

Panel 21

James Joyce & Interart Encounters

The Visual Landscapes of Stream of Consciousness in *Ulysses*

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Stream of consciousness, with its freedom, fluidity, and disorder, has been embraced by Western modernist literature, showcasing character portrayals that are more in-depth, accessible, and authentic as compared to realist literature. Taking James Joyce's *Ulysses* as an example, its stream-of-consciousness style is mainly divided into three aspects: associative thinking, interior monologue, and a fragmented structure. These categories make visualizing it possible through its dynamically flowing language, direct presentation of the inner world, and scattered narrative structure. It is primarily embodied in two types of visual landscapes: flat arts and three-dimensional arts.

Flat art pieces utilize collages of material, exaggerated abstract fonts, and vibrant colors to reflect the mix of styles and the psychological activities of characters; three-dimensional art pieces, on the other hand, highlight the repetitive, random, distorted, and complex thought patterns of characters with their three-dimensional and figurative characteristics. The themes of these art pieces are derived from the description and portrayal of characters and plots in novels. At the same time, they can also help the audience deepen their understanding and impression of these characters' images, personalities, and the literary value and aesthetic characteristics of the novel itself. In short, the application of stream-of-consciousness style in both flat arts and three-dimensional arts not only broadens the scope of literary influence but also enhances artistic expressiveness and perceptiveness.

Generally speaking, the visual landscapes of the stream-of-consciousness style in *Ulysses* not only symbolize the inspiration and expansion of contemporary art by Western modernist stylistic forms, but also can be seen in contemporary artists who attempt to engage in cross-temporal communication and interaction with Joyce himself through a "Joycean way of thinking."

Biography

Keqi Yao is a PhD student from the Institute of Global Humanities at Nanjing University, China. Her recent academic interests include Joyce Studies, picture theory, and translation studies.