



The Differences between Traditional Chinese Clothing Aesthetics and Western Clothing Aesthetics

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Abstract: There are significant differences between traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics and Western clothing aesthetics in terms of materials and design styles, colors and patterns, as well as cutting and dressing styles. Traditional Chinese clothing focuses on natural materials, details, and craftsmanship, and emphasizes overall balance. While Western clothing tends to various kinds of materials, personality traits, and fashion trends, they pursue uniqueness and innovation more. In terms of colors and patterns, traditional Chinese clothing prefers bright colors and traditional patterns, emphasizing connotation and symbolism. Western clothing, on the other hand, explores diverse color combinations, advocates abstract and modern patterns, and emphasizes visual expressions and fashion sense. In terms of cutting and dressing styles, traditional Chinese clothing emphasizes streamlined and curvaceous beauty, pursuing overall harmony. Western clothing prefers simple and exaggerated cutting styles, emphasizing personal style and free matching.

Keywords: traditional Chinese clothing, Western clothing, clothing aesthetics

1. Introduction

Clothing is a way of cultural expression, and traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics and Western clothing aesthetics, as two different forms of expression under different cultural backgrounds, demonstrate themselves unique charm. By comparing the differences between them, we can better understand the different pursuits of clothing aesthetics in the two cultures, as well as the cultural concepts and value systems hidden behind them.

2. Material and design style

2.1 Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Clothing Aesthetics

Traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics focus on the selection of natural materials, such as silk, cotton, and linen. These materials have a natural texture and luster, giving people a warm and elegant feeling. In addition, traditional Chinese clothing also emphasizes showcasing exquisite craftsmanship in details. Embroidery skills is one of the important expressions, meticulous and delicate embroidery patterns can add unique charm and artistic sense to clothing. At the same time, the weaving of flowers and handmade buttons on clothing are also reflections of traditional craftsmanship, and every detail is repeatedly designed and improved, reflecting the spirit and skills of craftsmen. Meanwhile, traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics also emphasize the principles of symmetry and balance. In terms of design, the proportions and positions of each part of the clothing are carefully considered, pursuing overall harmony and balance. For example, in Hanfu, the length ratio of the up-clothing to the down-skirt, and the smooth connection between the cuffs and the collar all reflect the beauty of symmetry and balance[1].

2.2 Characteristics of Western Clothing Aesthetics

Western fashion aesthetics place greater emphasis on the diversity of materials and designs. When making clothing, Western designers use various fabrics and materials, such as silk, wool, leather, synthetic fibers, etc., to create different textures and effects. In addition, Western clothing emphasizes personality and uniqueness, and designers often draw inspiration from fashion trends and incorporate their own design concepts to create unique clothing styles. In terms of design, Western clothing also emphasizes the display and highlighting of individuals body lines. Designers will create different cuts and designs based on different body lines and shapes, making clothing better fit the body and displaying beautiful lines and curves. In addition, Western clothing is good at using colors, such as bold, bright, and impactful colors to highlight the fashion sense and uniqueness of clothing.

3. Colors and Patterns

3.1 Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Clothing Aesthetics

The characteristics of traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics regarding colors and patterns are mainly reflected in their exquisite application. Firstly, traditional Chinese clothing tends to use bright colors, such as red symbolizing joy and auspiciousness, yellow representing wealth and power, and blue symbolizing freshness and tranquility. These colors not only give clothing vitality and enthusiasm, but also carry rich cultural connotations, bringing visual pleasure and emotional resonance to people. Secondly, traditional Chinese clothing often make use of traditional patterns and symbols for decoration. For example, the dragon is one of the common patterns in traditional Chinese clothing, because in Chinese culture, the dragon is seen as a symbol of auspiciousness and power. The phoenix symbolizes beauty and happiness, often appearing in wedding costumes. In addition, patterns such as cloud patterns and lotus flowers often appear in traditional clothing, carrying rich cultural connotations and beautiful meanings, injecting deep cultural heritage into clothing. For example, the Chinese Cheongsam is a typical traditional Chinese clothing, which usually uses rich and colorful embroidery techniques and brilliant colors to showcase the aesthetic characteristics of traditional Chinese clothing. The common dragon and phoenix patterns and flower and bird patterns on cheongsam not only showcase the beauty of traditional patterns, but also convey the longing for auspiciousness and a better life in Chinese culture. In addition, Peking Opera costumes are also one of the representatives of traditional Chinese clothing. Their unique color matching and exquisite embroidery demonstrate the superb skills of Chinese traditional clothing in using colors and patterns, reflecting the artistic beauty of Chinese traditional culture.

3.2 Characteristics of Western Clothing Aesthetics

The characteristics of Western fashion aesthetics are diversity and innovation. Western designers are good at exploring various color combinations, including bright colors, soft colors, and contrasting colors. They create rich and diverse visual effects through bold color combinations, showcasing individuality and fashion sense. For example, well-known British actress Tilda Swinton, who has starred in *Lost in Translation*, once wore a light yellow jumpsuit paired with a black coat when attending a red carpet event. Light yellow usually gives people a feeling of lightness and elegance, while a black coat is a classic choice that can add a touch of solemnity to the overall look and provide a contrasting effect for the light yellow jumpsuit, thus further highlighting Tilda Swinton's fashion taste and uniqueness[2]. In addition to the use of color, Western fashion aesthetics advocate abstract and modern patterns. Elements such as geometric patterns, animal textures, and artistic creativity often appear in Western fashion design. These patterns not only emphasize the beauty of form, but also emphasize the expression of the designer's creativity and personality. This abstract and modern pattern makes Western clothing more fashionable and visually impactful, attracting people's attention. In addition, Western fashion aesthetics also emphasize the fine handling of cutting and texture. Western designers pursue the fit and comfort of clothing, emphasizing the precision of cutting and the handling of details to showcase the elegance and quality of clothing. At the same time, they are also very particular about the selection and application of fabrics, pursuing high-quality fabrics and textile technology to ensure the comfort and durability of clothing. For example, Dior dresses often showcase women's curves and elegance through slim fitting designs and waist details. At the same time, Dior's clothing also emphasizes the selection of fabrics and the treatment of textures, using high-quality fabrics to make the clothing more comfortable and durable.

4. Cutting and dressing styles

4.1 Characteristics of Traditional Chinese Clothing Aesthetics

The characteristics of traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics include the pursuit of cutting and the unique norms of dressing styles. Firstly, in terms of cutting, traditional Chinese clothing emphasizes streamlined and curvaceous aesthetics. For example, the slim fit of the Cheongsam fits the female body, highlighting the curves of the female figure while showcasing the beauty of softness and elegance. The sleeves and hem of cheongsam often adopt a smooth curve design, making the overall shape more elegant and charming. Secondly, in terms of dressing style, there is also unique norms and etiquette requirements in traditional Chinese clothing. The wearing of Cheongsam usually requires pairing with high heels to highlight the curves of a woman's figure. At the same time, in formal occasions, it is necessary to wear accessories such as long gloves and jewelry to showcase nobility and elegance. The wearing style of Hanfu, including the cross collar style and the right lapel covering the front, not only highlights the cultural connotation of clothing, but also reflects the etiquette and order of ancient Chinese society[3]. In addition, the accessories of Hanfu also have strict matching standards, such as hair accessories, belts, etc., which need to be matched according to different occasions and clothing colors to ensure the overall harmony and unity of the design

4.2 Characteristics of Western clothing aesthetics

In terms of cutting, Western clothing explores various styles, including two extreme styles: minimalist and exaggerated. Minimalist cutting emphasizes the simplicity and smoothness of the lines, emphasizing the overall effect and aesthetic appeal of the clothing. This style pursues simple and elegant styling, making people look fashionable yet elegant. Exaggerated cuts attract people's attention through exaggerated design elements and cutting methods, emphasizing the personalization and uniqueness of clothing. This style has a certain degree of artistic and dramatic qualities, which can showcase individuals' fashion attitude and charm. In terms of dressing style, Western clothing aesthetics focus on comfort and practicality. Western clothing pursues the functionality and adaptability of clothing, making people feel comfortable when wearing it. Western clothing emphasizes personal style and freedom of matching, encouraging people to choose and match clothing according to their own preferences and personality. This method can showcase personal fashion taste and unique style, allowing everyone to find their own clothing style that suits them.

5. Conclusion

Although there are significant differences between traditional Chinese clothing aesthetics and Western clothing aesthetics, they are not mutually exclusive, but rather their unique and wonderful forms of cultural expression. In the increasingly diverse and globalized era, we are expected to encourage cross-cultural communication and an attitude of mutual learning to promote mutual understanding and respect between different cultures, and further enriching and developing the diversity of clothing aesthetics.

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