

Research on the Practical Path of Freehand Brushwork Spirit in Sculpture Art

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ABSTRACT

The spirit of freehand brushwork is an important product of traditional Chinese culture and also the essence of traditional Chinese art. It has independent aesthetic value in the field of global art aesthetics. The spirit of freehand brushwork has not only been widely applied in the field of traditional Chinese painting and calligraphy, but has also had a profound impact on the development of sculpture art in China. This paper will further analyze and explore the practice of freehand brushwork spirit in sculpture art, aiming to propose that freehand brushwork spirit is a sculptural expression based on Chinese local culture.

KEYWORDS

Sculpture art; Freehand brushwork spirit; Practical research

1 Introduction

The spirit of freehand brushwork, as the core spirit of traditional Chinese art, is the most prominent feature of art forms in China. By integrating it into the practice of sculpture art creation, it can effectively enhance the cultural connotation of sculpture art works and promote the innovative development of sculpture art in China. Therefore, modern sculpture art designers need to innovate their design concepts in a timely manner; In addition to mastering the use of modern sculpture art design techniques and materials, it is also necessary to innovate and integrate traditional freehand brushwork spirit and culture, and ultimately design sculptures that satisfy the audience. This allows people at home and abroad to appreciate the unique artistic and cultural charm of local sculpture works.

2 The Significance of Integrating Freehand Brushwork Spirit Into the Application of Sculpture Art

2.1 Highlighting the Characteristics of the Chinese Nation

In the context of globalization, economic and cultural exchanges between countries have become increasingly frequent. Network interconnection enables people to access excellent cultures from various countries and ethnic groups anytime and anywhere.

The digital wave has had a huge impact on traditional culture; As a major country with one-fifth of the world's population, China has contributed its own strength to world culture. In order to further enhance the level of soft cultural strength and achieve the dissemination and development of excellent national traditional culture, using sculpture art as a carrier is conducive to telling the story of China well and sharing the same fate with other countries in the world; Integrating the

freehand brushwork spirit that conveys the essence of Chinese culture and enhancing the spiritual and cultural connotations of local sculpture art works; This is conducive to highlighting the ethnic characteristics of local art works.^[1] Sculpture art with freehand brushwork can fully reflect the historical and cultural connotations of China and showcase the core of traditional Chinese culture to the world. Rooted in the profound academic and artistic cultural heritage of five thousand years of cultural soil, such sculptures are more distinctive with Chinese characteristics, and will not be trapped in the shackles of anatomy and structure that cannot be extricated. It should be clarified that technical methods are equally important as artistic creation concepts.

2.2 Promoting the Spirit of Chinese National Culture

As is well known, China is one of the four ancient civilizations in the world, and has formed an extremely brilliant national culture in the process of five thousand years of historical evolution. It is like the bloodline that runs through the world, promoting the Chinese nation to become a long-standing and self-strengthening national community, and also allowing the Chinese nation to stand among the nations of the world. Modern sculpture artists must not only integrate modern artistic concepts and techniques, but also deeply explore and utilize traditional artistic and cultural elements in order to create long-lasting classic sculpture works that will be remembered and praised by the world. Scientifically grasping a national cultural spirit based on tradition and the times that can inspire contemporary society. The spirit of freehand brushwork, as an important component of the cultural spirit of the Chinese nation, is unique to the theory of traditional Chinese painting art; Its essence refers to the promotion of free expression within constraints, emphasizing the objective dialectical unity, and is a genuine expression of emotions and feelings. Incorporating the spirit of freehand brushwork into modern urban sculpture creation can promote the continuation and promotion of the cultural spirit of the Chinese nation, allowing people at home and abroad to appreciate China's unique art and culture.

2.3 Rebuilding the Value System

Ancient Chinese grottoes, temples, and tombs are clusters of sculptural appearances. As decorative ornaments on ancient buildings and utensils, they also appear from time to time, making them the shining pearl of Eastern sculpture art in the world. In modern and contemporary local sculpture art creation, the vast majority of sculpture art creation is based on the perspective of Western art history; Sculpture creators will give priority to the creation concepts and techniques of western sculpture, while ignoring the innovative integration and application of local creation elements. By applying the traditional freehand spirit to modern sculpture art creation, we can re-establish the creative value system of Chinese sculpture art and make certain contributions to the construction of the evaluation system of Chinese national sculpture art. Therefore, modern sculpture creators need to break away from the fixed creative mode, while learning basic knowledge and techniques, they should be rooted in the spiritual core, rather than solely "judging local sculpture works based on Western art theory".^[2]

3 The Practical Application Characteristics of Freehand Brushwork Spirit in Sculpture Art

3.1 Emotional Expression

To practice the application of freehand brushwork in sculpture art creation, it is necessary to first

understand that the Chinese freehand brushwork spirit is derived from the aesthetic realm pursued by Chinese literati painting creation and Chinese art. Secondly, it is necessary to integrate one's true and rich thoughts and emotions into the design and creation of the work. This can better evoke emotional resonance among the audience, enhance the comprehensive artistic expression and infectiousness of the work. For example, Mr. Xiong Bingming, a French Chinese artist and philosopher, was invited to create a sculpture for the 100th anniversary of Nanjing University, giving birth to the classic freehand sculpture *Willing Ox*. This sculptural artistic image is not only a symbol of the century old Nanjing University, but also an important positioning and self-awareness symbol of Chinese intellectuals' ideology over the past century. The author's own inscription describes it as follows, "The benevolent see its wholehearted dedication; the brave see its stubborn and unyielding rise; the wise see its lowered front hooves let the shepherd boy ride on it, heading towards the land to be cultivated, and call it the 'Young Cow'. It is the cow of the Chinese nation; the cow that endures humiliation and carries heavy loads, and the cow that has a long way to go. In shaping the artistic image of the baby cow, the author used asymmetric artistic design techniques. On the right side of the cow's belly, the heavy body and soil like texture suggest that viewers can associate it with the fields that are crisscrossed by ravines and deeply cultivated for generations, expressing the author's deep rural feelings. By observing the left side of the abdomen of the sculpture of the baby cow, one can also see the natural and smooth contour lines and the dynamic shaping of bending down, which reminds people of the flute sound in childhood, accompanied by the call of the earth, showing a lyrical side. Mr. Xiong Bingming deeply understands the image of the "cow" who endures heavy loads, struggles and remains calm without any demands, and focuses on capturing vivid moments in shaping objects, giving people a seamless feeling. In summary, the sculptural art of *Willing Ox* conveys the inner spirit of freehand brushwork through the use of external "brush and ink" techniques, thus becoming a classic freehand sculpture work.

3.2 Sculpture Trace Carving Processing

When sculptural artists apply the spirit of freehand brushwork to create their works, sculptors often retain their unique understanding and thinking traces in artistic concepts and emotional communication from the inside out, forming diverse and rich external texture effects that are in line with the "brush and ink" in Chinese painting. The external textures of "brush and ink" are the most intuitive means for viewers to read and stimulate thinking, and can better highlight the freehand and naturalness of sculpture works. At the same time, it can greatly enhance the overall rhythm of freehand sculpture works, meeting the artistic aesthetic experience needs of modern audiences. Incorporating the spirit of freehand brushwork into sculpture creation often demonstrates a certain degree of contingency. Creators will freely create according to their own creative style and concept, comprehensively using various materials, tools, and shaping techniques, and appropriately retaining some sculptural traces with the meaning of "brush and ink". Creators will use techniques such as rubbing, pushing, and pinching to achieve different texture effects based on the specific content of the sculpture.^[3] If the sculpture material used by the creator is metal or stone, they will use welding, cutting and other techniques to reasonably preserve the sculpture traces, enhance the texture artistic effect and overall texture of the sculpture. The traces of distortion and changes left behind during sculpture creation often contain the creator's personal and genuine emotions and feelings. This not only highlights the freedom of sculpture art creation, but also enhances the artistic quality of freehand sculpture works, making it easier to touch the hearts of the audience. As shown in Figure 1, this is the classic sculpture work *A Toast to Invite the Moon -- Poet Li Bai* created by Wu Weishan; When creating this freehand sculpture, the author appropriately retained the traces left by various pushing and wiping techniques. Based on the natural and simple "brush and ink" creative

technique, it fully demonstrates the ethereal and free spirited spirit of the Chinese poet Li Bai. Although the characters portrayed and shaped by the author have a history of thousands of years from modern society, the traces left on the sculpture can vividly express Li Bai's unique spiritual style in front of the public eye. The emotion of *A Toast to Invite the Moon -- Poet Li Bai* is vividly expressed, and the proud spirit of the poet Li Bai is revealed, under the shaping of the traces.



Figure 1 *A Toast to Invite the Moon -- Poet Li Bai* by Wu Weishan

4 The Practical Application Path of Freehand Brushwork Spirit in Sculpture Art

4.1 Innovative Forms of Freehand Sculpture Creation

In the traditional cultural system of the Chinese nation, the spirit of freehand brushwork is an important essence of traditional artistic creation and expression. When carrying out artistic creation activities, the creators of modern sculpture art should deeply study the essence of ancient sculpture art, improve the artistic and cultural connotation of sculpture art works through the use of traditional freehand brushwork spirit, and promote the innovative development of sculpture form creation. Under the influence of multiculturalism in the context of globalization, traditional Chinese culture, with its unique charm, is still loved by people around the world. This proves that traditional Chinese art and culture can also become the creative source of modern sculpture art. Creators can draw various creative inspirations from it. In the freehand sculpture work *Animal Series* created by the famous modern sculptor Zeng Chenggang in China, the author scientifically borrowed and applied the mother culture in bronze ware, innovatively integrating the diverse decorative lines in bronze ware into modern sculpture creation through freehand art techniques, highlighting the sharp edges of the animal images in the sculpture. ^[4] Modern sculpture artists should be adept at utilizing the spirit of freehand brushwork to practice and innovate sculpture creation forms, and complete a formal revolution in modern sculpture works by drawing on traditional artistic expression techniques and language.

4.2 Innovation in Freehand Sculpture Creation Techniques

In modern sculpture art creation, if creators want to fully utilize the core application value of freehand brushwork spirit, they need to read and inherit traditional culture and liberate their own personality; Integrating the spirit of freehand brushwork with sculpture creation can better showcase the philosophical ideas of Chinese art and the artistic spirit it brings. Renowned Chinese sculptor Qian Shaowu innovatively utilized the freehand brushwork technique of the interplay between reality and virtuality in his creation of the *Portrait of Guan Tianpei*; For the depiction of the main character's torso, the author used a large number of rounded flat transitions. This can make the sculpture appear more dignified. For the portrayal of characters' faces, the author emphasizes highlighting their facial expressions and focuses on showcasing Guan Tianpei's dignified and patriotic temperament. Based on this shaping method, the application can make the sculpture hierarchy more distinct, while also highlighting the charm of the characters in the work. The simple lines and complete block organization in this sculpture are perfectly arranged, and the freehand core expresses profound aesthetic expertise. This allows people to personally experience the Chinese characteristic artistic and cultural spirit of the sculpture works.

5 Conclusion

In summary, we are both independent and share a common destiny, under the background of globalization and digital development. The development of sculpture art in our country is equally outstanding as that of Western sculpture art. Excellent traditional culture urgently needs our conscious inheritance, innovative development, and confident promotion, which will form a colorful culture with distinctive characteristics and a value system with distinctive features. Therefore, Chinese sculpture artists should actively integrate the traditional freehand spirit into sculpture creation, using the freehand core spirit to depict and shape the form and charm, and incorporating personal true emotions into their works, so that the freehand spirit can shine brightly in sculpture art works.

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