

## Printmaking in the Context of International Competitions

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**Abstract:** The printmaking tradition, which has been going on for centuries, has taken on a different mission today due to having lost its old communication tool feature. Bringing the environment of printmaking art to society and the formation of the necessary interest have been provided over time naturally. Considering the recent development stages in printmaking, which is based on historical tradition, it is understood that competitive exhibitions bring an encouraging and supportive function to the agenda. Since it can reach large masses, it is undoubtedly one of the simplest and most practical solutions for educating people's visual worlds. As an art practice, it has had a great impact on the progress, artistic and cultural development of individuals and societies. These international activities are very valuable and important for that our country's artists can say "I am also in the art activities of printmaking too". And this fact provides a lot of benefit to the field in terms of widespread use of printmaking and understanding that it is a value in itself. If the historical development and the perspective of social memory will be talked about from an artistic point of view, it will be better understood why these activities are important.

**Keywords:** International competitions, Fine arts, Printmaking

### Introduction

When evaluated with the discipline of graphic editing, printmaking has always shared the same problems with traditional painting. Since there is no distinction in terms of plastic analysis, printmaking was considered as important as Painting and Sculpture in terms of society's need for creativity.

Throughout history, art has existed wherever people have been. Every society that has lived on earth has had its own art. Wherever there is a human community, art has manifested itself as an effect of material life, intuition, subconscious, instinctiveness that has become the necessity of life (Artut, 2009, p.13).

Like a treasure left over from the past and waiting to be transferred to the future for people, art is an accumulation that is kneaded from the experiences of societies in the past. These accumulations are of great importance in ensuring interaction between generations. This transfer process takes place and between the art producer and the consumer with different artistic presentation methods.

## **Art and Competitive Exhibition Culture**

Artistic exhibitions, which are the activities that bring the communication and educational functions of art into consideration most prominently; These are activities that play an important role in raising individuals who have developed awareness of life and their environment and can observe their surroundings from different perspectives. At the same time, the exhibitions enable to developing people who have developed abstract thinking skills and who can express these thoughts in their own individual language in accordance with the requirements of contemporary life and who can combine their thoughts with their own interiority.

Among these art activities, competitive exhibitions are undoubtedly one of the simplest and most practical solutions for educating people's visual worlds, as they can reach large audiences.

Competition culture (contest) is almost as old as human history. Competitions for the purpose of being the best, to stand out in a subject; it is seen sometimes that it is for commercial, political and cultural purposes too.

Today, competitions have become very common and are organized for different purposes in various branches. When the competitions are classified according to their subjects; Sports, music, fine arts, literature, science, technology, handicrafts are the first subjects we encounter. It is also possible to classify competitions according to their purposes: such as competitions for cultural, artistic, commercial, political purposes.

Competitions in all branches of art are commonly organized for two purposes. The first is the competitions that affect the cultural level of the society as a cultural and social activity. The purpose of these is to present a cultural service. In the second type, art competitions are functional and commercial. Organizing a logo design competition for the use of a company, project competitions of municipalities in order to obtain the best project of an important building in the city, competitions held to obtain the best music to be used in the film, naming a newly produced object are all such competitions (Çevik,2015).

Exhibitions also have artistic, cultural, educational and scientific purposes. These activities, in addition to the active involvement of the student in the art programs in plastic arts education; ensure the development of the art consciousness of the society by making the society popular with the works of art exhibited and making use of the power of art to influence people (Erbay, 2001.p.29).

## **International Printmaking Competition Exhibitions**

When evaluated with the discipline of graphic editing, printmaking has always shared the same problems with painting. Since there is no distinction in terms of plastic analysis, printmaking art was considered as important as painting and sculpture in terms of society's need for creativity.

When the printmaking competitions held in the international context are examined, they can be grouped within

themselves such as ex-libris, mini print and large-format printmaking competitions.

Exlibris are small print designs used to show to whom and to which library a book belongs. Labels designed for books are called ex-libris. Exlibris means “from the library of the book” and is used with the name of the owner of the book or the library to which it belongs (Pektaş, 2003, p.13). The history of ex-libris is almost as old as the first printed books.

“Exlibris was born from the need to indicate the owner of the book and to prevent the book from being stolen. It has been a document about the owner of the book and the book. The tradition of ex-libris, which emerged in the era of manuscript books, developed with the invention of the printing press” (Denli, 2006, p.125).

The aforementioned small print works are the subject of different activities at the international level. It has turned into an art practice that is frequently produced in its field and has become a popular art practice.

As it can be understood, mini prints are competitions consisting of small-size printmaking applications. It is worked in sizes like 30 cm on average. The most important reason for the formation of the mini print competition culture is the ease of transportation like ex-libris.

As it is known, printmaking is a laborious technique compared to other painting applications made by preparing a pattern. Working in very large sizes slows down the production of the artist and reduces the number of works. Since artists can generally work in small-sized applications easily and practically, these types have started to be preferred intensely. Many printmaking competitions are held every year around the world.

## **Conclusion**

The results of the numerical data in the world are very valuable for understanding the artistic achievements of the exhibitions. Considering the developmental stages, it was understood that competitive exhibitions brought up an encouraging and supportive function in terms of printmaking, and this function had a predominant value in the following years.

The spread of printmaking and the understanding that it is a value in itself, the acceptance of it as a method of expression with identity, provides a lot of benefit to the exhibition area. The fact that the exhibition activities are multinational is important in the context of combining artists from different geographies of the world in a common philosophy by using art.

The idea of creating a memory with the archives of competitive exhibitions leads to the creation of highly qualified museums in the future. It is a fact that it is not possible to collect works of artistic quality, which have achieved certain standards with a historical perspective, in one day. In addition, if the historical development and perspective of social memory from an artistic point of view is to be mentioned, it will be better understood

why similar activities are important.

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