

# The Canvas of Love Under the Light of Technology: An Analysis of Photography, Music and Narrative Techniques of Love Themes in Edward Yang's Films

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## Abstract

This article provides an in-depth analysis of the expression of love themes in Edward Yang's films, especially through the use of photography, music and narrative techniques, and explores how these elements work together to construct a unique love narrative. Through case analysis of works such as *The Murder of the Boys on Kuling Street*, *Yi Yi* and *Love in the Wind*, this article reveals how Edward Yang used film technology to deepen emotional expression and theme exploration, thus leaving a mark in the history of Taiwanese films. An indelible mark.

**Keywords:** Edward Yang, film techniques, love themes, photography, music, narrative

## 1. Introduction

Edward Yang, one of the pioneers of the New Taiwan Film Movement, is known for his profound social insights, unique artistic style and ingenious use of technology. His films not only reveal the complexity of Taiwanese society, but also explore the most delicate emotion in human nature — love in a unique way. The purpose of this article is to analyze how Edward Yang explores and presents the theme of love in his films through photography, music, and narrative techniques, specifically how these techniques help Yang paint an emotional canvas of depth and variety. Through an in-depth analysis of masterpieces such as *The Murder of the Boys on Kuling Street*, *Yi Yi* and *Love in the Wind*, this article explores how Edward Yang's artistic practice transcends the traditional

narrative of love stories and touches on broader social and cultural issues (Berry, Chris, 2012).

## 2. Naturalistic Light and Shadow and Emotional Expression

In Edward Yang's films, natural light and shadow are not just visual elements, they become important tools for emotional and psychological depiction. Through the three works of *Yi Yi*, *Guling Street Youth Murder Incident* and *Love in the Wind*, we can deeply explore how Edward Yang skillfully uses these elements to enhance the emotional atmosphere of the film and the expression of the characters' psychological state (Chang, Chih-Chieh, 1995).

In *Yi Yi*, Edward Yang uses natural light to emphasize the emotional depth and complexity between the characters. Natural light in the film

often shines through windows and illuminates characters' faces, which not only creates an atmosphere of warmth and intimacy but also symbolizes the characters' inner hopes and aspirations. In certain key scenes, the use of shadows deepens the character's loneliness and inner conflict. For example, when characters face life's challenges, their figures often appear isolated and helpless in the dim background. Through this contrast, Edward Yang self-evidently shows the inner world of the characters.

The use of light and shadow in *The Murder of the Boys on Guling Street* focuses more on revealing the impact of the social environment on the characters' psychology. In this film, Edward Yang uses dark light and shadow to reflect the character's inner depression and the coldness of society, especially when describing juvenile criminal behavior and the social reasons behind it. The characters in the shadows seem to be marginalized by society, reflecting their psychological state of neglect and abandonment. In this way, Edward Yang not only presents a visual narrative about alienation and conflict, but also deepens the audience's understanding of the characters' complex emotions.

In *Love in the Wind*, natural light and shadow are used to emphasize the passage of time and the importance of memory. The light in the film is sometimes bright and sometimes dim, symbolizing the intertwining of the past and the present, as well as the characters' nostalgia for the past and their struggle with reality. Especially in scenes where characters recall past events, Edward Yang creates a nostalgic and contemplative atmosphere through the warmth and softness of light and shadow, allowing the audience to feel the depth and complexity of the characters' emotions.

Through these three works, Edward Yang demonstrates his exquisite mastery of light and shadow and how to use these elements to enhance the emotional expression and psychological depth of his films. Natural light and shadow not only serve as decoration of the scene, they play an important role in conveying emotions, revealing the psychological state of the characters and deepening the story in Edward Yang's films. This sensitive use of light and shadow not only enriches the visual aesthetics of the film, but also deepens the audience's feelings about the characters and story.

### 3. Innovative Use of Composition and Perspective

In Edward Yang's film works, unique composition and perspective selection are important components of his narrative art. These techniques not only enhance visual aesthetics, but also deepen the discussion of character relationships. Through the three works of *Yi Yi*, *The Murder of the Boys on Guling Street* and *Love in the Wind*, we can see how Edward Yang skillfully uses these methods to reveal the complex emotions and social relationships between characters.

In *Yi Yi*, Edward Yang used a series of long shots and deep focus photography to capture the interactions and spatial relationships between characters. This technique allows the audience to observe multiple characters in the scene at the same time and thereby understand the relationships between them. emotional entanglements. Especially in the family gathering scenes, through the use of wide-angle lenses, the position and expression of each character are displayed in detail, reflecting the tension and reconciliation between family members, as well as the conflict and integration between the individual and the collective.

In *The Murder of the Teenager on Guling Street*, the exploration of the psychological state of the characters is deepened through the use of compact space and partial perspective. Edward Yang creates a sense of oppression by highlighting the close-ups of the characters' faces and the tight environmental composition, which directly conveys the pressure of the character's social environment and inner world. For example, when depicting conflicts between teenagers and pressure from the outside world, Edward Yang often uses narrow spaces and dark corners to express the alienation between characters and inner loneliness.

In *Love and Affair*, Edward Yang used a rotating and moving camera to capture the dynamics of the characters and their changes in position in different spaces, thereby exploring the emotional changes between the characters and the transformation of social relationships. The dance scene in the movie is an excellent example. By following the photography method, the audience seems to travel with the characters among the crowd, feeling the character's loneliness, confusion and desire for love. These are deeply impressed through the clever use of

composition and perspective. expressed.

These works by Edward Yang show how he carefully designed scenes to show the subtle relationships between characters and deep emotional exchanges through unique composition and perspective selection. This method not only increases the depth and complexity of the narrative, but also allows the audience to feel the psychological state and emotional changes of the characters more immersively, further deepening the understanding and resonance of the character relationships.

#### 4. The Role of Music in Narrative

In Edward Yang's films, music is not just an accessory to background sounds, but is closely integrated with the images, creating a unique emotional resonance and atmosphere. In *Yi Yi*, *The Murders of the Kuling Street Boys* and *Love in the Wind*, Edward Yang showed how he skillfully used the combination of music and images to deepen the emotions of the story and strengthen the theme of the film (Wu, Hsiao-peng, 2003).

In *Yi Yi*, the use of music is layered and delicate. It not only carries the flow of emotion, but also strengthens the narrative structure of the film. Edward Yang used a carefully selected soundtrack, such as piano and string music, to reflect the complex family and interpersonal relationships in the film. These music usually appear in scenes where characters experience emotional climaxes or inner transformations. Their combination with images not only deepens the expression of emotions, but also creates an atmosphere that is both warm and bitter, allowing the audience to feel the characters more deeply. Emotional swings.

*The Murder of the Teenagers on Kuling Street* explores more serious themes through the combination of music and images, such as teenage confusion, violence and social indifference. Edward Yang used darker and more intense music in this film, such as low electronic music and tense strings. This music, combined with the dark tones and gloomy scenes in the images, effectively conveyed the theme and atmosphere of the film. Music here is not only a carrier of emotion, but also an important tool to promote narrative development and deepen the understanding of the theme.

In *Love in the Wind*, music becomes a bridge

connecting the past and present, dreams and reality. Edward Yang uses nostalgic pop songs and classical music to cleverly combine the complex character relationships and multi-threaded narratives in the images. Music plays a dual role in this film: on the one hand, it evokes the audience's nostalgia for the past and memories of the good times of love; on the other hand, it also enhances the emotional depth of the film, allowing the audience to experience it more deeply to the character's inner world and emotional struggles. Through this combination of music and images, Edward Yang successfully created an atmosphere that was both romantic and melancholy, enhancing the emotional expression and artistic effect of the film.

Overall, Edward Yang demonstrates in these three works how he creates strong emotional resonance and rich atmosphere through the close combination of music and images. This combination not only enhances the artistic charm of the film, but also enables the audience to understand and feel the emotions and themes in the film more deeply.

#### 5. Theme Music and Narrative Structure

In Edward Yang's films, theme music is not only a tool for emotional expression, but also a key element in building narrative coherence and depth. Through the three works *Yi Yi*, *The Murder of the Boys on Guling Street* and *Love in the Wind*, we can observe how theme music is reused and how they enhance the coherence and emotional depth of the narrative.

In *Yi Yi*, the repeated use of theme music not only connects different plots in the movie, but also reflects the emotional changes and growth between the main characters. Thematic music in the film, especially those soft and plaintive melodies, often returns in key plots, such as conflicts between family members, loss of love and reflection on loneliness. The repetition of these musical fragments strengthens the emotional tension of the story and allows the audience to have a deeper understanding of the characters' inner world, thereby enhancing the coherence and depth of the narrative.

*Guling Street Teenage Murder Incident* reveals the inner world of marginalized people in society and the cruelty of social reality through the theme music. In the film, heavy and dark musical themes reappear from time to time, especially when describing the struggles and conflicts of teenagers. The return of this music

not only reminds the audience to return to the main issues of the film, but also deepens sympathy and sympathy for the characters' plight. understand. The theme music here becomes a bridge between personal experience and social background, enhancing the coherence of the narrative and deepening the film's discussion of social issues.

In *Love in the Wind*, the theme music is more used to reflect the passage of time and the power of memory. The nostalgic music in the film, such as the repeated use of old songs, not only arouses the characters and the audience's memories of the past, but also strengthens the themes explored in the film — love, memory and the passage of time. By repeating these musical themes in different chapters of the film, Edward Yang successfully constructs an emotional resonance that spans time and space, making the entire narrative deeper and more layered.

In general, Edward Yang's repeated use of theme music in these three works not only enhanced the coherence of the film's narrative, but also deepened the emotional level of the story. This approach allows the music to become a link between different parts of the film, while also enhancing the audience's resonance and understanding of the characters' emotions and the film's themes. By skillfully combining music and narrative, Edward Yang's films have reached a higher level of emotional expression and artistic effect.

## **6. Exploration of Narrative Techniques and Love Themes**

Edward Yang's film works, especially *Yi Yi*, *The Murders of Guling Street* and *Love in the Wind*, are known for their unique narrative techniques and profound exploration of the theme of love. These works not only demonstrate the complexity and diversity of love in personal life, but also reflect the close connection between love and social, cultural and personal growth (Wang, George Chun Han, 2017).

In *Yi Yi*, Edward Yang explores the theme of love through multi-threaded narrative, juxtaposing the love stories of multiple characters to construct a complex picture of love, family and loneliness. The film follows the perspectives of different characters, and through these intertwined story lines, reveals the different faces of love in different age groups and social backgrounds. From the ignorance of youth, the

struggles of adulthood to the retrospect of old age, Edward Yang delicately depicts the meaning and challenges of love at different stages of life.

*The Murder of the Boys on Guling Street* explores the survival and deterioration of love in extreme environments through a more focused narrative perspective. In this work, Edward Yang delves deeply into the views of love on the margins of society, showing how, in the context of poverty, violence, and social neglect, love becomes a way for characters to escape from real plights, while also reflecting the nature of this kind of love. Vulnerability and tragedy. By closely following the protagonist's perspective, the film allows the audience to deeply understand the impact of the environment on human nature and love.

In *Love in the Wind*, Edward Yang adopts a more lyrical and nostalgic narrative approach to explore the theme of love. Through the intertwining of memory and reality, the film explores the complex relationship between memory, time and love. In this movie, love is not only the emotional connection between characters, but also the bridge between past and present, personal and historical. Through delicate emotional depictions and reflections on the passage of time, Edward Yang reveals the importance and changes of love in life experience.

Through these three works, Edward Yang has demonstrated his superb attainments in narrative techniques and his deep understanding of the theme of love. He not only innovated in form, increasing the depth and complexity of the narrative through techniques such as multi-threaded narrative, concentrated perspective, and time folding, but also deepened the exploration of love in terms of content, showing the role of love in different social and cultural backgrounds of multiple dimensions. These films of Edward Yang are not only artistic expressions of love, but also profound reflections on human nature, society and culture.

## **7. Multi-Threaded Narrative and Complexity Construction**

In Edward Yang's films, multi-threaded narrative techniques are a key means for him to explore the multi-dimensionality and complexity of the theme of love. *Yi Yi* reveals the meaning and challenges of love in different life stages by showing characters from different

generations and their love stories, from youthful first love to adults' complex emotional relationships, to reflection and nostalgia in old age. Each clue deepens the understanding of the diversity of love. *The Murder of the Teenagers on Kuling Street* focuses on the love outlook of marginalized teenagers, explores how the social environment shapes and distorts people's views and pursuit of love, and reflects the fragility and tragedy of love. *Love in the Wind* explores the relationship between love and memory through a narrative that intersects time and space, and shows the emotional level of nostalgia and loss. Through this narrative technique, Edward Yang not only enriches the emotional level of the film, but also provides a more comprehensive and profound thinking about love.

## 8. Conclusion

This article summarizes the technical virtuosity and artistic depth demonstrated by Edward Yang in his films, especially his innovations and contributions in exploring the theme of love. Through the comprehensive use of photography, music and narrative techniques, Edward Yang not only deepened the audience's emotional investment in the characters and stories, but also made a lasting contribution to Taiwanese cinema artistically.

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