works – the iconic places of Lake Baikal;
- All works have their own unique artistic image of the Baikal, depending on the individuality and personality of the artist who presented it.

Thus, in the course of the conducted research:

- A review of the scientific literature on the topic was presented;
- The methodology of the present study has been determined;
- A brief historical and geographical sketch of the iconic places of Lake Baikal was presented [2];
- The definition of the genre of natural landscape was given, its features were considered;
- In the context of defining the genre of the natural landscape, the paintings of the artists were considered G. M. Manizer «Olkhon Island», S. G. Zhilin «Shamanka Rock», the image of Lake Baikal in painting is presented.

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