Study on the Expression Techniques in Decorative Painting

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Abstract. The elements of composition, modelling and color of decorative painting complement each other in the technique of expression. In the production process, attention should be paid to the coordination of their relationship, so as to strengthen the artistic expression.

Introduction

Expression techniques are indispensable factors to further improve the composition of decorative painting. Due to the diversity and complexity of decorative objects, the expression techniques are also rich and diverse. Material materials and corresponding skills are the bridge to communicate the designer’s subjective conception and objective performance. The expressiveness and decorative interest of decorative art largely depend on the familiarity with material properties and the application skills. From precious gold, silver and jewels to waste materials, from modern materials to wood, stone, leaves and fruits, from the fur of birds, animals, fish and insects to the surplus materials of products, as long as they are properly used and applied according to arts demand, they can produce fine decorative paintings.[1]

The trend of modern decorative art creation is to use the most limited means to express the highest effect. In the process of expression, we should pay attention to the natural material aesthetic feeling, and the texture aesthetic feeling and the production aesthetic feeling formed by controlling the material.[2-3]

The application and research of material techniques include two aspects: One is various expressive techniques aiming at drawing. The other is expressive techniques skillfully using various ready-made materials for artistic processing. Many decorative paintings are an organic combination of these two aspects.

Wax Painting Method.

Wax painting is a kind of technique which is inspired by and adapted from traditional batik techniques. As early as the Qin and Han Dynasties, human ancestors began to use wax and natural resin as resist agents and use plants and indigo as fuels. In Guizhou Annals, there are the following records about the methods of batik production: The cloth is painted with wax and then it is dyed. This traditional batik method is still popular today. Wax painting is that wax is directly painted on paper. When coloring, the color can not adhere to the place where the wax is applied, so the effect will naturally occur.

Wax painting is more free, casual and expressive. The wax texture is soft and the image should not be in-depth, so using this technique to show the image is more rough and unrestrained.

Painting Gouache Method.

There are similarities between gouache painting and wax painting in decorative painting. It is painted with white gouache on permeable paper to prevent the infiltration of heavy colors and achieve the purpose of highlighting the image. The specific methods are as follows:

1. Choose permeable Korean paper, raw rice paper and so on.
2. Use white gouache to highlight all the images.
3. When the painted image is dry, the whole surface of the paper is coated with ink or heavy color on the back of the paper.

4. Turn the coated paper around, and the places without white gouache are all dark, so that the image of the picture will show naturally.

The difference between gouache painting and wax painting is that the painting gouache method is simple and flexible, rough and delicate, and can be used freely according to painters’ own intentions, such as line drawing, point drawing, flat painting, etc.

**Glass Color Transfer Printing.**

A clean piece of glass is first laid flat, and then the paint is diluted so that it flows freely across the glass. Rubbings are made by covering the glass with paper while the water and color have not yet fully integrated.

The flow of water and color on glass makes the picture form a very interesting and beautiful abstract pattern. Through people’s associations, the meanings of these pictures present multiple meanings, which make them both abstract and concrete. The wonderful effect of this change makes rubbing prone to new ideas. If individual pictures are drawn by hand slightly, the effect will be more affirmative and clear. This technique of expression is very arbitrary. It is not necessary to stick to the established ideas in the creation, but to make good use of the accidental effects.

**Oil-Water Separation.**

Oil-water separation is a method of producing flowing, elegant and changeable texture beauty by sprinkling several diluted paint freely on the surface of water with the characteristics of light oil than water, incompatible oil and water, unstable floatation, and aggregation dispersion.

The specific approach is to dilute the oil painting color or paint with turpentine and gasoline, and gently stir it in water. After the rich texture changes are produced, the raw rice paper or the paper with strong water absorption are used to cover the surface, so as to make the natural flow of colors floating on the water be absorbed onto the paper. This floating color, absorbed in the picture, will produce an unexpected texture effect with a sense of decoration.

The key of oil-water separation is the choice of paint thinner and paint, different paint thinner and paint can produce different texture effects after mixing. With this technique of expression, we do not need sufficient conception, but improvisation. Depending on the trend of texture change, it is inevitable that there will be a failure in the process of production because of the “accidental effect” of this kind of expression. Therefore, it takes many times to produce high-quality products.

**Paper Carving Method.**

Paper carving is a technique of carving off the surface of paper and using the color difference of the surface paper to express the image. The specific methods are as follows:

1. Choose hard art paper or ivory board.
2. Cover the smooth side of the paper with ink, and do not apply evenly if the underline needs to change.
3. Use a knife to draw the outline of the image gently. The white image to be displayed is engraved with a knife. If more fine lines are needed, it can be expressed in combination with engraving.

The paper carving method is characterized by the combination of thick and thin. Some of the effects are similar to those of paper cutting.

**Carving Rubbing Method.**

Carving rubbing method is developed on the basis of stone inscription rubbing. First of all, a gypsum slab should be made or building blocks should be borrowed, and then they are sliced and
flattened. Then, according to the nature of the plate and the composition of decorative painting, sculpture is needed. Plates should be selected earnestly, and the technique should be designed elaborately. The selection of plates and the carving quality directly determine the success or failure of this rubbing.

Before rubbing, a simple cloth tool should be made for rubbing, which is a tool for pressing and fastening cotton wrapped in white cloth. The cut rice paper is damped with a damp cloth, and the paper is laid flat on the carved plate. The cloth stained with ink is used to pat evenly on the glass board, and then pat gently on the caved plate with rice paper, and the caved patterns gradually appear. After such repeatedly several times, a complete rubbing work is formed. The decorative paintings displayed by this technique are rough, simple and elegant.

What is introduced above is a few kinds of more characteristic techniques of expression for the purpose of drawing in decorative painting. In addition, there are spray painting method, color change method, sfumato technique, stacking method, etc., which can be continuously tried in the creative process.

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