

Music
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Recommendation





The Marginality of Rock

Speaking of rock spirit, it is a controversy topic. Every individual may have their own definition of rock spirit. It's hard to reach consensus, especially among the people who are enthusiastic about rock. So why don't we broach the topic by discussing why people love rock.

Art immersion is usually defined as a movement for escaping from the real life. People want to feel another sense of emotion rather than the real life in the moment. Sometimes you intend to experience a peaceful mood, sometimes a happy emotion, sometimes an excited mood. Even sometimes, you may have contradiction in their real life makes you "stuck in the moment. And you can't get out of it." This is one lyric wrote by U2 (2000). Therefore, welcome to the rock world. No limit to the rock music, other types of art form can reflect rock spirit as well. I have faith in you, that you have a specific impression that the cardinal audience group of rock music is the new generation. Yonggang et al. (1998) have uncovered that the marginality points of young man including: material life, colonial existence, political life, spiritual and cultural life. New generation group is in a period of transformation era currently. The new culture is lashing the traditional culture withal. The rapidly changing culture demands the new generation altering their opinion about the world from time to time. Within such conditions, new generation inside the society is having a great deal of conflicts with the situation obviously. Let's break down the details of conflicts. The primary of conflict elements consists of: conflict between



competition and cooperation; satisfying and suppressing desire; freedom and reality. If you stepping forward the connotation of rock music, you might find out that there is more than an angry youth figure. Rock is rich in cultural connotation: personality emancipation, exposing evil and shouting to the peace, reflecting on the past and so on. The core of Chinese society's developing track is economy. Art has never been a master stone of the society. Due to the essence of rock spirit, the rock band conveys their standpoint about sensitive topic now and then. Back in the day. He Yong's great hit <dump> stirred up Chinese music world. The lyric of this song says "The world we are living; it seems like a dump. People just like worm, fighting with each other inside the dump. People eat conscience then defecates their thoughts." You can't barely hear such lyrics nowadays in China. The government will block it out unhesitatingly. Nevertheless, some bands are doing this withal. Like Miserable Faith. But those kinds of songs never get public and be carried forward. The folks call it underground.

Socialist government doesn't permit people to open up sensitive topic publicly. The government is obligated to maintain society stabilization. We have to admit that some lyric in rock song is ill-considered. For instance, <Another Brick in the Wall> wrote "we don't need no education". It's fevered for people who hates the education industry to listen. But from the perspective of government perspective, it's very destructive to the next generation. It's no need to mention other defective aspects such as drug abuse, promiscuous sex, and violence. Nevertheless, rock spirit is booming everywhere around the world, the benefit and significance which rock spirit brought to us is more than the human kind can imagine.

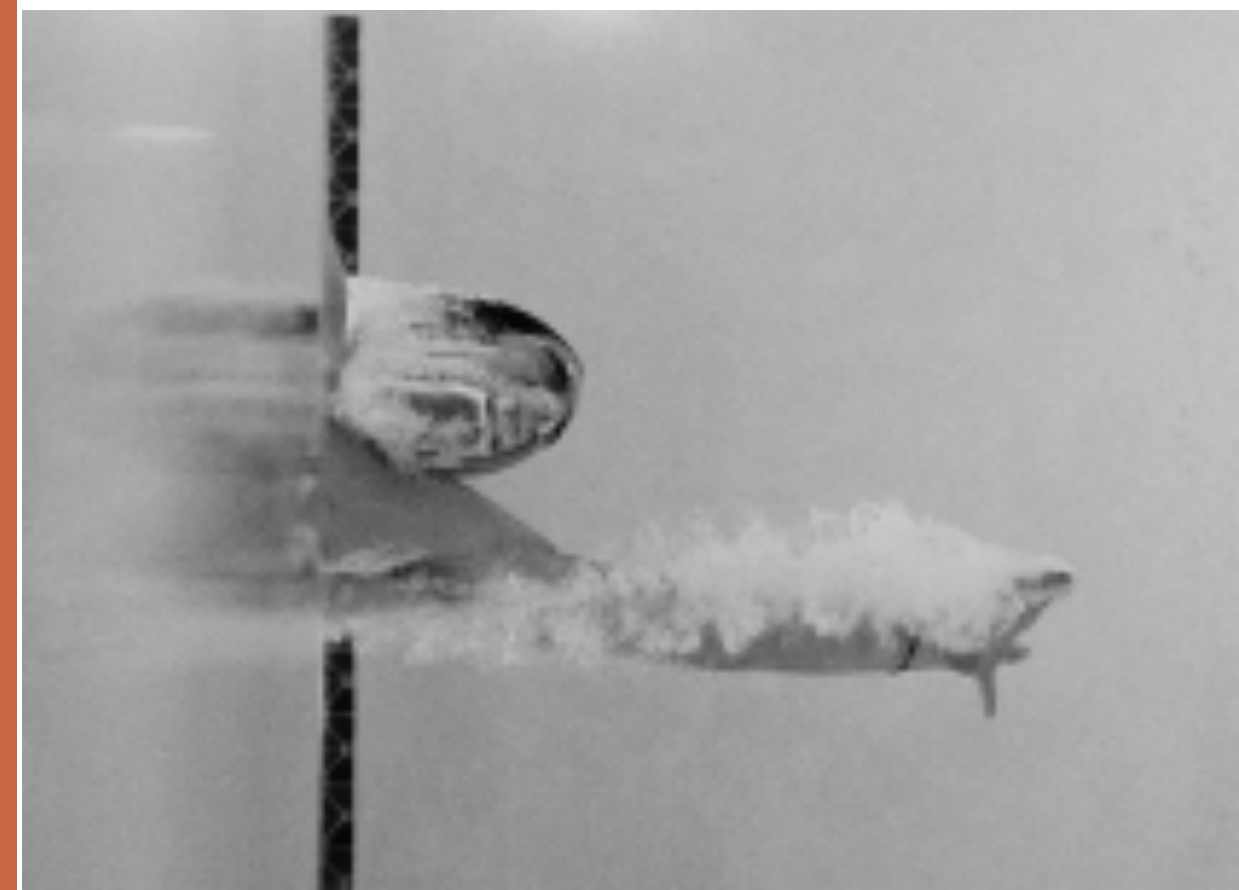
The rocker in China which advocates genuine rock spirit is still not the mainstream yet. We can even say they are at the edge of the society. China is still new to the rock industry according to the short history. I believe more excellent musicians are coming.





U2 band

A tremendous rock band which have won 22 Grammy Awards. If you have seen the hits movie: Bohemian Rhapsody. You can see one person were holding up a sign which says: we love U2 during the big aid live show. In the middle of 1980. A large of outstanding rock bands were presenting one theme in their album: one. U2 also includes in it with no doubt. The song <Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of> is my favorite one of U2's plenty of magnificent songs. It can bring you back to life magically when you are feeling depressed.



He Yong

One of prominent rocker in Chines 90's. If you are a rock fan, I am sure you are so familiar with HeYong, DouWei, ZhangChu. Fairly, the song <Dump> by Heyong and his guitarists are extremely significant. The meaning of lyric is so enlightening.

The band Miserable Faith is a popular band currently in China. Miserable Faith's several songs' lyric is creative and constructive. Their spirit and lyrics is worth your time.

The bands which mentioned in this article are merely the tip of and iceberg. There are more majestic bands waiting for you to have a miraculous journey.

Reference

U2. (2000). Stuck In A Moment You Can't Get Out Of. On All That You Can't Leave Behind. Australia: Island Records. (12 Feb 2001)
Yonggang, W., & Jingwen, L., & Kan W. (1998). Ideal, Reality, Conflict and Way Out: An Analysis of the Margin of the Contemporary Chinese Youth's Acceptance of Rock and Roll. Youth Studies. Retrived from <https://www.ixueshu.com/document/c002f53036fa6a67318947a18e7f9386.html>

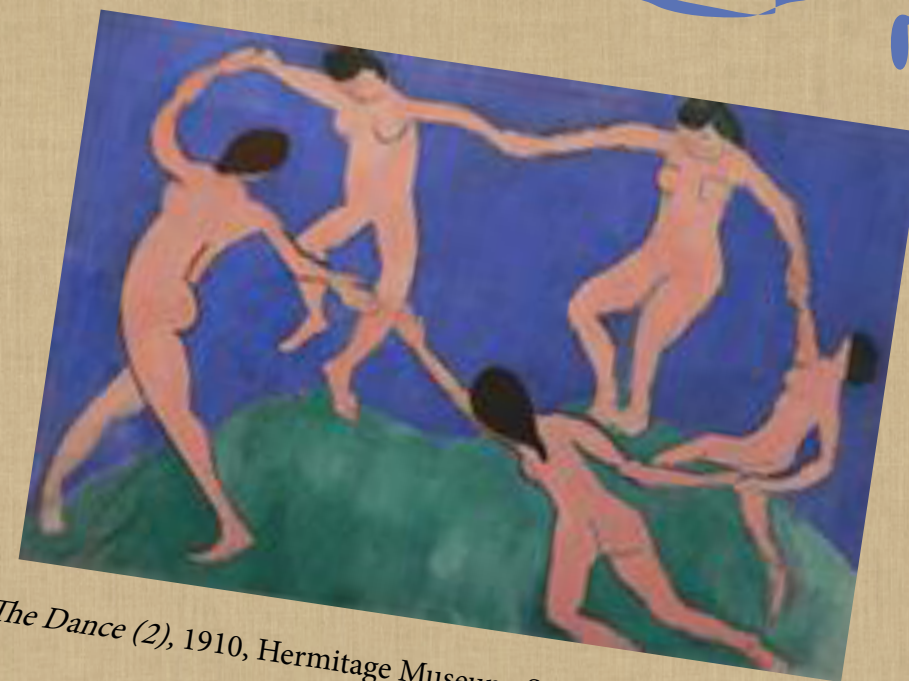
Henri Matisse

1869–1954

French artist and Fauvism's founder

Artist

Henri Matisse (31 December 1869 – 3 November 1954), a French artist, was the founder of Fauvism. He was good at using bright and contrasting colors in his drawing. Color in his painting relies on thinking, imagination and dreaming in terms of obtaining its meaning. As he spoke that a beautiful hue needs innovation rather than gaining from copying. His masterpieces include: *The Dance*, *Portrait of Madame Matisse (The Green Line)*, *Woman with a Hat*, *Les toits de Collioure* and etc.



The Dance (2), 1910, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg

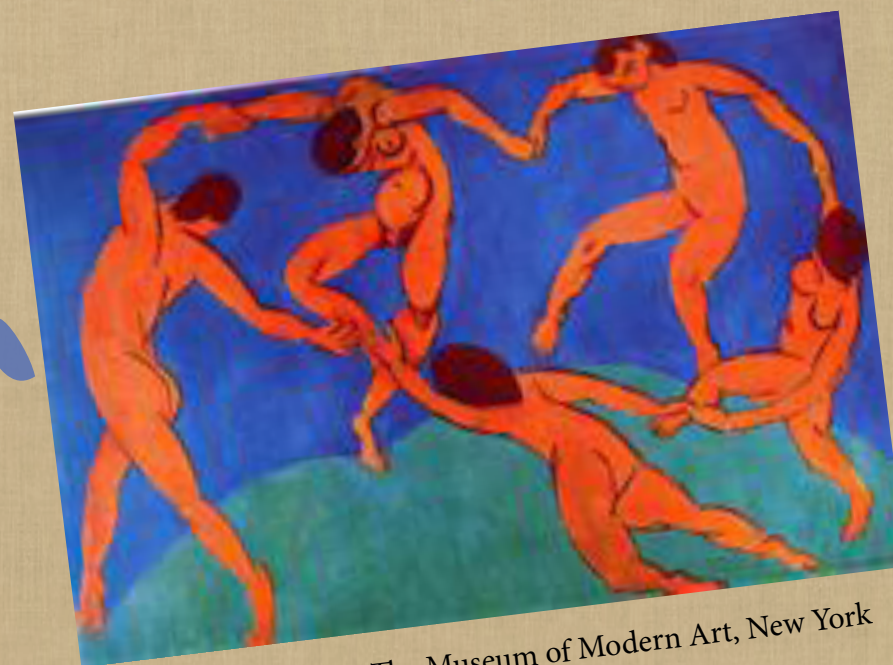


Style

Fauvism, a style began around 1900 and continued beyond 1910, especially means brightly colored and smeared at will. This color is stronger than the scientific color of the new impressionism, the non-descriptive color of Gauguin and Van Gogh, and the direct color matching and deformation of the painting method.

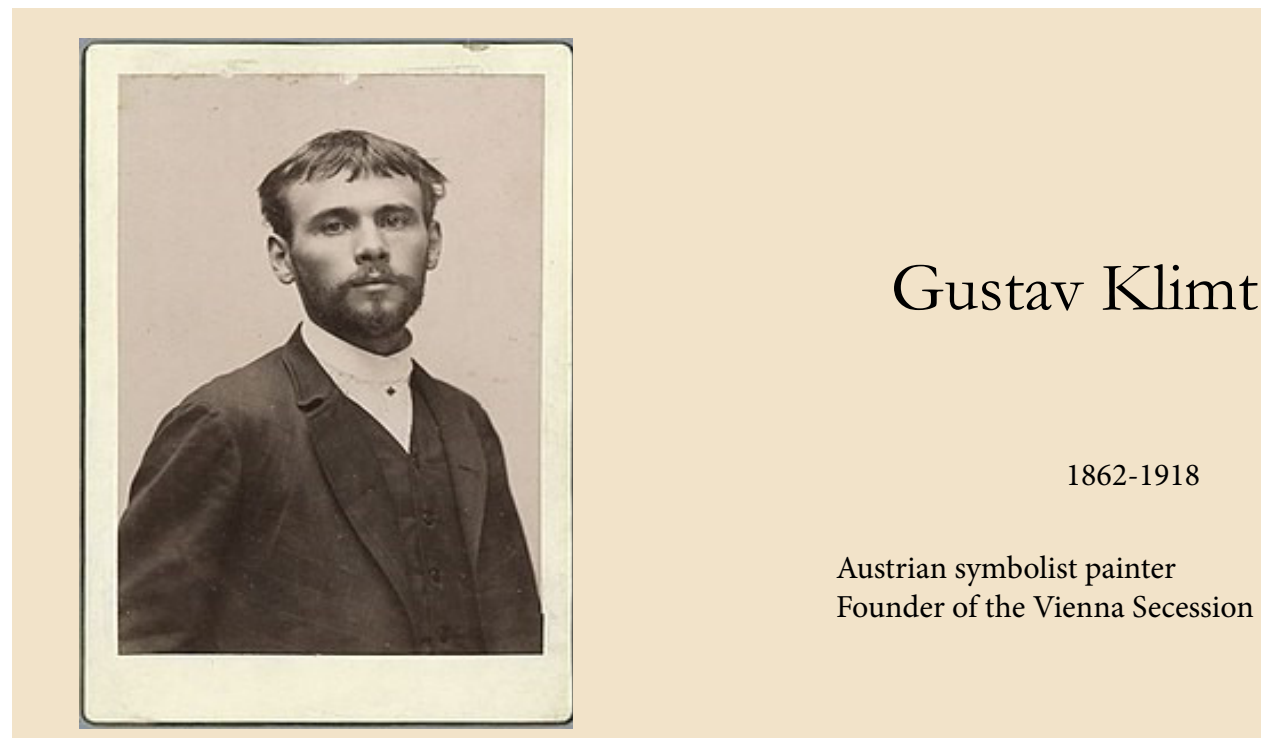
Masterpiece Appreciation

The Dance: These paintings are masterpieces of Matisse at his peak period. These pictures depict five female human bodies crazily dancing and holding hands in a circle. There are two different versions of 'The Dance'. At the first version, it is a custom sketch. Matisse used relatively faint colors to express a sense of serenity and purity. In the second version, Matisse used distinct colors to enhance the fluidity and decorative sense of his picture. There are both concise pictures and have a depth of fantasy. They seem to drive people back to the ancient times, when people took around the burning bonfire. It's an original wild and simple life style. During the festivals, sacrificial occasions, people danced hand in hand on the beat. It's an unfettered and heartily vent of the life's hardship, and all of them show passion and vitality of life. In history, there are a lot of paintings portrayed dancing, but no portrait is so bright and simple. There are blue sky, green earth background, woman hand-in-hand, and vigorous



The Dance (1), 1909, The Museum of Modern Art, New York

powerful dance posture cutting down the simplicity. It leads human's feeling--- a kind of special spiritual depth and the life strength. On the screen different forms of character posture, rhythmic rhythm and hand in hand circular dance modeling, all of them full of flowing dynamic, publicizing the energy of life. In the unrestrained and warm atmosphere, there are two pictures both balance internal harmony and show a solemn, pure spiritual edification. Matisse abandoned the traditional perspective and created a new spatial illusion with the hint of color relationship and vine pattern, creating a new realm full of exotic, mysterious and strange.

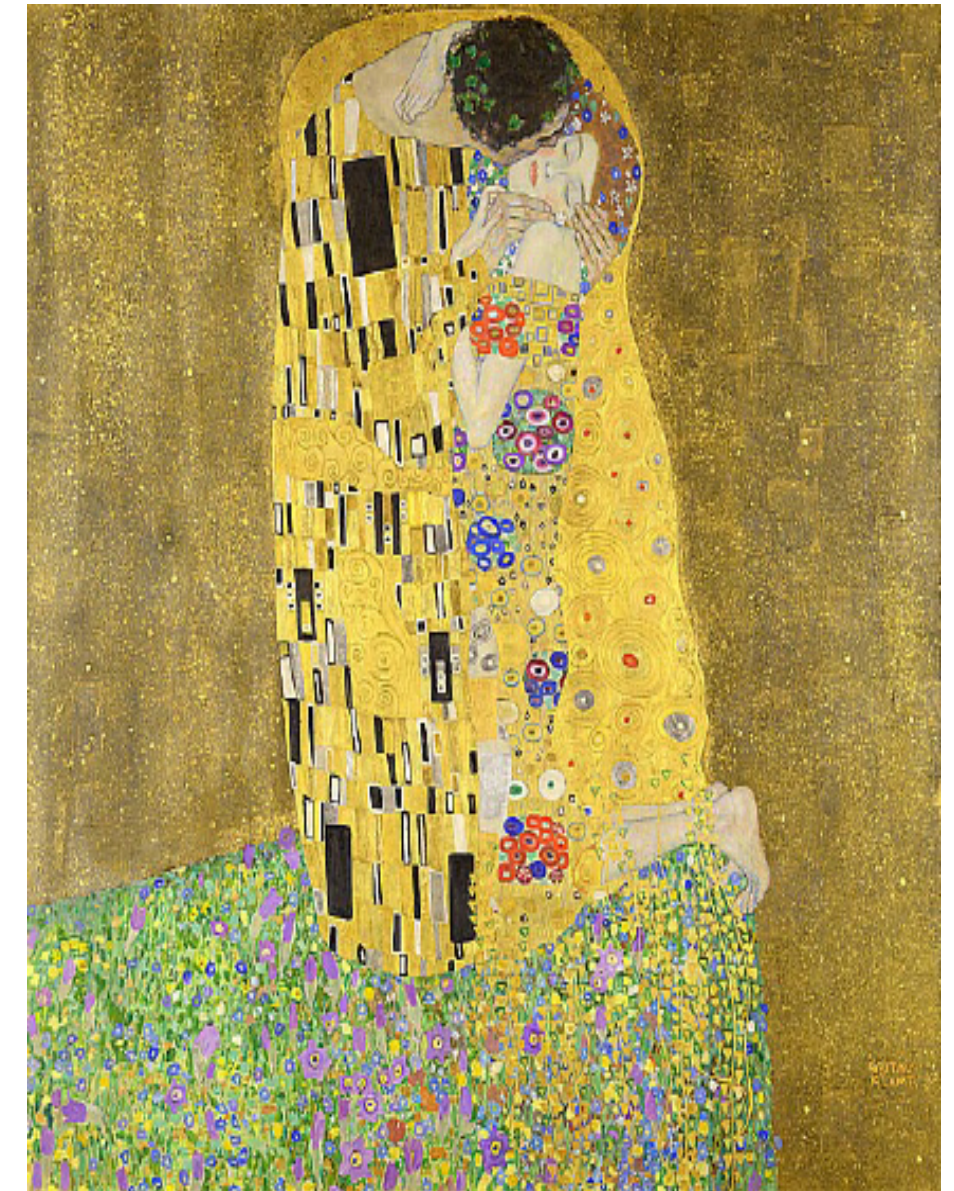


Artist

Gustav Klimt (July 14, 1862 – February 6, 1918) is an Austrian symbolist painter and the main force of the youth painting style (*Vienna Secession*), which is also called representative of the Vienna cultural circle. Gustav Klimt's paintings feature symbolic decorative patterns and make extensive use of sexual themes in his paintings. People who like his paintings praise their “dull beauty” and bold symbolic implications, but his works also criticized by many conservative painters. Another feature of Klimt's paintings is that most of the protagonists in the paintings are women, and the themes are the reincarnation of “love”, “sex”, “life” and “death”. Among the artists of the Vienna Secession, Klimt was mostly influenced by Japanese art and its methods.

Style

Vienna Secession is a well-known organization of artists that emerged from the Austrian Art Nouveau movement. In 1897, a group of artists, architects and designers in Vienna, Austria, which claimed to be separated from traditional aesthetics and orthodox academic art. Its slogan is “the art of the times—the freedom that art deserves”. In the aspect of design, it attaches importance to the idea of function, geometric and organic form of model and decorative design. This style showed the characteristics eras of the new art movement in Europe and the United States. However, it opposes the overuse of flower patterns, and emphasizes the use of geometric shapes, especially squares and rectangles and use of concise, continuous and powerful lines. Its design style is quite bold and unique. Although there are many decorative materials from painting or natural themes, it always using an abstract form of expression. Just like another famous artist Egon Leo Adolf Schiele's *Self Portrait with Physalis*, 1912.



The Kiss, 1907, Österreichische Galerie, Vienna

Masterpiece Appreciation

Kiss is a decorative mural, in which a large number of decorative elements such as gold and silver foil are used to make the picture look shiny and glittering. Men and women are full of a variety of patterns. Women have complete bodies curve, and men are completely surrounded by these patterns. The woman in the painting snuggles up to the man in his arms, ignoring the dangers of the environment, which is a hint of sex. The color on the picture is mainly golden yellow. The background and the grass full of flowers set off the whole painting beautiful and gent. It delivers a kind of fresh and elegant artistic enjoyment to audiences. And *The Embrace* shows similar style and the way of painting. This painting expresses a woman embraces a “man” (who represents natural, even anything in the world.). To compare those two, they both full with distinct and strong personalized characteristics.



Die Umarmung (“*The Embrace*”), Palais Stoclet, Brussels

Life Matters

— Birds in the cage

Be kind, for everyone you meet is fighting a battle.

Waiting to recover,
Waiting to go back to school,
Waiting for children to visit,
Waiting for the acceptance of the society,
Waiting for two apples from relatives tomorrow,
Waiting for two bowls of red bean porridge next week,
Waiting to fly out of the cage,
Waiting for the day when no more waiting is needed,
Waiting for hope,
Waiting for tomorrow.

Psychiatric hospitals are very special existence in the society. People who live there are treated as heterogeneous and abnormal people, and most of them are forgotten by the world. This new sixth episode “birds in the cage” in Life Matters shows the trivial daily life in a mental hospital. There is no coldness, tension, anxiety and rush in the ward corridor in this episode. The director changes the way of telling, and we could see the fragments of ordinary days. These mental patients eat, take exercise, watch TV, and sweep the floor. They peel apples and oranges. They also dance and sing. The days in bedlam are long, trivial, boring and mediocre as usual.



The little girl in this screenshot likes painting, and she draws portrait paintings for many of her ward mates here, sandwiched in her loose-leaf book. In front of the camera, she introduces her ward mates to us one by one.

“This is the doctor of physics. She talked a lot to me a few days ago. We also talked about poetry.”

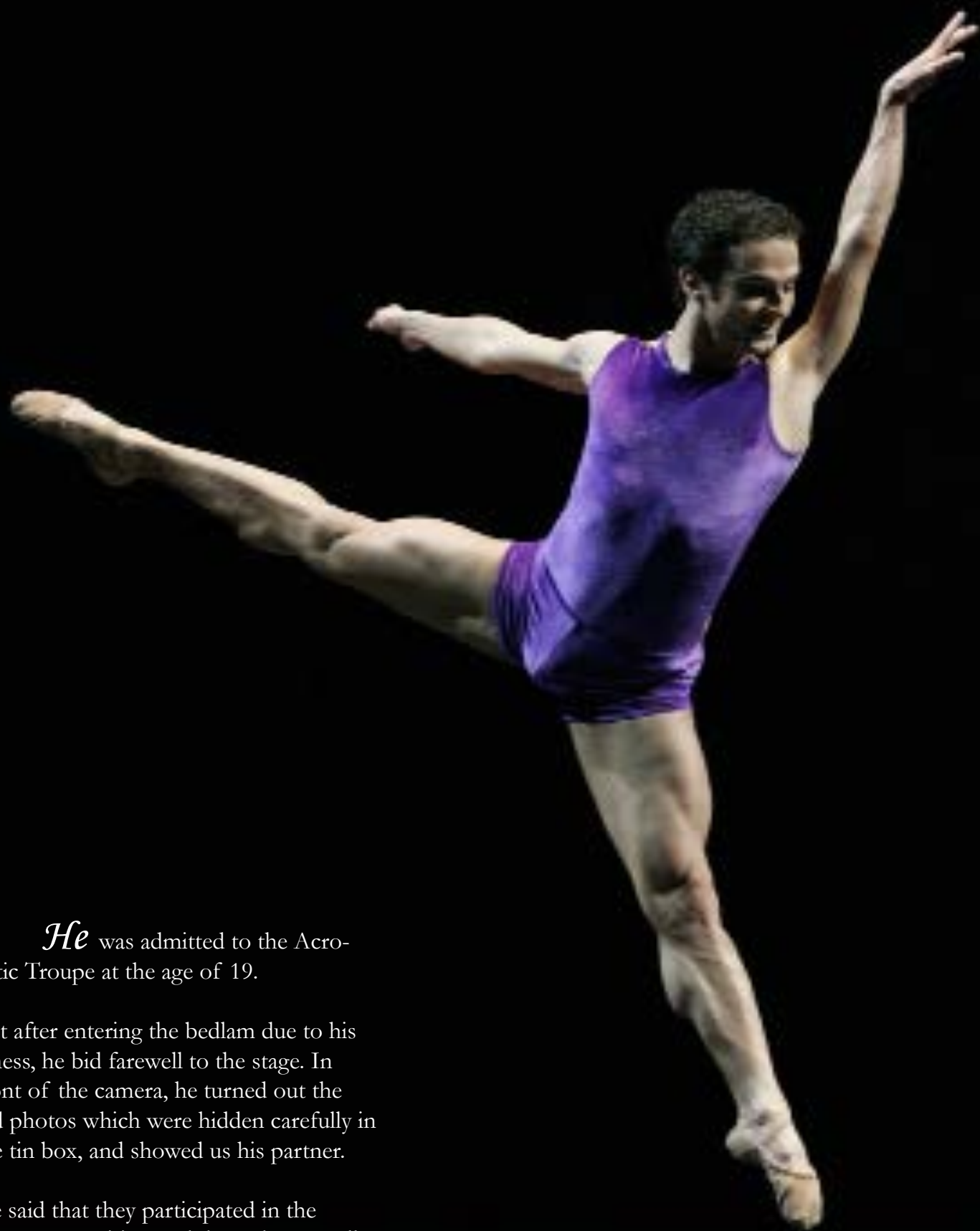
“This is the sixth day of the new year. Everyone lined up to shave their beard. And someone in front of the line was shaving them.”

“The people here don’t have other things to do. They only play cards, and the front and back the cards become red.”

Finally, she talked about herself.

“This is me. It is a blue bird. I am a bird with dream. But my parents used the cage of love to keep me here. I want to go back to school. I also want to do my own things, but I can’t.” The little girl said: “There are only two kinds of people here. Too clever one and too stupid one. Both of them are at odds compared with other else people in the world. But I think some people also have some problems, and there is no standard to judge people.”

In the rehabilitation class, she painted oil paintings for her ward mates. She said: “I haven’t painted for a long time. This one was too bad because I lost my confidence (and I can’t find it any more).”



He was admitted to the Acrobatic Troupe at the age of 19.

But after entering the bedlam due to his illness, he bid farewell to the stage. In front of the camera, he turned out the old photos which were hidden carefully in the tin box, and showed us his partner.

He said that they participated in the dance competition and danced very well. Now, he can only continue his unseen stage dream in the ward corridor.

“Ten years, next year is ten years,”

Xiao Yunsheng, an old patient with a Sichuan accent, spoke in front of the camera. “My son is not coming, and my daughter is not coming.” Xiao Yunsheng’s daughter took all his account and ID card, but she did not come to checkout. The doctor repeatedly dialed his daughter’s phone number, but it was always a blind voice. “Now the patient is in the hospital. They can eat, drink, and wear well. The family feels pretty good, and yet they are missing. They never pick up the patient anymore.” The doctor said helplessly. Maybe this would be the current situation of supporting the old mental patients. In the end, Xiao said that he would endure the old age here.



The stories of those mental patients who have lost freedom are depicted to attract the society's attention to this marginalized group and to better promote the development of the entire psychiatric treatment system. The patients and their families who appeared in the documentary solemnly signed the informed consent form before shooting. They contributed to this episode simply because prejudice against mental patients is still very huge in the society. They were willing to take this step bravely and to reveal their experiences after getting sick; therefore, they can make the bias less.

If the mental patient is a person who is drowning in the spiritual world, then "good guys" are probably the ones who can pull them in their eyes and come out with them; and the "bad guys" should be those who abandon them when they need help. In fact, most people are in the middle of the "shore people", and they do not push or pull, just pass in the air.

If you can, please stretch them;

If you can't help, you can at least listen to their voices patiently;

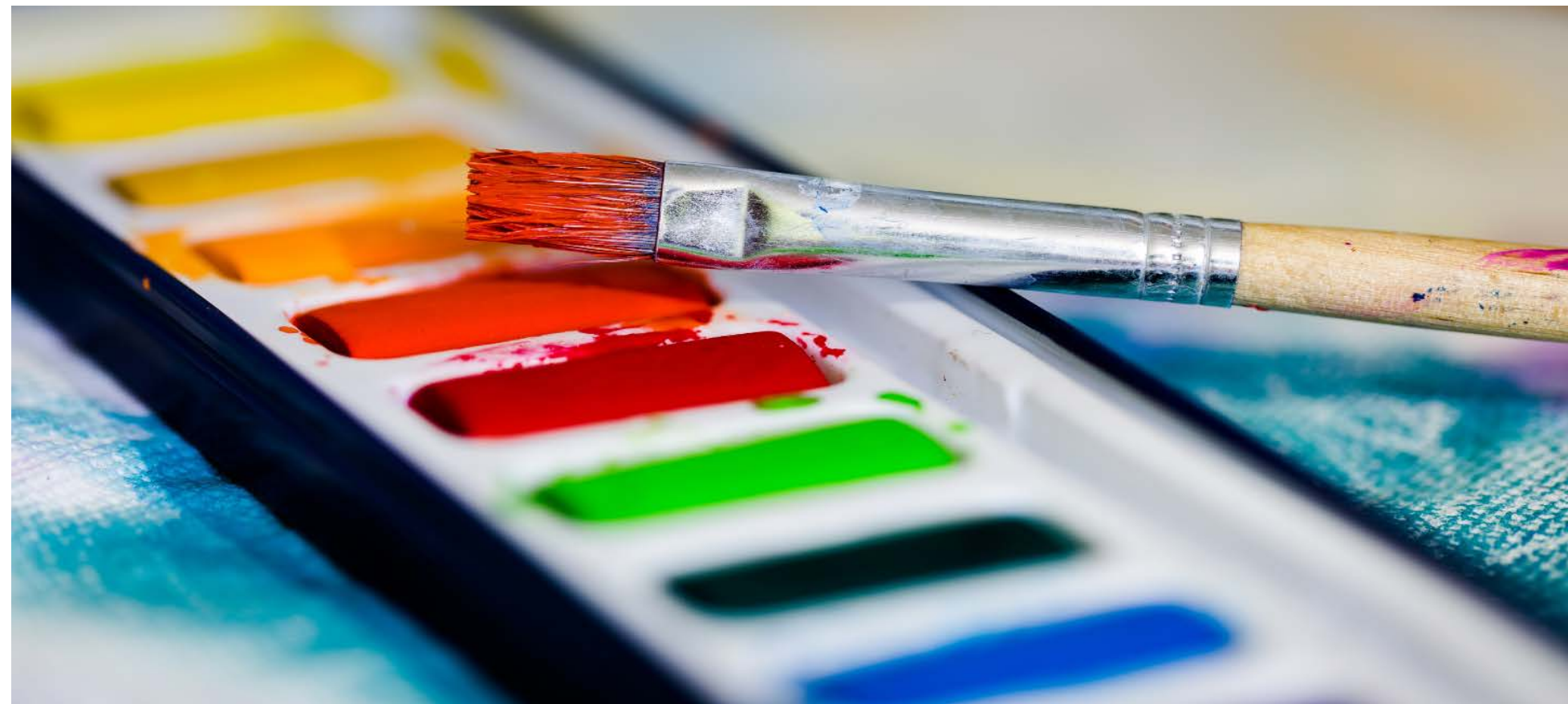
If you can only pass by, you can at least choose not to hurt them.

No one can guarantee his life will never be a moment of drowning.

The production group of this documentary said: "We choose to present their most normal and least known side, rather than pushing them farther and farther. Just because we live in the same world."

We live in the same world, so please be kind and merciful, and don't be biased to treat anyone.

“We choose to present their most normal and least known side, rather than pushing them farther and farther. Just because we live in the same world.”





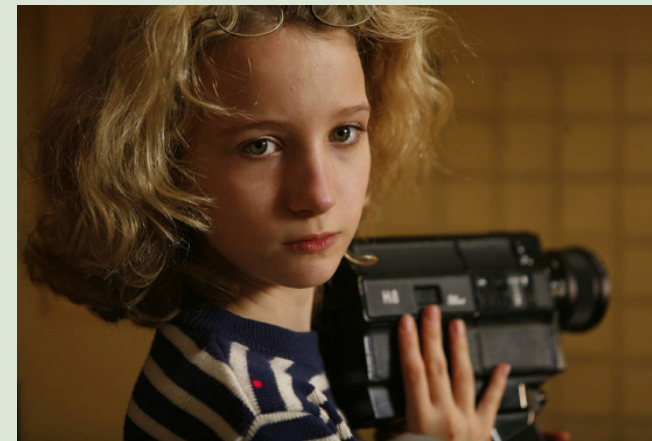
LOVE, SIMON (2018)

“Why do gay people need to come out? Why is straight the default?” The protagonist of this film, Simon Spier, a high school boy who exudes an air of melancholy, asks these questions.

One day on a popular website, Simon finds a post by an anonymous closeted gay kid in his school, who uses an alias called Blue. They exchange emails, sharing feeling of being gays and perceptions on the unfair world. Gradually Simon falls in love with Blue, while at the same time, an annoying boy, Martin, reads his emails and threatens him to set up dates with his best girlfriend; otherwise, Simon’s emails will be an open secret. Unfortunately, even though Simon betrays his friends to do what Martin orders, the emails are leaked eventually. Then everything in Simon’s life has changed.

Love, Simon is a LGBTQ friendly movie that tells a story about a boy struggling with his identity. Just as Simon states at the beginning of film, he is simply a normal high school boy. Despite his secret of being a gay, he enjoys his peaceful life with family and friends. However, he is forced to come out, which is entirely the opposite of what he anticipates. This unexpected news makes him excluded by his classmates, two of whom make fun of him and another gay classmate in public, which is utterly unfair to Simon. His sense of belonging is deprived as he is isolated. But the truth is that he is still who he is without anything actually changes in him. That Martin guy, who intermeddles in Simon’s affairs is to be blamed because Simon is supposed to be the one to decide when, where, how and who knows his secret. No one can make decision for him. Othering people on account of a single part of their features will break their hearts because they are mundane human being just like everyone else. Hence, a balanced society should embrace every unique identity.

LE HÉRISSON (2009)



Being a girl whose hairs always get tangled up with her glasses, Paloma is a mature and sensitive 11-year-old kid, who comes from a wealthy and high-class family, but seems to be incompatible with her society due to her weird behaviors.

She loves art and philosophy, and plans to commit suicide at her 12th birthday because of her repugnance to live as a goldfish in tank just like her family. Before her death comes, she films people around her, criticizing their life in a sarcastic tone. The main characters in her film are her family, depicted to be snobbish and absurd.

Soon Mr. Ozu, a senior knowledgeable Japanese gentleman, moves in the building and gradually changes her mind. He recognizes Paloma’s intelligence and shares with her that their ordinary janitor, Renée, is actually an intellectual and elegant lady. Renée has acted like a cranky, floppy, obscure, old widow for decades, yet the real her is a book enthusiast, whose secret room is inconceivably laden with thousands of books where she can enjoy temporary solitude.

She is a *hérisson* (hedgehog) with a soft and exquisite spirit, Paloma says. Her unique character of being herself inspires Paloma to be a janitor like her, an unconstrained lady who is curious about life.



Le hérisson is a thought provoking film with tempting plots and enchanting background music, which puts forward many philosophical questions. Quoting from *Anna Karenina*—Happy families are all alike, but every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way, the film presents that every character is confronted with some problems. Paloma’s family are educated but unable to understand her. Little Paloma believes that death is the most mundane thing but what we’re doing at the moment when we are dead matters. She used to not know her life path, but the more she knows about Renée, the more she has faith in living her own life.



Every individual has distinctive values and none has qualification to judge other person’s lifestyle without a personal contact. Paloma’s family choose to flatter the elite but hold prejudice and biases against the lower classes. Her mom is noble but her nobleness stops her from asking the resigned housemaid to stay, and to invite the janitor to come into house. It is her choice. By contrast, Renée is a clumsy and uneducated “savage” who never has her hair done, accidentally locks herself in Mr. Ozu’s bathroom, and messes up her borrowed expensive dress. But she is similarly obstinate in her rigid poor widow figure, avoiding connection with higher social class. Nevertheless, one has different identities and social class is a tiny piece of its criteria. Life is short and unpredictable. Everyone has right to pursue what they want. May everyone’s value of the life be the height of what they promise.