

# Study on the Analysis and Disassembly Method of Traditional Folk Patterns in Tianjin

## A Case Study of Yangliuqing New Year Painting\*

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**Abstract**—Traditional folk-custom pattern is an important carrier of traditional culture. The extraction and redesign of traditional folk-custom pattern can guarantee the development and inheritance of traditional folk-custom pattern. The method to ensure the re-creation and application of traditional folk patterns in line with the aesthetics of modern people without losing the characteristics and taste of the patterns is a key issue in research. In this paper, the author takes Yangliuqing area of Tianjin as an example to study the disassembly method of Yangliuqing New Year paintings and patterns.

**Keywords:** folk-custom pattern, disassembly method, Yangliuqing New Year painting

### I. INTRODUCTION

Yangliuqing New Year painting originated from folk. Auspicious New Year painting pattern is people's response to natural disasters in life, and it reflects people's yearning for a happy life. People turn happiness and good wishes into concrete patterns and place such feelings in Yangliuqing New Year paintings. With the popularization of public cultural consciousness, a systematic Yangliuqing New Year painting is gradually formed. Yangliuqing New Year Painting is the heritage of history and culture. It has been handed down for hundreds of years. Applying the pattern of Yangliuqing New Year Painting to modern design can not only carry forward the traditional folk culture well, but also bring good meaning to new things and give new vitality to the New Year Painting itself.

### II. STUDY ON THE MEANING OF YANGLIUQING NEW YEAR PAINTING PATTERN

New Year painting is created by the people with their unique national feelings. People place the pattern based on emotion on the traditional craft of Yangliuqing New Year painting, which fully shows the local people's longing for a happy life, and the pattern is the expression of the traditional pattern in the inheritance and development as well.

#### A. An overview of the intention study on the pattern of Yangliuqing New Year painting

There is an old saying, "establishing lively and concrete images to express abstract meanings". "Establishing lively and concrete images" refers to the concrete, perceivable image; "abstract meaning" refers to the thought and sentiment which emphasizes the artistic image of author's emotional expression, and which also explains the connection between "establishing lively and concrete images" and "abstract meaning". In the "Dictionary of Aesthetics", Zhu Liyuan mentioned that "its name is small, while its category is large; its purpose is far, while its rhetoric is just showed in the article, and things are hidden." Although the name of the hexagram is few, there are many examples selected in the hexagram. The meaning of the hexagram is far-reaching, the language of the hexagram is elegant, the content of the hexagram's argument is detailed and in accordance with the actual application, and the story of the hexagram can be extended and contains profound truth.

In Yangliuqing painting patterns, image representation is the most basic method used by non-inheritors. Firstly, the subjective feelings are reflected by figurative doll patterns, which is the most vivid expression of feelings, such as "Abundance Year after Year", the doll is painted like a Buddha, posing as a martial artist, holding a carp in his arms, holding lotus in his hand. The yearning for rich life is expressed through the homonymous Chinese characters. Secondly, with the unique image of the element itself, elements with similar meanings are combined to perform unique artistic expressions. For instance, in the picture of "Five Sons Capture the Lotus", the lotus seeds and the virgins all have the meaning of multiple children, expressing the blessing of many children and grandchildren. Thirdly, as the saying goes, "the abstract meanings are expressed by lively and concrete images"; through the use of images to express abstract meanings, it can fully express the "infinite meanings with limited words", providing the viewers with imagination.

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### B. The structure of Yangliuqing New Year painting

Yangliuqing New Year painting adopts the characteristic craft of "combination of engraving and drawing". The carving is meticulous in place, the drawing is precise, and the mood is harmonious. Its subject matter is all over, the content is abundant, the composition is full, and the meaning is auspicious. According to its application, the forms are divided into three main themes: the first is the theme of gods; the second is the beauty of dolls; the third is the story of drama.

1) *Gods-related themes*: The material of the god-related themes mainly comes from Zen, Xuanmen, Confucianism, folk custom gods and ancestor gods.

2) *Doll beauty*: The main content of the doll and beauty reflects people's desire for the perfect family, full of children, healthy body and happy life. The combination of its color style is usually ideal and perfect.

3) *Drama story*: The theme of the play, which occupies a relatively high proportion in the New Year pictures, has been recognized by the public. Most of these New Year pictures are based on Han Qing's stories, folk customs, deductive novels and local operas.

### III. THE ARTISTIC CHARACTERISTICS OF YANGLIUQING NEW YEAR PAINTING PATTERN

Yangliuqing New Year painting is made in the form of "half-printed and half-painted". It is made with colorful hand-painted techniques, as well as plate flavor and wood flavor, so that it has a melancholy flavor of folk art, and rich in Chinese style. Yangliuqing New Year painting of the production process is roughly line, engraving, overprint, color painting, and mounting. The artistic characteristics of Yangliuqing New Year painting patterns are embodied in three aspects: shape, color and implication.

#### A. Styling

The creation method of woodblock New Year painting is based on the form language handed down from the tribe, and has been the subjective consciousness of the creator. It has some specific characteristics: it is not aimed at the objective reality, but emphasizes the intuition, the idea and the judgment to the objective thing in the artistic creation, in order to reconstruct the beautiful reality, the ambition and the necessity. The image of woodblock New Year painting is simple and pure. It not only captures the main objective features of the image, but also makes bold abandonment, exaggeration and distortion. The art style is active, and the expression method is simple, bold and vivid. The styling is mainly reflected in the image of arbitrariness, integrity and perfect shape, abstractness and inclusion.

#### B. Color

The color of Yangliuqing New Year painting is beautiful, warm, auspicious, contrast strong. It understands the original appearance of color, and combines the exaggeration and imagination. The use of color is very standard, reflecting a

simple, sincere, warm feeling, driving people's feelings in the creation of a thorough reflection. It is simple and beautiful, and can last for a long time, until the end of Guangxu dynasty also used this authentic practice. The coloring is much simpler now than it used to be, so be careful not to use too much ink when coloring. For some subtle color-to-color connections, dry the previous color before coloring, otherwise the two colors will permeate each other and contaminate the picture. After finishing the basic coloring, it is still necessary to make the final modification, that is, to modify the character's clothes on the screen and outline them with a gold line to finish the New Year painting.

#### C. Implication

In exaggeration, in order to enhance the theme, all kinds of ways are used to express it. This is the main artistic feature of Yangliuqing paintings. In the aspect of inductive life, most of Yangliuqing New Year paintings have such characteristics. "Fun Fish House" is one of the fine examples. In this picture, there is a cross slope, and near the shore, there is a few green willow trees, two houses. There are more than a dozen people, five of them are eating and singing, one of them is buying vegetables and selling wine, two of them are fishermen carrying baskets with a smile came back, and a fisherman taming her baby while drying clothes on a boat on the shore. Two boats and four people are barging and falling nets in the distance. The concise picture vividly shows the whole life picture of the fisherman. In aspect of the exaggeration, such technique is used more obvious. Yangliuqing New Year painting's representative work "Abundance of Lotus Year after Year" is a classic exaggerated New Year painting. In the picture, the red goldfish in the doll's arms transcend the proportion of people. It is all about expressing the theme and sublimating the picture. Although it is beyond common sense, it will not make people think it is unreasonable, but will make people feel very harmonious and beautiful. This kind of painting is common in Yangliuqing New Year paintings. Symbols and fables are often combined with generalization and exaggeration. For example, "Abundance of Lotus Year after Year" uses lotus and lotus leaf to symbolize continuous years, and uses the goldfish in the bosom to symbolize and imply abundance. Another example is "Fu Shan Ji Qing", which uses the homophonic symbols: the sky bat, the fan, the ancient organ halberd and the ancient musical instrument chime, to represent Fu, Shan, Ji and Qing respectively. It is these methods that integrate the appeal of the common people's life into the image and content, and link with the topic, and further highlight the theme, making Yangliuqing New Year painting more popular among the public.

### IV. EXTRACTION OF PATTERN ELEMENTS IN YANGLIUQING NEW YEAR PAINTING

The inheritance of New Year pattern is a very complicated process, which requires not only a deep understanding of traditional folk culture, but also a forward modern consciousness. This process is not simple copying. Therefore, the continuation of the pattern should take the

decoration of the pattern as the starting point, extract the elements of the pattern itself, reorganize with the modern elements, and on the basis of the "re-design" of the traditional craft, add the new elements of the modern design, and re-create the new image of the traditional pattern, which is expressed as the modern design of the traditional folk pattern.

*A. The concept definition of extracting the pattern element of Yangliuqing New Year painting*

The element extraction in the willow youth painting pattern is a new design of the inheritance of the willow youth painting pattern. The simple pattern image is used to summarize the traditional folk pattern and create new ideas and new forms of modern folk pattern, which represents the progress of an era. It has been endowed with a new image under tradition and inheritance, which not only preserves the essence of its tradition, but also enables the familiar old pattern to display the vitality of the new era under the reorganization of the new era.

*B. Classification of extraction method of pattern elements in Yangliuqing New Year painting*

The extraction of elements is the most basic step in the pattern redesign. This link should carry forward the spirit of traditional culture, inherit the most essential and traditional part of the New Year painting pattern, and inject cultural heritage into modern design. Elemental extraction begins with the intention, style and form of the pattern. It extends the essence of traditional patterns, analyzes and extracts abstract patterns and concrete patterns respectively. The method provides redesigned materials.

*1) The extension of pictorial imagery:* The traditional pattern not only shows the external figure, but also shows the auspicious meaning behind the aesthetic value of the pattern. These external forms are the externalization of inner meaning to materialization. As a decorative pattern, imagination is the combination of culture and art. Initially, people worship natural forms and pray that the weather is religious. Over time, people expand the cultural connotations of auspicious fables and symbols. The creation of traditional patterns originates from people's life and is based on folk patterns. According to the custom and production law of religious sacrifice, different patterns and images are made. The traditional pattern of auspicious fables has been developed for thousands of years and will continue to do so.

On the contrary, with the development of science and technology, "advocating science, breaking superstition" has become a popular slogan. Religious worship has been gradually worn out from thousands of years, such as hibiscus patterns and other Buddhist-related patterns. It is difficult to see the inheritance of traditional patterns that is based on traditional culture. The religious characteristics of the patterns should also be retained. In addition, traditional patterns are spread with traditional auspicious patterns and many auspicious terms. Some patterns have gradually

disappeared from people's vision, and many patterns represent that they are related to the old society and feudal society, systems, ideas, etiquette, etc., and have their limitations and feudalism in nature, thus we should follow the moral trend and delete the decline of feudal thought. Patterns are ubiquitous in people's lives. Inheriting traditional pattern civilization is an organic part of the rebirth of traditional culture. Traditional culture should be respected and new life should be given to modern culture.

*2) The inheritance of expression forms:* "Decoration" is the same as "propriety". It is a symbol of proper design and formal form. After hundreds of years of ups and downs of the traditional model's form, the inherent form rules were obtained. The inheritance of the traditional pattern should not be merely the rigid reproduction of the original pattern, it needs to take shape and exceeds "shape", that is to say, it is not defined by the original rules and can be used mechanically. In traditional patterns, many pattern elements have their inherent layout methods. It contains a special form - some graphic elements are packed into a strict geometric form by translation, rotation, reflection, and so on.

*3) The extraction of patterns*

*a) Abstract pattern:* Many patterns in traditional patterns are embedded in certain image sets by ordinary decoration, which helps to separate the different effects of the two different methods and divide the space. However, the recognition degree of some patterns is low, and it is not easy to perform simple segment extraction when extracting pattern elements, because the fragment extraction method weakens the recognition degree of abstract patterns.

*b) Specific pattern:* The specific patterns of traditional patterns are made up of various forms, which are detailed descriptions of things in nature. They are rich in content, varied in form and characterized from different angles. In terms of expression and recognition, these patterns are slightly more specific than abstract patterns. Therefore, for different specific patterns, there are corresponding extraction methods.

For direct application method, the pattern elements with high integrity are the most real and useful inheritance method of traditional pattern elements.

For subdivision and extraction method, with a high degree of recognition and distinct personality of the pattern, it is better to visualize some of the outstanding features of the pattern. The use of this method is one of the simple ways to express a drawn pattern, and it does not change the content of the original pattern.

For subdivision and consolidation method, the method is that dividing two or more patterns to extract the desired pattern elements and then merging the matched pattern elements to form a new pattern element. It includes both traditional components and creates new elements for recombination.







C. The process of extracting elements of traditional patterns

This paper mainly analyzes the pattern extraction from three aspects: artistic conception, style and form. Artistic conception and style are mainly extracted from traditional pattern components, which can be reused after summarizing and combing; for computer-aided design software, modern design method can be used to extract the shape.

1) Extraction and analysis of traditional images: Eliminating old and outdated symbols and allegorical pattern elements is only the first step in extracting pattern

elements, developing based on inheritance, selecting essence from traditional pattern, and continuing its essence meaning, which is the root of inheritance. At the root of the extraction, it is more important to know how to keep pace with the era. In the time of great civilization, patterns are also influenced by the depth of time and space. This paper puts forward a new modern meaning, analyzes the change of the traditional pattern, and arranges the list of simple elements used to extract the pattern elements according to the New Year painting pattern ("Table I").


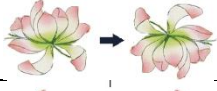
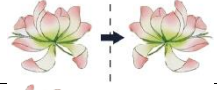

TABLE I. NEW YEAR PICTURES ANALYSIS AND SIMPLE ELEMENTS LIST

Name	Pattern	Implication	Elements
Love for all seasons		Two cute dolls fly by dragons, with lily, lotus, and box symbolizing love for all seasons. This New Year painting can be given to both the newlyweds and the old couples, wishing them longevity, happiness and harmony.	Lotus and box mean love for all seasons. Money, coral branches, ingots, and peony mean wealth;
Moon titles and captured		The toad palace refers to the Guanghan palace on the moon. This is probably the highest palace. Therefore, the toad palace has the meaning of winning the laurels in civil examinations. It was often used in ancient times as a blessing for the success of the imperial examination. There are many auspicious objects in this picture. The doll is hung against money. The coral branches, ingots, and pots of peony on the ground symbolize wealth. Tangerine means luck; bat means happiness; bow means success. There is another doll sit on the ground with branches in hands, that is the meaning of laurels.	Tangerine means luck; Bat means happiness; Bow means success Bergamot means blessing;
Numerous good fortune and longevity		In folklore, bergamot stands for blessings, peaches and cranes stands for life, and pomegranates stands for many children and grandchildren. In the picture, a child lies on a banana leaf with a bergamot as pillow. The child holds a fresh peach and a bat, with his foot supporting a pomegranate. He is playing with a crane at ease.	Peach and crane mean longevity Pomegranate means many children and grandchildren. Chrysanthemum means "home";
Happy home		The two children sat on the ground and talked to each other. One child had a fishing basket inserted into the Tianfang Huaji with a jade pendant hung on it. Chrysanthemum means "home"; crabs have carapace, which means "house"; sparrows are about to fall to the ground, which means happy.	Crabs have carapace, which means "house" Sparrows are about to fall to the ground, which means happy Lotus means continuity;
"Abundance year after year"		Doll holding fish is the most representative subject matter of Yangliuqing paintings, and it has many different styles. This painting is the most typical one, and it is also the representative work of Tianjin Yangliuqing painting. Lotus means continuity; fish means "rich" and "abundance", which contains the praying for beautiful things.	Fish means rich and abundance Peony flower means "spring"
Flowers in all seasons		In the picture, a child sits on the ground, holding a lotus flower in his left hand and holding a plum flower in his right hand. There is peony on one side and chrysanthemum on the other side. The peony flower, lotus, chrysanthemum and plum flower stand for "spring", "summer", "autumn" and "winter" respectively, and they show that there are flowers blooming throughout the year, and the year is booming.	Lotus meaning "summer" Chrysanthemum means "autumn" plum flower means "winter" ...
...			

2) *Study on the extraction of pattern form:* Pattern composition refers to the arrangement of pattern elements in a picture. The traditional pattern-making style is based on the ideal combination of drawing elements. Therefore, the extraction of pattern style is also influenced by drawing

elements and formal rules. The extraction of the traditional pattern form is also the thinking of the pattern form composition method. There are several methods to formulate the pattern form ("Table II").

TABLE II. ELEMENT COMPOSITION METHOD

Name	Method	Process
Translation	The basic figure is located on a straight line and is repeated at certain intervals without changing the direction of the figure.	
Spin	The basic figure rotates around a point and is repeatedly composed at certain angular intervals.	
Reflection	Basic graphics are reflected as straight lines as mirror graphics.	
Sliding reflection	There are two ways for basic graphics to translate and reflect, and they form a repeating pattern when combined.	

In these four ways, patterns of any kind can be formed. After research and analysis, the form of pattern is consistent with the form of modern pattern, which is also the basis of various pattern forms. In terms of modern pattern form, it is a continuation, and the extension of this approach is an essential application in design innovation.

3) *Extracting practice of pattern shape:* The pattern extraction method of Yangliuqing New Year's painting is mainly divided into direct application, subdivided extraction and subdivided consolidation. Through the analysis of the New Year painting in this section, and the demonstration of the extraction process, it provides a case for the extraction of other traditional folk pattern elements. A new element A in "Fig. 1" is extracted directly from the central main body doll pattern and the boat pattern as an example of "plain sailing". The element is not changed, which is the direct use of the elements of the New Year's painting pattern, which can improve the identification, retain the decoration and have a high tradition.

new pattern elements B, C, D in "Fig. 2" are extracted from New Year painting "Wanfu You Tong".

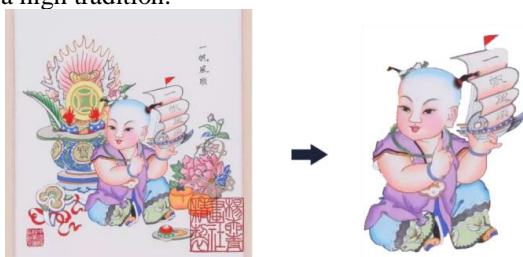


Fig. 1. New Year painting pattern "Plain Sailing" extraction element A

The original pattern is subdivided and extracted one by one to get one or more elements. The following is a schematic diagram of element subdivision extraction, and the

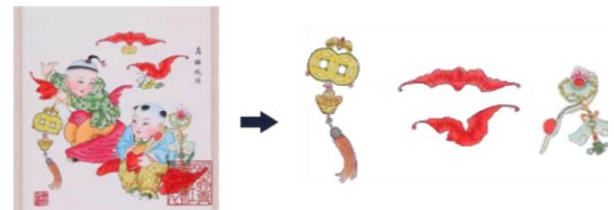


Fig. 2. New Year painting "Wanfu You Tong" extraction pattern elements B, C, D.

Segmentation and consolidated extraction process analysis: on the basis of subdivision of the New Year painting pattern, the newly extracted elements are reconstructed to form a new pattern ("Fig. 3").



Fig. 3. New pattern reconstructed using extracted elements.

There are all kinds of artistic elements in the design of New Year painting, from image, shape to formal composition, all of which embody the wisdom of craftsmen. The development of New Year painting is gradually formed through different stages, whether it is a simple pattern or a complex pattern, it is arranged according to the meaning of the content, or a single-form pattern composed of individual

elements, or a multi-form pattern composed of multiple pattern elements. It is a unique mode of expression of New Year painting pattern. It shows not only the pattern of Yangliuqing New Year painting, but also the image expression of the traditional thought, with the tendentious tension, which adds a layer of spirituality to the New Year painting pattern.

#### V. CONCLUSION

This article is a summary of the common extraction methods for the artistic elements of New Year paintings for the purpose of applying them to modern design in Yangliuqing painting. The extraction of pattern elements should pay attention not only to the preservation of traditional elements, but also to the aesthetic needs of modern people. For the obsolete and isolated areas, we must learn to innovate and reform in order to trigger the artistic life contained in traditional culture in the information age that keeps pace with the times.

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