

# Research on the Symbiosis of Public Art and Urban Art

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**Abstract:** Public art and urban art are two independent and interdependent concepts. Public art is characterized by publicity, which refers to the unique artistic features displayed in the urban public domain. Urban art is relatively restrained and implicit, which refers to the historical culture accumulated in the historical development of the city. However, there is a certain commonality between them, which can influence each other, promote each other and develop each other, and have an important impact on contemporary urban development and urban construction. This paper mainly explores the symbiosis between public art and urban art, and further analyzes and explains the symbiotic forms between public art and urban art. **Keywords:** public art, urban art, culture, connotation, symbiosis

## Introduction

Nowadays, we can see various forms of public art in the process of urban development, such as sculpture, fountain, mural, architecture and so on. In fact, these forms are all forms of public art display, and affect the development of urban art in a certain way. Urban art is the mark of the city's development, and it is the artistic and material wealth accumulated in the process of urban growth, which contains various contents. Actually, it will be indirectly or directly influenced by public art in the process of urban art development, and it will be constantly enriched by public art in the process. Therefore, there is a certain symbiosis between public art and urban art, and the in-depth discussion and analysis of its symbiosis will play a certain role in promoting the construction and development of contemporary cities.

# 1. Concept analysis of public art and urban art

### 1.1 Analysis of the concept and characteristics of public art

Public art refers to the artistic features in the field of public space, which embodies the spirit and attitude of democracy, openness and sharing in public space<sup>[1]</sup>. With the development of modern society, public art has not only been confined to sculptures in form, but also incorporated into more display modes, such as installation art, multimedia art, performance art, etc, which can show profound urban culture and artistic atmosphere through multiple materials and forms.





Figure 1. Different forms of public art in cities

First of all, public art has extensive characteristics, and its exhibition scope is very broad. Public art can be seen in every corner of contemporary cities, so it can be said that public art exists in people's lives. This feature of public art is determined by its wide range of performance. Secondly, public art has the characteristics of concentration. A variety of public arts can be seen in the leisure square and commercial pedestrian street of the city, such as sculpture, ground pavement, fountain facilities, public seats and garbage bins, and they are all display platforms of public arts. Different elements are scattered in various fields of the square, and the matching between them can make its artistic expression more concentrated, thus bringing

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people visual impact, making people deeply impressed and enriching the artistic effect of the city.

Finally, public art has distinct artistic expression. This is mainly manifested in the modeling design, color matching and the use of materials of public art, which can bring people different visual feelings. For example, sculptures of different materials can bring people different information. If the texture of sculpture is metallic, it will give people a sense of fashion and modernity; if sculpture is retro, it will give people a sense of history and times. Therefore, the public art in the city is not just an object, but has already become a common memory in people's lives and in the process of urban development. In this process, it can be continuously combined with people's life. Public art has increasingly become the spiritual and cultural symbol of a city, which is a unique symbol of the city. It can convey the characteristics of the city through public art and show the unique charm of the city.

## 1.2 Analysis of the concept and characteristics of urban art

Urban art is the accumulation and precipitation of a city's history and culture, the fixed impression and memory of a city, and represents the cultural tradition and living habits of the city<sup>[2]</sup>. Different from the publicity of public art, urban art is relatively restrained, implicit and more classic. It is an artistic feature formed in the long-term historical development and has a long history and cultural characteristics. For example, Beijing, the capital of China, has inherited the architectural features of different periods through the historical changes of several dynasties. Through these ancient buildings, we can see the cultural features of each dynasty, and these architectural styles are the best forms of urban art. Besides, we can also feel the social and cultural atmosphere behind these elements, such as architectural murals, colors, patterns, lines and so on. Although those are far away from us, we can still feel the time clues of the city, thus enhancing people's sense of cultural identity and belonging to the city.





Figure 2. Ancient buildings in Beijing

# 2. Symbiosis between public art and urban art

Although public art and urban art are two different concepts and have some differences, they are closely related, mutually promoting and developing, which is mainly reflected in the following two aspects:

#### 2.1 The symbiosis at the historical culture level

History and culture is the product of human life, which is gradually formed and handed down in the process of the development of the times. Every city has different history and culture. Through the history and culture of different cities, we can see the diversity of world culture.

Urban art is the carrier of history and culture, and the development of a city cannot abandon its unique history and culture and exist independently. Therefore, in the process of development and growth, a city cannot abandon its unique urban art and carry out independent public art construction. That is to say, no matter which city will reveal its history and culture from the front or side in the process of development, it is based on the city's history and culture to endow the city culture with new characteristics of the times, and it can show the city art in a new form and improve people's living environment, thus forming a city public space full of humanistic care, enhancing the city's mental outlook in symbiosis and increasing residents' sense of identity and belonging to the city. In contemporary public art design, urban art elements are often refined first, and then re-created on this basis. These elements of urban art can not only make public art more cohesive and intimate, but also show urban art better, make the public appreciate the unique charm of urban art, and blend the city and art, city and history, city and humanities, etc., and show the unique artistic charm of the city.





Figure 3. Sculpture of "Sugar Figure Blowing Art" in Tianjin Drum Tower

For example, the streets of Tianjin drum tower are a good example of the influence of urban art on public art. Designers can combine the scene of "Sugar Figure Blowing Art" with sculpture art, and show the long history and culture and unique city memory of Tianjin through sculpture, a public art. When people walk on the streets of Drum Tower, they will unconsciously be influenced and edified by urban art in public art, and feel the history and culture of Tianjin. Therefore, for any city, it is inseparable from its unique history and culture in the process of its development and growth, and public art will be influenced and infected by it to a certain extent, thus reflecting the local urban artistic characteristics. However, the symbiosis between public art and urban art at the historical and cultural level can be influenced by the historical and cultural details of the city. For some small cities or later developed cities, they are more susceptible to the influence of foreign cultural and artistic styles, which is of course related to the city's own history, culture and social development.

#### 2.2 The symbiosis at the spiritual culture level

The shaping of city image is inseparable from the construction of City mental outlook, and on this basis, the city environment with unique temperament and personality can be created in combination with the characteristics of the city. Every city has a specific spiritual outlook, and the spiritual culture of a city is that it has the same important conditions as other cities, and it is also the living soul of a city. It reflects the city's morality, civilization and ideals, and can show its residents' sense of identity and spiritual value pursuit for the local culture. The creation of public art needs the promotion and guidance of urban spiritual culture. Public art is displayed in a shared space environment, which is closely related to local citizens and foreign tourists. People can feel the local spiritual and cultural atmosphere and experience the spirit of the times in this city. Therefore, public art is a manifestation of urban art, which can show the spiritual outlook of urban art. Therefore, public art is a manifestation of urban art, which can show the spiritual outlook of urban art. At the same time, urban art will be enriched and supplemented by new forms of public artistry, which will become deeper in the process of time and present what people see today. Thus they form the symbiosis of spiritual and cultural level.





Figure 4. Public art in the city

In fact, the symbiosis between public art and urban art in spiritual and cultural aspects needs us to look at it from a long-term perspective. For example, monarchs in various dynasties in China will repair palaces. Actually, this process is not only

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an acceptance of the old elements, but also a supplement to the new elements, thus forming a combination of public art and urban art, which makes urban art more vibrant due to the development of public art, and public art has increasingly become the carrier of urban spiritual culture. I believe that with the development of social history, public art will be precipitated and accumulated continuously, and become a symbol of people's life memories in the future in a new form.

## 3. The symbiotic form between public art and urban art

## 3.1 Emphasize publicity and reflect the humanistic feelings of the city

Publicity is the common attribute of public art and urban art, which emphasizes that art is popular, social and environmental, rather than the product of individual artists. In artistic creation, we should not only meet people's material and spiritual needs, but also meet the public's aesthetic taste. What it emphasizes is the publicity of art, which reflects the humanistic feelings of the city, and spreads positive values through the combination of the two, thus showing the unique urban culture and spiritual outlook. When people walk in public space, they can enjoy works to the fullest, and they can also evaluate works, thus providing people with a more free, comfortable and humanized space environment and showing the cultural connotation of the city to the public.





Figure 5. Public art in the city

Urban environmental design is actually a kind of creative activity belonging to people, which mainly takes people's living space as the main body to design, and makes rational planning by using the whole space structure and public facilities, thus improving people's sense of use and happiness of space places. The concept of "space" appears with people's basic activities, while the current concept of space not only represents the space activities with families as the unit, but also represents the cities formed by people's concentrated activities. People's living space environment is mainly composed of a large number of public buildings and public art, which has an important impact on people's lives. However, public art is close to the real life of the masses, and pays great attention to the details of public space environment such as subway, and provides people with a more comfortable and convenient travel space through concise visual-oriented design, which reflects the humanistic feelings of the city. Therefore, public art and urban art are interdependent, thus creating an environment that is most suitable for people's life and forming the coordination between people and urban space environment.

#### 3.2 Respect the regionalism of urban culture and live in harmony

The regionalism of urban culture is mainly reflected in every public art design in the city. In fact, the regionalism of urban culture is hidden in the urban environment, and exists due to the differences in local customs, geographical location and cultural background of each city. Therefore, on the whole, urban art, public art and regional culture are interrelated and dialectically unified, and urban art and public art can well reflect regional cultural characteristics. Regional culture can be further applied to urban art and public art. Regional culture is mainly influenced by natural geographical environment and humanistic environment, and gradually formed in the historical and social development, with distinct local and national characteristics. Urban art and public art can not be separated from the local regional cultural characteristics, but should be further combined with modern discovery, so as to create their own urban characteristics. In the present social environment, the construction of urban environment is not only planned and designed with a simplified living requirement, but the construction process is long and remote. Therefore, it is necessary to consider its overall environment from all aspects. The regional cultural characteristics in urban space are mainly reflected by various public arts in the city. Starting from the regional characteristics, fully combining the natural geographical environment of the region, so as to create personalized urban construction. The public art in the city is the gathering point of the city's regional culture integration. Through the

mutual integration design of the city's public art and regional culture, people's cognition of the local culture can be greatly enhanced. Among them, public art with regional characteristics is an important part of urban art, which can not only be regarded as a symbolic symbol to appreciate scenic spots, but also further provide rest places for urban residents. For example, sculpture design plays an important role in urban construction. By designing symbolic sculptures, we can further create the regional cultural image of the region, thus creating a brand-new city brand, and making the city art form an overall echo according to the main characteristics of the region, so as to create a regional cultural city brand with symbolic image.

#### Conclusion

With the development of modern society, cities are becoming more and more carriers in people's daily life. As the gathering place of human life, good urban art is an important window to show our national image. Therefore, only by fully displaying the unique cultural connotation and spiritual culture can our culture be better developed and inherited. Among them, public art is the link between cultural inheritance and urban development. Based on the above theoretical research, we can see that there is a profound correlation between urban art and public art. Urban art is the soil and foundation of public art, and public art can constantly improve and supplement urban art, which complement each other and develop together. In the process of urban construction and development in the future, the symbiosis between public art and urban art should be fully considered, local history and culture should be combined with the characteristics of the times, and public art should be used for reasonable performance, so as to jointly create a unique urban living environment, which will have a vital impact on enhancing the city image and highlighting the city civilization. This can not only reflect the connotation and emotion of local culture, but also further realize the creative design of public art forms. It not only meets the aesthetic needs of modern people, but also promotes urban construction and development. In this way, it can show the unique style of China's urbanization construction, and further make China's unique urban culture invincible in the history of world art and design. By studying the symbiosis between public art and urban art, we can explore and discover new design frameworks and methods in urban construction and development, and fully promote the combination of theory and design practice, so as to better realize the integration and development between urban art and public art.

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