



Hacettepe University Graduate Institute of Fine Arts
Ceramics Department

INTERPRETATIONS OF SOCIAL
REALITIES IN CERAMIC FORMS AND
SURFACES

Ehteram Mohammadi (Masiha)

Master of Art Thesis

Ankara, 2017

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ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL

The jury finds that Ehteram Mohammadi (Masiha) has on the date of [Defense Date] successfully passed the defense examination and approves her Master thesis titled “ INTERPRETATIONS OF SOCIAL REALITIES IN CERAMIC FORMS AND SURFACES”.

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ABSTRACT

MOHAMMADI, Ehteram (Masiha), *Interpretation of Social Realities in Ceramic Forms and Surfaces*, Master of Art Thesis (Report), Ankara, 2017,

It is not possible to imagine art without imagining persons and their behaviors, their ideas and opinions, their relationships and friendships and so on. On this way, the relationship between art and society cannot be denied.

Social realities are realities which they would be meaningful only when a society exists. On the other hand, the term social reality simply means what people actually do in the conduct of their lives. This Includes a vast range of behaviors, from the eating habits, work habits, Lifestyles, interpersonal relations, home life, leisure, religious habits, Racism, sexism and so on. The artist who their works explain the social realities are called social realist artists. Historically the movement of social realism started During the 1920s while the artists, especially in America, focused their attention on society and social reality including topics.

In this art report, a couple of ideas including social realities in our post-industrial era have been represented on ceramic forms and surfaces. These topics are completely picked up by the creator of these artworks by considering her ideas and opinions in her personal and social life and it is not a research document about the topics. Some of these topics have a tendency to protest against new social realities like modern racism and sexism. They also emphasize the negative impacts of modern lifestyles, technology including lifestyles and negative impacts of urbanization.

Keywords: Social reality, Social realism, Ceramic, art and society, forms, Interpretation.

ÖZET

MOHAMMADI, Ehteram (Masiha), *Sosyal Gerçekliklerin Seramik Form ve Yüzeylerde Figüratif Yorumu*, Yüksek Lisans Eseri Çalışma Raporu, Ankara, 2017,

İnsanları, onların davranışlarını, fikirlerini ve bakış açılarını, onların ilişkilerini ve arkadaşlıklarının ve benzeri kavramlarını göz önüne almadan sanatı düşünmek neredeyse imkansızdır. Bu açıdan, sanat ve toplumun arasındaki ilişki inkar edilemez.

sosyal gerçeklikler, sadece bir toplumun varlığında anlam taşıyan gerçekliklere denir. Başka bir söyleyişle, sosyal gerçeklik terimi, basitçe insanların gerçek hayatta yaptıkları ve hayattaki davranışları anlamına gelir. Bu çok geniş kapsamda olan davranışları, örneğin yemek alışkanlıkları, iş alışkanlıkları, yaşam tarzları, kişilerarası ilişkiler, ev hayatı, boş zamanları nasıl kullandığı, dini davranışlar, Irkçılık, cinsiyet ayrımı vb davranışları içermektedir. sosyal gerçeklikleri sanatında yansıtan sanatçılara sosyal realist denir.

Tarihsel olarak sanatta sosyal realism hareketi 1920'li yıllarda sanatçılar, başta Amerika'daki sanatçılar olmak üzere, dikkatlerini topluluk ve toplumsal gerçeklik konularına odaklarken başlamıştır.

Bu sanat raporunda, toplumsal gerçeklikleri içeren bir kaç fikir seramik form ve yüzeylerde yorumlanmıştır. Bu konular, bu eserlerin yaratıcısı tarafından kişisel ve toplumsal hayatında fikirlerini ve düşüncelerini göz önüne alarak tamamıyla ele alınmış ve konuyla ilgili bir araştırma belgesi değildir. Bu konulardan bazıları modern ırkçılık ve cinsiyetçilik gibi yeni toplumsal gerçekleri protesto etme eğilimindedir. Ayrıca, modern yaşam biçimlerinin olumsuz etkileri, yaşam biçimlerini içeren teknolojinin ve kentleşmenin olumsuz etkilerini, vurguluyorlar.

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INTRODUCTION

Humans are naturally social creatures, and their brains are evolved in a way which they need to live in a group. On the other hand, interaction with other individuals or groups is required for humans to survive, provide food and primary needs. Historically, these interactions contained only primitive concepts before the discovery of the language and as a result the number of the people in a group was small. For early modern humans, the number of the people of the groups increased slowly and the reason of interactions which gathered the group together arose from the emotionality. The full rationality to create a developed society came rather late and it has only been within last hundred years.

By developing the crowded societies and law and education, interactions developed and a sort of social realities such as money, marriage and religions are invented and these social realities defined the behavior of the individuals and groups. Some sort of social realities has negative aspects. Historically, artists tried to represent these positive and negative realities in their artworks to explain it simply and sometimes to protest against these negative social realities. These group of artists called social realists.

This is not a research document about social realities, instead it contains the reflection of a couple of ideas and opinions about a couple of social realities in our era and the negative and positive impacts of modern lifestyle on psychology of people in a society which have made the basics of inspiration to create figurative ceramic artworks from the artistic point of view.

In recent decades, technological developments and discovering new tools and devices and also foundation of modern urban environments forced people to have a new kind of lifestyle in a way that they have been incorporated in new society. Although benefits of modern life and technology is clear, but the negative effects and harmful aspects of the modern life is not deniable. It is believed that this new kind of lifestyle has negative impacts on interpersonal and face to face communications and As a result, it causes a major turning on psychological and mental health of people who live in new society. Also some sort of negative attitudes such as racism and sexism still exist among people and they hide behind the new concepts of modern racism and modern sexism.

The aim of this artwork is representing a couple of the problems and realities which people are face to face in new societies. The artist tried to show these problems in a language of protest. Decreasing and simplification of figurative forms and human bodies is preferred to emphasize the message behind the work.

Technology and objects and social realities are invented and created for simplifying

humanity's life and if one remove people from the society all of the objects and social realities will be meaningless. However, the observations and investigations inside today's society simply show that the inverse of the above expression is also true. It means that if one remove the objects and social realities from the society then humanity will be meaningless and this reviles that people are immersed in society.

Relationship and connection of human with world around him contains two part: one is human with object and the other is human with human. When human meets objects the reaction of the objects are predictable instead, reactions in meeting people are unpredictable, the first one is simpler than the second one because when two people meet each other there are many alternatives to choose. However the second relation will develop our social abilities and then social problems will start to solve.

1. CONCEPT OF SOCIETY AND ITS DEVELOPMENT

History of Society

Due to archaeological investigations The history of human society linked back to 6 million year ago When it appeared along hominid evolution. during this period an steady increase in group size is observed. The social intelligence is gently evolved because of refinement of emotion [6]. However complete rationality didn't appear until a hundred years ago when the social conditions on a society based on rationality. Investigations around evolution of human society represents that emotional intelligence plays a great role in the history of human society until the evolution of brain which pushed it toward a rational intelligence. It is possible to imagine art as creation which generates from the combination of emotional and rational intelligence [4] [12].

Prehabiline Society

Due to archaeological investigations about 6 million years ago Australopithecus africanus descended from trees and tried to walk and exploit on grasslands which they start the generation of hominids (Wrangham 2001). There is no evidence that the early Australopithecines manufactured permanent tools. Hence, their society is labeled pre-habiline.

From apes until our last ancestors community is resulted by likes and dis-likes which creates their friendships. (Turner 2000:9).

the early Australopithecines could learn by observation and they could solve just simple practical problems. They could communicate by simple vocals. This kind of society and its primitive culture takes 3.5 million years of human life[4].

Oldawan Society

Louis Leakey in 1936, used the Oldwan term for the first time to describe the earliest evidences of the human fossil record. This new era started by a new genus of hominids when they made stone tools about approximately 2.5 million years ago. These stone artifacts was very primitive which may not even recognized as tools.

This tools is characterized by simple artifacts, such as hammer-stones and flakes. Hammer-stones were usually flat. Flakes can be categorized in a number of ways (i.e., chopper or scraper) depending on their morphology but all are distinct from natural stones from the artifacts of their manufacture (fracture lines, bulbs of percussion)(1.1).



Figure 1.1: Oldwan chopper

The size of the groups was increased up to about 2000 dyads. Despite the stone tools and larger brains and group size, changes was negligible until 1 million years later. There was no evidence of use of language or symbols in this era [1].

Paleolithic Society

The new kind of society started by the species called homo-erectus about 1.5 million years ago when the technology of Acheulean tools appeared. From habilis up to erectus a major shift in human evolution was accrued (Donald 1991). Communications in this era by evolution in cortex layer of brain moved from primitive emotional expressions such as happiness, sadness, fear, anger and disgust to new complex set of emotions such as hope, guilt, shame and anticipation which lead to more solidarity and social cohesion (Turner 2000). They were able to learn physical skills and transfer them to other generations (Donald 1991). 300,000 years ago a new other species of hominids called Neanderthals appeared alongside with Homo erectus but they eventually disappeared (Tattersall 1995). The figure 1.2 shows a modeled painting of this era [4], [13].

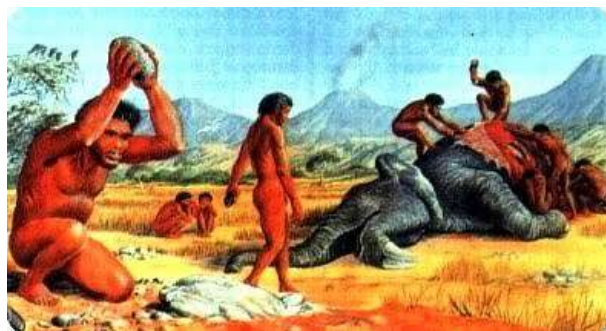


Figure 1.2: Hunter gatherers in paleolithic society before the discovery of agriculture

Neolithic Society

Approximately 150,000 years ago modern human beings appeared in Africa and it took 100,000 years to migrate around Europe and Asia as Homo-sapiens. Migrations to Australia and America happened respectively 40,000 and 10,000 years ago (Balter 2001; Dia-mond 1997; Gibbons 2001a, 2001b).

In this era the new tools like hooks, needles, awls and harpoons made of antler and bone were created. Also the cloths were voved by ropes and fibers, they tanned hides for clothing. Moreover the jewelry was created. They also made permanent shelters including kiln and lamp. The invention of spear throwers and arrows gave them capability of hunting from distance and increasing personal safety. In neolithic era Bronze replaced by other substances therefore the age is called “ bronze age” [9].

Agrarian Society

In an Agrarian society or agricultural society, economy based on agriculture and farmlands. On the societies which based on hunting, almost every body gathers food. until 10000 years ago when the fist villages colonized and agriculture developed, on the human societies there were no person to concentrate primarily on particular subject or activity. By starting the agricultural era, human could cultivate corps more than what is needed or used for him. This development caused a major speed up to human population growth. As a result for the first time there were generated a class of people who did not need to work to produce food to survive (Coale 1974; Livi-Bacci 1992; S.j.Oberg 1960).

Industrial Society

Agricultural developments of Agrarian people, created an opportunity to a small group of people to spent their time to thinking and investigating. Until 1800s the number of these kind of people increased. Instead still more than 95 percent of people lived in villages. After around 1800s population growths extremely increased in such a way that it has never seen before. For 6 million years the hunting based societies changed for agrarianism agricultural based life and it took 10000 years until it changed to industrial based societies and life approximately 200 years ago.

The number of population form 954 million people in 1800 increased to 6.1 billion in 2000. From 1800s up to now, the number of people who live in urban areas increased from 5 percent to more than 50 percent. Until 2025 approximately a quarter of world people will live in metro-poles and cities more than 1 million population. In 1900 more than one third of world’s people still could not read or write. Now only a quarter of people living with no literacy [11].

Post industrial emerging

By invention of silicon chips and computers there is evidence of huge acceleration started from 1980, in all aspects of economic and social life. Creation of the knowledge and information replaced with manufacture of goods. In the global economy every thing is accessible everywhere in the world and leads to create international culture (Harvey 1990).

Generally Humans have spent three hundred generations as hunter gatherers and five hundred generations as agrarian. The only nine generation passed in industrial era and up to now 1 generation in post industrial era.

The evolution of the organism depends on adaptation process with environment instead the evolution of humans will be related to technological and cultural changes and will be depend of how we think and live in a society [10].

Social Realities

The term social reality simply means what people actually do in the conduct of their lives. This would encompass a vast range of behaviors, from the eating habits, work habits, interpersonal relations, home life, leisure, religious habits and so on.

There are two kind of reality, the reality or facts that are independent from human opinion. On the other hand they are non-institutional facts or so called brute facts. Physical realities are in this category. For example the number of electrons of an atom, gravity and all laws of physics. They exist independently and their existence do not depend on how we think about them. But the other kind of realities are those which depend on human agreement. these kind of facts are so called institutional facts and they existence depends on institutional agreement. Social realities are from these kind of realities. For example the piece of paper that we call it money. social realities are just creations of the human mind. Not individual human minds, but collections of human minds.

Social Realities have Three Major characteristic that's are identifying what are social realities.

One is social reality has multiple definitions. For example religious believes in different branches of the same religion contain different meaning. So social realities have multi definition according to every groups opinion. Second thing is we can't touch and see social realities we just feel them. For example social realities have no solid shape like as FAN , Tube, Car. It's just are explained in word and feelings. like as "USA Attack on Afghanistan" is a social reality. Third is social realities are holistic. It's non-fragmental. As an example, it is not possible to break any physical reality to its elements, like as we fragment the Iron and wood and other any physical thing. every piece has own identification and all pieces of iron is also iron. On the other side social realities can't broken in to pieces [15].

Art and Social Reality

It is not possible to imagine art without imagining persons and their behaviors, their ideas and opinions, their relationships and friendships, and so on. The relationship between art and society cannot be denied. Art can depict realistic aspects of life inside the society and this kind of art will be successful if it can truly represent life of a given or global society in relationship with its politics, culture, daily life, peoples issues and problems, religions and so on. It also can explain happenings inside the society, Facts of life with respect to ideals, positive and negative impacts of every change in the society, and sometimes these picturing could help the new generations to reform the society toward a positive way [14].

Fundamental elements of a society are persons. A person can be described in different ways but simply a person is who have body and ideas. Also it is not possible to imagine a person without rights. When one does not respect the rights of persons, then one can not respect art, as we know that art is inextricably bound up with persons[16].

Social Realism Movement

During the 1920s, artists specially in America focused their attention on society and social reality including topics. The source of inspiration of these artists was started from teachings and philosophy of Veladimir Lenin and Karl Marx depicted by Ose Clemente Orozco in New York City and Mexican muralists Diego Rivera. With the starting of the impacts of the grate economic depression of the industrialized word lasted from 1929 to 1939, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's work, gathered many struggling artists to work about social realities of the time. Lately, many large vast of artists in this context called social realists who published magazines and organize activities to protest against problems of the time with their revolutionary works. happenings proved the importance of the role of artists in the society [17].

Although art Subjects including social realism were different in style and manner, but attack on the status in society due to social power structure were seen in every artwork and this protest language made them unified in their goal. In spite of the difference on the titles and styles of the works, concentration on human and his condition in society, made the artist as a social realist.

A leftist committee with the membership of several artist launched a radical social publication named new masses which was attached to communists. The other community of these revolutionary artists was the John Reed Club in which the name came back to the American journalist Jhon Reed who shook the world by his records in Russian revolution. This club advocate and assist the proletarian society during their cultural events. The well known members of the club was Hugo Gellert, Max Weber, Moses Soyer, William Gropper and Raphael Soyer. In New York city, David

Alfaro Siqueiros, Mexican well known muralist, Louis Lozowick and Lewis Mumford, main theorists of the group, and artist Ben Shahn were the teachers of the group. The club's approach was that the artists should work to radical justice and poor and dispossessed people and fight against fascism, without forcing the artists to a specific style and manner [18].

The art of social realities first exhibited in 1930s by the opening of several art galleries and museums. Whitney Museum of American Art and New York's Museum of Modern Art contained these artworks. The other artist was Diego Rivera who painted portable murals. Most of the social realists watched the Rivera as he painted [20].

Social Realism Artists

Diego Rivera

Diego Rivera was born in December of 1886. In age of three he lost his young twin brother when He started drawing from the walls of his parents home and his parents never punished him. Instead, they installed chalkboard on the walls and let him to growing creativity. He studied art at academy of San Carlos at Mexico city when he was 10. Then in 1907, he traveled to Europe to continue his education when he became friend with several famous European artist as Pablo Picasso, Piet Mondrian and Marc Chagall.

He is the most dominant artist of twentieth century. Instead of being a Mexican, most important part of his art life was spent in the U.S and Europe. He was the leading members and founders of Muralist movement together with Jose Clemente Orozco and Alfaro Siqueiros. social inequality; the relationship of nature, technology; and the history and destiny of Mexico was the topics which he worked them by using technique of Italian fresco painting.

The approach of Rivera was different with respect to the other artists. He worked his paintings and murals in large frames, walls of universities and walls of other important buildings which made the works in public accessibility instead of the other artists who worked and displayed in museums and galleries. This reinvent the mural as a kind of artwork and changed the public thinking about murals. Major themes of Rivera was Mexican history and culture and daily life from Mayans to the Mexican revolution.

Rivera has four marriage during his life and one was the well known Mexican portrait artist Frida Kahlo. He passed away in 1957 while his battle with cancer. Many of the murals of Rivera remain today and exist in art exhibitions. His paintings represent the suffers of people of the world.

He is well known as a social realist because of his topic of works. He was a Marxist

and a members of the Mexican Communist Party and a socially committed artist [19].

Rivera's Masterworks

Frozen Assets

The Frozen Assets is one of the three works which represent the depression era of New York. The works were revealed by Diego Rivera after the exhibition of the museum of modern art in New York city when he exhibited events in Mexican history. The top piece of the panel represents recognizable skyscrapers and the bottom piece shows a bank's waiting room. The mural is a smart view to the insight of the reality of the New York and represents the people among the depression.(1.3)



Figure 1.3: Frozen assets-Diego Rivera

Flower Carrier

This painting is one of the most famous depictions of the struggle of a common worker living in a capitalist society. Rivera uses vibrant colors to depict a common man on all fours, finding it difficult to carry the load of an oversized basket of flowers. A woman, most likely the peasant's wife, stands behind him and is trying to help him lift the load. While the viewer can view the beauty of the flowers, the peasant is oblivious to it due to his position.(1.4)[21]



Figure 1.4: Flower carrier-Diego Rivera

Isamu Noguchi and Antonio Berni

Dead-Isamu Noguchi One of the early sculpture works devoted to social realism movement, is the "Dead" by Isamu Noguchi which looks different among the artist's other abstract works and statuary. The subtle difference between style of the works of Noguchi and other social realist artists is his modernist style instead of realist style. Progressive racial views and strong social commitment, which is seen in this work, ties it to the social realism art category. "Dead is a model for the photograph of the George Hughes, the African-American writer who is being lynched and hanged from a rope in Texas in 1930 . Noguchi saw the photograph, in the Labor Defender, a communist magazine and created this sculpture FOR AN exhibition organized by the NAACP IN 1935. He was going to protest against the national rise in lynching and ideas of president Franklin D Roosevelt to enact legislation prohibiting such vigilante violence. At present, the John Reed Club the communist arts and cultural organization club, has an anti-lynching exhibition. The work reacted some racism critics. The materials used in work is is steel, Monel, wood, and rope. It exist in The Isamu Noguchi Museum (1.5 and 1.6) [22]



Figure 1.5: Dead



Figure 1.6: Dead

Demonstration - Antonio Berni

Antonio Berni Born and based in Argentina, Antonio Berni was known for his socially engaged figurative painting, rooted in his Marxist viewpoint for interpreting society. During the 1930s, Argentina was in great political turmoil. David Alfaro Siqueiros published a "Call to Argentinean Artists," which profoundly affected Berni who went on to assist the Mexican Muralist on the mural Plastic Exercise (1933) for a private patron outside of Buenos Aires. During the years 1934 to 1937, Berni painted approximately 40 easel paintings of mural proportions including Demonstration, which depicts a crowd of unemployed men and women. Set in the provinces, the crowd marches towards us down a main street; one worker carries a sign aloft stating their dual demand for bread and work. Berni has rendered the many faces of the unemployed pressed up against the picture plane in order to directly confront the viewer. The many faces are painted in a sculptural manner, with a dramatic application of light and shadow, and are rich in detail. The artist eschews painting the dispossessed as falsely heroic or sentimental and instead shows the solidarity of the poor. Tempera on burlap - Private Collection (1.7) [23]

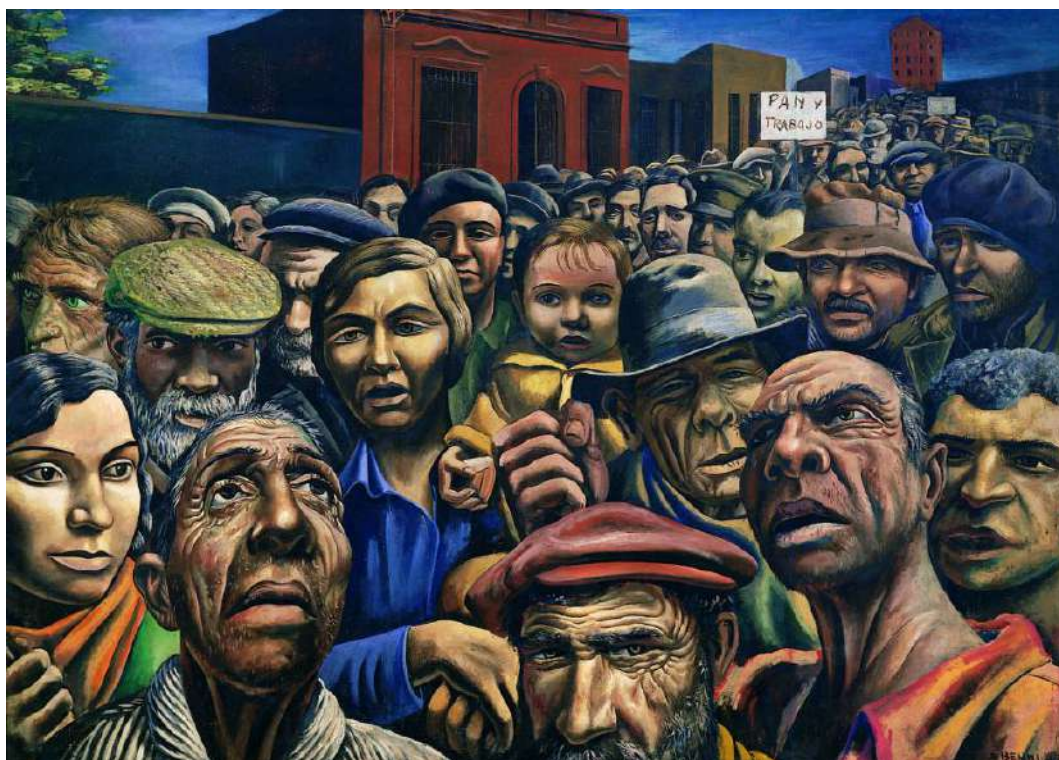


Figure 1.7: Demonstration-Antonio Berni-1934

Social Realities of Modern Society

Modern Lifestyle

The word "lifestyle" simply means the way of life. In sociology, lifestyle can denote the interests, opinions, behaviors, and behavioral orientations of an individual, group, or culture. [2]

Term of lifestyle originally is used by Alfred Adler, psychologist, (1870-1937) to denote a person's basic character as established early in childhood which governs his reactions and behavior. [3]

Max Weber, sociologist, indicates the life style closely related to the type of occupation pursued, it is acquired through formal education, and it can be expected from everybody 'who wishes to belong to the circle' (Weber 1958, p.178).

The other famous sociologist William Lazer (1964) generates the concept of life style from individuals to a group of people. According to Lazer, it is a distinctive or characteristic mode of living that is applied by a group of people. Here the word modern lifestyle means the the works that people generally do in a modern society with characteristics of a modern society.

Every thing around people in a society affects the people's way of life. Development of science and engineering lead to developments in technology and industry. New devices and inventions appeared in almost everywhere around us. Our cities our homes, our rooms and even our bags and pockets. Urban environment designed in a way that accommodate these technology and devices as best as possible. If the difference between people's life in an urban metropolis and rural area is investigated, It will be understood that every device is an evidence of what people have done and they define the lifestyle of the people who are used them.

Our society is full of technology, electronic and mechanical devices which are invented for help people to have a comfortable life than our fathers in previous eras. Technology is provided a new environment to us. People, technology, and environment together create a society with its own problems. New urban spaces are designed in a way that accommodates people in the new world which are separate from nature, and this new kind of lifestyle forces people to its own psychological and social problems. Objects and devices constrain human in such a way that people are no longer distinguished from urban area and objects around them.

Impacts of Modern Lifestyle

Positive Effects

Nobody can ignore the positive impacts of technology on lifestyle of people. Today's society immersed in technology in a way that sometimes people never notice

the impacts. It is difficult to imagine a society without electricity, computer, telephone, televisions and satellites, cars and machines, transportation systems, Bank systems etc. The aim of technology is to provide comfortable environment and life for people. On the other hand people use technology to learn communicate, to do their jobs and business, to transport in a fast and comfortable way, to provide their foods and agriculture and so on.

The difference between lifestyles today and in the past is not only because of technology but also is because of changing the way of thinking of people . However, we can say that modern lifestyles are effected by technology and the believes are changes because of development in science and technology.

The new lifestyles will be meaningless without aesthetics and art. New beliefs create their individual arts in their own ways. Urban environments are designed by new aesthetic styles and a lot of beauty of buildings, internal decorations, urban environments , cars, phones and almost every new technology are designed in an aesthetic perspective.

negative Effects

The new development in technology and consequently a major increase at use of technology in daily life and its influence to create modern lifestyle also implies a couple of negative effects. On the other hand, The impact of the technology on communications , physical, mental and environmental health of the society is not deniable. Influence of the technology also create a lot of social realities of new kind and defines a variety of new virtual social environments and virtual societies. it changes the alphabets of the social realities and makes us to be aware of the over use of these kind of virtual societies and electronic devices as productions of technology. The wind of change from old fashion societies to the modern lifestyles may have negative impacts to the mental and physical health of the people who has changed their lifestyle.

Here some negative impacts of technology and rapid change in lifestyle of the people will be discussed. Not only the impact of technology but also generally the negative aspects of new lifestyles are discussed.

Interpersonal Communications

Using new technology, Electronic devices, Internet and virtual societies and environments have direct effects on the interpersonal communications and face to face contacts. One of the impacts are Isolation. It is a consequence of the lack of contact with other people as friends, Family and daily living communications. The social activities in social groups decrease and take place with other kind of virtual groups

in the virtual environments like as Internet and other virtual social networks. Watching all the time to the screen of the laptops computers and little mobile devices even when we are among the other people increase the habits to isolation. Studies shows that the socially isolated people have mental, psychological and behavioral problems.

Moreover, use of social media outlets decrease face to face contacts and sometimes it course a serious damp in the face to face social skills. The ability of the read the body language and confidence to make a face to face communication is lost.

Also new lifestyles including virtual societies create bases for depression by decreasing the human direct contacts. Some people could cure their depression by living a healthier lifestyle.

on the other hand, the new virtual environments causes a lack of social bonds. Lasting bound with other people requires face to face intercommunications and less direct contact and talk with other people around us create fewer bond we form. Younger people prefer online communications instead of face to face and the age of the people and personality is unknown in new virtual environments, therefor the bonds that we need to protect them are also unknown. A young man may define a different profile with different age, name and personality.

Also the use of social media decrease our attention span. Investigations shows that people who are online more than 5 hour a day has problems to remember informations as name of people, dates and so on. because our brain used to remember words visually and without direct communication, this ability decreases over time.

The Sad Truth About Today's World Illustrated By Steve Cutts

Art is not all fairytale and realist artworks, instead it can also act as catalyst of change. And Steve Cutts thinks that many things in the world should be different. Work shouldn't be a grinding, soul-crushing rat race for the almighty dollar. Consumerism shouldn't hold a vice-like grip on our lives. And social media, well, we need to throw-off the shackles we so eagerly put on ourselves. Wouldn't life be better then?

Steve Cutts is an illustrator and animator from London. Faced with the choice of working at McDonalds or studying Fine Arts, he chose the latter. He worked at Glueisobar as the main storyboard concept artist before making the leap to freelance work. Cutts makes videos and images that criticize modern life – he states that insanity of humanity is an endless pool of inspiration.[24]



Figure 1.8: modern world caricature illustrations-steve cutts



Figure 1.9: modern world caricature illustrations-steve cutts

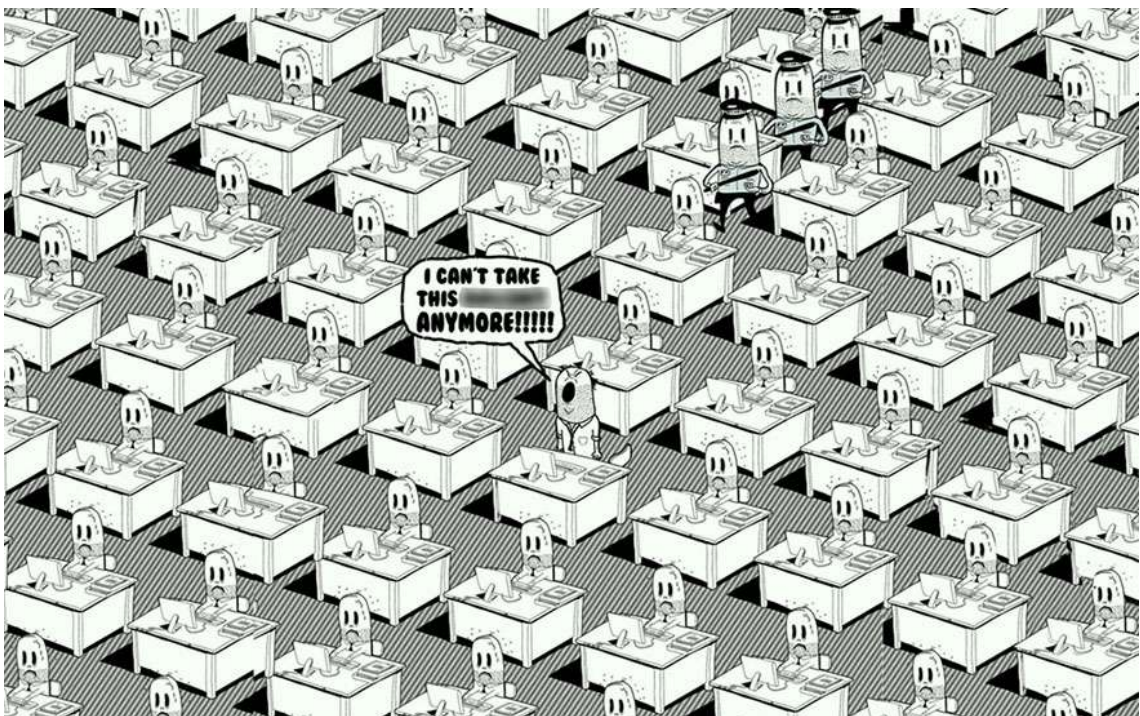


Figure 1.10: modern world caricature illustrations-steve cutts

Wolfgang Stiller

German artist Wolfgang Stiller has exhibited extensively both nationally and internationally, with more than 30 one-man shows around the world, including Thessaloniki, Greece, Rome, Italy, New York City, USA, Nagoya, Japan, and Prague, Czech Republic. He has also shown in numerous group exhibits, most recently in Beijing, Seoul, London and Rome. Born in 1961 in Wiesbaden, Germany, Stiller has worked in the US and been a guest professor for New York University in Shanghai, China. His works are in museums and public collections in Germany and the Netherlands.

Wolfgang explains his work by saying, “The meaning and content of a work grows while I’m in the process of doing the physical work. One could read those burned matches as worn-out or burned-out human beings. The installation can appear like a battlefield or just like some playground where someone played around with matches and dropped them. All the heads I’ve used so far are from Chinese people. This sometimes leads to the assumption that this is a criticism of the Chinese government. One can read it that way, but I think this metaphor could be used for any western system as well. The matchboxes could be simply seen as formal elements within the installation, as coffins or simply as matchboxes. I actually like to keep it open since I don’t like art that leaves no space for one’s own imagination.”

[www.wolfgangstiller.com]



Figure 1.11: Matchstickmen Installationsaufbau 2010 Material : Holz, Hartschaum, Acrylfarbe



Figure 1.12: Matchstickmen Installationsaufbau 2010 Material : Holz, Hartschaum, Acrylfarbe

Modern Racism

Prejudice against blacks in the world and in united states is still a problem. People believe that racism is not a continuing problem. At the root of modern racism are basic beliefs that blacks violate cherished us values. This prejudice against blacks can develop over time to the other groups like women, immigrants and so on.

The term "Modern racism" was introduced by Jhon McConahay in the literature of group processes and intergroup relations. The origins of the theory comes from symbolic racism in 1971 and it is the derivative of symbolic racism.

Modern racism is the generated form of the negative racial attitudes in today's world. It generated from the older beliefs that blacks are biologically inferior race and it wants segregation and formal discrimination against blacks. These opinions and attitudes are unacceptable in civil rights movement. Although old fashion racism is still exist, it mostly replaced by modern racism beliefs between people.

The most significant characteristic of modern racism is that it is learned during socialization and people can learn these attitudes from their parents and friends and the media. There is no relation between these ideas and threats against white people from blacks and personal experience with black people. /2010Henry-encyclopedia-modern-racism

Modern Sexism

Prejudice and discrimination against women is one of the subtle issues and problems of our era. The negative attitudes about women still exist among people in different cultures and religions around the world. Although old fashion sexism still exist in beliefs and opinions of a lot of religion and people, it turned to the new form of sexism in even modern societies and cultures.

There are a lot of women around the world who lives as sex slaves, who cannot leave the house without a man, who are not allowed to speak unless spoken to, who are killed for dishonoring their family, whose bodies are mutilated in the name of purity, who live every day to serve as their husband's slave, who are denied education and who are told that their worth is limited by their gender.

There are a lot of casual opinions among people against women even in daily life in modern societies. Some of these ideas have been learned during socialization from society including family, social media and friends.

Impacts of Urbanization

Urbanization is the increase of the amount of people living in the cities and urban areas. By development of countries and technology, people have a tendency to transfer from rural areas to urban areas.

One of the reasons of urbanization is the increasing of the population with large acceleration and the lack of resources in the rural areas. This acceleration is partly related to decreasing death rates while birth rates remain high. Instead, the more powerful reason is the standard of living which the people believe that it is much better in the cities,

Historically, urbanization has been closely connected with industrialization. Industrialization is the increasing of the efficiency of the productivity by utilization of sources of energy and technology . By development of technology and as a result the development of industry, the lifestyle and the standard of living which people need to them, become more accessible in the developed urban areas. This migrations increase the population of people living in the cities. We are living in the era which more than 50 percent of people lives in the cities and by 2050 two-thirds of the world's people are expected to live in urban areas. Nevertheless, urbanization has positive and also negative aspects.

Although the positive aspects of the living in developed cities are not deniable, but by increasing the population, lead to intensive growth of urban areas, and with the lack of sufficient sources local government will unable to provide services for all people and the result is grater poverty. Also more energy use leads to more air pollution which is a subtle threat to the human health. Moreover Automobile exhaust produces elevated lead levels in urban air.

Instead of disadvantages of urbanization to the environment, it has harmful effects on the human behavior and it causes mental and psychological problems. One can face to face with young and aggressive male and female riding cars and motorbike and race with each other in the middle of the traffic.

Spencer Tunick

Imagine the world as it was before Adam's original sin. Or, in Darwinian terms, imagine us, human animals, carelessly running around with no clothes on, blind and deaf to social obligations and all the regulations determined by the artificial, preposterous moral code. How does such a world intersect with our contemporary world? In real life, it seems almost impossible for the primitive state of existence to arise out of an era of cognizance, industry and technology. And yet, here we are in the 21st century, witnessing the work of Spencer Tunick, who persistently endeavors to create these impossible worlds. Tunick tackles both social and legal issues, which seem to define our modern way of life and to enclose human behavior, constraining it within the well-known formal boundaries. Such radical ideas and projects rarely go unnoticed of course, and that is why his art has caused him a lot of trouble. Tunick has been arrested five times since 1992, and he is still facing legal issues

which restrict his supposed right to work outdoors. That is, naturally, because of the controversial essence of his work – but in fact, it does nobody any harm.

Tunick was born in Middletown, New York in 1967 and from the earliest childhood he was surrounded by cameras and photo equipment. His father owned a keychain photo-viewer store where Tunick used to play as a kid and ask his father a lot of questions about photography. What is really intriguing about Tunick is that nude photography became the main and only focus of his work quite early. In 1986, when he visited London for the first time, he took some nude photographs at a bus stop and became deeply intrigued with this genre of photography, wanting to explore it as thoroughly as possible. Tunick graduated with a BFA from Emerson College in 1988 and already in 1992 started to document nudes in public places in New York. At that time, he was working primarily with photography and video. His pieces were focused more on nude individuals and smaller groups of nudes. However, in 1994, he decided to try working with larger groups and took photos of around thirty nude people in front of the United Nations building in Manhattan. This was a turning point in his career, when he started thinking about working with groups of people through performance.



Figure 1.13: Spencer Tunick



Figure 1.14: Spencer Tunick



Figure 1.15: Spencer Tunick

Mehrshad Khosravi Yekta

Untitled By Mehrshad Khosravi Yekta 2013-2015 Style: Social Realism Medium: Oil on Canvas Dimensions: 150 × 200cm Location: Immigration Postal Boxes Exhibition, Sales Gallery, Tehran, Iran



Figure 1.16: Mehrshad Khosravi Yekta



Figure 1.17: Mehrshad Khosravi Yekta

Qixuan Lim

Qixuan Lim, born-and-raised in Singapore and now based in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, makes these and several other tiny sculptures as a sideline to her work as an information designer.

"I think the baby heads are appealing to me because they carry with them a sense of vulnerability and fragility, but at the same time looking quite morbid and discomfoting," says Lim. The tiny sculpting, meanwhile, came about because Lim had tiny bits of leftover clay from a few commissions and didn't want it to go to waste. "I just fiddled around with it and came up with these little heads hidden in pistachio shells, and my friends absolutely loved it and encouraged me to make more."



Figure 1.18: Qixuan Lim



Figure 1.19: Qixuan Lim

In this thesis report, some works are influenced

[<http://www.qimmyshimmy.com/work/>]

Veronica Cay

The original group of ceramic sculptures in vintage sewing machine drawers are Veronica's representation of caryatids and were completed in 2013 for her solo exhibition at Noosa Regional Gallery. They are a metaphor for women everywhere who are the life support of their family and friends. The drawers act as vehicles for exploring identity and human relationships and are embedded with emotive connections to past lives and experiences, triggering memories.

[<https://veronicacay.com/sculpture-2/>]



Figure 1.20: Veronica Cay

2. PERSONAL WORKS AND INSTALLATIONS

At the beginning I would like to mention that this report contains artist's opinion about society, people and their morality in the society including technology. On the other hand, here on forms and surfaces, artist tried to picturing her relationship and connections with society.

Before starting to explain each work individually, two significant points should be explained about works.

A Brief Review of The Concept of The Art

As the various artworks is created over time, the boundaries of art world growth as fast as possible and since defining art and classifying of artworks become more difficult than ever. But is it prevent us to ask "what is art?" and "How a special artwork can be classified?"! Absolutely No.

Defining a branch of human culture is not the part of that culture but it is purpose of philosophy of it. Any effort to define art is as hard as to define science mathematics and physics and other parts of the culture and history of humanity.

Every artwork may have some common properties as beauty, creativity, arrangement and order, finesse and so on. It should be noted that there is no acceptable methodology to call a creature as art, and also there is no rules to separate art and non-art. People's opinion about the artworks have been changed over the time. Every art fashion, style and era is born, live and then become static and is replaced by the other one. Today, What is called art, is passed through ages and centuries and in each era it is used for different purposes. Hence In historical context every artwork should be considered in time and social conditions which it is created.

One of the criteria that makes difficult to defining art is the purpose and meaning of the art at different era and places. In the past, beauty of an artwork was seen in arrangement and order between the elements of the artwork which could prepared just by technical abilities, and the artist was who could create an artwork by using special techniques in a way that it was hard to be created by regular people. Instead In our era, Creativity, Emotion, Inspiration and perception are on the top of the list. Today, the artist is who can share an idea, inspiration and perception or opinion by using any material even videos and media or regular objects.

Influence of Interpretation and Perception in Creation of an Artwork

Personal insights of the artist sometimes makes him to observe a phenomenon and then represent it in a fully different way in such a way that observer can simply recognize and make connection between phenomenon and artwork even the artwork is physically differs from the phenomenon.

each artwork is corresponding to a piece of poem or a brief story. a couple of works explain a story about people in society, but the other correspond with a piece of poem. Sometimes these poems were reason to create the work, instead, for some of works the poems are written after creation.

About Style of The Works

In twentieth century visual arts supported by human culture is divided into two different types: Figurative art and Abstract art.

Figurative art is a representational art that refers to a defined object in real world. On the other hand, it represents an element form real world that our mind has defined it as an object before. It doesn't only refer to figures of the human and animals, but also any other object, therefor it should never be confused by figure painting or realistic art. Significant property of figurative art which separate it from abstract art is recognizability. Any recognizable shape or form is inside of this category, even Picasso's portraits which contains only a few geometrical shapes.

In this thesis, the artist is tired to use this simplification method to create figurative arts to represent social and psychological problems of people around her from her point of view. For this reason, some points are highlighted.

The aim of this artwork is to represent a couple of the events which people are face to face in new societies. Therefore, the style which is used here, is decreasing and simplification of figurative forms and human bodies to emphasis the message behind the work. the artist is tired to use this simplification method to create figurative arts to represent social realities and psychological issues of people around her from her point of view. For this reason, some points are highlighted.

Also, a couple of the artwork in this report are not covered with glass and sometime a transparent glaze is used. The attitude behind this, is the glaze and colors may vanish the details of heads and also the idea behind the works.

Artwork-1: Everyone Is A Book

The life history of each human has a long story included experiences, events, and memories. Moreover, Every human has an anecdote to tell And this means that he is just like a book which can be read. Some of these stories are more significant than the others so that is registered in the history literature.

Try to read me, before I had gone

I am not such a great one who leave a book of mine



Figure 2.1: Everyone is a book

Artwork-2: Under Pressure

All along the life, under pressure. At first, a man called father, then a man called husband and the rest of life, child. It is called the second race, she is female.

By a deep looking on characters in this work, we can recognize a woman in the middle who has a baby in the womb and two men on the left and right. This indicates a woman under pressure during the life.

We born as a girl under compassion look of father

Did femininity under anger of husband

and we turned from femininity to motherhood forever, sacrifice for the child.



Figure 2.2: Under pressure

Artwork-3: Alone With People

The new world lifestyles separate people from each other every day. Although we live in the same lands and we are the same, but we ignore one another getting so far from each other every day. The bowl represents the world and the people around it are sitting alone without paying attention to each other.

The world, whether it is tiny or huge
the humans whether together or alone
an attaching point maybe exist
calling who!



Figure 2.3: Alone with people

Artwork-4: Family Photo Frame

On the world that people getting far and unaware of each other, A family photo frame on the wall, is very valuable than a lot of photos on a mobile phone which never looked even once a year and might be deleted simply by pushing a button and then it vanishes. The frame shows itself every moment to you, and getting you closer to the people inside it.

Stand by me
like a frame on my wall
from long long time ago
until endless tomorrows



Figure 2.4: Family photo frame

Artwork-5:Memorial

When we lose a person close to us, we look for a symbol or memorial to remind it to us. It can be a perfume or a flower or a tiny memorial. They help us to remember and feel fine.



Figure 2.5: Memorial

Artwork-6: The Night and The Day

We all immersed in daily life and never listen to the voice inside of our heart, the day means work for us and the night means sleep. Is there anybody who never have caught by routine.

the first part of this work represents the day and people in daily life which have no time to themselves and the second part represents night and states that the silence at night makes us think.

We are all under the same stars, but
just one of us can see them



Figure 2.6: The night and the day

Artwork-7: Goods

The connection between human and simple objects around in daily life has such an increase which the connections have entangled the objects to the life. The human will be meaningless if one removes the even simple objects of daily life belong to him. On the other hand, humans personality is tied to the today's technology.

The question is that, whether the people depend on the objects or objects depend on the people?

I had a dream last night

The God set up a banquet

he enjoined his supper while we were in his hands.



Figure 2.7: Goods



Figure 2.8: Goods



Figure 2.9: Goods



Figure 2.10: Goods

Artwork-8: Canned Life

The installation reminds the packing and canned lives which the human dealing with. It represents the absolute dependence of the humans to accessibility and comfortability which avoid them to think, practice and try in such a way that everything including the minds is canned. Everyone lives in a definite and planned approach and people walk on lines that already drew before. It arises from fact that people would like to resolve the problem at the moment without considering it deeply, exactly like a canned and conserved food which is replaced with delicious and organic foods.

The light of the wisdom hurt our eyes
while we were waiting for destiny among the darkness of ignorance



Figure 2.11: Canned life



(a) Canned life detail-1



(b) Canned life detail-2

Figure 2.12: Canned life detail

Artwork-9: Different

The varieties makes the world beautiful. Such a boring world it would be if the everything was the same and like each other. The various appearances, colors, races, and thoughts represent a dynamic world.

This work represents a uniform picture with a little bit different elements in it which own it a special beauty and eye-catching appearance. So we could imagine the whole universe that would be beautiful with even a little bit different elements.



Figure 2.13: Different

Artwork-10: The Reverse City

The urbanization, modern cities and technology almost have destroyed the nature by environmental pollution and by decreasing the rural areas. It took us away from the forests and Pure weather. Instead, we can believe that it is possible to bring the purity of nature back again, we can come back to our origin when our subconsciousness always wants the purity.

I am born inside of you
while you are arising to death of me.



Figure 2.14: The reverse city



Figure 2.15: The reverse city-detail

Artwork-11: On The Watching of Death

humans have been changed to bystanders and viewers of the world with no reaction. The feelings are dead and we do not have any reaction to the events around us.

This installation represents a man who tries to commit suicide and the people around do nothing except watching.

I go and I know
you only watch
like when I came
you only watched



Figure 2.16: On the watching of death

Artwork-12: The City Ship

the stones and cities floating on the sea and this is a picture of the dream of the artist who wants create a balance between the hardness of modern life and the purity and softness of nature which is forgotten.

Maybe The all word of the earth is this
A little bit subtlety in our hands of stone



Figure 2.17: The city ship

Artwork-13: We Are The One

The artist represents a city of her dreams, which people inside it, live there without thinking about superior race. Everyone are equal and the word racism is meaningless. The differences arise from minds not from the colors or countries or nationality.



Figure 2.18: We are the one



Figure 2.19: *We are the one*

Artwork 14: Home Inside

It is a snapshot of a family frame inside of the home which represents the importance of the family and reflects the peace and serenity inside the home.

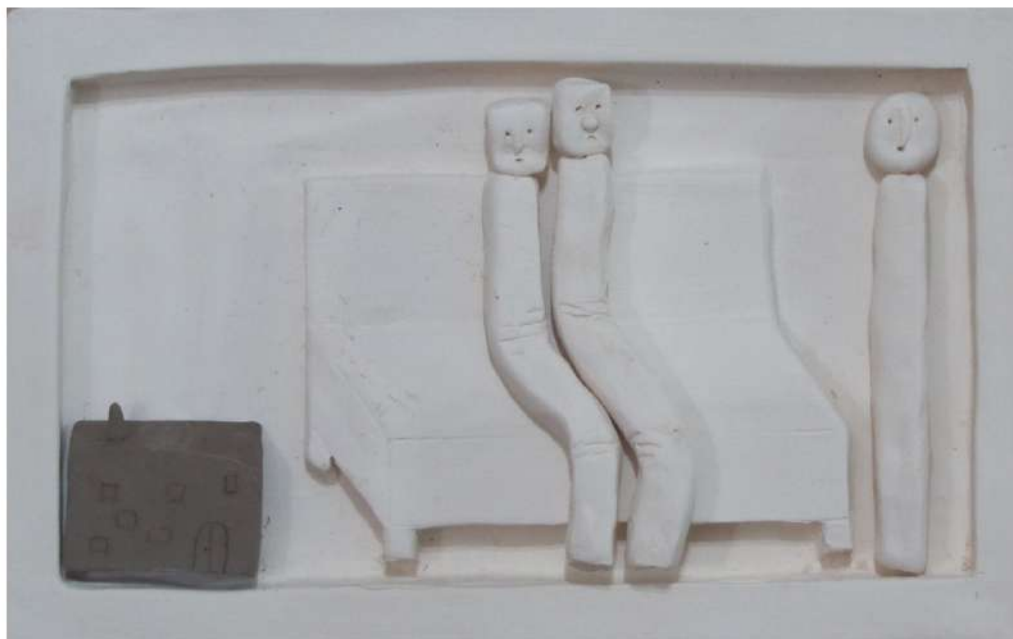


Figure 2.20: Home inside

Artwork 14: My City

It is a snapshot of a modern city with new buildings which combined with the old architecture.

My city, I just worry about you, not my loneliness,
I can see you behind the windows, which have hugged me inside yourself.



Figure 2.21: My city

3. CONCLUSION

If one remove the social realities from a society, it is not possible to define it effectively. consequently, the society would be turn to a couple of individual persons who live alone without any interaction between them. One can not talk about a society without interaction between the elements of it and any interaction even in very elementary state creates social realities which are defined in that particular society. Those interactions between elements of a society is an internal property of it and a consequence of behaviors of each element. As an example, let Consider a lot of particles and atoms which create a solid or a piece of matter. The interaction between particles arise from individual properties of each element like electric charge and so on. These properties force the particles to interact with each other and as a result they create a massive bulk matter.

When one says that the humans also naturally are social creatures, it means that the humans have individual behaviors and properties which force them to create groups and societies. However, the different behaviors make various societies with their own interactions and properties and these interactions differ from one society to the other. In social sciences, these interactions and behaviors are called culture. The framework of a culture arises from opinions and thoughts of each element of the society.

To have a well-defined society we need to new excellent ideas and opinions and as a result, it would be possible to have an excellent culture and ideal society. despite the fact that, it is not possible to completely define the properties of an ideal society and the concepts are partly relative, but it is obvious that an ideal society is a society without suffering. Although the Utopia of Sir Thomas More (Utopia is the name of the book written by Sir Thomas more in 1516) is not completely possible, instead the humanity can get extremely close to having an acceptable degree of perfection, especially in law, politics and social conditions.

To access an acceptable perfect society, the humans should develop the rational societies which offer a life without suffering to any element in the society. To do this, we need to remove every non-positive and emotional opinion and ideas like racism and sexism and also recognize and prevent the negative impacts which the new technology offers to us.

In this way, the role of art is not deniable. Art can be very useful in society to represent the reality to its audiences. Historically, concepts inside an artwork have represented the realities of the society from log time ago. In our century from the movement of social realism in the 1930s up to now which many kind of techniques and styles are combined together to explain the concepts and realities, the importance of the developer role of art and artist in social and human sciences have been

incredibly subtle and obvious. Today, most of the art movements including conceptual art and contemporary art have explained a lot of social realities and instead of their different styles and methods, they have carried the spirit of social realism in their bodies.

The whole concept of this thesis report is based on the social realism and efforts to represent the social realities hidden inside the heart of our era. The observations of the creator of the artworks in this thesis report pushed her to explain a couple of concepts inside our society and some of them holds a protesting language to the wrong behaviors and social realities around her. During the last years, some poems are written by the author, and she has tried to vivify the concepts inside the poem on the forms and surfaces in her ceramic works.

The work "Under pressure" represents discrimination and prejudice against women and sexism in our societies and holds a feminist framework. The works "Alone with people" and "Everyone is a book" encourage us to communicate out of the technological devices and it tells us that, although the technological devices and world wide web have created an environment in which everyone can communicate without caring about the long distances and realize the concept of world village, instead people feel a loneliness. The "canned life" protests against routine lives and shows us our minds inside a prison. "Goods" represents incredible dependency of humans to the objects around them in such a way that they are meaningless without objects. The attitude behind the "Night and the day" arise from the fact that people do not dedicate time periods to themselves to observe, think and enjoy the world and they are completely closed to the programmed life full of work. The emotional works like "The family frame" and "Memorial" pushes us from mortality to immortality. "On the watching of death" and the "Different" reflects the humans inattention behaviors about the people around. The "reverse city", "We are the one" and "City ship" is full of hope respect to the humans future.

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