

*The Difference of the 'Regression in the Service of the Ego Between Art Students and Professional Artists*

Toshiki Ito, Kobe University, Japan

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**Abstract**

Present study aimed at exploring the difference of the 'regression in the service of the ego' between art students and professional artists. The subjects were 21 art students of graduate school (average age 25.5) and 25 professional artists (average age 46.4). They were administered Rorschach test and the result was analyzed according to the scoring system (Holt, 1977) that measures the regression in the service of the ego from the viewpoint of primary process and secondary process. The result showed 5 differences between art students and professional artists. ①Art students showed tendency to respond more primitive aggressive responses than professional artists.②Professional artists showed tendency to respond more primary condensation responses than art students. ③Professional artists significantly showed more primary symbolic representation than art students. ④Professional artists showed tendency to respond more primary autistic elaboration responses than art students.⑤Professional artists significantly showed more total responses of formal primary process than art students. The result of ① indicated that regression to primitive aggression was not relevant to creativity. The results of ②③④ suggested that various aspects of formal primary process promoted creativity of professional artists. The result of ⑤ showed that professional artists more easily regress in the general aspects of primary process. It was considered that professional artists more tend to regress to primary process than art students and it was suggested that this tendency to regress underlies their creation.

Keywords: Regression In The Service Of The Ego, Rorschach Method, Artist

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## **Introduction**

A number of previous studies showed that the art students tend to be a “regression in the service of the ego” than the general students ( Myden, W. 1959 , Wild , C. 1965 , Dudek , SZ 1968 , 1984 , etc. ) . However, there have been few studies on how “regression in the service of the ego” is different between art students who can be regarded not as professional artists and artists who is working as an expert ( Dudek, SZ & Chamberland-Bouhadana, G. 1982 ). The purpose of this study is to compare in detail the differences in the “regression for the ego” between art graduate students and professional painters.

## **Method**

### (1)subject

21 graduate students of Art Department ( average age 25 . 5 years old) and 25 professional painters that have been evaluated as “talented“ by curator, art critic, etc (average age 46.4 years old, SD = 6.87).

### (2)procedure

The Rorschach method is administered individually, and the primary process responses are scored according to Holt (1977), and the primary process responses are compared to determine whether there is any difference. When administering the Rorschach method, if a subject reported that he might be psychologically distressed, he was able to stop immediately.

### hypothesis

Professional painters perform ”regression in the service of the ego” more than art graduate students. Therefore, they produce more primary process responses.

## **Conclusion**

### Result

The number of responders in each category of primary process responses in terms of content and form was calculated and tested by Fisher ‘s direct probability method.

As for Ag1 number of responders art graduate student group tended to be more observed. (9 people of graduate student group - 4 people of painter group)

In the total number of C1, the number of responders who showed 2 or more tended to be larger in the painter group . (7 people of graduate student group - 16 people of painter group)

As for total number of Sym1, the number of responders who showed one or more was significantly more in painter group than in graduate students (the  $p < .05$  ). ( Graduate student group 10 people - group painter 21 people )

As for AuE11, responders who showed one or more responses tended to be more in painter group than in graduate student. (3 people of graduate student group - 11 people of painter group)The number of responders with three or more responses in the total number of formal primary process responses was significantly greater in the painter group ( $p < .05$ ). (11 people of Graduate student group - group painter 22 people).

## **Discussion**

Ag1 is a primitive and aggressive expression of aggression, and previous research suggests that Ag1 is not related to creativity (Ito 1993 ). There is an age difference of more than 20 years between the graduate students and the painters, and It can be said that the painters control their own destructive impulses and do not regress to impulses unrelated to creativity

The total of C1 is the total number of reactions in the category of first primary process responses related to condensation. Most subjects responded in this category, both in the graduate student group and in the painter group, but in case of those who showed two or more responses, the painter group was significantly more. In other words, painters are more likely to regress in this category. Condensation is a category in which images combine and overlap in various ways, indicating that professional painters are regressing to see more complex things.

Sym1 is a category that symbolizes abstract concepts by colors and images. This means that the painters respond more symbolically, and that this category is more regressive.

AuE11 expresses the artist's unique view of the world, and is a specification of responses that are generally difficult to understand. This tendency was more common among painters because painters were more likely to regress to a world where they could only see things on their own, making it possible to create more original works.

The result that those who showed three or more in total number of formal primary process responses were more in the painter group showed that the painter group generally regressed more easily than the graduate student group. It can be said that the hypothesis was supported.

In the future, it will be necessary to examine qualitative differences in order to verify the differences in the details between the two groups.

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## References

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