

# Exploring the Transcendent: The Influence and Legacy of Romanticism in Modern Cultural and Artistic Practices

Romanticism, which emerged in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, was a response to the Enlightenment and the Industrial Revolution, emphasizing emotion, individualism, and a deep connection with nature. This Ph.D. proposal aims to examine the philosophical, artistic, and cultural dimensions of Romanticism, with a focus on its lasting influence on modern art, literature, and thought. By analyzing key figures, texts, and works of art, the research will explore how the movement reshaped the understanding of the self, nature, and the sublime, and how its legacy continues to influence contemporary cultural forms.

The research will address several key questions: How did Romanticism challenge the rationalism of the Enlightenment and the mechanization of the Industrial Revolution? What role did philosophers such as Kant and Rousseau play in shaping Romantic thought? How did Romanticism influence political movements and the development of national identities in Europe? Finally, how is Romanticism's influence seen in contemporary literature, art, and popular culture?

The objectives of this study are threefold: first, to analyze the core ideas of Romanticism, particularly its focus on emotion, subjectivity, and nature; second, to explore the works of Romantic writers and artists (such as Wordsworth, Byron, Turner, and Friedrich) and their representations of the sublime and individual experience; and third, to assess how these ideas have persisted in modern cultural expressions.

This research will employ a multidisciplinary approach, including close readings of primary texts (such as Wordsworth's *The Prelude*, Byron's *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*, and Kant's *Critique of Judgment*) and visual analysis of works by Romantic painters like J.M.W. Turner and Caspar David Friedrich. It will also incorporate a philosophical analysis of key Romantic thinkers and a comparative study of Romanticism across different European contexts.

The expected outcomes of this research include a deeper understanding of Romanticism's philosophical and aesthetic contributions, an exploration of its social and political implications, and an assessment of how Romantic ideals continue to shape contemporary culture. The dissertation will draw on primary sources such as literary and philosophical works, as well as secondary sources like Berlin's *The Roots of Romanticism* and McGann's *The Romantic Ideology*.

The research will be conducted over four years. Year one will focus on literature and art reviews, including key philosophical texts. Year two will involve an in-depth analysis of Romantic writers and artists. Year three will focus on the political and cultural impact of Romanticism, and year four will be dedicated to finalizing the dissertation.