

What kinds of meanings were associated with nature in Romantic landscape painting in the German-speaking world?

In the German-speaking world, Romantic landscape painting was seen “as the art form of the future,” (168) which not only consists of symbolic paintings, but also religious meanings of the pictures themselves. Runge stated that landscapes were more than just backgrounds, they were also symbolically religious paintings (172). According to Friedrich, there are multiple ideals “of beauty and perfection,” (176) and drawing these “parallels between human emotions and natures’ ‘moods’” (179) provide a whole new light of interpreting art. Aspects in nature were associated with concepts of life in landscape paintings. Landscapes provided a double meaning, which also gave “artists [the] right to break [away] with tradition and leave the beaten path” (176) of the present style of art behind. This transition was an opportunity to branch out and experiment with a new type of expression. Individuals and artists were intrigued to this different meaning of art itself, causing a shift from traditional ideas to a new beginning. Nature in Romantic landscape painting began “individualism, spirituality and [a] love of nature” (177) for the “beginning of a new era” (168) in the German-speaking world.