



The Artistic Philosophy and Cultural Connotation of Printmaking Technology — Taking Woodblock Prints as an Example

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Abstract: In the course of historical development, Chinese woodcut has developed its own unique artistic style through inheritance, absorption and gradual development. Woodcut is a trend in the development of contemporary diversified art. Its historical development and inheritance is not only the unique spiritual wealth of Chinese traditional culture, but also an important issue that the Chinese art world must face squarely. In the future development, Chinese woodcut prints should adhere to the excellent tradition and be applied in combination with the development of the new era.

Keywords: woodcut printmaking; art philosophy; cultural connotations

1. Introduction

After more than a thousand years of development and evolution, woodcut has become a popular art form. As a carrier, it has played a great role in promoting the spread of human knowledge. This paper aims to explore the creative transformation of the artistic philosophy and cultural connotation of woodcut as an art form. Through the study of the artistic philosophy and cultural connotation of woodcut print, explore its potential and possibility in contemporary art. At the same time, this study also helps to promote the inheritance and innovation of woodcut prints, and provides artists with more creative inspiration and thinking direction.

2. Overview and Characteristics Analysis of Woodcut Printmaking

2.1 Overview of the Development of Woodcut Printmaking

Woodcut has a history of thousands of years and is one of the important forms of traditional Chinese art. The prosperity of social economy and culture in Ming and Qing dynasties provided favorable conditions for the rapid development of printmaking art. With its simple form, bright colors and far-reaching meanings, it is deeply loved and sought after by the public, and its prosperity is inseparable from its function. As an important ideological sustenance, it has become an important factor promoting the development of printmaking art. Through narrating historical stories, it carries rich cultural connotation and social significance, and uses visual expression and symbols[1]. It conveys people's pursuit of a better life, a harmonious society and traditional values. With the invention of movable type printing, printmaking experienced technical innovation. During this period, the artistic expression of combining text and text was realized, which promoted the development of text and education. These printmaking works were mainly line engraving, with simple lines, rough lines and strong expression.

2.2 Analysis of the Characteristics of Woodcut Printmaking

2.2.1 The Technological Characteristics of Woodcut Printmaking

Woodcut print is an art form with rich formal language, with a wide range of themes and high artistic appreciation value. Its impression and texture contain infinite interest and spiritual connotation, and it is a kind of artistic processing that depends on painting, engraving, printing and other links. On the whole, the language contained in woodcut prints is different from other color languages in terms of modeling and color. The depiction techniques are extremely powerful and beautiful. The knife marks form a unique artistic language in woodcut prints. The aesthetic difference produced by this transformation forms a special rubbing texture, giving people a strong visual impact[2]. Woodcut as a visual art form has evolved in history, in order to make woodcut more in line with the public aesthetic standards, creators need to explore the use of color. Creating colorful woodcut prints based on the era, region, and culture will appear more rational. By integrating different elements, the connotation of woodcut prints will be richer[3].

2.2.2 Artistic philosophy and cultural connotation of woodcut prints

(1) Philosophy of Art.

Woodcut prints transform the textures, textures and images of nature into works of art through carving knives and

printing techniques. This integration embodies the harmonious relationship between man and nature, and at the same time conveys awe and respect for nature. The artist needs to use the carving knife to precisely carve the wood marks in order to express his creative intention. This reflects the pursuit of detail and craftsmanship, but also expresses the focus and dedication of the art. In the process of production, the transfer process from wood to paper was experienced. This change reflects the wonder of creation and the power of transformation, allowing the artist to transfer the image of the knife cut painting on the wood block to the paper, creating a unique textural effect and visual impact[4].

(2) Cultural connotations.

Woodcut printmaking, as an art form, has become a part of Chinese national art through the precipitation and inheritance of history. It encourages artists to express their thoughts, emotions and opinions, provides a platform for exploration and expression, and can convey cultural, social and personal connotations through creation, reflecting the changes of The Times and human emotions. At the same time, different regions and cultures have their own unique styles and ways of expression, inclusive of diverse cultural horizons, not only reflects the essence of traditional Chinese culture, but also absorbs the influence and innovation of foreign cultures. This inclusive cultural vision makes woodcut prints rich in multi-cultural value. The process of woodcut prints embodies the integration of nature and humanity, simple and precise expression, and the wonder of change and transformation[5].

3. An Analysis of the Problems in the Inheritance of Contemporary Woodcut Printmaking

3.1 Limitations in inheritance and development

With the development of modern technology and media, the traditional woodcut print culture is facing challenges, which may lead to people's insufficient attention to it, and there are limitations in its development. The fast pace and diverse forms of media in contemporary society have changed the way art is appreciated. Unlike the culture of rapid consumption and instant gratification, woodcutting requires time and expertise, while the rise of digital technology has limited the development of traditional woodcutting. Digital technology makes it easier to copy and disseminate artworks, providing more creative options and affecting the uniqueness and rarity of traditional woodcut prints. Woodcut prints can be preserved and passed on by increasing public awareness and interest through art education and promotion activities.

3.2 Planning for the development prospects of inheritance and innovation

The development prospect planning of woodcut print inheritance and innovation needs to lay a solid foundation for the development of woodcut prints through inheritance education, promoting innovative experiments, using digital communication, strengthening cultural protection and market development, and actively participating in international exchanges and cooperation, so as to achieve sustainable development and prosperity in the field of contemporary art. Nowadays, in an information age, everyone has become the receiver and disseminator of information. Give full play to the advantages of information technology, promote the knowledge and skills of woodcut prints, so that more people can realize the art of woodcut prints and feel the charm of woodcut prints.

4. Propagation and creative transformation of woodcut prints

We need to inherit traditional woodcut prints while also conducting creative research on them. Through the discussion and thinking of innovative content, the research of innovative methods, and the promotion of woodcut prints for innovative practice, people can experience the charm of woodcut. At the same time, in order to meet different needs, more exhibition activities are set up to allow the broad masses to participate in promoting the popularity of woodcut prints at all levels, and we can feel the necessity of promoting woodcut prints in schools and society[6].

Under the development background of the new era, woodcut prints need to be creatively transformed to adapt to the needs and aesthetic trends of modern society. With the advent of the information age, various forms of culture and art have been innovated. Artists can combine digitalization and other modern technologies to combine traditional woodcut prints with digital art, creating a broader space for expression and rich artistic language[7]. This kind of creative conversion injects new vitality and innovation into woodcut prints, expands the form of expression and transmission of works, ADAPTS to The Times, and enriches the connotation of woodcut prints. But creative conversion also needs to preserve the core characteristics and spirit of woodcut prints. It is necessary to respect the traditional craft, pay attention to the carving skills and texture effects, in order to maintain the unique artistic charm of woodcut prints, and pass on the consideration of environmental protection, cultural inheritance and human emotions through the works.

5. Summary

Woodcut prints need to explore production methods that are appropriate to The Times, and show diverse and interactive emotional experiences. Creative transformation is to adapt to the requirements of the development of the new era, combine new technologies and media, maintain the charm of traditional crafts, pay attention to audience participation and interaction, so that woodcut prints in the new era full of artistic luster, provide a rich and diverse art experience. Creators should have a broad vision and cultural accomplishment, inherit and develop woodcut prints and give them contemporary significance, and promote woodcut to become a favorite art form of the audience. Woodcut prints can integrate unique cultural characteristics, absorb the nutrition of traditional Chinese culture, integrate with the characteristics of The Times, inject inspiration and driving force. Overcoming the limitations of form, making the works close to The Times, inherits and shows the aesthetic characteristics and practical value is the key, maintains independence and provides conditions for the living state inheritance, and realizes the new innovation in structure.

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