



Study on the Application of Chinese Ink Cultural Elements in the Creation of Traditional Chinese Painting

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Abstract: As a very unique cultural element in Chinese traditional culture, traditional painting has a very long history in our country. And for the traditional painting, the ink cultural elements is a very important form of expression. This paper aims to study the application of ink cultural elements in the creation of Chinese painting, hoping that this study will bring some inspiration for the development of Chinese painting creation.

Keywords: Painting creation, China, Ink cultural elements

1. Introduction

For our traditional forms of painting, ink itself can be regarded as the pronoun of traditional painting, thus we can see the close relationship between the two. Unlike Western painting created through color, light, and fusion of surfaces, the traditional painting are created with the intersection of ink and lines, which makes the ink cultural element occupies an important position in Chinese painting creation, and in order to ensure the ink cultural elements to achieve good application in the painting creation, this paper herein specifically studies on the application of Chinese ink cultural elements in painting creation.

2. Chinese ink culture

In order to better complete the specific study in this paper on the application of Chinese ink cultural elements in painting creation, firstly we need to understand the Chinese culture of ink. For Chinese painting and calligraphy, the pen and ink played an irreplaceable role. And it can not be regarded as merely the fusion of ink and pen these two materials, it should be regarded as a precipitation and fusion of history, culture and ideology, thus we can better understand the culture of Chinese ink [1].

For modern people, the use of pen and ink material in painting tends to be relatively simple, but this single material usage itself does not affect the artistry of traditional Chinese painting. The emergence of characters of traditional painting such as simplicity, peace, reality, and interest appearance also has a close relation with the material of pen and ink, and these will need to be realized through the different constitution of lines and points in the use of pen and ink, table 1 demonstrated the influence factors of point and line on the painting composition [2].

Table 1 Factors affect painting composition

factor	Content
point	Point size, position, orientation and shading.
line	Line thickness, length, shades and softness.

As a carrier of the culture of harmony with nature, traditional painting also has a "do as I wish" feature, which is also the reason that the traditional painting tends to have bold and natural beauty, so ink in the painting also needs to adapt to nature. Talking about ink in traditional painting, we can easily think of the blank space in the painting. As a unique aesthetic taste of Chinese people, blank space becomes very popular as it can leave the appreciator with endless space for imagination. As partially shown in Figure 1, Xia Gui's "Xishan Qingyuan Tu" in the Southern Song Dynasty (local) is the best showcase of the use of blank space, in connection with the painting, we can recognize the mood of "at this point the blank space is better than ink" in Chinese painting, and this usage of ink itself is a classic finishing touch [3].



Figure 1 Xia Gui's "Xishan Qingyuan Tu" in the Southern Song Dynasty (partial)

3. The application of ink cultural elements in traditional painting

For all the painting genres in the world, each existence has its own form of expression. And the traditional painting express the mood and ideas through pen and ink. And to have a more in-depth understanding of the application of ink cultural elements in painting, we can divide this specific analysis of application into six points, including points, lines, blankness, principle, artistic conception, and consciousness.

(1) Point

For traditional painting, the size, shading, orientation and position of the points are related to the level of artistry of painting itself. Clever painters can always find the essence of painting works from a point in the painting. This is a unique characteristic of traditional Chinese painting, thus it shows the importance of point in the application of ink cultural elements in traditional painting.

(2) Lines

In the creation of a painting, the lines is also an important element of pen and ink, and by table 1 above we can understand that the thickness, length, shades and softness of lines will affect the expression results of the painting, thus we can see the important role that played by line in painting creation, and different patterned are realized through various changes of lines in form and manner, that is precisely the the best embodiment of the role played by lines [4].

(3) Blankness

Herein the blankness refers to a part of white space, and it is the blank space mentioned the above by the author. In order to ensure the blankness to have a better effectiveness in the traditional painting creation, we must better design the blank space, thus we can ensure the blank space to leave enough space of imagination for the appreciators, and truly realize the artistic conception of "at this point the blank space is better than ink".

(4) Principle

For traditional painting, the implication of certain philosophy is a characteristic, so we can regard this principle as the bottomline and principles of relative painters. For traditional paintings, although many painters have random strokes and pen trend, it contains the same principle. As partially shown in Fig. 2, from Dong Qichang's 'Guanshan Snow painting' we can find that, with the experience about the paint skills of the ancients in his paint, the famous painter Dong Qichang in Ming Dynasty reproduced the "essence" of the ancients in his creative way, and this is the expression of the principle of Dong Qichang's painting.



Figure 2 Dong Qichang "Guanshan Snow paint" in Ming Dynasty (partial)

(5) Artistic conception

For traditional painting, the artistic conception is a fundamental part, and this makes that only when reached a certain artistic conception a painting can be regarded as a good one. Unlike western paintings that pursuing the simulation of reality, the traditional painting always improve the aura through the depiction of artistic conception, and this made the traditional painting have a better expression of the living presence of things. As shown in Fig 3, "Qi Baishi shrimp paint" is the visual expression of the artistic conception, and this kind of expression of painter's emotion, thoughts and value through painting is the artistic concept



Figure 3 "Qi Baishi shrimp paint"

(6) Consciousness

In appreciation of the traditional painting, we often put the "conception" and "consciousness" together, but in fact they are not the same. For the creation of Chinese painting, the artist needs to have his conception first, after that he would paint, which

makes the conception being the source of a painting, and if a painting works without any conception, then no matter how good the drawing skills is, it can not guarantee the success of high quality painting creation.

Combining the above discuss, we can get a more comprehensive understanding of the ink cultural elements used in painting creation, and to show this application more intuitively, the author specified the statements about this application with Table 2.

Table 2 the application of ink cultural elements in traditional painting

Ink cultural elements	Specific applications
Points	The artistry decided by the size, shading, orientation and location
Lines	Through the line thickness, length, shades, and softness, it impacted the performance results of painting.
Blankness	Provide more adequate imagination space for the appreciator.
Principle	Expressed painter's bottom line and principles.
Concept	To express artist's emotions, thoughts or integrity through paintings.
Consciousness	Sources of painting creation.

4. The use of ink in painting creation

In order to complete the study in paper about the application of ink cultural elements in painting creation, we also need to understand the use of ink in painting. According to what the author learned from literature, there are a plot of ink paint skills such as light ink, ink-breaking, splash-ink, ink plot, coke ink, ink places and so on, and the different usage of these ink skills can bring various strong visual enjoyment to the appreciators, and the realization of this enjoyment is also originated from the support of ink culture elements in the traditional painting creation.

5. Conclusion

In this study on the application of ink cultural element is the traditional painting creation, the author discussed in detail the Chinese pen and ink culture, the application of ink cultural element in the traditional painting, the use of ink in painting creation. And with these discussion we can clearly see the importance of ink cultural element to the traditional painting creation. And to Chinese traditional painting, the ink cultural

element is the reason that made the essential meaning and spiritual meaning well inherited.

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