

Research on Line Art Aesthetics Expressing the Art Form of Classical Chinese Painting

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Abstract: Line in Chinese painting is a relative independent artistic form of expression and is the soul of painting, which contains deep artistic connotation and aesthetic feeling. This paper is to explain the origin and development of Chinese painting lines, and then point out the origin of Chinese painting lines and their manifestations in different times, and finally analyses deeply the significance of Chinese painting lines in works. The charm of Chinese painting lines is analyzed from four aspects, including the beauty of strength, temperament, rhythm and decoration. As a special artistic language, lines play an important role in painting historical development and artistic creation.

1. Introduction

The process of artist's painting is a process of expressing his own feelings. Flexible usage of lines can make his or her works more artistic and show diversified charm. Lines can also be used to express the painter's different thoughts and feelings. Lines in Chinese painting can combine perfectly the description of characters and scenery with the painter's emotions. Exploring the use of lines in Chinese painting has great significance to understand the connotation of Chinese painting.

2. Origin and Development of Chinese Painting Lines

From the knotted notes in ancient times to the Qin, Han, the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States periods, the line art of Chinese painting has become more and more skilled in the process of creating since it came through thousands of developmental years. The development of line art is continuous. With the continuous progress of history, Chinese painting has been developed unpredictably. The technique of using line in creation is becoming more and more skilled. The usage of line was static at first, and dynamic effects in the Han Dynasty. Take Hanghua Ladies' Picture as an example, Chinese painting lines were gradually full of artistic texture. The line form of Chinese painting was developed in the Tang and Song Dynasties and entered a prosperous period. Lines in the Song Dynasty were manifested in a variety of forms, and they have gained new development in Chinese porcelains.

3. The Significance of Chinese Painting Lines in Works

To study the origin and development of Chinese painting, we ought to study lines initially, which are the essence and lifeblood of Chinese painting. Meanwhile, lines are the product of Chinese traditional culture. Yongle Palace Frescoes is a model of ancient frescoes. The painter expresses the status of the characters in the paintings by the length and thickness of the lines. The figures are modeled and portrayed vividly by lines. Chinese painting contains of landscape painting, flower and bird painting, figure painting and other branches. Lines play an important role in all kinds of paintings. The role of lines is not only to depict works, but also to express the painter's thoughts and feelings. Through the thickness and intensity of lines, we can see the painter's mood and interest. Xu Wei and Zhu Xin, who are accomplished in flower and bird painting, express their inner feelings through the lines. Xu Wei is open-minded and broad-minded in using lines. He express boldly their

rough life. By using the constant painting lines, he expresses his inner surge of contradictions. Under the specific background of the times, Zhu Jin formed his loneliness and arrogance, and his method of using line was concise and dignified. The lines of Chinese painting can reflect the beauty of the shape of things. In the process of lining, changes have reflected the artist's willing and arisen different feelings in people's hearts.

4. The Charm of Chinese Painting Lines

4.1 The beauty of Strength in Painting Lines

The beauty of strength refers to the strength, which is formed by the pen running on the paper in the process of creation. There are many factors to affect the strength, such as the amount of ink and dipped watercolor in brush painting, the importance and speed of the force of the painter, and the type of paper. ^[1] Such changeable factors make the lines of Chinese painting play a unique role in the painting of landscapes, flowers and birds, and figures. For example, in the biography of Mrs. Wei, it said, “bones and tiny meat are called gluten books, and those with flesh and bones are called ink pigs”. In the Qing Dynasty, Shen Zongyue said, “Every pen should be based on ‘Qi’, and it will be like something when ‘Qi’ reaches its strength.” These sentences are stated to describe the state and strength of the ancients when they painted.

“The Sage with plenty of strength and tendons”, “the sand like cone painting” and “the stocks like hairpins” are the great power of the painter's like a collision of gold and stone during his painting creation. The creative lines of Chinese painting not only embody the beauty of strength, but also undertake the task of “conforming objects to images”. In order to achieve the goal of “conforming objects to images”, the painter needs to have adept painting skills in order to express the characters, things, scenery and other things based on the appearance of object. Even the sketch of lines in brush painting can produce a momentum of “thunderstorms” through horizon, vertical, point and skim. The artist's mood can also be reflected by grasping the strength level of the lines. This inner force of the painter and the control of the lines are reflected by the outside things. The strength beauty of the lines in the painting can be fully reflected in this kind of combination. Strong lines make the works filled with life and vitality.

4.2 The Beauty of Temperament in Painting Lines

Zhou Zheng's painting *Hanghai Ladies* reflects fully the beauty of temperament in painting lines. Five women with hairpin flowers on their heads and a woman with a fan are depicted the figures vividly with lines when the painter was describing the faces of the characters. The women's facial shape and dress were depicted with light and round lines. Meanwhile, the noble women's appearance in gauze clothes is fluttering. The *Eighty-seven Immortal Scrolls*, which is created by a famous painter Xu Beihong, is controlled only by the strength of wrist. The strength of wrist is used to control the thickness of line. The angle of wrist's rotation is used to control the line's falseness and reality, which makes the line show different temperament in different paintings. The metal texture and the hazy auspicious clouds in the works are depicted vividly and naturally. Su Dongpo and others have highly praised their predecessors for their usages of painting lines, such as “Tiger squats in Fengge Pavilion, and dragon leaped above Longyue Tianmen”, and “The pen has never been swallowed up before When it starts raining fast “. Liu Xie also said that it is necessary to combine a temperament to depict the appearance of artistic works. This temperament comes from the universe, which combines gas with lines to produce restraint, frustration, rigidity and weakness ^[2]. The art of Chinese painting lines maintains the best condition. Through the charm of line in combining Qi with style, the lines of Chinese painting can show the momentum and the charm of a painting with the help of calligraphy and painting.

4.3 The Beauty of Rhythm in Painting Lines

Line is not only the simplest element of Chinese painting, but also the backbone of Chinese painting. In the pursuit of strength and temperament of Chinese painting, many artists have pursued

the beauty of rhythm in painting lines. The sense of rhythm is a regular repetition sound like a piece of music, which makes Chinese paintings have unique rhythm. Each line has its own unique rhythm. All the lines are combined to form a comprehensive rhythm in the whole painting. The length, intensity and thickness of the lines are the embodiment of the beauty of rhythm and lines. At the same time, based on the average strength of the lines, the lines are crisscrossed, simple and dense to form a multi-level rhythm beauty. Each work reflects the painter's feelings. The collocation of different lines reflects the painter's different feelings by thick lines. Light and length of lines can reflect the strength of the painter's pen and the state of psychology. The ups and downs of the painter's emotions in his creation can be shown through the changes of lines. The rhythm changes of lines are also the tracks of emotional changes^[3].

4.4 The Beauty of Decoration in Painting Lines

Line is the skeleton of Chinese painting and is served for the whole painting. In Qingming Dynasty, Zhang Choduan's paint Upper River Picture, there are a large number of people, cars and livestock spectacular scenes with the crisscrossing of various roads. The whole picture seems disorder. However, under the grand momentum, the overall structure does not seem disorder. This is the decoration of the whole painting by effective painting lines. In landscape painting, trees and rocks are mainly depicted. Lines are indispensable when the trees are depicted. Lines are also needed to draw the outline of rocks. In order to make the whole picture look light and shade, we need to use lines to achieve decorative effect. The aesthetic feeling of decoration can be strong, obvious or obscure. The silk painting named Character Royal Dragon Picture, which unearthed from the Tomb of the Warring States Period, has its own unique decorative beauty in lines. The complicated structure is decorated regularly and orderly by lines. Every stroke of the painting contains the painter's thoughts and feelings, showing a strong emotion and concretizing the complicated, vague and Abstract objects. The beauty of lines in the works reflects the feelings beyond nature, which the painters want to express. The painter's intention is more clear and formal. Every line contains the painter's real feelings and has more decorative meanings.

5. Value Orientation of Chinese Painting Lines

The lines in the works have vitality, and they play many roles in paintings. In the Tang Dynasty, Zhang Yanyuan said in The Records of Famous Paintings of All Dynasties: "Wireless painter are not real painters." The lines in the famous painting "Yongle Palace Frescoes" are as strong as the rhythm of phonology. They not only show the shape of things, but also convey the painter's mood to the outside world. In paintings, there are non-linear and complex images of characters. The role of lines in painting is not dull. Lines can convey the characteristics of non-linearity. The skeleton of objects in paintings is also shown vividly. On the spiritual level, lines are not rigid means of painting, but contain philosophies and interests. From the works, we can see the painter's psychological state. From the changes of line, we can see the painter's feelings.

The changes of the thickness and intensity of lines can be analyzed from the painter's environment and background in creation. Therefore, the painting has a sense of mystery. By studying the origin and development of Chinese painting lines deeply, we can see that Chinese painting lines in different times have different forms of expression. Chinese painting lines have the beauty of great strength, temperament, rhythm, decoration and other aspects of charm. Line is the basic element of painting art and has independent significant value. The inner line contains the essence of art and the painter's pursuit of life.

References

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