

# *Inheritance and Development—Thinking and Exploration on the Current Situation of Chinese Meticulous Figure Painting*

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**Keywords:** Inheritance and Development; Meticulous Figure Painting; Present Situation; Thinking and Exploring

**Abstract:** As an important part of traditional Chinese painting, meticulous figure painting has been accumulated for thousands of years. Up to now, many excellent works have made subtle changes to traditional skills and consciousness, integrating modern elements and making them more personalized. If Chinese meticulous figure painting wants to continue to develop in today's era, it must be inherited, which is also its inevitable choice. This paper discusses the development status and innovative ways of meticulous figure painting in China, hoping to provide some reference for its promotion and development.

With the changes of the times, great changes have taken place in the public aesthetic and pursuit. Under the influence of ancient painting and western painting works, meticulous figure painting has formed different themes, colors, painting techniques and composition forms. Chinese fine brushwork has been developing constantly under the exploration of painters, forming an independent aesthetic vision and a vast space for development. After thousands of years of experience, it shows the strong vitality of Chinese art. The development of contemporary meticulous figure painting cannot be separated from tradition. Only by innovating the tradition, can the main blood of Chinese meticulous figure painting be inherited.

## **1. The Birth and Development of Chinese Meticulous Figure Painting**

### **1.1. Outline figure painting in the form of lines**

In the Hemudu culture of ancient China, the texture related to figure painting has been born in the decoration of pottery. According to archaeological findings, figure paintings in the Zhou Dynasty's silk paintings more than 2000 years ago had traces to follow, mainly describing people in wireframes. This kind of painting constructed the line style of ancient Chinese figure painting. From the Southern and Northern Dynasties to the Sui and Tang Dynasties, it has always occupied the first place. Although there was a low point after the Song Dynasty, fine brushwork figure painting was transformed and developed again. Many famous figure painting painters appeared, leaving a large number of excellent works of fine brushwork figure painting for future generations, and its influence has continued to this day.[1] With the continuous development of painting art, the themes of fine brushwork figure painting are becoming more and more rich, forming a variety of painting methods

and style characteristics.

### **1.2. Show life scenes with line drawing genre painting**

The content of ancient fine brushwork figure painting reflects the social life of that year, and many fine brushwork figure paintings passed down have made great contributions to the exploration of ancient life. Ancient meticulous figure painting focuses on depicting the story and social life at that time. This kind of painting shows a rich scene, reflecting the life and aesthetic concept of the public at that time. However, painting is a product of spiritual life, and meticulous figure painting has always been affected by the factors of economic development in the process of development. Only on the basis of certain material conditions can painting talent and painting thinking develop to a certain extent. By the Song Dynasty, genre painting, which reflected social life, had been further developed. It described the underlying life of the society in a vivid and vivid way, and to a certain extent, it reflected the appreciation interest of citizens, which played an important role in the development of Chinese painting [2].

### **1.3. Higher demand for spiritual level**

Fine brushwork figure painting has reached a new stage in its late development, especially after the founding of New China. With the enrichment of people's material life and spiritual life, aesthetic and spiritual development also have higher requirements. In order to adapt to people's aesthetic consciousness and aesthetic pursuit, artistic expression techniques are also developing towards a more professional direction. Painting focuses on the expression of the spiritual core and adapts to the aesthetic needs of people's life at present. New forms and new techniques are advancing with the times in the traditional meticulous figure painting of Chinese painting. The content of meticulous figure painting focuses on the beautification and expression of objective things. The techniques, aesthetics and meanings of meticulous figure painting are the main expressions unique to Chinese painting.

## **2. The form of inheriting Chinese meticulous figure painting**

The painting technique of the line shape of Chinese meticulous figure painting can be traced back to the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period 2000 years ago. At that time, there were already paintings in silk fabrics - silk paintings. Before that, there were also initial murals and ceramic paintings. The method and design style of this kind of early painting laid an important guarantee for the basic shape of lines in future Chinese painting. After the Han Dynasty, the social and economic development changed greatly from stability to division. The impact and integration of the input of foreign culture and the formation of local culture and art prompted the painting of this period to take religious painting as the main body. Artists have long used lines to depict local historical celebrities and Buddhist stories. Until the Tang Dynasty, the development trend of fine brushwork figure painting reached its peak, and many famous painters were born. Their painting techniques were paid more attention to, and the painting was strong and the interface was colorful.

In the Song Dynasty, the form of ink figure painting began to appear, and the pictures also began to show the life of literati and scholars, flowers, birds, insects, fish, landscapes and other contents. At present, fine brushwork figure painters still use China's unique line modeling painting techniques to carry out painting and writing. For example, Tang Yongli used linear sketch teaching in the teaching process of contemporary art colleges and universities, and paid attention to the long history and broad and profound Chinese line painting aesthetics. It is characterized by the most basic way of creating artistic expression methods by using calligraphy to sketch the outer contour line with a brush and

combining western classical sketch, eliminating light and shadow, and using lines to specifically express the sense of texture and hierarchy. On the premise of specific expression of universal objects, we should dare to solve the problem subjectively, mainly show the characteristics of the characters, and pay attention to the changes of the real and virtual lines. The method of linear sketch surface line fusion is an important way to train observation ability and modeling ability.

### 3. Innovation Analysis of Meticulous Figure Painting

With the transformation of modern society, there is a higher demand for the integration of Chinese painting into the social aesthetic requirements: first, the cognition obtained by reference to the western aesthetic considerations and the combination of western scientific anatomy and painting art; The second is the requirements from the modernist creation skills based on the considerations of social development and life. Since the 19th century, Chinese meticulous figure painting has been impacted by the western art forms of expression. At the same time, under the influence of promoting the traditional Chinese art culture, the form of continuous reform and innovation has given birth to a variety of schools and famous teachers, which has injected fresh power into the development of contemporary meticulous figure painting. At present, many artists are committed to exploring the works of creative methods of Chinese painting with national spirit.

#### 3.1. Plastic arts

Plastic arts are very important for the creation of fine brushwork figures. With the development of Chinese fine brushwork figure painting, it has come out of the traditional skills and accepted the impact of Western modernism, which has been deeply affected. On the basis of emphasizing the line as the main form, excellent art creators need to be more concerned with "heart" than "eye". The purpose of his creation is not to make the audience relaxed and happy, but to make the audience feel and blend together so as to obtain rich aesthetic experience of life. For example, Gu Kaizhi's "Luo Shen Fu Tu" and "Women's History Monitor Tu" both reflect the "line" feeling characteristics of traditional Chinese figure painting, which is thin, smooth and elastic. Gu Kaizhi put forward the idea of "writing God with shape, and having both spirit and shape". "God" should be the highest standard for every artist as an artistic concept, and "shape" is an essential modeling basis for every artist. "God" is based on "shape". Many famous contemporary fine brushwork figure painters.

Modeling has not only accepted the effect of portraits in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, but also absorbed the modeling methods in western painting. This fine silk expression method, which is both an image and a decorative style, is an important painting art to express ideas today. He Jiaying's classical works of Chinese fine brushwork figure painting not only fully pay attention to but also limit to the ancient rules, and combine the European and American modeling represented by the traditional lines, combine the traditional art craft with modern art, but also give consideration to the traditional aesthetic concepts and modern appreciation habits, so as to seek greater breakthroughs and innovations, and make exploration for the innovation of figure painting. Therefore, artists should combine the advantages of tradition and modernity when shaping the shape of figure painting, and assimilate design ideas from traditional temple murals and folk culture and art works, and combine western aesthetic shapes. To develop independent innovation, we should dare to try different forms of expression.

#### 3.2. Dyeing separation technique

The Tang Dynasty can be said to be the heyday of Chinese fine brushwork figure painting. A large number of colors and plump figures were used to highlight the magnificent Tang Dynasty, which was

in line with the spiritual life at that time. Influenced by China's traditional culture, art, politics and religious beliefs, painters also made in-depth consideration on the use of color in the process of creation. With the continuous development of society, people's aesthetic concepts and spiritual needs are also changing. Under this trend, painters also need to establish a color concept that meets the needs of contemporary meticulous figure painting.

In prehistoric times, human beings used color as an expression, took color as the basis to distinguish materials, and achieved spiritual perfection through color. With the acceleration of social and economic construction, high-rise buildings have sprung up. Under the pressure of spirit and life, everyone uses various colors of decoration to promote spiritual pleasure. Today's fine brushwork figure painting naturally borrows the color application methods of impressionists in European and American countries, such as the color system of Morandi in the West, to express the mysterious atmosphere of peace. The works of Xu Hualing, a famous painter of Chinese fine brushwork figures, also depict the mysterious atmosphere of the female body through fresh and elegant light colors. Color always has a strong visual impact, but we can always find the color that best suits our feelings. The color is regarded as the expression form mainly reflecting the figures in fine brushwork, thus releasing the control of the original figure's color, and achieving the visual consistency with the real space through the subtle color relationship. The expected effect of color is used to transmit the deep heart, so as to achieve the consistency in the output power of the work and the audience.

### 3.3. Painting theme

The diversity of subjects of meticulous figure painting is the general trend of social and economic development. The painting themes in Tang and Song Dynasties are usually myth stories and emperors will be equal. The rise of figure painting in Ming and Qing Dynasties and the emergence of people's life themes, until the trend of cultural diversification after the reform and opening up, brought a large number of creative themes to the works of fine brushwork figure painting. The people pay more and more attention to people and things in their lives, and also pay more attention to the social environment and inner world, so that the creation of fine brushwork figure painting can more represent the characteristics of the social era and more easily approach people's life. For example, Li Fa's novels about migrant workers, Sun Zhensheng's novels about Tibetan people's lives, and Xu Hualing's novels about the exploration between illusion and id. At the 13th National Art Exhibition, the Chinese painters, based on their deep life, devoted themselves to life, and felt the truth, showed a long life in their works, such as couriers, youth growth, border charm, etc. This unique work gathered into a scene of contemporary real life. The cognition of the current life and the rich and colorful small details truly reflect the big self, and express themselves with previous works, leading the diversified development of fine brushwork figure painting. Its root, however, is deeply rooted in the development of human society and the development of time politics. It should have the smell of soil, but also the flesh and blood of time. Even if its head extends into the lofty space and time full of spiritual brilliance, it still points to the truth of life and the arcane world. "Therefore, with the progress of social development, fine brushwork figure painting also needs to conform to the aesthetic and values of contemporary people. On the premise of ensuring this, it inherits the traditional cultural connotation and artistic concepts of the Chinese nation, integrates the painting methods of foreign realism, reforms and creates works that blend into contemporary social themes in the integration, achieves today's aesthetic imagination, objectively reflects today's society, and can better develop the trend of fine brushwork figure Painting makes meticulous figure painting go to the world.

## 4. Analysis of contemporary academic value of meticulous figure painting

In today's more complete cultural market, the academic value of meticulous figure painting is

obvious to all. At this stage, it is just an initial stage. The concept of contemporary meticulous figure painting is in its infancy, but it has formed a new school with the most vitality and space for the development and transformation of Chinese meticulous figure painting. For example, the "Concept Beyond 2012 New Meticulous Painting Exhibition" held by the National Art Museum of China in 2012 showed the rapid development trend of fine brushwork art painting from the clear concept to the exhibition and publication. People pay more and more attention to new meticulous brushwork, and new capital is constantly entering this market.

## 5. Conclusion

Chinese meticulous figure painting has become an important part of China's traditional art and culture since its development. It plays an important role in the inheritance of culture, and its aesthetic value also affects generations of people. In order to carry forward and inherit this traditional art, many contemporary creators have made innovations in their artistic techniques, but they have neglected Chinese traditional painting and Chinese cultural conservation. The pace of social development is gradually accelerating. As an artist and the leader of artistic creation culture, we should avoid being impatient and eager for quick success. We should really immerse ourselves in artistic exploration, change the traditional mode, and use correct art to understand the deep connotation of the artistic charm of fine brushwork figure painting.

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